**New trustees announced at crucial time for Isles of Scilly Museum**

For immediate release.

**The Isles of Scilly Museum Association is delighted to welcome three new faces to their Board of Trustees. They are joining the charity at an exciting time, as plans progress for the development of a new Museum and Cultural Centre on the islands.**

In October 2022, the Isles of Scilly Museum formally appointed three new trustees to their board. Ann Tudor, Joseph Payne and Dr Robert Lambert join the seven existing volunteers, bringing a diverse range of expertise to the charity at a busy time. The Isles of Scilly Museum, which opened in 1967, was closed in 2019 due to structural issues; however, new plans are in development to work with the Council of the Isles of Scilly in the creation of a new Museum and Cultural Centre.

In an innovative project, the partnership has plans to rejuvenate the legacy of Hugh Town’s historic Town Hall, creating a new venue for the local community and for visitors. It is planned that the new Museum and Cultural Centre will provide a permanent home for the fascinating and unique collections, and for people of all ages to get involved in activities, entertainment and learning.

The new trustees will play a crucial role in driving forward the project, bringing expertise in history, sustainability, education, youth engagement, finance, business planning and, of course, archival research, museums and collections.

Jess Vian, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said: “We are delighted to welcome Ann, Joseph and Rob to the team at this exciting and critical time. Each brings with them the knowledge and skills that will be vital to the future of the museum, supporting our staff in delivering this landmark and highly ambitious project.”

The front of the Town Hall is currently housing several exceptional historical exhibits as part of the award-winning Museum on the Move. Visitors can see the Bryher Sword and Mirror, the Nornour Brooches and other notable exhibits relating to Scilly’s unique heritage. It tells the stories behind the *Association* and *Cita* shipwrecks and displays maritime and salvaged items. A series of pop-up displays have been created in venues across the islands, too, but there are many more island stories to tell and share.

Kate Hale, Curator of the Museum, said: “It is crucial that the Isles of Scilly Museum finds a new home. We owe it to the islands to tell their story and share the wonderful collections gathered over the last half century. Having a fresh perspective, coupled with new expertise, has given a wonderful boost to the project.”

Jess Vian added: “We would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Kate and her team to spearheading the development. We are confident that we have an amazing team driving this forward, and are deeply thankful for her leadership, as well as the support from all our trustees, old and new.”

The current programme estimates the new Museum and Cultural Centre will be open by late 2025, however this is dependent on various external funding sources as well as the capital works required.

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**Notes to editors**See the plans, including architectural flythroughs and visualisations, and take part in the consultation at <https://www.iosmuseumandculturalcentre.org/>.
Contact: Lucy McRobert on lucy.mcrobert@hotmail.co.uk or 07532 344933 for enquiries to the Museum team.

**The Isles of Scilly Museum** [**https://www.iosmuseum.org/**](https://www.iosmuseum.org/)Our mission is to safeguard the traditions and the spirit of the islands and to enhance public understanding of Scillonian traditions and Scilly’s place in history. The Isles of Scilly Museum Association seeks to preserve for the public benefit matters relating to the islands’, history, archaeology and natural science.

**Biographies of new trustees
Ann Tudor** is a chartered accountant who has been a trustee of many charities throughout her career. She began holidaying on Scilly as a child, following a family tradition established by her grandparents in the early 1950’s. She now spends many months each year living on St Mary’s. Ann is an avid visitor of museums and is involved in organising heritage events in Shrewsbury. Ann volunteered with the Museum in the summer of 2022 and is keen to offer skills acquired through working on expansion plans with other charities to support the Isles of Scilly Museum.

**Joseph Payne** is the Elections Officer at the Council, responsible for organising elections and maintaining the electoral register. He acts as clerk for two local Scilly charities, including the Isles of Scilly Charitable Trust and the Richard Addison Charitable Trust. After completing a history degree, he worked for ten years at the Royal Mint Museum in South Wales, and has been interested in joining the Museum team since he arrived on the islands in 2016.

**Dr Rob Lambert** is a multi-disciplinary ‘environment’ academic at the University of Nottingham, previously at the University of St Andrews. He has published a number of books, and numerous articles and book chapters on the past and present relationships between nature and people, conservation conflicts, species history, sustainability, rewilding, wildlife television and ecotourism/wildlife tourism. He has a keen interest in cultural heritage and public history. In 2012, Rob co-founded A Focus on Nature (AFON), the youth conservation network in the UK which now has 3,000+ members nationwide. Rob is Vice-President of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and served as Vice-President of the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust from 2012-2017. In 2019 he was appointed as Independent Person to the Council of the Isles of Scilly.