

Winchester Art Club

Annual General Meeting

Littleton Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton, Winchester SO22 6QL

Saturday 26th March at 2:00 pm

Chairman of the Meeting Mr Tony Hunt RI

Present

Tony Hunt, - President and chairman of the meeting

Hilary Archer – chairman

Sheila Bushnell – Exhibitions Secretary

Graham Compton - Programme Secretary

Celia Brown – Membership Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence

Sheila Bushnell read out the names of people who had sent apologies:

Tricia Spink, the secretary, who currently is ill with Covid

Simon Churchill, the treasurer, who is isolating as he is on the covid vulnerable list

Joan Crawford, Keith Bennett and some others

2. Matters Arising

Tricia Spink is acting as temporary courses secretary at present to ensure that the club has Courses for this year. She has booked courses in May, June, July and October. Dates and Details will be sent on later.

There are no previous minutes as there has not been an annual general meeting for several Years due to covid. There are therefore no matters arising or minutes to check. The chairman Mr Hunt stated that the meeting should now go onto the Reports from the club officers.

Reports

President Mr Hunt's report and treasurers report

President Mr Tony Hunt welcomed everyone present at the Millennium Hall today and thanked them for their support.

In the treasurer's absence, Mr Hunt read out the financial statement prepared by Mr Simon Churchill. He said if there were any queries members should contact Hilary Archer. She will pass these queries on to Simon. In brief:

Our last AGM was in 2019 when Simon reported the accounts for 2018, so there are three Years to report.

2015 saw a £625 deficit; 2016 saw a £72 deficit. In 2017, there was a surplus of £833; 2018 saw a surplus of £830; 2019 saw an £656 surplus; 2020 saw a £663 surplus and 2021 saw a £576 surplus. The Club has £6950 in the bank, well above the reserve needed of £3,000.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on our activities which are reflected in the last Two years accounts.

On the expenditure side:

- We have had many fewer Saturday afternoon demonstrations, giving a significant cost saving in lecture fees and hall hire, as all but one were held by Zoom.
- We held only one course, and these normally operate at a deficit.

On the income side:

- Our membership has reduced, with a number of former members not renewing when activities were reduced due to the pandemic.
- We have had a smaller number of pictures hung at the annual exhibition, resulting in a reduction in handing in fees of around £400.
- We have not had an exhibition catalogue, which normally generates a surplus of £400-£500.
- We have not held the Douglas Skeggs' lecture, which normally generates a surplus of around £400.

The lack of hospital exhibitions has not had any impact on the club's finances, as the hanging fees and sales commissions do not go into the Club's coffers, but are donated to *The Magic Wand Appeal* and the Winchester Hospice.

Simon was thanked for everything he had done in these difficult times.

Tony thanked the committee for their absolutely terrific dedication and hard work over the Last 2 years and the Members showed their appreciation with loud applause.

Chairman's Report (Hilary Archer)

Hilary thanked those present for coming to support the Club and said it was good to see them again. She said the meeting will be informal so that we can enjoy a social exchange as we look at the paintings brought in by Members.

Hilary said she was sorry Tricia had not been able to attend the meeting as she has Covid. Hilary arranged for a 'Get Well' Card to be signed by everyone to send to Tricia.

Hilary stated that she was pleased to hear that Tricia has agreed to stay on as Secretary. She told the club that Jane Nicholson has agreed to be our new Publicity Officer and thanked her for stepping up for this important role.

Jane has also agreed to help with teas at meetings but she will need help with this.

Exhibition secretary's report (Sheila Bushnell)

Annual Exhibition.

Sheila reported that the last Annual exhibition to be held in the old City Space gallery had to close after only 6-7 days due to Covid. The Hampshire Cultural Trust staff put the whole exhibition on-line for us, so that it could be viewed "virtually".

Last year's exhibition was in the Performance Hall. This was not ideal. But better than expected. This year, we have been offered a six weeks slot from Nov 2022 – Jan 2023, in the new "City Space" on the Mezzanine floor of the library (now called the ARC). As well as the wall space, we will also have some boards, but not as many as before. The Photographic Society is going to have its exhibition in this area in April. Go and have a look at it, and this will give you some idea of what our exhibition will be like.

Sheila stated that other venues were looked at, notably the Gallery in Romsey Road, and the Art School. However, these are not central to town, and do pose more difficulties. Furthermore, the Hampshire Cultural Trust do so much for us now, including hanging and taking down, which is invaluable.

Hospital Exhibition. Sheila stated that this could not happen for the last two years due to Covid. We have lost the room which we use to hand in and prepare the exhibition as this is being kept permanently as an office. Another location for handing in has been offered to us along a corridor near the entrance hall. A tentative date of 10th April has been arranged for the next exhibition.

Courses Secretary

Please see above in matters arising.

Programme Secretary (Graham Compton)

Graham stated that he will stay on this year. He has delayed the programme to see what Covid would do, and also to find out what members want. Do they just want Zoom programmes, or programmes in person in the Church Hall? He had found that Zoom programmes allowed him to source speakers from all over the country and not just locally. Tricia Spink had indicated that most people favoured returning to the Church Hall. Those members present at the meeting stated that this was indeed their preference. Graham said that he had 4-5 speakers already booked including Soraya French. He also has 2 appraisals, one by Claire Goodman in May. Jerry Smith will do another appraisal later in the year. Details will be announced shortly.

Membership Secretary (Celia Brown)

Celia stated that membership is down again. We have 151 paid up members at the moment. We are still waiting for subscriptions from about 34 members who we hope will renew again.

Sadly, four members have died.

Membership is falling at a much faster rate than new members are joining.

Election of club officers

Mr Hunt suggested that as all the old Officers had agreed to stand again, the Members should vote them in "en block". This was agreed.

The proposal to re-elect was made by Belinda Ward, and seconded by Diana Snagge and others.

Any other business

We need to encourage new members to join the club. Jackie Green stated that she knew of some printmakers who wanted to exhibit their work at the exhibition. Allowing them to do so, may encourage others to join the club. Joan Willingham asked if autographed prints could be included.

Mr Hunt stated that there was a fear in the past that purely mechanical prints would be allowed in the exhibition. He suggested that the entry for prints be limited to **autographed** prints which have to be done by hand.

Sheila stated that we would be happy to consider allowing autographed prints into the exhibition, but not at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 14:45

Babs Duxbury kindly bought delicious cakes to have with our cuppa and was thanked. A good social gathering ensued.

