

The Arts Society Huntingdonshire
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Thursday 8th September 2021
at 2pm in the Corn Exchange, St Ives

Present: Claire Sarkies (Chairman), Jane Woods (Secretary), Carole Pook (Treasurer), Alison Clough (Membership Secretary), Jill Donnelly (Volunteers Secretary & Area Arts Organiser), Margaret Gledhill (Young Arts Secretary), Sassy Skinner (Programme Coordinator), Bob Woodham (Web Master) plus 58 members.

1. Apologies for absence: Tony Barraclough, Rosemary Davern, Sue Denney, Mags Dudley, Mary Knowles, Ann Pike and Celia Bennett.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed members to the 37th AGM of The Arts Society, and in particular to their first meeting in our new venue in the St Ives Corn Exchange.

The Burgess Hall had been restructuring throughout the summer; relevant staff had been impossible to contact for confirmation of our lecture schedule, and when contact was finally made, only three weeks prior to this meeting, the Chair learned that some of our dates had been booked for other events. Burgess Hall had also increased their hire charge. She had therefore been obliged to consider other venues, and had decided upon the Corn Exchange as the most appropriate for our needs. Members would be asked later in the meeting whether or not they had found the Corn Exchange preferable to the Burgess Hall.

The Chair invited members to review the annual reports 2020-2021, which were posted on the website. Hard copies had been provided for those with no computer access. Self-study material, which had been mounted on the web in parallel with the zoom lectures, was still available in the Archive.

There were no questions from the floor, and none had been submitted prior to the AGM.

The Chair reported briefly on the volunteer groups - the Church Recorders, the Garden History Group and CAYAC. The record of St Peter and St Paul, Fenstanton, was now complete, and delivered to a representative of the church, and work was again ongoing at St. Andrew's, Swavesey, under the leadership of Pat Hamilton. Judith Christie had written about the activities and visits of the Garden History Group, and Margaret Gledhill on the work of CAYAC. It was with sadness that the Chairman reported the death of Isobel Lattimore, under whose aegis the Embroidery Group had for so many years done such beautiful work. It was proposed that a fitting tribute would be the establishment of an award in her name. The holiday in North Devon was on track, and day trips were planned to Wightwick Manor and Waddesden. The first visit of the academic year would be to Kimbolton Castle, on 22nd October; the deadline for registration would be at the next meeting.

3. Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021

The Treasurer reported a credit balance at 31/3/2021 of £1,270.61.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Douglas Picken, seconded by Elspeth Gibbon. Carried nem. con.

The accounts had been circulated, and approved by the auditor.

Election of Independent Auditor

The Chairman reported that the auditor, Dr Ken Sneath, was willing to be re-appointed. Proposed by Carole Pook, seconded by Margaret Gledhill. Carried nem. con.

4. Election of Committee Officers

a) Due to retire

Sue Denny (Visits Secretary) and Pennie Harrison (Catering) would be standing down. The Chair thanked them warmly for their valuable contributions to the society.

b) New nominations

It was proposed that Clare Fox be elected a member of the committee.

c) Confirmation of remaining committee members

Alison Clough, Jill Donnelly, Margaret Gledhill, Carole Pook, Sassy Skinner, Bob Woodham, Jane Woods.

Proposed by Ros Gale, seconded by Kay Coope. Re-elected en bloc, and carried nem. con.

5. Resolutions

a) Change of date of financial year

It was proposed to change the date of the end of the financial year from 1st June to 31st May. The membership made no objection to this proposal.

b) Increase in subscriptions

The Treasurer proposed to the membership an increase in the membership fee. It was two years since this was last mooted, and our subscription rate had continued relatively low, in comparison with other local Arts Societies. She asked for their approval of a subscription fee of £45 for new members as from September, and proposed a further increase to £49 from June 2022. These proposals were approved. Members were reminded that these calculations were based on our maintaining our current numbers, and they were urged to do everything possible to attract new members.

6. Change of venue

Members were asked to make a show of hands, if in favour of our future meetings being held in the Corn Exchange, rather than the Burgess Hall. The change was unanimously approved.

7. Votes of thanks

The Chairman thanked Dr K. Sneath warmly for once again acting as auditor.

8. Any other business

There was no further business.

9. Date of the next AGM

8th June 2022

Claire Sarkies
Chair
8th September 2020

Jane Woods
Secretary
8th September 2020