

Winchester Art Club

Annual General Meeting

Held at Littleton Memorial Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 24th March 2018

The meeting was chaired by the Club President, Mr Tony Hunt VPRI, who opened the meeting at 2.35pm

- 1. Apologies:** Pat Burt & Gill Brophy. These were read out by the new Secretary, Ken Potheary, who took the opportunity to thank the retiring Secretary, Derek Butler for his great contribution to the Club over many years, and to asked for tolerance from the members for any mistakes in not living up to the high standards of the previous secretary.
- 2. Minutes of the Previous AGM:** The Chair reminded members that the minutes had been available on the Club's web site for some time and asked if there were any comments. None were forthcoming and the so the minutes were accepted.
- 3. Matters Arising:** The Secretary had previously reported that none were no outstanding actions and the Chair asked the meeting if there were any questions. None were offered.
- 4. Reports:**

Chairman

Hilary Archer began by thanking those members attending and went on to thank Derek Butler for many years of service to the Club and the contributions he had made.

Hilary proposed that Tricia Spink, who was retiring as Courses Secretary, take on the role of Assistant Secretary. This was rapidly seconded by Ken Potheary and approved by the meeting.

Hilary went on to thank all the other committee members for their contributions and to ask for members to join the committee to fill the roles of Courses Secretary and Publicity Secretary which had just become vacant, though it now appears that the Publicity Secretary will not be standing down this year.

Exhibition Secretary

Sheila Bushnell said the things she had to report were all in the newsletter
The Annual Exhibition had gone well in the Discover Centre's City Space. There had been some concerns over the catalogue numbering, which followed an alphabetical exhibitor system. This was to enable the catalogue to be published in a sensible timescale, and would continue this year, but be refined to make it clearer.

The Hospital Exhibitions had also gone well, although some concerns had been raised over the lighting; she pointed out that it was a hospital corridor and not a gallery, which came free apart from the contributions made to the hospital charity. In future the works sold from the corridor would be shown by a red dot and not replaced.

Sheila said that the club had entered the Art Club of the Year Competition and reached the final where members paintings were exhibited at the Patchings Gallery in Nottingham. We were entering the competition again this year and asked for photos of the member's paintings to be forwarded to her for the committee to consider. Also photos of paintings for consideration for the Annual Exhibition catalogue.

Membership Secretary:

Celia Brown started by thanking Simon Churchill (Treasurer) and Derek Butler (Secretary) for the help they had given her in settling into the role.

Celia said the current membership stood at 255, 2 of which were new since January whom she welcomed to the Club.

Celia reported that 186 had paid the membership fee of £15 in January, 34 paid the old rate of £12 and 4 at the very old rate of £9. Of those who paid by cheque 17 paid without reminder and 27 with reminder and 4 resigned.

Celia went on to give a presentation showing the results of her chasing people to pay the correct amounts and the difficulties involved, she also showed a similar pattern of difficulties that Alresford Art Club had to demonstrate that we were not alone. A question from the floor asked the renewal date which Celia confirmed as the 1st January.

Courses Secretary:

Tricia Spink said that though she had stated at the last AGM, she would be standing down this year, only two people had offered. One had later declined, and the other wanted to do a time-share. Tricia was not able to continue, and therefore a shared post was not considered. It was decided to leave out Courses for a year.

Programme Secretary:

Graham Compton told the meeting that he had tried to set a varied and interesting programme.

A substitute had to be found at short notice for the January booking, and an interesting demonstration of computer art was presented; the February meeting was an acrylic demonstration by Jerry Smith and in March a talk/demonstration of Caricature was given by Mike Ellis.

There would be fewer meetings this year as the appraisals were being reduced to 2, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. Both would be open to all members with no A-Z name restrictions, but only one painting allowed. The first is on April 14th with Kim Page and the Autumn appraisal on October 20th with Jerry Smith.

Graham said that he was now looking for interesting people for next year.

Happily, he had managed to avoid clashing events for this year with help from the Courses Secretary and Exhibition Secretary.

Activities Secretary

Jane Nicholson reported the annual outing has been set for Sunday 10th June to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The main exhibition is 'America's Cool Modernism' with artists represented including Georgia O'Keefe, Arthur Dove and Paul Strand. The full price is £13.25. Concessions £12.25. I am looking into the possibility of pre-booking slots for this, but cost of this exhibition is extra to the cost of £20 for the coach. There were other free varied exhibits at the Ashmolean. The cost of the coach would be £20.

Publicity Secretary

Chris Sealey reported that the Club had received some good publicity during the year not only around the annual exhibition but also at other times. There had been increased coverage of the exhibition in the press. The Hampshire Chronicle had reported on both the handing in day and the private view. The Mid Hampshire Observer had also carried an article; all the reports had been accompanied by some excellent photographs taken by Simon Churchill. Chris was also very grateful to those members who were profiled in the coverage. A notable first for the Club was the television broadcast of the exhibition on the Freeview channel "That's Hampshire", which contained interviews with Tony Hunt and Lucinda Graham. He very much hoped that the TV company's interest in the Club would continue. The only downside to report was that the Club's banner advertising the exhibition was stolen from the railings outside the Discovery Centre. It is an expensive item and its loss was only very slightly mitigated by the fact that none of the five roadside signs went missing this year. He also noted that we had been able to maintain the same level of advertising as last year in the exhibition catalogue. Once again Derek Butler had worked his magic in producing the proofs of the catalogue for the printers, much like pulling a rabbit from the hat.

Because the Discovery Centre was unable to host the annual lecture we did not feature in the Hampshire "What's On" brochure and, although posters were placed in the Centre, this may have accounted for the slightly lower attendance.

More recently, the Winchester Resident Magazine had published an article on the Club which carried interviews with three members and showed images of their work. There was also a paragraph in the Spring edition of the Winchester Magazine about our exhibition at the Royal Hants County Hospital. Experience suggests that the printed word is more effective in attracting interest than digital notices, although entries were posted on various websites.

Chris ended by thanking all those who had assisted in the publicity task this year, especially those who had exposed themselves to public gaze by giving interviews and to Mike Ellis who had been both a source of good ideas and an ace reporter.

Hon Treasurer

Simon Churchill reported that, in early 2016, he estimated that on current projected spending the Club's bank balance would go well into the reserves at the end of 2016,

and the Club could run out of funds by the end of 2017. The committee held an Extraordinary Meeting in the spring of 2016 to consider options to reduce the deficit including increasing the annual exhibition hanging fees by £1, introducing a £1 fee for attendance at Saturday afternoon events, increased use of email to cut postage costs, increasing the membership fees and course fees in 2017 and halving the number of appraisals from 2017 onwards. These measures have turned the finances around and in 2017 we made a surplus of £1,125, which was better than forecast after the fiscal changes had been implemented, and a turnaround from the deficit of £72 in 2016. Donations to the hospital charity increased from £796 to £915 with the increase of hanging fees from £2 to £3. His projection for 2018 is a surplus of around £750.

Election of Club Officers

- a. Chairman – Hilary Archer
- b. Vice Chairman – Lucinda Graham
- c. Hon. Treasurer – Mr 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 co-opted to be confirmed by AGM
- j. Hon. Courses Secretary – vacant
- k. Hon Assistant Secretary – Tricia Spink to be confirmed by AGM

The Chairman asked the meeting to consider re-electing the Committee as a group since none of the posts were contested. Joan Willingham proposed, Carol Parsons seconded and the appointment was carried unanimously.

Tricia Spink agreed to carry on organising the Christmas Lunch.

Any Other Business:

Hilary Archer thanked those organising the teas.

Tony Hunt drew attention of members to the upcoming RI Exhibition and provided flyers.

Hilary again thanked Derek Butler for the outstanding job he had done for the Club and presented him with a card, flowers for Kate, his wife, and a cheque of the contributions made to him by Club members for £450.

The informal art competition was won by Hilary Archer.

The meeting was formally closed at 3.50pm