

The Arts Society Wolverhampton
Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting
Monday 10th May, 2021

This was a Zoom Meeting, and began at 1.30pm

1. Welcome

The Chair, Hilary Boucher, welcomed the members to the meeting. She explained that due to the nature of the meeting, no comments regarding the items would be possible. However if any members wished to comment, they should contact her within the next seven days.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes of the 34th AGM

These had been made available online, and would be deemed as passed

4. Chair's Report

The Chair, Hilary Boucher, reported for the period from September 2020 to May 2021. At the last Annual General Meeting our now former Chair Glenys King reported that the AGM was unusual as it was to be delivered by Zoom and remarked that it was probably the only one that would be presented in this way. Fast forward eight months and here we are, again, having to deliver the AGM via Zoom. However, the news is different, and Hilary expressed the hope that the 2021 AGM really will be the last one delivered in this way.

The pandemic has meant that we have had to deliver our lecture programme via Zoom but more and more lecturers engaged with technology and we have heard a number of fascinating lectures. But, as always, it is best to begin with home. Following the September AGM, Ed

Isaacs, a new Committee member gave us a lecture on the Bauhaus which informed us about the German movement that was a main driver of applied art and architecture in the first half of the twentieth century.

Our October lecture by Nicole Mezey introduced us to the beauty of the Sainte Chapelle in Paris and in November, James Lindow told us about the early Renaissance artist, Ghirlandaio whose talent for introducing contemporary figures into his religious paintings brought him fame and fortune. In December we had a quiz, devised by Ed Isaacs on Christmas and art. Hilary said that she thought that she would do quite well with this but a round on Christmas films led to her downfall.

With the uncertainty of the path of the pandemic, we informed our members of a programme for six months, the majority we knew would be delivered by Zoom. In January Kate Aspinall delivered a lecture on Roy Lichtenstein, a subject important to Wolverhampton as the Art Gallery has an excellent collection of his work as part of the Pop Art Collection. Suzanne Fagence Cooper gave a lecture on Mercy Bay an account of one of the expeditions to look for the doomed Franklin expedition. The Victorians were fascinated by the Arctic and Suzanne showed a selection of Victorian art devoted to the Arctic. In March Neil Faulkner told us about the excavations relate to T E Lawrence's campaign in the Arab War of 1916 to 18 which underline what a brilliant tactician he was.

In April, Caroline Shenton outlined the events of the conflagration leading to the destruction of Parliament in 1834 which was observed by a number of artists which was observed by a number of artists including J M W Turner. A fascinating talk took us through the events hour by hour. Our lectures have been supplemented by lectures that we have bought from the Arts Society Worcester. Subjects have included the Queen's Jewellery, Oscar Wilde's London and Street Art. We also heard a lecture from Gavin Williams, Curator of Weston Park on Shropshire Houses which was well researched and based on the research for his forthcoming work.

Referring to the future, Hilary hoped that we shall be able to soon get back to the events that we all so enjoy. In the summer we are hoping to arrange trips to an historic house and to a superb garden which will include a talk from the owner. Hilary commented that she was sure that members have all realised that this year we will be celebrating thirty-five years of the Arts Society in Wolverhampton, so she was hoping to arrange a celebratory lunch in late October. Subject to any relevant regulations and the conditions of The Lindens, the hope was that we will have a live meeting in July, something to really look forward to. The committee have a number of ideas to work at but Hilary said that she was always happy to talk to members about any suggestions that they may have. We have decided to postpone the tour to Dorset until next May.

Hilary explained that unfortunately, the Group investigating Laurence Hodson and Compton Hall had not been able to meet, but Glenys King had written an account of the history of the Hall which will go to Compton. Hilary added that she had written an article on Laurence and the Hall for the Pre- Raphaelite Society Review which will be published in the Summer edition of the journal.

It was also reported that we had made a donation to the Neurology Department of New Cross Hospital towards the purchase of Art Materials.

Hilary concluded by thanking everyone for their support, and hoped that she will be able to report a full programme at the next AGM.

5. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Mrs Wallean Boller, presented the report, which showed that as at 31 March 2021, there was a balance of £ 14, 119.68, and the surplus for the year amounted to £ 1,583.16

It was also reported that it had been decided to hold the annual subscription at £46.00. Payment of this would be due in July 2021

6. Appointment of Auditor

Mrs. Boller advised that Mr. R M Cole had confirmed that he would be willing to act as Honorary Auditor again for the forthcoming year, and thanked him for his agreement to do so.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following Members have agreed to stand for the following roles:

Chair. Hilary Boucher

Vice Chair. Vacancy

Treasurer. Wallean Boller

Secretary. Vacancy

Multi Media Manager. Howard Berry

Membership Secretary. Cherry Carmichael

Special Interest Days. Val Billings

Church Heritage. Paul Tromans

Arts Volunteers. Glenys King

Committee Members. Eric Gregory, Pam Hillman,
Helen Close, John Kynnersley, Edward Isaacs.

President. Glenys King

8. Closing Remarks

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the hard work and support of the committee, which she greatly appreciated.

The meeting closed at approximately 1.45pm.