

Winchester Art Club

Annual General Meeting

Held at Littleton Memorial Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 25th March 2017

The meeting was chaired by the Club President, Mr Tony Hunt VPRI, who opened the meeting at 2.30pm.

1. **Apologies:** Jean Morris, Jo Chisholm, Richard Plincke, Bob and Barbara Frost, Chris Marlow and Hilary Archer
2. **Minutes of Previous AGM:** The Chair reminded members that the minutes had been available on the Club's web site for some time and asked for comments or concerns. None were offered and so the minutes were accepted.
3. **Matters arising:** The Secretary reported that there were no outstanding actions from the previous minutes and asked the meeting if there were any questions. None were forthcoming.
4. **Reports:**
 - a. Chairman
 - i. Lucinda Graham, Vice Chairman, standing in for the Chairman told the meeting that Hilary Archer had given her report in the recent newsletter, which she was sure that everyone had read. There being no questions the Chair moved on to the next item.
 - b. Exhibition Secretary:
 - i. Sheila Bushnell reported that the two exhibitions held at the hospital last year had gone well, selling about 20 paintings per exhibition. She reminded members that this is a good venue because of the large footfall and variety of people seeing the pictures. Sheila pointed out that we had only just enough pictures submitted at the last exhibition to fill the boards and said that we could do with more to give us flexibility to refill slots after sales. She reminded members that the exhibition was not judged and urged them to submit up to five pictures at handing-in on 8th April. She added that this would be the first time that members had the opportunity to enter their picture data online. This would speed up the data entry on the day and, it was hoped, move the queue along faster.
 - ii. Sheila told the meeting that last year's Annual Exhibition went well. Arrangements for handing-in had been changed so that exhibits could be handed in directly to the gallery. Space limitations imposed on us by the gallery staff meant that the process was less smooth than she would have liked. This year, she said, we will organise better and use online data entry and it will be perfect – hopefully.
 - iii. Sheila reminded members that the Club intends to enter the Art Club of the Year competition, which is sponsored by The Artist and Leisure Painter magazines. So far she had received only four images and we need to select a minimum of five suitable paintings. She urged members to submit entries in the next few days and said that the Club would not enter the competition if we could not get enough support.
 - c. Membership Secretary:

Simon Churchill the Club Treasurer, who had temporarily taken on this role following the sad death of our much loved colleague June Mott, delivered the report. Simon said that he had found the task a challenge and then made the following report:

 - i. At the beginning of the year, of the members who pay by cheque, only 24 had renewed and 58 were outstanding. After reminders 25 still remain outstanding, representing an income of £400. Of those who pay by standing order, 85 had

renewed at the new rate of £15, whereas 77 had still paid at the previous rate of £12 and three had continued to pay at the 2010 rate of £9. After reminders, 9 resigned and there are still 12 members who have still not paid the balance. The total potential income to the club is £442.

d. Courses Secretary

- i. Trish Spink reported that course bookings were better than last year. The Paul Banning course in February had been full as had the Michelle Buhl-Nielson course in March and the Jem Bowdon course in June is also fully subscribed. The Christopher Cole workshop on Beach Scene still had vacancies as had the Alan Trussler outdoor course, the workshop in May with Michelle Buhl-Nielson. Trish paid a tribute to Dr David Knight for his interesting presentation on the “Artistic and Scientific uses of Spider Silk” at the Christmas Lunch and apologised for not mentioning it in the earlier newsletter.

f Programme Secretary:

- i. Graham Compton told the meeting that he had joined the Club in July 2015 and less than a year later found himself on the Committee as Programme Secretary. He had then compiled the 2017 programme with very little knowledge of the local Art scene with the help of Tricia Spink. He said that he felt that the programme was running well apart from an early glitch when Jerry Smith had filled in for a late cancellation.
- ii. Graham said that a recent appraisal had fewer pictures to be critiqued than was desirable and he encourage members to bring pictures to a critique regardless of the initial letter of their surname when they would go through if time allowed.
- iii. Graham told the meeting that he was now actively looking for talent by visiting other clubs and art venues in order to get recruits to vary future Club programmes.

g Activities Secretary:

- i Jane Nicholson reported that the annual outing has been set for Sunday 11th June. It will go to the Tate Modern where as well as the main galleries there are exhibitions featuring Alberto Giacometti and Wolfgang Tillmans. The Bankside Gallery is nearby, St Pauls across the Millennium Bridge and the Globe Theatre in close proximity.

h Publicity Secretary:

- i Chris Sealey said that the annual exhibition is of course the biggest single event in the club year and it's also an important event in Winchester's cultural life, attracting lots of visitors both locally and from much further afield. Last year was no exception and it provided some very good publicity for the club. There was a lot of coverage in the press, prompted by the presentation of some excellent cartoons by Mike Ellis of the mayor, Jane Rutter, and of the MP, Steve Brine. There were some excellent photographs of both occasions by Simon Churchill which featured as part of the press reports. We also managed to secure a larger number of advertisers in the exhibition catalogue than in previous years, thereby increasing income from the event. The headache for a publicity secretary is how to follow that in the coming year. We can't always be sure of a good news story coinciding with exhibition and my experience over the past few years of plodding round the businesses and shops in Winchester trying to persuade them to advertise suggests that there may be a limit to this. There is no truth, by the way, that I have eaten my way round all the pubs and restaurants in Winchester simply for my own pleasure; I do it entirely in the interests of the club in trying to persuade these establishments to advertise.

- ii I regret that the roadside signs this year were not very eye-catching. This was entirely my responsibility and I hope it's something we can improve upon in the coming year.
 - ii. In addition to the hunt for advertisers there is also a good deal of legwork involved in distributing posters for the annual lecture as well as for the exhibition and so we do appreciate the help that's given by members in helping to do this.
 - iii. As in previous years there has been very little activity on the club's social media accounts – Twitter and Facebook. This may be explained by generational factors and perhaps members also prefer spending their time practising their art. And so we may have to wait until there are new, younger, members for whom the use of social media is second nature before we see a change in this form of communication.
 - iv. Most of us rely on more traditional means of promoting the club and its activities – by word of mouth, telling friends and family about the exhibitions and the club programme. Some members find the small business cards with details of the club useful for giving out to potential new members in, for example, art classes and leaving them in shops and offices. We may re-print these if there continues to be a demand and given that our current small remaining stock carries June Mott's contact details.
 - v. Thank you once again for your help over the past year.
- i Hon. Treasurer:
- i Simon made the following statement: At last year's AGM I forecasted a substantial deficit in 2016, following which we made changes to reduce the deficit and which comprised in 2016 having many more mailings to members sent out by email, Annual Exhibition hanging fees increased by £1, the subsidy on sales at Annual Exhibition being discontinued, and the 5% commission on sales at Annual Exhibition being reintroduced; and in 2017 membership fees were increased by £3, and £1 fee for Talks, Demos, and Appraisals was introduced. The deficit in 2016 was substantially better than predicted and was only £72.15, leaving our end of year bank balance about £400 above our reserve level of £3,000.
 - ii The surplus on the Skeggs lecture was 50% lower than the previous year but comparable to the average of the five years before that. Attendance was significantly lower, possibly because Douglas Skeggs was not the lecturer, but this was partially offset by the lower speaker fee.
 - iii Postage costs were ~£400, compared with ~£520 the previous year, through increased use of email for mailing. Further savings can be gained if we use email for all members on email who have not positively elected to receive mailings by post.
 - iv The costs of Talks, Demos and Appraisals continues to rise year-on-year with steady increases in speaker fees and hall hire charges, though the total in 2016 was slightly lower than the previous year.
 - v Courses made a deficit of £761 compared with £836 the previous year. We gained useful feedback in the membership survey last spring which has helped shape the programme of courses in 2017, and these are receiving a higher uptake as a result.
 - vi The club makes charitable donations principally through the hospital exhibition in which we donate the hanging fees and 10% of sales to the Magic Wand Appeal, and sales at the dentist where we donate 10% of the sales to Naomi House. These donations have averaged over £950 per annum over the last three years, and will be higher from 2017 onwards as we have increased the hanging fees at the hospital from £2 to £3.

- vii Given the uncertainty of the membership income with a potential of £442 still outstanding, I did not make a financial forecast for 2017, but anticipate it will be better than 2016 as a result of increased membership income and a reduced deficit on Courses as result of improved uptake.

5. Election of Club Officers

- a. Chairman – Hilary Archer
- b. Vice Chairman – Lucinda Graham
- c. Hon. Secretary – Derek Butler
- d. Hon. Treasurer – Simon Churchill
- e. Hon. Exhibition Secretary – Sheila Bushnell
- f. Hon. Programme Secretary – Graham Compton
- g. Hon. Courses Secretary – Patricia Spink
- h. Hon. Membership Secretary – vacant
- i. Hon. Publicity Secretary – Chris Sealey
- j. Hon. Activities Secretary – Jane Nicolson

The Chairman asked the meeting to consider re-electing the Committee as a group since none of the posts were contested. Tony Antoniou proposed, Belinda Ward seconded and the motion was carried with no votes against.

The Secretary informed the meeting that Celia Brown had agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary and asked for a vote. Lucinda Graham proposed, Tony Antoniou seconded and the appointment was carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

- a. Lucinda Graham thanked Irene Dowding for organising the teas and she also thanked Barbara Duxberry for a generous donation of cake to accompany the teas.
- b. Mike Ellis proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for all of the work that they carry out on behalf of the Club. The proposal carried unanimously with general applause.
- c. Tony Hunt drew the attention of members to the upcoming RI Exhibition at the Mall Gallery and provided flyers and tickets for the benefit of members present.
- d. The Secretary told the meeting that he had accepted re-election to his position this year because he could rely on the very able support of Ken Potheary. He warned members that his memory is becoming less reliable and so they may have to remind him of outstanding matters more frequently. He confirmed that he will not be accepting re-election next year.
- e. Trish offered up the job of organising the Christmas Lunch to members due to health difficulties. There were no applications forthcoming

- 7. The informal art competition was won by Tony Antoniou who received a small prize from the Treasurer.

The meeting formally closed at 3.45pm.