



THE
FRIENDS
OF
KINNEIL

Summary of activities 2022/23

2022/23 was a successful and generally much more positive year for Kinneil and the Friends:

- **Historic Environment Scotland (HES) significantly stepped up their staffed operation at Kinneil House (see below) and developed a new model of working in partnership with our volunteers who provided complementary support and activities for visitors**
- **Kinneil Estate and House marked the Centenary of first becoming a public park and heritage attraction (in 1922-3) with:**
 - **a ceremonial event and tree planting with Falkirk Council's Provost**
 - **a Royal visit by His Majesty King Charles III**
- **some limited improvements and family-friendly events were done at the parkland and foreshore**
- **planning for the Hidden Heritage activity trail was put back on track, and TCV's weekly 'Green Gym' for outdoor conservation volunteering was continued and relaunched**
- **an exciting new pilot initiative between HES, the Friends, Falkirk schools and Illuminate to engage children and young people with local heritage is delivering its first outcomes**
- **Kinneil's profile continued to be raised far and wide, including our talks to external audiences**
- **Falkirk Council re-convened the Kinneil Advisory Group**
- **despite an intentional deficit on the most recent year in the accounts, generally the committee is not concerned about the overall financial position and there have been two generous recent donations**
- **membership levels held up, with continuing new enquiries and applications**
- **a members' outing to Bannockburn House, and our annual James Watt Supper, were enjoyed by those attending.**

[HES instituted regular opening](#) of Kinneil House every Saturday from the beginning of April until the end of September. Their staff provided 5 guided indoor tours per day, on the same admission price basis as other sites. This is believed to be the first year that the house has been open regularly since around the 1980s. HES are understood to be pleased with the level of demand and it is hoped that they may build on this success in future years. HES also led on some of the additional events and activities at the site, including this year's Roman Day, with other free openings also held during the Silent Film Festival and on Doors Open Day. They also installed an exhibition about the Antonine Wall on the top floor of the house. Our volunteers supported HES with free outdoor tours at lunchtime every Saturday and with additional free activities and events on some other dates throughout the season, and also contributing much promotional activity and community engagement.

This report will be accompanied by a short slide show of Kinneil's good year.

Ian Shearer (Chairman), November 2023

The Friends of Kinneil is a registered Scottish Charity. Charity Registration No: SC038368