



BRISTOL DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held in the School of Chemistry on 16 January 2017 beginning at 7.30pm

Welcome by the President, Miss Susan Hampton.

Susan welcomed the standing members and gave the following address

“ Good evening and welcome to the 33rd AGM of the Bristol Decorative and Fine Arts Society. I extend a special welcome to all new members attending this evening some of whom are new to NADFAS and others who have transferred from societies elsewhere. I hope that you have found the lectures both enjoyable and interesting, possibly the Study Day on the ‘Silk Road’ too.

The Society is in good heart and it has been pleasing to see Maureen resume a fully active role as chairman after her extended period of immobility. Henry (Alpass) did an excellent job as Acting Chairman for which we are most grateful. The transfer of our society from Wessex Area to West Mercia has gone smoothly and officers have been well supported.

Throughout the 2015/16 season another excellent programme of lectures was arranged by Jane Bland who has proved to be an outstanding Programme Secretary and much valued committee member for a number of years. Two successful residential visits took members to Cornwall in October 2015 and then to Malta in May 2016. For both, the weather was ideal and as always, the arrangements were in the capable hands of Frances Brown and Kate Painter - the ‘Visits Team’.

July saw a number of changes on the committee and I should like to express my thanks to Stella Berkley, Study Day Secretary, Jane Bland, Programme Secretary and Nicole Sherwood, Membership Secretary, for their contributions. In addition Marion Hill, Hon Secretary and Tony Madden, Hon Treasurer stepped down. Both had made a huge contribution during their years of office. On behalf of the Society, I am most grateful to them all. Thank You!

Finally, I thank Maureen for her chairmanship and wish her, Henry and the hardworking committee, well for the rest of the year.”

Maureen Dickens then took over the meeting from Susan

Apologies - Linda Blashill, Frances Brown, Lin Cobb, Maggie Garland, Debby Sandow, Martin and Ann Woodhead

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016
(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 Jane Bland and seconded by Gill Hunter, all voted in favour.



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Chairman's Report

Maureen gave the following report to the members.

"I reported on the first half of this year, January to July, in my summer letter so won't repeat myself here.

We started off the second half of the year with 4 new Members on the committee. They have proved themselves to be very enthusiastic and full of suggestions and ideas.

The Study Day on the Silk Road held in November was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Of the lectures held since September, the ones on Captain Cook's Third and Final Voyage in October and on Children's Books in December have been the highlights.

Lyle Evans, our Treasurer, has finished his first year and has put forward some changes which we have incorporated. He will be enlarging on these in his report. Our new Programme Secretary, Mary Alpass, now has her feet firmly under the table and we will be enjoying her selection in 2018.

The new Membership Secretaries, Stella Victory and Lin Cobb, have worked tirelessly and we now have our own computer expert in Lin Cobb who has introduced us to the wonders of 'Mail Chimp'! She has also learned how to replace John Bracey so allowing him to have a holiday in our time.

Karen Zold and Allison Stevens our Study Day Secretaries have come up with many new ideas on promoting these events and their first day was a great success- on the Silk Road.

Church recording is now coming to an end and we hope will be completed by the end of June. We have found the many changes demanded by NADFAS and area to be somewhat frustrating and demoralising as sometimes they seem rather trivial. But the end result will be worth waiting for.

Heritage Volunteers organised by Debby Sandow have had some problems as the Theatre Costume Collection has been moving so we have been held up on things to do. We hope it will be back and up and running again soon.

Our Visits Secretaries Frances Brown and Kate Painter were not able to organise an Autumn break this year due to the changes in law regarding the organisation of these events - now needed 9 months in advance in their organisation to comply with new insurance requirements. There will be one this Autumn to the Lake District which is advertised on the board.

Simon Baker, Student Awards and Speakers Secretary, has worked assiduously to ensure that the speakers are well cared for and entertained.

In Young Arts, after our tour de force with the Elm Field Schools glass window project, Marion Brown our Young Arts Secretary has continued her sterling work with local schools. In September, with the aid of a BDFAS grant of £1,000, Blaize Primary School were able to employ a specialist potter, Graham Taylor to work with the children making bronze age pots. Meanwhile Marion ably helped by Stella Berkeley, Kate Painter and her husband Mick were practically involved in weaving and constructing model houses from wattle and daub! In February some members hope to be volunteering at the current Warrior Exhibition organised by Bristol Museum.



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Our Honorary Secretary, Lin Standen has worked tirelessly and been a tower of strength.

Finally I come to our Vice Chairman, Henry Alpass,. Once again he has stood in for me at the beginning of the year when my injury stopped me from doing too much. He has supported me over the last two and a half years very loyally and has always been there to talk things over and give advice. I know when he replaces me in September, he will do a great job.

I would like to thank Frances Brown, Kate Painter, Simon Baker and Marion Brown who are leaving the Committee in July for their very considerable contributions not only to their own roles but in Committee- they have all made life a lot easier for me with their hard work and loyalty.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee and the Membership for being so supportive of me - not only over my injury, but in other ways. These two and a half years have vanished and I cannot believe my term will be up in July. I have been honoured to be your Chairman and very much enjoyed talking to and meeting you all as much as possible. As you know we are investigating a new venue which we hope will make it easier to socialise and get to know each other better. I know many of you will be pleased with this and very much hope our plans come to fruition."

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers report and annual accounts (attached) were circulated before the meeting. Lyle gave at the following summary to the Membership.

We currently have 274 members and have attracted several since the start of the year.

There has been a change in the method of accounting. We now prepare our accounts on an income and expenditure basis as this reflects the activities rather than the transactions, of the year.

The accounts show a deficit for the year as a result of commitments to support an Art project and the Blaize Bronze Age project. Otherwise there was a small surplus of £200 before these payments.

The forecast for the current year is for the Society to break even. As a result, the Committee believes that this will prevent us providing financial support for outside activities during this financial year.

For the following year, we have been notified that the cost of this lecture hall will increase by approximately £300 per annum. as a consequence, it will be necessary to seek and increase in our membership and visitor fees to meet these and other costs.

The Committee is actively seeking alternative premises to reduce costs.



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Following a question from the floor, Lyle informed the membership that our NADFAS affiliation fee is currently £3,900 per annum and we also pay £50 to West Mercia. This removed approximately £12 from each membership subscription and is an amount we cannot control

Maureen pointed out that our subscriptions were still less than many other societies. Chipping Sodbury with which we are often compared is in the unique position of having a virtually free public venue and saves further by having morning and afternoon meetings on the same day with the same lecturer.

Maureen therefore asked the Membership to formally approve the following resolutions

1. To receive and approve the Society Accounts for the year ended June 30th 2016 Proposed by Simon Baker and seconded by Christopher Sweeting
2. To reappoint the independent examiner, Bill Redmond
Proposed by Dee Gardener and seconded by Peter Stoppard
3. To authorise the committee to make increases in subscriptions as necessary. Proposed by Eunice De Vere Thorne and seconded by Mavis Whitfield

The proposals were all carried unanimously.

Election of Committee Members (Trustees)

Maureen asked the Membership

1. To confirm the election by the Committee of Henry Alpass as Chairman from July 2017
2. To re-elect current committee members en bloc to finish their four year term.
 - Mary Alpass, Lyle Evans, Debby Sandow, Lin Standen
3. To formally elect members of the Committee (Trustees) to fill vacancies having arisen in 2016.
 - Lin Cobb, Stella Victory (Membership Secretaries)
 - Karen Zold, Allison Stevens (Study Day Secretaries)

Proposed by Ann Taylor and seconded by Jane Bland, all voted in favour.

Maureen went on to say that the Committee was still actively seeking other volunteers to join them especially as there would be three new vacancies to fill in the summer.

Any Other Business

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

Date and time of the 34th annual general meeting Monday January 15th 2018.