

THE FORESTERS HERITAGE TRUST

(Registered Charity No.1109859 in England and Wales)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2019

Introduction

This is the thirteenth annual report. The period covered by the Report is 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019.

Details of the Trust

The name of the registered charity is **The Foresters Heritage Trust**.

The number of the registered charity is **1109859**.

The principal office of the Trust is at **Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent. ST6 6DU**.

The address for e-mail contact is www.forestersheritagetrust@outlook.com

The website address is www.forestersheritagetrust.org

Constitution of Trust

The Trust is constituted by a **Trust Deed** dated **19th April 2005**.

The Trust was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on the **3rd June 2005**, with the following objects.

“The Trustees shall hold the trust property and apply it to promote education in the history and background of the friendly society movement in Great Britain (in particular that of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society) by the collection and maintenance of relevant materials, artifacts and publications; and to make such materials, artifacts and publications freely available for public inspection.”

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Trustees consider that the following responses to the questions posed in the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance demonstrate their understanding of the Public Benefit Requirement.

- What the charity is set up to achieve – this is known as the charity’s purpose **Providing education in the history of the friendly society movement**.

- How the charity's purpose is beneficial – this is the 'benefit aspect' of public benefit **Development of a wider knowledge of the history of the friendly society movement.**
- How the charity's purpose benefits the public or a sufficient section of the public – this is the 'public aspect' of public benefit. **Extending the understanding of the role of the friendly society movement by the population at large.**
- How the trustees will carry out the charity's purpose for the public benefit – this is what is known 'furthering' the charity's purpose for the public benefit **Providing a fully accessible Research Enquiry Service, Website, and Museum and Archive.**

Tenure information

The Trust did not own any land or property during the Report period. A lease of the ground floor and basement of premises at **Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent** was commenced on the 25th February 2016 for a term of ten years with a break clause after five years.

Details of Trustees in post at the date this Annual Report was signed:-

Andrew J Pooley	Chairman
Malcolm J Prechner	
Kevin G Carpenter	
Janet Pooley	
Cheryl P Eagleson	
Anthony R E Lewis	
Michael Charlton-Hubble	Appointed Ex-officio June 2019

Appointment of new Trustees

The appointment of new Trustees is provided for in the Trust Deed. As and when it becomes appropriate existing Trustees issue invitations for anyone wishing to serve as a Trustee to make application in writing. Such applications are considered and voted on by the Board of Trustees.

One Trustee is appointed annually (ex-officio) by the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Ltd. This is in accordance with the Trust Deed.

The Trust does not have an induction or training programme for new Trustees, however all applicants for a post are advised to familiarize themselves with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales as to fitness and suitability.

The day to day administration of the Trust for the period 1st January 2019 – 31st December 2019 was carried out by Janet Pooley, Trustee who also held the role of Treasurer.

The provision of front-line services was provided by Peter Nixon (Curator).

Income and Expenditure

The gross income of the Trust during 2019 amounted to £38,425.77 (2018 £39,592.51), with total expenditure of £28,594.55 (2018 £32,326.57). A copy of the 2019 Accounts is appended.

Principle Sources of Funding

The major financial funding received by the Trust during 2019 was derived from delegates to the Foresters Friendly Society annual national conference in June 2018 passing a resolution authorizing financial support from Branch funds as at the end of 2018. The amount paid into the Trust's Bank Account in May 2019 was £37,606.66

Policy on Reserves

The Trust does not have a policy on Reserves.

Funds in Deficit

None of the funds of the Trust are in deficit.

Independent Examination of Accounts

The Trust uses an honorary Independent Examiner, C P Morris, FFA, FFTA, FIAB, for the examination of its annual accounts. A copy of his report is appended.

Progress of the Foresters Heritage Trust during 2019

Governance matters

The Museum has now been open to the public on the first and third Saturday of each month since September 2018 and groups can be accommodated on other days by arrangement with the Curator

Various items including Honour Boards, historical documents and photographs still held in storage in Southampton will be transferred to the Museum during January 2020. This has required the hire of a storage unit locally.

Continuing activity

Climate control with the use of dehumidifiers in the Basement so that documents can be stored there safely without deterioration, continues.

Work continues on the acquisition, preservation and stabilization of exhibits. In respect of Banners this has entailed working with a design company to build a suitable unit to display them at their best. Regrettably due to the size of the Banners and lack of space only one can be displayed at a time.

Digitalization of the documents held by the Museum is being considered which will ease searching of their content for research purposes. Meanwhile work continues on indexing the documents in the archive storage racks.

Volunteers are being sought through local branches of the Foresters Friendly Society and contact continues with the Stoke on Trent museum services.

Conclusion

The Trustees continue to manage the Trust and promote education in the history and background of the friendly society movement with the Museum being the focus of this activity.

Enquiries continue to be received for information on the history and people involved in the friendly society movement and for the loan of material held by the Trust for exhibitions and Meetings around the Country.

The upper floor of the Museum's premises continues to be occupied by staff of the Foresters Friendly Society whose assistance in day to day help with administrative matters has been invaluable.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above Trustees Report.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signature.....

Full Name.....CHERYL MORGAN

Position.....TRUSTEE

Signature.....

Full Name.....ANDREW JAMES

Position.....

TRUSTEE / CHAIRMAN

Date.....9th June 2010