



NORFOLK AND NORWICH ART CIRCLE

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Saturday 25th March 2017 at the United Reform Church Hall, Ipswich Road, Norwich.

Sue Willmer took the Chair.

There were 34 members present.

Apologies were received from 11 members

The minutes of the last AGM 2016 were made available in hard copy, were approved by the meeting and signed. Proposed by Malcolm Cudmore Seconded by Juliet Hodgson

Matters arising from the minutes - none were raised.

Treasurer's report. Jan Motley reported

I would like to report another successful year. In 2016 we had 153 fully paid up members and, although 50 members did not renew their membership, we have had 20 new members already this year.

The fee for our exhibition space at the Forum has increased significantly, while fees for the Hostry and Brancaster Staithe have remained constant this year. However, we already know that The Forum fee for next year will be more as they are changing their fee formula. Because of this we have had to reconsider our entry fees for our exhibitions, but have endeavoured to keep the increase to a minimum. The new fee set is £8 per picture, with £7 being returned if a submission is unsuccessful.

As you can see from the balance sheet, our finances are healthy, but this year we have booked more demos which have higher fees. We are trying to partly offset this by advertising more widely to other art groups, and charging a £3 visitor fee for non members.

The Auditor this year is the same as last year. He very kindly carries this out for a nominal alcoholic fee. If anyone has any questions about the balance sheet I will do my best to answer them.

Jan responded to a couple of minor clarifications from David Talks and Norman Sidebottom.

The Annual Audit had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair moved to adopt the Annual Audit which was approved by a show of hands.

Proposed by Norman Sidebottom Seconded David Talks

Chairman's report (verbatim)

I must begin my report by expressing my sincere thanks to the council officers and council members who have been so supportive and energetic in their assistance throughout the past year. Everyone has been so keen to work as a team that it is difficult to mention anyone individually. However I feel I must thank our president who has guided me through our various events and our secretary and treasurer who do so much to keep everything running on an even keel. Also my thanks go to our vice chairman Clive whose knowledge and reliability gave me the courage to take this job on, no-one could ask for better back up. Clive has decided that the time has come for him to relinquish his place on the council and concentrate on his own art work and we look forward to seeing the fruits of his labours.

Our programme has included a number of excellent demonstrations and talks from visiting artists and members. These are generally well attended and we hope to see as many members as possible at our future events. We now welcome non members to our monthly meetings at a minimal charge of £3 per head and hope you will encourage art loving friends to come along too.

Unfortunately the London trip had to be cancelled as there was insufficient interest so we have an alternative trip to offer this year, of which there are details in the latest newsletter.

The monthly life drawing group and social gatherings continue to run well; like everything else greater numbers would always be welcome.

We have had a sketching party to Beth Chatto's gardens, the easel party, Art Circle dinner and our usual critique session. Keep an eye out for news of these events in the future.

The running of our website has now been taken over by Ruth Mann with excellent backup from Malcolm Cudmore as our previous webmaster Mick Anderson has moved to the Lake District. Ruth has also set up a face book page for the Art Circle. Both of these are a forum to enable you to keep abreast of all our activities.

Our exhibitions have been successful despite the economic gloom and have attracted a lot of public support. This year we will again be exhibiting in the Hostry, at Brancaster Staithe, and in the Forum where I am pleased to say we have managed to secure a full week's booking and will be permitted to display the prices of the paintings and sculptures we show.

As your Council we are keen to move the Art Circle forward both in terms of artistic merit and administrative activity. We are aware that for some members this can be frustratingly slow, as they are fully conversant with modern technology; for others the move to the digital age needs to be handled with consideration. Please be assured we will do our best to satisfy all eventually and will always welcome constructive comments and offers of assistance. If you feel you have the skills and energy that would help us progress please let us know; you do not need to be a council member in order to help, but it helps if you are.

Sue presented a portrait by John Glover of Clive, to Clive, in thanks from everyone for his major contribution to the Circle.

President's report.

Richard Motley commented on the progression of the Art Circle and the key role it plays in member artists improving their work. The Circle provides many valuable opportunities, through the year and year on year, to obtain feedback. This year workshops have been successful too, responding to a member request from last year. Richard urged members to visit the Munning's Society in Dedham. Munnings was a Circle member.

Election of Officials and Council members.

The following were elected unopposed:-

Vice-Chairman	Eleanor Alison
Hon Treasurer	Jan Motley
Hon Secretary	Geoff Kitchen

Council members-

Malcolm Cudmore

Marian Gibb

Marian Auger

Jane Knights

Ruth Mann

Howard Temperley

New Council members

Juliet Hodgeson - Proposed Geoff Kitchen Seconded Jane Knights

Cheryl Lord Frenneaux - Proposed Jan Motley Seconded Richard Motley

Liz Jacques - Proposed Sue Williams Seconded John Shave

Liz and Juliet were present, and gave a short introduction to the AGM.

A.O.B.

Clive reminded all present of the regular social evenings and Life Group

Ruth reminded everyone that the NNAC website is there to be used by members to promote their work and establish useful links to other sites, including members own websites.

Sue requested members support the exhibition at Brancaster. Sue accepted this venue is a fair distance for some, however we have a growing group of members in North Norfolk. Sue assured everyone Council will do everything they can to transport work and cover sitting in. Malcolm mentioned how well received demonstrating work at Brancaster was and how much he enjoyed doing it and urged others to consider this. Council will ensure space to allow for this.

Sue mentioned how we intend to increase our ability to send information electronically. We hope to start by sending some Newsletters to email addresses. It is therefore essential we have correct emails for members and that members inform us when addresses change.

Harry Baker raised an issue regarding hanging fees for reserved works that may only be exhibited for a day. Council undertook to address this unfair issue. Harry also suggested looking at other exhibition venues and will send suggestions to our Chairman.

There being no other business, Sue thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.30pm