

Overview

The Flag Institute is the UK's leading research and documentation centre for flags and flag information. The Institute is Europe's largest vexillological membership organisation. The Institute was founded on St. George's Day, 23 April, 1971.

The Flag Institute maintains and manages the national United Kingdom Flag Registry. This is to ensure there is a definitive record of those United Kingdom flags which exist, both nationally and regionally. The flags so listed then become exempt from planning permission as laid out in The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

Members receive the journal, Flagmaster, and are entitled to attend the meetings of the Institute. All members resident in the UK can take part in the government of the Institute. Members also have free access to the extensive library of the Flag Institute and to the Members' Area of the web site, which contains a number of papers and resources.

The Institute provides vexillological services to HM Government in the UK and to many other organizations around the world, including the United Nations. These services include advising on the use of flags, designing new flags and collating information on flags of the world.

Trustees

Present Trustees:	Graham Bartram	2018-2021
	John Hall	2018-2021
	Craig Hughes	2018-2021
	Lesley Ross	2019-2022
	Philip Thompson	2019-2022
	Philip Tibbetts	2020-2023

Registered Information

The Flag Institute William Crampton Library
161 High Street
Kingston-upon-Hull
East Riding HU1 1NQ

The Flag Institute is an active member of the international vexillological organization, FIAV (Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques).

Registered as an incorporated Charity (CIO) in England and Wales (No. 1152496)

Chairman's Overview: *John Hall*

This year 2021 has been the Institute's golden year. The fiftieth anniversary of its foundation by Dr William Crampton in 1971. In many ways it has also been our golden year, not just because of anniversaries, but in terms of our great successes. With a growing membership, a high attendance nationally and internationally of our meetings, both virtual and actual. The raising of standards in the production of Flagmaster to a serious academic and high-quality production, truly the flagship of vexillological journals in the world. Our trustee Philip Tibbetts, who for a number of years has been honorary vexillologist to the Lord Lyon, has been appointed March Pursuivant in the Lyon court, cementing the good relationships between the Institute and the world of heraldry and ceremonial in the Northern Kingdom. Behind the scenes many have worked tremendously hard, Leigh Wetherell, Jos Poels, Ian and Maggie Sumner to name a few. On behalf of the Institute, thank you. In our Golden Jubilee Year, it is safe to say we 'have never had it so good'.

Library: *Ian Sumner*

The William Crampton Library continues to index and develop its collections in support of the Flag Institute and the wider vexillological world. New for 2021: the Library catalogue – updated twice yearly and currently comprising over 30,000 items – is now available on the Flag Institute website, as is the twice-yearly Catalogue Update and Index to House Flags.

Website: *Maggie Sumner*

Work continues to refresh and add content to the Flag Institute website. New for 2021: the complete Flagmaster Archive (Issues 1 to 162) is now available in PDF format for members only. Also newly available in PDF format are the complete Flagmaster Index (Issues 1-162), unlocking fifty years of flag scholarship; Colours of the Fleet (revised edition); and Rudi Longueville's Badges of the British Commonwealth. Further new content includes the Library Catalogue, twice-yearly Catalogue Update and Index to House Flags.

Social Media Report: *Bernard Muscat*

We have continued to use social media to engage with our audience, often with simple 'Guess the flag' competitions, mentions of flags on tv or in popular culture, and questions meant to generate engagement, such as asking people what their latest acquired flag item is.

In recent months we received a few submissions for Flag Master content directly from Twitter users.

We have 1,439 followers on Facebook, and 5,883 followers on Twitter.

In November 2022 I plan to run #WorldCupOfFlags2022 like I did in 2018, to find who among the teams competing in the men's football World Cup has the best flag. Fingers crossed for more media coverage.

Membership Report: *Kath Kearney*

Three tables are given below:

Table 1: Documents various items pertaining to the current state of the membership in terms of membership numbers in various categories, and changes since October 2018

Table 2: Shows a breakdown of countries in which we have a presence

Table 3: Shows the number of members in different regions within the UK

Table 1									
	Apr 17	Oct 17	June 18	Oct 18	Mar 19	Oct 19	Apr 20	Oct 20	Oct 21
Active Members	466	475	492	457	434	417	390	388	410
New Members	23	25	27	16	24	28	24	28	68
Exchange Membership	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	16	17
Complimentary Membership	16	17	17	17	16	16	16	15	15
Life Membership	52	52	52	52	52	50	50	49	47
Group Membership	5	7	7	7	6	4	6	5	3
Classic Membership	314	312	325	303	284	273	248	241	258
Digital Membership	35	42	45	38	38	36	37	43	54
Trade Membership	21	21	23	18	16	16	12	14	11
Register British Flagmakers	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	5	5
Overseas Members	160	166	172	157	148	144	131	130	145
UK Members	306	309	320	300	286	274	259	258	265
Countries	32	35	35	35	32	34	32	32	33
Members with Email	402	411	427	394	376	366	338	344	369

- Of the 68 new members joining since the end of October 2020, 24 are Digital and 44 Classic Memberships. 55 are UK members and 13 from the rest of the world.

Table 2		
Country	Members Present	
	October 2020	October 2021
Argentina	0	1
Australia	8	12
Belarus	0	1
Belgium	3	5
Canada	6	7
Chile	1	1
Czech Republic	4	4
Denmark	2	3
Estonia	1	1
Finland	0	1
France	9	7
Georgia	1	1
Germany	8	10
Greece	1	1
Hungary	1	1
India	1	0
Israel	1	1
Italy	6	5
Japan	3	2
Luxembourg	1	1
Mexico	1	1
Netherlands	4	5
New Zealand	1	1
Norway	5	5
Portugal	1	1
Republic of Ireland	6	6
Russia	1	1
South Africa	2	2
Spain	3	3
Sweden	3	2
Switzerland	5	5
Ukraine	1	1
United Kingdom	258	265
USA	37	47

Table 3: United Kingdom 265	
England	236
Channel Islands	2
Northern Ireland	1
Scotland	20
Wales	6

2020 Report Editor *Flagmaster*: Jos Poels

During the year under review *Flagmaster* (FM) was published twice. FM 161 in December 2020 and FM 162 in June 2021. Both editions appeared within the publication date imposed by us: 21 December and 21 June. FM 161 contained 48 pages; FM 162 contained 56 pages, which is the maximum of pages our printer in Swansea is able to print as a magazine. This was a special issue on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Flag Institute.

The editorial team consists of Alex Cachinero-Gorman, Prof. James Flloyd, Bernard Muscat (social media), Ian Sumner (deputy editor) Leigh Wetherall, and Jos Poels as chief editor. Malcom Good joined the team early in the year. It is our aim to produce a contemporary magazine, with a mix of news, research, opinion, and human interest, which outstands other vexillological magazines. We meet at an average of once every two months, via our online work platform Teams. Despite writing for FM ourselves, we try as 'ambassadors' to convince other FI members to write up contributions.

We have tried to find within the 'pond' of the Flag Institute members a designer for FM, but failed to do so. Therefore, we approached and welcomed the Dutch vexillologist and designer Theun Okkerse as FM's designer, which is a very time-consuming job. Theun Okkerse does also design the Dutch flag journal *Vlag!*, of which your FM chief editor is chief editor as well. *Vlag!* is issued by the NVVV in the Netherlands.

Every word written, and every illustration shown in *Flagmaster* came there free of charge. The members of the editorial team have taken up their job on a voluntary basis. FM's costs in the spreadsheet of the treasurer are build up of fees for design, printing and postage. It should be said at this place, that illustrations, or more the quality of the illustrations, are FM's weakest spot.

In FI's recent survey some members indicated they were willing to help with FM. They will be contacted. The survey indicated members asking for a higher frequency of *Flagmaster*. This is also a desire of the editorial team, but under the current circumstances (time and people) this is not (yet) possible.

The plan of the editorial team for the coming year is to publish 2 FM's (December 2021 and June 2022), each with 48 pages, and to involve more FI members and other vexillologist to write up and share their vexillological interest in *Flagmaster*.

Presented to the AGM of the Institute

Held at the People's Museum, Manchester 20th November 2021



The Revd Canon John Hall FFI FF BA Hons
Chairman of the Trustees of the Flag Institute



FLAG INSTITUTE

Financial Statement

1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Bank Account opening balance £17,444.79

Paypal Account opening balance

Opening Balance 1st April 2020 £17,444.79

TRADING STATEMENT

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
		2019-2020			2019-2020
Income Paypal	£8,360.00	£6,089.00	Admin	£2,772.04	£2,690.91
Bank Income	£14,144.00	£3,208.00	Library	£3,083.17	£2,914.90
Events - Meetings	£0.00	£775.00	Flagmaster	£6,252.04	£1,674.85
			FI Meetings	£0.00	£2,872.50
			FI Cost Income	£351.12	£763.57
			FI other cost	£1,696.54	£219.90
TOTAL INCOME			TOTAL EXPENSES		
	£22,504.00	£10,072.00		£14,154.91	£11,136.63
Difference between Income and Expenses				£8,349.09	-£1,064.63

Closing Balance of Trade 31st March 2021 £25,793.88

CASH STATEMENT

Bank Account	£25,758.52
Deposit	£0.00
Paypal	£35.36

CASH Balance 31st March 2021 £25,793.88

I certify that to the best of my knowledge these figures represent a true and accurate

PA Thompson
Treasurer