

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

Held at North Warnborough Village Hall 2 July 2017

1. **Present:** 45 members with Chris Sharp in the Chair
2. **Apologies:** Lindsay Berry, Judith Reece-Russel, Aline Nash, Penny Fleet, Liza Bartlett, Tony Yates, Sally Batten, Lindy King, Kate Buck, Rebecca Ratnasamy, Carole Walker
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM**, 2 July 2016 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 Odiham Art Group has had a successful year with membership currently at 134 members against 135 last year. Whilst the Group lost a number of long standing members, numbers more or less stayed stable because we attracted several new members during the year. She welcomed these to the fold.

The 2017 calendar of events has been well supported with between 30 to 55 members and guests attending monthly demonstrations, whilst the workshops were all at capacity. The Chairman thanked Maureen Ashworth for her hard work and dedication. Maureen has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Group to find entertaining and informative demonstrators and workshop tutors for everyone to enjoy.

The 2017-2018 Calendar of Events will be published in full on the website at the end of July. All to note that there is an early start to next terms programme, as the first event is a full day workshop with Paul Weaver on Saturday 26th August. Those who attended his demo last September will remember his painting of a hot sunny afternoon in a French village and be keen to learn how to create such loosely painted but believable figures in a landscape – should be a treat. Diane will take bookings for the workshop so it is advisable to contact her as soon as possible as spaces will fill up quickly, the workshop fee remains at £30 for next year. The first demo of the term is the following week, 2nd September, when Paula Vize will show us how to paint birds in watercolour.

There are also two sketching days in the summer; Tylney Hall on Tuesday 18th July and West Silchester Hall, courtesy of Jenny Jowett, on Tuesday 8th August, both of which are super venues with lots to draw and paint.

Any group like the Odiham Art Group relies heavily on its members to participate, help and organise 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. In recognition of this the Chairman presented vouchers to both Bill and Jan. Additionally the Chairman expressed her thanks to those members who every year step up to the plate to help with the Exhibition either by joining the Exhibition Committee, helping build and hang the show, stewarding or helping with the breakdown – it is really appreciated.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Jocelyn Kynock reaffirmed her position as Group Treasurer, but deferred to John Kynock to present the Treasurer's Report dated May 2017 and the OAG's Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2017. Copies of both documents had been circulated to members in advance and can be seen at Annex A and Annex B. John explained that the major part of the deficit shown on the Financial Statement was due to the 2016 Exhibition where the takings from entries, raffle and teas were down on last year. Also, there was exceptional expenditure on banners and stands. If the forthcoming Exhibition does not return a surplus, then to generate more income going forward we should consider:

- a) Increasing subscriptions
- b) Charging commission on sales
- c) Increase hanging fee

However, there will be no changes for this year. Increases will be considered next year.

The Chairman emphasised that although the loss on the Exhibition was exceptional, mainly due to the purchase of new screens and banners etc, this expenditure will be an investment for the future.

## 6. Election of Committee Members

	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Chairman - Christine Sharp	Alex Phipps	Jocelyn Kynock
Treasurer - Jocelyn Kynock	Alex Phipps	Marguerite Bradley
Secretary - Anna McGeough	Kate Gilchrist	Elizabeth Durrans
Membership Secretary – Joan Crawford	Elizabeth Durrans	Eileen Regan
Programme Secretary – Maureen Ashworth	Baudine Vandenberg	Jan Mabbott
DVD & Workshop Secretary – Diane Welsh	Jane Mackay	Sylvie Peacock
Website Editor – Christine Sharp	Alex Phipps	Baudine Vandenberg

### And New to the Committee

The Chairman welcomed Yvonne Powell to the Committee. Although currently without portfolio, Yvonne is already engaged with the Exhibition Sub-Committee, working on the design and preparation of promotional material.

7. **Appointment of Independent OAG Accounts Examiner** – John Ashworth has kindly agreed to undertake this role again for the next financial year.

## 8. Exhibition 2016 review and Exhibition Committee

The Exhibition is one of our main events and last year's show had an excellent standard of work on display with a good mix of styles and mediums. Entries were slightly down on the previous year with 167 hung paintings and 59 folios, but it should be noted that 2015 was a record year for entries. The option to exhibit large paintings was taken up by a few members and we plan to continue that for 2017. The new grid panels will be used again this year but we will use all the other panels too, ensuring all paintings are displayed to best effect. Once again the Odiham Art Group has decided not to charge commission for any sales taken in 2017 and to hold entry fees to

the same as last year, although we may need to review that for the future. However, all but one of the sales last year were done by card machine so we plan to use it again, as it definitely encouraged people to buy. Any paintings sold in that fashion will be subject to a small commission (currently 2.75%) paid directly to the card machine provider, as last year.

Paul Batchelor has joined the Exhibition Committee and will oversee the exhibition equipment, build up and breakdown this year. He takes over from David Phillips who was thanked by the Chairman for his sterling work in previous years and who deserves our deepest thanks – and a nice peaceful October!

The Chairman reported a big change and one that will make everyone's lives a great deal easier. We have managed to negotiate an extra half-day's tenancy at the Robert May's School, on Thursday afternoon from 2pm, purely for setting up the display panels.

**The Chairman asked attendees for any comments or suggestions:**

Jane Mackay asked if we can afford the additional cost to hire the hall for the extra half-day. The Treasurer confirmed that it is well within our parameters to afford this

There was a general discussion around what worked well at the Exhibition and what did not.

- It was suggested that card sales could be handled differently going forward and this will be discussed at the forthcoming Exhibition Committee Meeting.
- Alex Phipps queried the nil revenue reported for sales of paintings and folios in 2015 vs £1,438 in 2016. The Chairman explained that in 2015 all cheques (and cash sales) were made out directly to the artists, as the OAG were not taking any commission so no monies went through the OAG account. Last year the vast majority of sales were done via the credit card machine so had to go through OAG accounts, hence the difference year on year.
- Jane Mackay feels that ideally the Exhibition should be a fund raiser for the Group and charging should be considered. The Chairman gave assurance that we will return to this and review for next year.

**9. AOB**

Jane Mackay expressed her thanks to Joan Crawford for holding the Group together and for her tremendous contribution over the past 7 years. This was echoed by the Chairman and applauded by the Committee and all attendees.

**Favourite Picture Competition.** Congratulations to Maureen Ashworth whose landscape painting 'Winter in Winchester' was voted 'best picture on show' at the AGM.

**10. AGM 2018**

**Proposed Date of Next Annual General Meeting:** Saturday 7 July 2018.

Authorised Signature ..... Date .....