

Wolverhampton Art Society
Minutes of the 37th AGM
Held on Tuesday 9th May 2023

Welcome

Hilary Boucher welcomed members to the meeting which was to be her last as Chair of the Society

Apologies

Formal apologies received from:

Christine Tilstone
Shirley Snow
John and Clare Shelton
Anne and Paul Hutton
Kay Jackson
Jacky and Haydn Taylor
Paul and Jane Joseland
Paul Tromans
Barbara Ollerhead
Diane Collins

Approval of Minutes of the 36th AGM

Approval of the Minutes of the 36th AGM was proposed by Cherry Carmichael and seconded by Glenys King.

Chair Report

Hilary gave the following report:

Again it is my pleasure to present my report for the year 2022/23, my third and final report as my Chairmanship is completed at the 2023 AGM.

The lecture year began with a talk by Caroline Knight on Lady Ann Clifford, a seventeenth century landowner whose litigation and marriages made her the owner of vast estates in the north. Later years were spent restoring dilapidated castles and rebuilding churches, her life documented by the diary she kept for many years.

The following day a group of members left for a tour of Dorset. This tour was a great success with a good hotel and very interesting visits including Mapperton House, Lyme Regis, the home of furniture maker, John Makepeace. A busy May concluded with a fascinating study day at the South Staffordshire Golf Club on Hans Holbein, given by Gillian White.

June's lecture was an excellent introduction to the Great Cities of Central Asia from Sue Rollin. She gave information about Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, fascinating cities of Transoxiana. A visit to Hatton Grange, Shifnal, was a highlight in mid June, when we were treated to a tour of the house by the owner Rupert Vernon Slaney, a garden visit and tea in the cricket pavilion.

In early June I was happy to give the Society's congratulations to member Elizabeth Howl, who celebrated her hundredth birthday. On 7th July I gave a talk on Laurence Hudson to the Friends of Wolverhampton Archives. Our July lecture was an introduction to the work of Samuel Palmer by Tim Wilcox. On the 13th July the Society went to Belvoir Castle, a fascinating tour was enjoyed by all.

In August I attended the memorial service for David Brass, Area Heritage Officer who worked tirelessly for the West Midland Area. The large attendance at the service indicated the esteem in which David was held. Sophie Matthew's gave our September lecture on Music in Art. Sophie explained the instruments in selected works and then gave live demonstrations on instruments that she made herself. In September I gave my Laurence Hudson talk to the Society of Artists.

In early October I attended the fortieth Anniversary Lunch held by Art Society Stafford. Our October lecture was Anthony Peers who spoke of the Richest of Legacies, British Colonial Architecture in India, an interesting lecture on how British architecture influenced that of India and vice versa.

On the 3rd November I attended the West Midlands Area Meeting attended by Tim Nichols, the Finance officer of the Art Society, where Service Level capitation fee was discussed. The November lecturer was James Russell speaking on A Garden Like No Other: Edward James in Las Pozas. The garden was the surrealist vision of James who created the garden in Mexico. Our second Study Day of the year was Paula Nuttall speaking on the Venice of Bellini and Carpaccio. It was an excellent Study Day with a knowledgeable and experienced lecturer.

2023 began with an enjoyable lecture on Riches to Rags, Huguenot Silk Weavers of Spitalfields. Sue Jackson introduced us to the idea that quite a lot of us had Huguenot ancestry. As members dispersed, we did not realise that this was our final lecture at Linden House.

Linden House, our home for some considerable time, went into administration in early February and we had to find a new venue. The Cricket Club hosted the Society in February when John Osbourne lectured on Heaven on Earth; the Art of the Byzantine Commonwealth. I attended the Area Meeting in Early March and our

March meeting was held at Penn Bowling Club when John Ericsson spoke on the Shakers of North America: their Beliefs, Architecture and Artifacts.

The March meeting was held in the Lecture Theatre at the Technology Centre in the Science Park at the University. Our Vice Chair, Ed Isaacs gave an excellent lecture on Thoroughly Modern Midlands, an introduction to twentieth century local architecture detailed in the new edition of Pevsner's Guide to the Buildings of Birmingham and the Black Country.

The year ends with some uncertainty about our new location and we will inform Society members as soon as possible. However, my final comment is a constant. The programme and events cannot be achieved without the help and support of the Committee and my thanks are extended to them.

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Hilary announced that Wallean Boller would be resigning as Treasurer and Paul Tromans and Pamela Hillman will be leaving the Committee. Hilary thanked them for their long service to the Art Society.

Treasurers report

Income and Expenditure Account are available on the Art Society website.

This has been the first normal year since COVID.

There is a deficit of £3000. We have lost one third of the membership and will be increasing the annual fee to £55.00, which is still good value, and the visitors fee to £10.00.

This year there are savings to be made. The Science Park is less expensive than Linden House and we have 2 free lectures, which is a saving of around £700.00.

However the key to sustaining the Society is increasing the membership.

The accounts were adopted, proposed by Cherry Carmichael and seconded by Glenys King

Wallean was presented with a gift as thanks for her long service as treasurer of the Society.

Appointment of Auditor

Robert Cole was appointed as auditor, proposed by Wallean Boller and seconded by Helen Close.

The Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following members were elected:

Position	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chair Edward Isaacs	C Carmichael	H Boucher
Honorary Treasurer Sue Massey	W.Boller	J. Kynnersley
Honorary Secretary Helen Close	P Hillman	J. Garbett
Responsibility for Tours Wallean Boller	Sue Massey	J Kynnersley
Membership Secretary Cherry Carmichael	H. Boucher	J. Garbett
Programme Secretary Hilary Boucher	C Carmichael	J. Garbett
Special Interest Days Judith Garbett Val Billings	Paul Tromans H. Close	H. Boucher G. King
Community Arts John Kynnersley	Sue Massey	W. Boller
Committee Member Glenys King	Helen Close	E. Isaacs

Hilary Boucher passed the meeting over to Edward Isaacs, the newly appointed Chair.

Closing remarks by Edward Isaacs

Edward presented Hilary with a gift with thanks for her work as Chair of the Society.

Edward outlined his plans for the following year. He confirmed that the new venue for monthly meetings would be the Science Park. The committee will aim to offer a monthly event in addition to the regular lectures.

Edward thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 1.50pm.

