

LYME REGIS ART SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 1st December 2020 via Zoom

1. Apologies: Julie Ball, Vivienne Graham, Sue Unwin (Number of Zoom participants: 21)

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 3rd December 2019: Approved and digitally signed.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

Up until March 2020 we had had another interesting year with a variety of good Demos and Workshops. Janet will remind you about those. Then along came a pandemic which scuppered our plans for the Annual Exhibition in May but Sue H put on the website a brilliant array in a virtual Exhibition. Local professional Artist Hannah Twine judged this with very useful comments and the winner was Pat Campbell with Graham Austin 2nd and Ros Hipkiss third. Members were asked to vote for their favourite and that was "Baby Orangutang" by Janet Clayton with Janet Jacobs 2nd and Vivienne Graham and Cynthia Studden third. Sadly we lost a dear friend and long time member just after she had exhibited this painting of the sea - Cynthia - always a smile and an encouraging word. She also always contributed paintings for the Uplyme Church Charity Art Exhibition which helped raise a few thousands to support Clean Water and Disadvantaged children in Uganda. Her quiet presence wisdom and her art work will be missed.

The pandemic also scuppered plans to Exhibit at the RNLI fundraising week.

At the moment we are booked in for a 2021 Exhibition at the Town Mill at the end of May and the RNLI during the summer.

May I remind you of the help we (the Committee) receive at every Demonstration at Woodmead Halls - The camera appears and is set up so efficiently by both Sue H. And Terry Gibbons. Teas appear each time at 3.00pm - thank you Julie Ball and all her helpers - in particular Brenda Gibbons. The Book Stall continues to bring in a regular revenue - Jacqui Coppard has taken over masterminding this - Thank you Jacqui. Publicity into the local newspapers done by Moya Paul. Facebook pop ups are done by Hilary Buckley - brilliant to continue to keep us out there in the wider community. And our finances are checked over by our volunteer auditor Sharyn Walker - thank you Sharyn. And lastly thank you all who help either putting chairs out or putting them away at the end. Makes life that much easier for all of us.

Sue H has plunged into the secretarial post with great enthusiasm, with Sheila Stratton's expertise over many years at hand, and we have seen the use of the website grow and grow with the monthly painting themes, on line videos to tap into and now our latest venture into online Demonstrations. Of which we have had two extremely successful and entertaining and informative Zooms. Another one coming up in January. So do keep checking the website for up to date information.

Your Committee continues to meet on Zoom to try to plan ahead and we remain positive and actively planning ahead for 2021/22.

Sue Wells
Chairman

5. Treasurer's Report:

As you will see from the copy of the year end account's we have a healthy closing balance. There were 80 fully paid up members and many of our visitors and guests have become members after seeing the kind of Demonstrations and Workshops on offer. I must say we get many comments about the friendly people in our Society and how everyone is welcomed.

We could not make any monies from the Annual Exhibition or contribute to the RNLI this year due to the pandemic.

The society's outgoings this year have been for usual expenses such as insurance, printing, demonstrations, hire of venues and workshop tutors. Our biggest outlay is the Website costs, which I think most of you have visited or used. It has been a great way to keep in touch and interesting to see works posted by other members and enjoy the demonstrations organized by the society committee.

The tea and coffee team do a great job and profits are good from the contributions from members.

The accounts have now been audited and you have had a copy of the accounts emailed or posted to you for your perusal.

A big thank you for Sharyn Walker for volunteering to audit the accounts to trial balance again for us.

We as a committee are hoping to make a little profit this year but we do have a healthy bank balance to help the society to keep going during these uncertain times.

Sue Unwin
Treasurer

*The accounts were accepted by the Membership via the Zoom feedback option:
Proposed by Janet Clayton, Seconded by Pat Campbell*

6. Programme Organiser's Report:

During this year, we had a wide range of interesting demonstrations, and it wasn't until the end of the season that we began to be affected by the pandemic. This meant that we were able to have 10 of the 11 demonstrations that we had planned.

We started the season off with a workshop by Christine Allison, which was a beginners drawing workshop. This was fully subscribed and much enjoyed by all.

In the autumn term, we had demonstrations by Lynda White, Alison Board, Geoff Storer, Kit Glaisyer and Matthew Davison, and in the spring term, by Ruth Skolmli, Claire Colby, Rebecca de Mendonca, Gill Barron and Favell Bevan-Arte. It was only our very last demonstration by Colin Allbrook that we needed to cancel at the start of the pandemic. At our AGM in December, we were entertained by Warren Madill as our guest speaker, talking on "What is art, and should we give a damn?" Details of all these demonstrations can be found on our website, together with their respective reports.

We had 2 workshops, by Lynda White and Ruth Skolmli. Both were fully subscribed and much enjoyed. We did comment at the last AGM that, as a society, we need to discuss the value of workshops, bearing in mind we need them to be full in order to be financially viable. This is something we will need to readdress in the future.

At the moment, live demonstrations have temporarily ceased, but we have had 2 very successful Zoom demonstrations, by Hannah Twine and Mark Warner. We plan another for 12th January 2021 by Richard Thorn. More details to follow later!

I am fully optimistic and looking forward to our normal programme of demonstrations which will be back for next September 2021.

Janet Clayton
Programme Organiser

7. Election of Officers:

The following committee members were re-elected to serve another term on the committee: Sue Wells (Chairman), Sheila Stratton (Exhibition Organiser), Members: Pat Dench, Julie Ball and Denise Powell.

*The election of all officers were accepted by the Membership via the Zoom feedback option:
Proposed by Kay Hicks, Seconded by Moya Paul*

The following LRAS member was elected to serve on the committee: Terry Gibbons

*The election was accepted by the Membership via the Zoom feedback option:
Proposed by Sue Wells, Seconded by Jean Heard*

8. Constitution: there were no proposed changes to the Constitution

9. Exhibitions:

Members were advised of the dates for forthcoming events.

- Annual Exhibition: 26th May to 8th June 2021 (Malthouse)
- RNLI: Sat 24th – Sun 25th July 2021 (Marine Parade)

10. Annual Subscription

Payment of 2020/21 Annual Subscription:

Due to the current Covid-19 situation and subsequent lack of public meetings at Woodmead Halls, the Committee decided to defer payment of subscriptions for the 2020-21 season until January 2021.

The fee has been reduced from £25 to £15 to cover costs that are still necessary for the Society to continue to function, including Zoom demonstrations, which come with the same expenses to the society as normal demonstrations (due to the time it takes the artist to set up etc.) as well as other expenses, such as website hosting, society insurance, association club membership etc.

Information will follow shortly by email about how to pay the current year's subscriptions, which will be due by 31st January 2021.

Notification of 2021/22 Annual Subscription:

The annual subscription is expected to remain at £25 per annum, but this will be confirmed in due course.

11. Any Other Business:

Questions & Comments -

Kay Hicks asked who the next Zoom demonstrator in January will be.

- Richard Thorn on the 12th January 2021 at 2pm via Zoom (details will be emailed to members in due course)

Sharyn Walker asked what the dates will be for next year's LRAS Exhibition.

- 26th May to 8th June 2021 at the Malthouse Gallery, Town Mill

Moya Paul thanked the committee for their hard work in support of the Society.

The AGM meeting closed at 2:30 pm.

Minutes Approved

Signature (Secretary, on behalf of Chairman):

Date: