

Minutes of the Odiham Art Group – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held at North Warnborough Village Hall 7 July 2018

- 1. Present:** 38 members with Chris Sharp in the Chair.
- 2. Apologies:** Jenny Jowett, Judith Reece-Russell, Sue Robinson, Dennis Cook, Lindsay Berry, Sue Williams, Eileen Regan, Tessa Elphick, Marguerite Bradley, Ann Williams
- 3. Minutes of the previous AGM, 2 July 2017** were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed all those present and reported that the Group has had a successful year despite membership dropping to 123 as against 134 last year. The programme of events continues to be well supported with between 25 to 55 members and guests attending the monthly demonstrations. However, some of the workshops could have accommodated more attendees and the Chairman urged members to make use of these. Similarly, she encouraged members to spread the word about the OAG. We need fresh blood and new ideas to keep the Group lively and successful.

The programme of events is pulled together by Maureen Ashworth, who works tirelessly on our behalf to source entertaining and informative demonstrators and workshop tutors. Maureen was thanked by the Chairman for her efforts and was applauded by everyone present. The 2018-2019 Programme of Events has just been published on the website and will be included on the Membership Cards going out later in the summer. Our first meeting in September is something a little different – we have a Critique with Ronnie Ireland, artist and art teacher, who asks members to bring in two or three paintings to be discussed in open forum.

One of our main events is the annual Exhibition and last year's show was a huge success. The number of exhibited paintings was slightly less than 2016, but sales were the best they have been since 2012. We sold 20 hung paintings (vs 11 in 2016) and 7 folios (vs 2 in 2016). A fantastic result. Many paintings were sold at the Private View but sales during Saturday and Sunday were steady and lucrative too. The raffle and teas did better than the previous year and the iZettle credit card machine was worth its weight in gold, being responsible for over 95% of all paintings sold. Due to the drop in the number of paintings exhibited, the entry fee income was slightly down on last year, but despite that, display space was again at a premium. This was probably due to an increase in the average size of paintings entered and a couple of members

who took advantage of the option to show one large painting. The hastily pulled together layout we had to design at the last minute, due to the unexpected new entrance, seemed to work well and helped the flow of visitors.

The Chairman expressed thanks to all those who worked on and supported the exhibition. It is our main event of the year and can only happen with the help of members to publicise, organise, construct, run and dismantle the show. Onward to another triumph this year we hope!

Any Group like the Odiham Art Group relies heavily on its members to participate, help and run our year and so once again the Chairman expressed thanks to Bill Searle for sorting out the hall prior to and after each event and to Jan Mabbott for organising teas and coffees for each of the demos. Additionally, the Chairman expressed thanks to the members of the Committee for their continued help and support.

The Chairman announced that Yvonne Powell has decided to step down from the Committee, due to other commitments, but has kindly offered to continue running the surgery 'galleries'.

And last, but never least, the Chairman expressed a very big thank you to Jocelyn Kynoch who retires from the Committee this year. She has held the post of Treasurer for several years as well as being a past-Chairman and Programme Secretary and has been one of the mainstays of the OAG. Our thanks go to her for all her hard work and determined efforts on behalf of the Group.

The Committee meet around four or five times a year to discuss OAG matters. The Chairman asked for any members who are interested in joining to contact her. It is not an onerous role, but an essential one, as without the Committee the OAG would fold.

5. Treasurer's Report

In her final address, Jocelyn Kynoch acknowledged the fact that throughout all her time as Treasurer, she had depended upon her husband, John, to undertake the actual work involved in looking after the Group's finances.

Jocelyn then deferred to John to present the Treasurer's Report dated June 2018 and the OAG's Financial Statement for year ending 31st March, 2018. Copies of both documents had been circulated to attendees in advance.

To summarise the main points from the Report:

- The deficit on the year was just over £1000 which is less than half last year's deficit.

- NW Village Hall do not invoice regularly and 3 further months hire should have gone into the year under review.
- The minimum bank balance this year was some £4500.
- Current subscription level of £16 dates from 2011 and a proposed increase will be put to the AGM
- Sales of paintings at the Exhibition have been commission free for 2 years. It is proposed to reintroduce a commission charge.

John did not elaborate further on the detail, but invited comments and questions from those present. There were no queries raised.

6. Election of Committee Members

	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Chairman – Christine Sharp	John Kynoch	Elizabeth Durrans
Secretary – Anna McGeough	Howard Perkins	Kate Gilchrist
Treasurer – John Kynoch	Chris Sharp	Howard Perkins
Membership Secretary – Joan Crawford	Aline Nash	Len Murrell
Programme Secretary – Maureen Ashworth	Jan Mabbott	Sheila Gadsby
DVD & Workshop Secretary – Diane Welsh	Sylvie Peacock	Warren Gilchrist
Website Editor – Christine Sharp	Pat Burt	John Kynoch
Surgeries - Yvonne Powell	Diane Welsh	Maureen Ashworth

7. Appointment of the Independent OAG Accounts Examiner.

John Ashworth has kindly agreed to undertake this role again for the next financial year. The appointment was proposed by Howard Perkins and seconded by Chris Sharp.

8. Membership Fees

The Chairman advised that we have managed to hold membership fees to £16 for 7 years.

Prices have continued to rise and therefore it has become necessary to make an increase. The Chairman emphasised that the membership fee is Odiham Art Group's main source of income. The Committee propose to raise the fee to £20, which is in line with Fleet Art Society and actually £10 less than Farnham. It means that we can continue to enjoy workshops and demos and also enhance our exhibition kit. The Committee feels that an extra £4 per year is not unreasonable.

The Chairman proposed a membership fee increase to £20 and invited a show of hands. It was a unanimous vote and therefore agreed.

9. Exhibition 2018 and Exhibition Committee

The Chairman deferred to Joan Crawford, who is the 2018 Exhibition Committee Chairman to report on the Exhibition.

Joan acknowledged that there have been some challenges, particularly with the venue. Currently the Exhibition hall and kitchen at Robert May's School are being renovated. In view of this work, other venues were considered. However, we have now been assured that the renovations will be completed on time. We may have more hanging space available in the hall, but will not know definitely until October.

Joan advised that in future we will need to take 20% commission on sales of pictures and folios, but there will be no commission on card sales. The Chairman clarified that the commission does include the iZettle charge.

The Exhibition entry forms this year need to be returned to Kris Walker.

There will be a different labelling system this year which will involve producing around 250-300 catalogues and a number system, which will hopefully streamline the picture sales process.

Joan showed the new colourful 2018 Exhibition Invitation and Flyer, which has been designed by Diane Welsh. Invitations will be sent out with the Membership Cards in September. Posters will need to be put up and any help from members with distribution would be very much appreciated.

We are also hoping to have a facebook page to promote the Exhibition.

The local MP - Ranil Jayawardena, who was a pupil at Robert May's School, will open the Exhibition and will join Graham Mobbs, artist and art teacher at Lord Wandsworth College to judge paintings for artistic merit.

Trevor Waugh was due to demonstrate for us last March, but the day was cancelled due to appalling weather. The session has been rescheduled for the afternoon of the 27th October so we

will try to organise the Exhibition rotas so that watercolour artists who volunteer to help can be available to attend the demo.

Joan invited questions or comments from the attendees:

- Wendy Bennett asked if we are able to put posters in cars. Confirmation of this was given.
- Jayne Perkins queried whether it was still necessary to attend a demo or workshop in order to Exhibit. The Chairman confirmed that this rule no longer applies.

10. AOB

Joan Crawford expressed her thanks to Chris Sharp for her sterling performance and for holding the group together as Chairman. This was echoed by the Committee and applauded by all.

11. Proposed Date of Next Annual General Meeting: Saturday 6th July, 2019.

Favourite Painting Competition. Congratulations to our Chairman – Christine Sharp, whose painting entitled “ Winter Beach Walk 1” was voted ‘best picture on show’ at the AGM.

Authorised Signature

Date

