

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2025**

I'd like to give you a brief account of the Committee's activities since our last AGM.

IN DECEMBER we held our CAROL CONCERT at the Museum with the BO'NESS BELLES.

IN JANUARY we didn't hold the James Watt Supper in the Corbie Inn as we were too involved with trying to save the Museum.

IN MARCH we held our belated JAMES WATT SUPPER with the BELLES providing entertainment. We also provided craft activities for children in the Museum in support of the SILENT FILM FESTIVAL.

IN APRIL we provided children's activities in the Museum when the house was open for EASTER. Once again, two of us and Daniel, our young volunteer, acted as stewards for the Forth Ultra Team Event Marathon. This offered good publicity for the Friends, and we also received a generous donation AND we had a great time! We have said that we would be happy to provide stewards again.

IN MAY we participated in the STEP BACK INTO SCIENCE event held at Kinneil. LAST YEAR the event wasn't as much of a success as the organisers had hoped, as quite a few of the expected groups didn't turn up. THIS YEAR however, it was a great success, and we had a very large number of children enjoying the experiments we offered, and so for us it was very successful.

IN JULY we held a meeting for members to update them on the situation with the proposed Museum closure and the Council's draft new 10-year Kinneil Masterplan. We enjoyed refreshments as we

chatted together, and it gave all of us a chance to meet up with friends, old and new, as we again welcomed new members.

We had a break over the summer and then -

IN SEPTEMBER on Doors Open Day, which was also BIG ROMAN DAY, we held craft activities for children in the Museum. The day was a great success.

IN OCTOBER for HALLOWE'EN, we again held activities for children in the Museum, acted as guides in the House and Yvonne thrilled everyone with her famous White Lady appearances.

IN NOVEMBER Bo'ness Public School visited once again, as part of our involvement with the ILLUMINATE drama performance based on Kinneil themes, which will take place shortly.

During the year the EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE has been meeting to plan all the activities for our events and for our involvement with the schools.

The HIDDEN HERITAGE project has continued to be pursued with our Vice-Chair Jane putting in a lot of hard work. She said last year that we hoped it would be completed in 2025 but sadly this is not the case. Together with the Council, we are making slow progress on what has been a long and frustrating process.

DURING THE YEAR, among other activities, committee members attended meetings and conferences. Talks were given by Ian and GUIDED WALKS offered throughout the year.

AND so here we are at another AGM.

As I have spoken about all the work which the members of the Committee have carried out over the year, I've deliberately not mentioned any names. We all have our roles to play, individually as

well as jointly, and everyone has contributed to another successful year. However, I will mention our new committee members Jane and Chris who have contributed much.

We are not just the Friends of Kinneil Committee, we are friends. We really enjoy working together and it has been an honour and a pleasure to be Chair for this year.

HOWEVER, to continue to do all the things we would like to do, we need more members. If you feel you have the time and would like to join us, please offer. If you feel you can't make that commitment, we welcome your help in other ways. After our appeal last year, Lee and Megan joined the Education Sub-Committee and have made wonderful contributions. Once again, thank you for your continuing support and for joining us this evening.

Eileen Jackson (Chair)

November 17th 2025