



**Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting**  
**held in the Performing Arts Centre, Redmaids' High School on Tuesday**  
**January 8th 2019 at 7.30p.m.**

**Welcome by the President, Miss Susan Hampton.**

'Good evening and welcome to the 35th AGM of the Arts Society Bristol. All new members are especially welcome.

The most significant change for the Society has been the change of venue to Redmaids' High School with lectures taking place on the second Tuesday of the month. This has mostly proved a positive move, but inevitably the change of day has clashed with other commitments for a small number of former members, but it has also attracted new members too!

Sadly, Lyle Evans our Treasurer died after a short illness in October-a huge loss to his family as well as to the Society. Our sincere sympathy went to Tony Madden, previous Treasurer, on the death of his wife Belinda and also to Jane Bland, previous Programme Secretary, on the death of her husband Richard. October was indeed a very sad month.

Henry will give details of the activities of the Society in his Report. It has been another very successful year and I thank Henry and the Committee most sincerely for their huge commitment and wish them well for 2019.'

**The Chairman, Henry Alpass took over the meeting from Susan.**

**Apologies** - Amanda and John Bath, Margaret Chittock, Chris and Diana Sweeting,

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Monday 15th January 2018**  
(previously circulated)

Neither matters arising nor amendments had been received therefore the Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Debby Sandow and seconded by Maureen Dickens, there were no objections recorded.

**Chairman's Report**

Henry gave the following report to the members

'Thank you Susan. Good evening – I hope you can all hear me!

Thank You All for your support throughout the year and for bearing with us as we settle into Redmaids' High. Our growing membership may mean that your committee is getting some things right! We are particularly grateful to Maureen Dickens' team who are offering pre-lecture drinks.



Lin Cobb combines updating our website and producing newsletters and posters with being a Membership Secretary.

Stella Victory has taken on the vital role of Treasurer, whilst also being a Membership Secretary.

Several members have said how much they enjoy our lectures. Thank you Mary for organising our programme and all who have hosted speakers.

Florian Schweitzer enjoyed running through the city and found us a lively society. He is even thinking of holding the national conference in Bristol.

Thank you Allison Stevens & Karen Zold for booking Prof Black again for the study day on The Grand Tour and for arranging the guided tour to the recently refurbished Pitt Rivers Museum this March. Now is a good time to think Globally!

In 2018 we supported three worthwhile projects:

Susan Merelie organised members to assist schoolchildren making commemorative glass poppies for the community World War II concert, Home at Last – St Mary Redcliffe was packed both evenings.

Bristol Cathedral appreciates the ongoing conservation work of Debby Sandow's team of Heritage volunteers.

In June we handed the vicar of St Mary's Henbury the bound volume of our church record, representing members' work over eight years. The thoroughness of this record has been recognised by the team at Guilford House and by the parish.

Our trips to Croatia and Kent were fully booked and most enjoyable. The tour to Saxony, visiting Leipzig, Colditz and Dresden promises to be similarly stimulating. Thank you Frances Brown and please thank Richard for his help. Stella Berkeley and Kate Painter have developed a promising programme for our autumn visit to Cambridge and Ely.

Lin Standen, Honorary Secretary, keeps the whole show on the road and also organises our Summer Party. Thank you.

Finally fresh faces are welcome on your committee. Many people carry out more than one role and several are due to step down next year. We hope to co-opt new members during the year to assist the transfer of skills. Please speak to one of us, if you would like to help run the society. It has certainly been fun this year!



We will be pleased to take questions at the end of the meeting.'

I am now pleased to ask Stella Victory to present the audited accounts for the year to the end of June 2018.'

### **Treasurers Report for the year ended 30th June 2017**

The Treasurers report and annual accounts (attached) were circulated before the meeting and displayed on the overhead screen during Stella's report. Stella gave the following summary to the Membership

"I am sad to be standing here in place of Lyle Evans. He was a very conscientious Treasurer and I am indebted to him for keeping meticulous records, and for having prepared the accounts to 30 June 2018 so promptly after the end of the financial year. I am also grateful to Bill Redmond who acted as Independent Examiner and gave us his time and advice.

### **Accounts for the year ending June 2018**

Slide 1 shows the signed accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018. You can see that we had a small excess of income over expenditure of £429.

Lyle worked very hard to keep the Society's finances afloat in the face of rising costs. However,

- Of the subscription income of £12,700 we were spending £5,000 on hiring the (university) lecture hall and another £1,000 on set up fees. So we spent nearly half the subscriptions on just the lecture hall, without the lecturers' fees

Therefore, even with all of Lyle's prudence, you can see that

- compared with the previous year the surplus income was diminishing year on year.
- and without receiving Gift Aid of over £2,000, we would have made a loss.

### **Forecast for the current year to June 2019**

Slide 2 shows a Forecast for this current year ending 30 June 2019, with a column showing the actual figures for the previous year.

The main source of our income is still from subscriptions. On our current membership level of 256 that income is estimated at £12,200, which is slightly down from last year when membership reached 269 by the summer.



Our main anticipated costs now comprise:

- fees to lecturers (£4,500)
- hire of our lecture hall plus set up costs (just over £3,000, compared with £6,000 last year),
- the affiliation fees which we pay to The Arts Society national body (£3,600), who provide us with the roster of lecturers and a great deal of advice on compiling a suitable lecture programme.

Gift Aid from HMRC is still an important element of our income.

The funds released by the drop in costs for room hire and set up is nearly £3,000 (the difference between £6,000 and approx. £3,200). This covers the rise in lecturers' fees and other costs, despite the slightly lower membership, and enables us to continue to make small grants for Young Arts and volunteering work.

I am therefore able to recommend that we do not need to raise our subscriptions for the year 2019-2020. I suggest however that we may need to reconsider the level of subscriptions next year if we wish to increase our awards to Young Arts to a level which is more commensurate with the awards we used to make in the past. At the moment I have included just £500.

#### Analysis of expenditure per member

Slide 3 illustrates more clearly the use of each member's annual subscription for the current year and compares it with the previous year.

Of the £47 which you pay annually:

-£14 goes to The Arts Society national body. They not only provide immense support on the choice of lectures but also provide us with admin support and help with running the society. They also supply you with the quarterly Arts Society magazine.

-The cost of lecturers is estimated to be £18 per member. Ie rather higher than the £15 for the year to June 2018.

-The cost of the lecture hall has dropped dramatically from £23 in the previous year to £15 for the current year



- Gift Aid from HMRC averages at £7 which has helped us to keep our subscriptions steady to date
- A small award to Young Arts projects has been included in the estimate
- This leaves a small surplus. but more than last year

Stella asked if there were any comments or questions.

There were no questions from the floor.

Finally, Stella thanked Bill Remond, the independent examiner for his work. He is happy to continue if reappointed.

Stella asked the Membership to formally approve the following resolutions

1. To receive and approve the Society Accounts for the year ended June 30th 2018. Proposed by Peter Stoppard and seconded by Kate Painter
2. To reappoint the independent examiner, Bill Redmond Proposed by Maureen Dickens and seconded by Mary Alpass.

There were no objections from the floor. Stella Thanked everyone for all their support. Without the membership there would be no society!

Henry thanked Stella and Bill for all their work.

### **Election of Committee Members (Trustees)**

The following members have offered themselves for election to the committee to formalise posts that they have already undertaken during the year.

Treasurer: Stella Victory

Young Arts Secretary: Susan Merelie

Visits Secretary ( for the Spring trip abroad): Frances Brown

Visits Secretaries (for the Autumn trip in the UK): Stella Berkley & Kate Painter

Proposed by Dilys Farrant and seconded by Lin Cobb, there were no objections recorded.

### **Changes to the constitution**



Henry proposed a small change to the wording of the constitution. We would like to change the wording of the title of section 10 from 'Data Protection Act' to 'Data Protection Regulations'

proposed by Debby Sandow and seconded by Stella Victory there were no objections recorded.

Henry reiterated that several members of the committee are due to retire in June 2020. He encouraged any member who might be interested to consider shadowing the various posts before then. He asked members to approach any committee member for further information.

### **Any Other Business**

No other resolutions had been proposed and as there was no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.52 p.m. and thanked all those present for attending.

### **Date and time of the 36th Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday January 14th 2020 7.30 pm, The New Hall Redmaids' High School**