

# Winchester Art Club

## Annual General Meeting

**Held at Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

The Meeting was chaired by the Club President, Mr Tony Hunt, VPRI, who opened the meeting at 2.35 pm. The Chair welcomed everyone present.

**1. Apologies:** Ian Case, Viv and Cliff Morton, John Ratcliffe, Tony Sexton, Audrey Davenport, Christine Marlow, and the Secretary, Ken Potheary. These were given by the Assistant Secretary, Tricia Spink.

**2. Minutes of the Previous AGM:** The Chair reminded members that the minutes had been available on the Club's website and asked if there were any comments. None were forthcoming and so the minutes were accepted.

**3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Reports:**

##### **Chairman**

Hilary Archer welcomed all members. The Chair raised the matter of a correction in the Hospital Exhibition Handing Out date as 15<sup>th</sup> July. She urged for entries to be submitted for April 13<sup>th</sup>. She stated that many changes had taken place since the last AGM: We had sad losses of treasured members. There was good news to report that the Club had received television coverage, and the Hampshire Chronicle had published two articles on the Winchester Art Club. The Chair also gave thanks to the Publicity Secretary, Chris Sealey, who had now given his resignation. Hilary urged someone to come forward to take on this post as it is vital to the Club's position in the community. Hilary then commented on this year being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Winchester Art Club, which was founded in 1919, when it absorbed the earlier Winchester Fine Arts Society, existing since 1888. Hilary thanked Jane Nicholson for organising the visit to the Van Gogh Exhibition at Tate Britain on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Hilary also said she was pleased that Pullinger's had opened a section in Closs & Hamblin, providing a wide range of art materials on the top floor; this was encouraged by Lyn, previously of Creative Crafts, known by the Club for many years as a judge of the Annual Exhibition, sponsoring prizes, and for providing hanging space in her shop by the Cathedral. She thanked the committee for their hard work.

##### **Exhibition Secretary**

Sheila Bushnell stated that the new system of Handing Out in the corridor following the Hospital Exhibition had gone well and would be adopted in future. She apologised for incorrect dates and said that these would be put on the website. She reported 24 paintings being sold. She said that this year's exhibition at the Discovery Centre would cover a five-week period. For the Centenary, she suggested a theme perhaps in the form of a competition instead of the Drawing Prize. This will be pointed out in the Newsletter. She also stated that in 2020, the Exhibition would be held for 6 weeks from November until first week of January 2021.

### **Membership Secretary**

Celia Brown reported there being 246 members, and that 24 new members had joined in the last year. She reported that 130 members had paid on time, 36 were late, 26 had paid the old rate of £12 and four had paid at the old rate of £9. 31 had renewed their membership, 9 had not renewed, and 29 had resigned. She reported the sad loss of six members who had died: Helen Benjamin, Delphine Wilson, Judy Strafford, Kathleen Henderson, Richard Plincke and Peter Folkes.

### **Courses Secretary**

Simon Churchill reported that still no one had come forward to take up the position of Courses Secretary. He explained briefly that John Ratcliffe had stood down after setting up four courses for this year, and that a Life Drawing workshop had been arranged. Simon reported that out of 200 members who receive communication electronically, only 113 members had downloaded the newsletter; however, the courses page had been viewed 61 times. He was hopeful that a replacement might arise following discussions at the end of the month.

### **Programme Secretary**

Graham Compton told the meeting that he had tried to set a varied and interesting programme. He said he had had difficulties on occasion in getting dates which did not clash with Hospital/Annual Exhibition dates. He stated that there would be fewer meetings this year as appraisals were being reduced to two, though both would be open to all members with no A-Z name restrictions, but with only one painting allowed. He said that interest in the Saturday afternoons had increased, with 50 attendees in the last two meetings. He asked for people to come forward if they knew of interesting artists/demonstrators.

### **Activities Secretary**

Jane Nicholson reported that a visit to the Van Gogh Exhibition at Tate Britain was arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> June and that there were booking forms available on the entrance desk.

### **Publicity Secretary**

Chris Sealey reported that the Club had received good publicity during the year but, unfortunately, he was away for much of the time around the Annual Exhibition when Mike Ellis had ably stepped in to help with publicity. He thanked Mike for his help. He reported that the steady advertising in the exhibition catalogue, and the commercial road signs had maintained the Club's profile and interest. He spoke about the role of Publicity Secretary which is a task that could be shared. He had received a lot of support from the committee and thanked them. Tony Hunt then thanked Chris for all that he had contributed over the five years.

### **Hon Treasurer**

Simon Churchill informed members that the surplus for 2017 had been revised from £1,125.96 to £900.76 as a result of some payments for sales at the annual exhibition being cashed late, and a retrospective payment of £200 to Hampshire Cultural Trust in lieu of our use of the Learning Rooms for handing in and judging for the annual exhibition. In 2018 we made a surplus of £869.23, and a similar surplus is anticipated in 2019, though a forecast has not been made. Simon advised that a replacement PA system will be purchased and the large PA system that was acquired a few years ago will be sold. Simon informed members that the Hampshire Cultural Trust will be charging VAT on their sales commission, raising from 30% to 36% and that the club will waive its 5% sales commission to offset this, so the

overall commission will only increase by 1%, from 35% to 36%. The commission on card sales will increase from 30% to 36%. Simon also informed members that the commission on sales at the hospital will increase from 10% to 20%, with the additional 10% being donated to the Winchester Hospice appeal.

#### **Election of Club Officers**

- a. Chairman – Hilary Archer
- b. Vice Chairman – suspended
- c. Hon Treasurer – Simon Churchill
- d. Hon Exhibition Secretary – Sheila Bushnell
- e. Hon Programme Secretary – Graham Compton
- f. Hon Membership Secretary – Celia Brown
- g. Hon Publicity Secretary – vacant
- h. Hon Activities Secretary – Jane Nicholson
- i. Hon Secretary – Ken Potheary
- j. Hon Courses Secretary – vacant
- k. Hon Assistant Secretary - Tricia Spink

Tony Hunt thanked the officers, especially Simon, for their hard work. He recommended that the position of Vice Chairman, presently Lucinda Graham, be temporarily suspended. He asked the meeting to consider re-electing the Committee as a group since none of the posts was contested. Carol Parson proposed, Ron Allan seconded, and the appointment was carried unanimously.

#### **Any Other Business**

Thanks were given to Irene Dowding and Sue Fratter for their help with the teas and to Barbara Duxbury for providing a delightful selection of cakes. The informal art competition “Nature” was won by Ron Allan. The Meeting was formally closed at 3.50 pm. The next AGM was provisionally booked for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.