

# SOUTHEND ART CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the AGM Saturday 6th October 2018  
held at The Beecroft Gallery

**In the Chair:** Ray Andrews

**20 members attended** - Committee: Jayne Andrews, Laurie Newton, Linda Vost, Sam Quilter, Teresa Cutmore, Sue Vinson

## Opening Address

The new President, Christine Dodson, welcomed those who had attended. She explained she had enjoyed belonging to the Club for over 25 years and during that time had served on the Committee in various roles, including newsletter editor, social secretary, three years as membership secretary and chairman for seven years. Christine went on to thank the current committee for their hard work in keeping the Club running smoothly and said she knew they were most appreciative of any help members were able to offer.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Bill Barr, Bob Holmshaw, Malcolm Perry, John Thompson, Vanessa Eastoe, Chris Wiseman, Diane Wiseman, Jenny Williams, Helen Rubinstein, Julie Parker, Phil Blower, Andrew Hall, Eileen Hogg, Gwen Hardy.

## 2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting and 3. Matters Arising

The Chairmen drew members' attention to the copies of last year's minutes distributed at the meeting and queried whether there were any matters arising. Nothing was put forward and he therefore suggested these be taken as read. This was unanimously approved and the minutes were duly signed.

## 4. Chairman's Report – Ray Andrews

The Chairman advised that the Club's Constitution stated that if members wished to discuss a subject at the AGM they should notify the Club two weeks before the meeting. However, no requests had been received and Ray Andrews said that he would like to echo the President's comment that the Committee put in a vast amount of work in planning future activities, which included various social events as well as demonstrations, and were always looking for members suggestions as to what should be included.

Ray advised that one subject on everyone's mind was the Club's use of the cottage now that planning permission had been granted and explained that Charles Tabor (patron and owner of the land and cottage which the Club had been using since 1973) had been prompted by financial advisors that he should be doing more with the cottage. However progress had been slow because he was trying to buy the church in Sutton Road and turn this into a community centre, which the Club would be able to use. Ray said it was likely we would still be able to have our summer programme at the cottage next year and that Bob Holmshaw was planning accordingly. It was agreed that Laurie Newton would carry on looking after the garden over the coming months to avoid a lot of work to get it ready for Club use next summer. Ray reminded the meeting that the Club had a Facebook page that would carry any current news.

Regarding the Club's yearly newsletter produced by Alan Hunter prior to his move away from the area, the Chairman asked members to let the Committee know if they knew of someone who might be willing to help, in order to keep it going. The cost was around £300 to print and circulate the magazine and although John Thompson was working towards putting information on the Club webpage this would not reach those members without e-mail.

## 5. Treasurer's Report - Sam Quilter

Referring to the July End of Year Statement of Accounts 2017-2018 distributed at the meeting, the Treasurer summarised major points as follows:

This year the Club was worth a total of £15,917.30 compared with £13,880.91 in 2016-2017, so overall up by £2,036.39 on last year, after depreciation of furniture, fittings and equipment and taking into account liquid assets of £11,679.66. Subscriptions however were down on last year by £529.00.

Exhibitions were mixed, with Autumn 2017, held at the Cliffs Pavilion, being very successful achieving a profit of £542.64. The Spring 2018 exhibition held at Leigh Road Baptist Church (the first held at this venue) was less so with a slight deficit of £174.80. The recent exhibition at the Cliffs, although not as successful as last year (there was not a show on and therefore less footfall), still reached a profit of £118.53.

The cost of the winter programme was up by £215 on the previous year as there was an extra demonstration. The summer programme was however £42.50 under spending in comparison to the previous year.

The annual Club outing had a slight deficit of £34, whereas in the previous year it broke even.

The Cheese and Wine and Christmas events were down on costs by £20.11 on the previous year.

Website costs were up by £14.37, as were insurance costs by £38.

Newsletter costs down by £124 and general administration down by nearly £300 as a lot less was being spent on stamps due to e-mailed exhibition entry forms.

Cottage expenses were down £514 on the previous year; however the Club was now out of contract for electric charges (although not costing much more).

There was new income from the Essex lottery which had brought in revenue of £29.50

The Treasurer concluded her report by advising that internet banking should be in place in time for the next exhibition.

Ray Andrews advised that in future if members wanted to pay their annual subscriptions on line they would be given a code to use and the Membership Secretary informed of who had paid by the Secretary. Ray went on to promote participation in the Essex Lottery which generated funds for the Club.

## **6. Secretary's Report – Jayne Andrews**

Jayne reported that again this year had been a busy one, with continued problems with the e-mail system which she hoped she had now overcome. She said she was working alongside web manager John Thompson looking at different systems to make life a little easier for everyone. As she continued to assist Malcolm Perry with the administrative side of the exhibitions, this included exploring a new system to stop her having to spend every day for several weeks collating members' entries. She said that they were hoping to have a new system in place next year.

Jayne advised that again this year she baked cakes for the Open Day/Art Sale. It was good to see most of the cakes were consumed and she hoped everyone enjoyed her efforts.

She concluded by reporting that she had received a thank you letter from Havens advising that £22.48p had been collected in their boxes at the September exhibition.

The Chairman stressed the amount of work Jayne had undertaken and those present joined him in thanking her for all she had done.

## **7. Officers Reports**

### **(a) Web Manager - John Thompson** *(read in his absence)*

John commenced by thanking Maggie Stannard to running the web site for many years and reported that as she slowly stepped away from the post he had been updating the site when information was passed along to him. He reported that after taking office and managing the website it quickly became clear that it had been very time consuming and slow to get necessary information on to the site for the following reasons:

- The software used is outdated and no longer supported by Microsoft
- Working within the software is very limiting as it offered few and dull options.
- The way information has to be passed to him via e-mail from members and then transferred to the site, as he was not always available when e-mails arrived or when updates were needed.

John suggested that the Club move forward by using a more modern web-hosting site (WIX) and he believed by changing over it would be more efficient, timely and would be interactive, making it user-friendly.

The Chairman commented that he had been in touch with the Stratford Art Group who were using an advanced system which enabled exhibition entries to be dealt with quickly in a complete package.

Lastly, it was noted that John was not receiving any pictures from members for Artist of the Month.

### **(b) Social Secretary - Vanessa Eastoe** *(read in her absence)*

The year's social events consisted of a coach trip to Canterbury, Cheese and Wine evening, Summer party and coming up our Christmas Buffet Meal. Vanessa hoped members had enjoyed the outing to Canterbury and

although she was unable to attend herself, she understood a pleasant day had been spent in this historical city. She advised that there would be a similar outing next June, destination still to be chosen but which would be announced at the Christmas Buffet.

Mid-July the Cheese and Wine evening was held at the cottage - always a congenial event with a good selection of delicious cheeses, accompaniments and a range of wines. Vanessa commented that this was a free event but more members should be encouraged to attend.

The Summer Party was a great success with a new caterer who provided an excellent buffet. Mike Warner and his music partner played their rendition of gentle popular songs to sing along with or just listen to, which certainly gave a garden party atmosphere.

The Christmas Buffet meal would be on 8<sup>th</sup> December, from 1 to 4 pm, and again be held at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club. Last year members were delighted with the buffet spread which will be the same this year. Due to rising costs, the ticket price this year would be £15 per person and Vanessa will be taking bookings at the start of the winter programme.

Ray Andrews advised that due to poor attendance the future of Cheese and Wine evenings was under serious consideration. Laurie Newton suggested holding it on a Saturday. Transport might be a problem as not everyone could get to the cottage. Ray said it would be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

**(c) Membership Secretary's Report - Linda Vost**

Linda advised that the recent exhibition generated a lot of interest in the Club and she was pleased to welcome 14 new members who had already joined for the start of the new membership year. She thanked those members who had renewed their membership before the end of September as this year renewals had been requested to be received by 1<sup>st</sup> October. She explained that with new members joining, this meant a revised database could be finalised in good time for use by the Club when needing to contact members. However, she reported that to date there were still a good number of renewals outstanding.

**(d) Summer Programme Organiser - Bob Holmshaw (read in his absence)**

This summer has been one of very good weather, enabling every event but one to be held outside. This is where credit is due to the tireless work of Laurie Newton who maintains our gardens - which have been a joy to use. Everybody seemed happy with our new start and finish times. On a couple of occasions members stayed beyond the end time because they were so involved in their painting. Our guest artists gave very good demonstrations and hopefully encouraged members to try different mediums and new techniques.

The Summer Party went well and the new caterers produced a good buffet. We enjoyed having Mike Warner and friend providing us with excellent live music and also Malcolm Perry for joining them to sing a couple of songs.

The Open Day and Art Bring and Buy sale raised a sum of £245 for club funds, which was very good indeed. Thank you to everybody who brought in items for sale and to those who purchased them. Thanks to Ray and Jayne for arriving early and putting out chairs and tables and setting out sale items. Also thanks to Jayne for her excellent homemade cakes which were as good - maybe better - as usual.

Finally, it is always my intention to encourage as many members as possible to paint at our Saturday meetings. I know not all meetings are 'Paint Alongs'. However please bring your paints anyway (whatever your medium) as opportunity will often present itself and all guest artists can offer you advice in most mediums.

Bob concluded his report with thanks to the many members who helped at every event.

**(e) Winter Programme Organiser - Teresa Cutmore**

Teresa commented that she enjoyed the challenge of finding available artists and pulling together a varied programme - making sure different mediums were covered and evenly spread out across the winter months. She felt that demonstrations should be more about learning different artistic processes than watching a painting being completed and said she would be very interested to hear from anyone who had a process that could be shared as a demo. She was pleased that club member, Liam O'Herlihy, was prepared to give it a go last year and to show the different stages of his process, along with the influences he has had from other artists. By having a few pieces at various completed stages, members were able to follow his style and learn something new about building a composition and how he used household emulsion paint from tester pots with his water colour to create harmony in his colours.

Teresa wanted to thank another member, Sharon Stone, for stepping in when a pre-planned artist became unavailable for a forthcoming date, and said that Sharon would be demonstrating her mixed media process, making use of acrylic inks in an experimental way.

Teresa mentioned that the Club were particularly grateful to member Brian Coppard, whose demonstrations were very popular, for his willingness to step in at short notice, which he did twice last year when a booked demonstrator was unable to make it (*and helped out again in the Summer Programme just a few weeks ago*). Teresa said she would love to hear from any members if they felt their name could be added onto a 'stand by' list and to e-mail either herself or Bob Holmshaw.

Referring to last year's winter programme, Teresa said there had been demos in oil, acrylic, pastels, gouache and watercolour, with Exhibition Organiser Malcolm Perry starting it off with a vibrant street scene in acrylics and later on Denise Allen did a seascape in acrylics. Teresa said this showed how the same medium could be used with such different results. As she was about to start planning the 2019-2020 Winter Programme, she urged members to e-mail suggestions if there were any art techniques of particular Interest that would work as a two hour demonstration at the Beecroft, bearing in mind that the technique needed to be something tackled on a vertical surface rather than flat on a table, which would be difficult to project onto the screen.

Teresa concluded by stating that the roles of both Winter and Summer Programme Organisers could benefit from being team orientated rather than singularly-led, to cover any unexpected non-attendances. She said she was grateful to both Nick Martin and Keith Watson who had kindly agreed to be stand-ins and would be leading the first meeting this year on 20<sup>th</sup> October when she would be away. Regarding parking at the Beecroft, she said as yet the Gallery had no dates for when the multi-storey car-park work would begin.

#### **(f) Exhibition Publicity - Sue Vinson**

Sue reported that currently there was an awful lot to cover to publicise an exhibition and urged members to get in touch to offer help. She said she had been distributing posters/ flyers everywhere, from pubs and travel agents to barbers, and spent one Saturday doing the whole of Bournemouth Park Road putting leaflets through doors. In spite of the promise of getting mentioned on Essex Radio, this never happened and it appeared to be the case of having personal contacts. Discussion followed on other ideas to publicise exhibitions. Annabelle Hern said that getting a prominent person to open the exhibition ensured coverage by local papers. Members were no longer sent flyers to put in their cars, but Ray thought that if a supply of these were available at club meetings members might then take a quantity for distribution. He suggested another way of advertising could be having posters displayed on boards erected in members' gardens.

Ray advised that the Committee were having discussions about what types of art could be exhibited in addition to paintings and asked members to e-mail any ideas, or if it was thought best to stay with paintings. Dorothy Arthur mentioned pottery although it was difficult to display safely. The current proviso was that it must be able to be hung.

Ray said that at the recent exhibition visitors had been invited to choose their favourite painting, which had been very well supported and would therefore be continued in future. He was pleased to announce that Julie Parker had received the most votes for a pastel portrait entitled "Charlotte" and that her name had been engraved on a new trophy (on display at the meeting) which as Chairman he was presenting for this achievement.

#### **(g) Cottage - Laurie Newton**

Laurie said it may be last year the Club would have use of the cottage as the owner, Charles Tabor, wished to return the cottage to residential use and the Club had been given notice to that effect. Laurie felt his end of year report had therefore become somewhat superfluous, as having enjoyed looking after the cottage since 1973 it looked like his duties were coming to an end and the Club's 'home base' was uncertain.

### **8. Resignation and Election of Committee**

President Christine Dodson took the chair while the Committee stood down and asked those present to propose and second a motion for their re-election. Proposed by Dorothy Arthur, seconded by Nick Martin and approved by those present the Committee were duly elected. Proposed by Annabelle Hern, seconded by Nick Martin and unanimously agreed, Ray Andrews was duly re-elected as Chairman.

### **9. Chairman's Closing Remarks** : Ray said he looked forward to working with the Committee for another year and thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Date of Next Annual General Meeting** : first Saturday in October 2019

Signed .....(Chairman).....(date)