

THE ARTS SOCIETY, WOLVERHAMPTON MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Thirty Fourth Annual General Meeting was held on 14th September 2020 via Zoom

1. WELCOME

The Chair, Mrs Glenys King welcomed members to 2020 AGM and opened the Meeting at 1.30 pm. She explained that, because of the continuing situation with the pandemic, this was the first AGM to be held using Zoom. No substantive motions could be considered due to the format of the Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES were received from Val Billings, John and Judith Parry.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting have been made available on the website. These were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Glenys King reported that this was her last AGM, as her 3 year tenure as Chairman has finished. She had enjoyed her time as chair enormously, due to the really excellent and committed group of people on the committee, who had been a joy to work with and who work so hard for our society, an excellent choice of lectures and a wide range of superb visits, tours, study days and activities. But most of all she had enjoyed it because of the support The Art Society Wolverhampton members had given her. She thought they had been an absolute joy to work with.

She commented on what a strange few months it had been since March with our normal activities, especially our popular monthly lectures and the opportunity to chat to other likeminded people, being severely curtailed due to Covid 19. However, we had overcome this by enabling lectures to be brought directly into the homes of members with online zoom lectures. We also took the opportunity to redesign our website, hoping that members would find this more useful.

Using many of the photographs taken during our various activities Glenys ran through the highlights of the events of the last three years. She mentioned our Study Day Programme with Dr Gillian White lecturing on Les Tres Riches Heures du Duc De Barry and Dr Peter Medhurst who beguiled us with the slightly racy history of Raneleigh Gardens. Helen Bratt-Witon had run a series of excellent and very popular study mornings at Wightwick Manor followed by private tours of Wightwick Manor focusing on the content of the lecture.

We made a number of visits both to the Birmingham RBSA and Wolverhampton Art Gallery and also visited a wide variety of fascinating houses such as Kelmscott Manor, William Morris's country retreat which was part of our William Morris focus, Kentchurch Court, considered to be one of

the most important historic houses in England and Pitchford Hall, near Shrewsbury.

We also went to Port Sunlight, an Arts and Crafts Merseyside model village founded by Lord Lever Hulme, a Victorian-era entrepreneur, to house his factory workers, and the Lady Lever Art Gallery which showcases 19th-century fine art collected by Lord Lever Hulme.

Two of her personal highlights were the extended visits we made. First to Sevenoaks visiting Watts Gallery, Chiddington Castle and Knowle. Then last September to Durham, where we visited Harewood House, Alnwick Castle and Gardens, Wallington Hall, The Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle and on our way home we had a guided tour of Renishaw Hall and Gardens, home of the Sitwell family for over 350 years. She also thoroughly enjoyed the garden visits we have made: Wollerton Old Hall Gardens, Mytton Manor and The Laskett Gardens, one of the largest private formal gardens to be laid out in England since 1945 and home of Sir Roy Strong and his late wife.

However she reminded us that the Arts Society is not just about having a good time and enjoying ourselves. It is also about giving time, energy and commitment to the volunteering side of The Arts Society.

Our Church recorders have put in regular weekly sessions, under the care and guidance of Julia Pursehouse, during which time they have completed the research and recording of both All Saints Church Claverly and St Peters Church Worfield. We have supported Young Arts with both Primary and Secondary School competitions and submitted 3 secondary students work to The Arts Societys RBA Star Students Exhibition. Ed Isaacs RBSA, one of our members, ran a series of workshops for A level art students.

The Story of Compton Hall and Laurence Hodson was our first Heritage Volunteering project. This involved making a record of the history of the Hall and the Morris and Co decorated rooms, and indexing the part of Hodson's art collections which were auctioned. In addition to investigating the general history of the Hall, Hilary Boucher painstakingly researched and documented the life of Laurence Hodson and his enormous decorative art collection evidenced by the auction catalogues. Hilary followed up who had purchased the various items and where they are now. She created an incredible data base. Her research has gone well beyond what might well be expected and we were all delighted that she received an Arts Society Heritage Volunteer Gold award for her endeavours. The Compton Hall information boards are now on display in the Compton Care Coffee shop and we are delighted that Compton Care has commissioned an additional set which they have hung in the corridor leading to their new extension.

Glenys concluded by thanking again all the committee members for their hard work in making all of this possible but wanted to mention in particular Val Billings's commitment on raising £1500 over the past 3 years through the raffle and that without Cherry's time and effort spent on checking members' telephone numbers and emails, many members would have missed local and national Arts Society lectures, information and opportunities.

She was sad that Judy Garbett who has been a wonderful and extremely successful study day secretary for the past 6 years had decided to retire from the committee but gave her a small token of our immense appreciation. Aileen Boyd who had been our president for the past 3 years, was also stepping down as her period of office had expired and Glenys thanked Aileen for being a great support to her personally and also for being our unofficial photographer.

Her part now having sadly finished, Glenys handed over to our new chair Hilary Boucher with her very best wishes for an exciting, if different, three year tenure.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mrs Wallean Boller, presented the accounts for 2019/20. She reported that the Society has a balance of £9,805.

- a) She reported that the accounts were available on the website and if any member required further information please ring her.
- b) She then proposed that Mr R Cole be appointed Honorary Auditor. He has agreed to this request.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The chairman thanked members of the Committee for their work over the past year. Nominations for 2020/21 are as follows:

Chair: Ms H Boucher

Treasurer: Mrs W Boller

Secretary: Vacancy

Programme Secretary: Ms H Boucher

Membership Secretary: Ms C Carmichael

Multi-Media: Mr H Berry

Special Interest Day Secretary: Mrs V Billings

Ex officio tours: Mrs W Boller

Church Recorders: Mr P Tromans

Committee: Mrs H Close, Mr E Gregory, Ms P Hillman, Mr E Isaacs, Mr J Kynnersley

President: Mrs G King

Nominations confirmed.

7. New Chair's Remarks

The new Chair thanked the outgoing Chair for all her hard work and was especially grateful that she had extended her period of office and the new Chair had experienced a period of ill health. However, she was now happy to take over and looked forward to her period of office working with a supportive Committee. Nobody knew how long the current restrictions will last and Zoom looked as if it was the current method of delivering lectures. She would always be happy to receive suggestions for lecture topics and further activities. Ed Isaacs, a new Committee Member will deliver a lecture on the Bauhaus when the AGM is closed.

The Meeting closed at 1.45 pm