

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

**Held at North Warborough Village Hall 2 July 2016**

1. **Present:** 40 members with Joan Crawford in the Chair for the opening session.
2. **Apologies:** Len Murrell, Jayne Perkins, Peter Buck, Jill Correale, Patricia Burt, Marguerite Bradley, Ann Williams, David Langley, Cicelie Fry, Sally Batten, Margaret Hill, Trish Kearny and Lindsay Berry.
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM**, 15 July 2015, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed those present and was pleased to report that the OAG has 135 members on its books. She then announced her decision to stand down from the Chair, explaining that she had served some 7 years in the role and given her decision careful thought. She added that she would be pleased to continue her involvement as a member of the Committee, but in another role. She was pleased with the direction that the Group had taken during her term in office and was generous in her praise and thanks for the contribution and tremendous support of her fellow committee members, including those sadly unable to be present at the AGM. She then explained that despite having given the Group numerous reminders of her intention not to seek re-election, she was unaware of any members who had volunteered to fill the vacancy. The Committee had therefore decided to continue the Committee without a recognized Chairman (under a majority vote system) for the foreseeable future, i.e. until such time as a suitable candidate declared an interest in fulfilling the role.

She was also grateful to all those who had worked hard to introduce a first class revamp of the OAG website. This work had gone very well and the ability to update the website on a more regular basis (monthly) had made a huge difference in better projecting a sophisticated and more up-to-date image of the OAG and the activity of the membership. It was reported that only 6 OAG members do not have access to email via the internet. Alternative means of providing them with regular Newsletter updates is being pursued by the Website subcommittee.

The Exhibition had once again been highly successful, on many fronts, and particular thanks were due to Jane Mackay and all those members who had given of their time and effort to ensure everything ran smoothly throughout the weekend.

The lack of usable exhibition space was identified as a growing concern that needs to be addressed. This has arisen because of the steady annual increase in the number of members' paintings to be hung. It was proposed to hold a discussion immediately after the AGM to allow members to air their views and to gauge what measure of support might exist for a number of options under consideration by the newly formed Exhibition Subcommittee.

Mary's shop in Odiham High Street had been kindly offered to OAG to exhibit their pictures for sale during Odiham Christmas Fair, as in previous years, but as no sales had been made it has been decided not to continue with this initiative. On behalf of the OAG, the Chairman offered her sincere thanks to Mary Hooker for her generosity and kindness and for her ongoing support for the Group.

Bill Searle was recognized by the Chairman for his tremendous support in terms of opening and closing the Hall on every Group occasion and for his help in setting up and tidying the hall after use.

Jan Mabbott was similarly thanked by the Chairman for her sterling efforts in ensuring teas and coffees were always in plentiful supply at OAG gatherings.

She added her thanks to others members of the Committee who had decided not to stand for reelection.

- Marguerite Bradley – following success in her role as Membership Secretary
- David Phillips - who had been terrific, devoting a great deal of his time looking after the Group’s video and other exhibition equipment. She also thanked him for acting as cameraman on many occasions at demonstrations and for training other members to deputise in this role.
- Howard Perkins - Meeting Secretary

## 5. Treasurer’s Report.

Jocelyn Kynoch reaffirmed her position as Group Treasurer and delivered her Treasurer’s Report dated April 2016, copies of which had been circulated to members in advance and can be seen at Annex A. Deferring to John Kynoch, who presented the OAG Financial Statement for year ending 31 March 2016, see Annex B.

## 6. Election of Committee Members

At this juncture and at the request of Joan Crawford, Christine Sharp assumed temporary Chairmanship for the remainder of the AGM agenda.

Several members of the Committee have agreed to stand again for election to the Committee, namely:

	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
Membership Secretary – Joan Crawford	Baudine Vandenburg	Warren Gilchrist
Treasurer – Jocelyn Kynoch	Aline Nash	Diane Welsh
Demonstration Secretary – Maureen Ashworth	Jane Mackay	Caroline McKane
Equipment Secretary – No Volunteer	*	*
Workshop Secretary – Diane Welsh	Jane Mackay	Caroline McKane
Website Editor – Christine Sharp	Jocelyn Kynoch	Joan Crawford

### And New to the Committee:

Meeting Secretary- Lynn Haigh	Alex Phipps	Judith Reece-Russell
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Responding to a request to clarify the role of the Equipment Secretary, David Phillips outlined the need to periodically check that all OAG Exhibition Equipment was safely stored and kept in good condition and that the storage shed at Robert May’s School remained weather proof and maintained fit for purpose. In addition, the role includes maintaining OAG video equipment in good working order, operating equipment at demonstrations and recommending to the Committee the need for any new equipment acquisitions suitably in advance. He said that several people had volunteered and been trained by him to set up and operate video equipment but the maintenance task of other equipment required a volunteer to come forward. Those keen to get involved were asked to contact a member of the Committee.

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

8. **AOB** – any other business is not normally entertained without notice being given to the Meeting Secretary, suitably in advance of the AGM. However, on this occasion the Committee decided to promote discussion about how the Group's Exhibition rules might be amended to cater for changes in the number and sizes of entries being made. Jayne Perkins and her team of dedicated helpers received a vote of thanks for their efforts in hanging a highly successful exhibition. Last year the Group struggled to hang the greater number of the pictures entered and several members became upset with exhibition organisers when OAG rules were strictly applied, in order to cope with the problem. In order to deal with the changes needed to organise the 2016 Exhibition a new subcommittee, Chaired by Joan Crawford, has been created. This committee will note the views of members expressed in the discussion that follows to help it consider whether any changes to particular exhibition rules are necessary.

### **DISCUSSION**

1. There exists a core group within the membership that support demonstrations, workshops and other events, e.g. sketching days. However, there is a number of members who are not seen from one annual exhibition to the next. For the latter to use the OAG Exhibition simply to sell their paintings is seen by many as unfair and not commensurate with spirit of the OAG.

Among views expressed: charge those members who do not attend other OAG events a higher fee to enter their paintings, attending a minimum of two other events and does the OAG wish to have members who do not support its other events? Is this a big problem or is it confined to the actions of just one or two members? Additionally, several members made the point that some members were unable to attend events on Saturdays because they had work commitments on that day, or needed to care for the sick and elderly relations. Also discussed were some ideas about how any mitigating circumstances offered might be judged and by whom and how the Group might ensure it was being fair to all its members.

Options:

- a. Members wishing to exhibit their work must attend a minimum of one other OAG event per membership year.
- b. OAG to mount additional events to cater for members unable to attend events held on a Saturday, e.g. Weekday evenings, Sundays.

### **OUTCOME**

After some lengthy and wide-ranging discussion the meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of members having to attend a minimum of one other event to qualify for submitting work to the Exhibition.

Joan Crawford confirmed that the Exhibition Subcommittee would be mindful of members' views but it would not make rule changes for 2016 because current attendance records did not allow. However, the intention is to introduce such change for the 2017 Exhibition.

2. Because some OAG members like to enter paintings larger than customarily allowed for by OAG Exhibition rules, and mindful that exhibition space is limited for hanging the growing number of entries, options for change were put to the membership for consideration.

Options discussed:

a. Should Exhibition rules be amended to offer members a choice of entering either up to 3 paintings each - conforming to the current maximum dimensions, i.e. limited to 2'6" x 2' framed - with a charge of £4 for each entry or, alternatively, be allowed to enter just one large painting for an £8 entry fee?

b. suggest an alternative means of controlling the number and size of entries. This should also take account of space limitations and safety and security considerations when accommodation larger paintings, probably mounted on easels.

Among other views expressed: put maximum dimensions permissible on the Exhibition entry form, limit the number of entries to two per member as opposed to the current maximum of three, mount larger pictures on easels - possibly along one wall and in lobby areas, do nothing as the problem is not a major issue and accept entries on a 'first come first served' basis.

## **OUTCOME**

On a show of hands, the AGM agreed that members can enter up to 3 paintings (max size 2' x 2'6") @ £4 each, OR one painting over 2' x 2'6" @ £8. Revised entry forms incorporating this change will be introduced as a trial this year. Furthermore, the meeting agreed that for larger pictures it would be helpful if members were to use their own easels if possible.

3. The full Winter Programme will be published in the August update of the OAG Website.
4. Diane Welsh has the OAG Workshop booking form available for the 8 October 2016 workshop and reiterated the policy that payment in full is required before any booking can be accepted.
5. Many congratulations to Rebecca Ratnasamy winner of the prize for 'best picture on show' at the AGM.

## 9. AGM 2017

**The proposal:** Saturday 1 July 2017 at North Warnborough Village Hall – tbc

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



## ANNEX A

Treasurer's Report to Odiham Art Group AGM 2nd July 2016

The foreseen deficit on the Annual Exhibition that I wrote about last year arising from the foregoing of commission on sales, did not materialise! Your hard work mounting this event resulted in a surplus of £343.67, due to a record entry and having no extraordinary expenditures. Well done!

The overall results, after a very busy year with 7 Demonstrations and 5 Workshops, the most for many years by some margin, was a small deficit of £163.76. With your more than adequate reserves, again referred to last year, this deficit is in no way a bad thing.

The discontinuance of the charge for members attending Demonstrations and fixing that for Workshops at £30 (which nicely covered the costs) I believe worked well for all concerned.

I have recommended that these arrangements and the no commission regime at the Exhibition be continued meanwhile.

***[Original signed by Jocelyn and John]***

Jocelyn and John Kynoch

April 2016

## ODIHAM ART GROUP

### Financial Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2016

	2015-16	2014-15
<b>Income</b>		
Members' subscriptions	£2,183.50	£2,060.00
Demos	£141.00	£503.06
Workshops	£1,840.00	£380.00
Exhibition entries	£973.00	£877.00
Exhibition raffle	£415.00	£414.00
Exhibition teas	£186.00	£170.00
Exhibition card sales	£0.00	£340.00
Exhibition painting & folio sales	£0.00	£3,061.00
Sales Hook Doctors' Surgery	£245.00	£570.00
Donations		£32.22
Float for Exhibition	£300.00	£500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,283.50</b>	<b>£8,907.28</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Hall Hire	£856.76	£700.25
Demo Fees	£1,396.04	£980.18
Workshop Fees	£1,165.00	£250.00
Exhibition exceptional cost	£0.00	£689.70
Exhibition usual costs	£1,231.33	£1,108.83
Payments to Exhibition Artists	£0.00	£2,761.70
Donations to Odiham Cottage Hosp. trust	£47.00	£218.00
Payments to Surgery Artists	£188.00	£332.00
Newsletter costs	£0.00	£9.72
Insurance	£145.00	£0.00
Administration	£1,118.13	£521.09
Sundries		£0.00
Float for Exhibition	£300.00	£500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,447.26</b>	<b>£8,071.47</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit for Period</b>	<b>-£163.76</b>	<b>£835.81</b>
add Opening Funds	£7,674.44	£6,838.63
Hence Funds at end of Period	£7,510.68	£7,674.44
<b>Represented by</b>		
Bank balance as at 31/3/16	£7,513.68	£7,710.15
Less uncashed cheque 2319	£3.00	£35.71
plus Income not yet on Statement	£0.00	
total	£7,510.68	£7,674.44
reconciliation difference	£0.00	£0.00

#### Independent Examination

I have examined the accounting records of the Society and in particular compared the accounts presented with these records. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence which would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts. In the course of my examination no matter came to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that the accounts as prepared do not agree with the Society's accounting records

*John Ashworth* - JOHN ASHWORTH

Independent Examiner  
April 2016