

LYME REGIS ART SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at Woodmead Halls, Lyme Regis

1. Apologies: Denise Powell, Jo Clarke, Ronnie Creswell, Helen Sinclair, Jan Summerton
(Number of attendees: 31)

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 1st December 2020: Approved and digitally signed. *The Minutes were accepted by the Membership. Proposed by Pat Dench, seconded by Sharyn Walker.*

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

Another strange year but it would seem that nothing stops the Lyme Regis Art Society!

I have some very sad news for the Society. Terry Whitworth has been a member of the Society for over 35 years, he has been our President since 1990. Each season he would do a Demo or a Workshop and give his expertise for free. Many of us have learnt such a lot from his wide range of art work, from his gentle advice and always with such good humour. Terry feels that the time has come for him to "retire" but he says he will still be around. At the moment he is experimenting with virtual iPad art works and has offered to show what he is doing sometime next year. We have been so fortunate to have such a humble man giving us his time and his knowledge over so many years. He cannot be with us today but will be coming to one of the Demos early in the New Year when we can say a proper goodbye.

We held a very successful Exhibition at the Malt House back in May brilliantly organised by Sheila Stratton. Thanks to Jan Edwards and Hilary Buckley for helping organise the hanging of all the entries. Our President, Terry Whitworth, chose John Ombler's "Jaunty Cobb" as the winning painting, with Val Corgan 2nd and Jan Charlesworth 3rd. Terry then set up a Presidents Challenge called "Hidden Gems" where we were encouraged to find something interesting in our locality. Terry particularly liked the rusty items and the wooden door! All the artworks went on display for the RNLI together with other paintings, cards and stones. But without the help of Hilary Buckley and the generosity of her sales, we would not have been able to give very much. We do need some inspiration and suggestions how or what we could paint next year.

My thanks go to Terry Gibbons who quietly arrives at each of our Demos and quietly and efficiently sets up the camera so that we can all see in detail each artist at work. He is constantly looking at ways to improve the colour quality too. But my fear is that one day he may not be able to get here! I wonder if one or even two people might consider learning a new skill? Terry assures me that it is not difficult - it would be awful to go back to no big screen wouldn't it? A commitment to learning how and then to have a go, with Terry by your side. And then to commit occasionally.

Your present Committee have continued to meet via Zoom and everyone plays their part to keep us functioning smoothly by their actions, posting on Facebook, writing up Demos,

forward planning, money skills, good humour and lots of encouragement. We have a great team.

Despite this horrible pandemic we have managed to keep going in some form or another. But mainly this has happened because of our amazing technically adept Secretary - Sue Hodgetts. I hate to think how many hours she has spent organising all our photographs for the on-line painting challenges, setting up all the Zoom Demonstrations, communicating with those artists, how many hours posting news/demo reports, setting up spread sheets, on-line minutes and hosting our regular Zoom Committee Meetings and now an extra filming of our present live Demonstrations, which then go out [on the website] by email for those who are unable to make the meetings or for us to watch again.

All helping to keep moral high during the dark days was such a blessing for many of us. Sue probably doesn't fully realise what a lifeline all her work spent on the website and those Zoom Demos, was for a lot of our members, including me. All this while working, whilst housing part of her family during a house move, together with her first grandchild! And now a puppy!!

Sue - you bring us energy and forward thinking.....Thank you.

Lastly may I thank all of you, our members, for regularly turning up - taking part - making suggestions, and always willing to help with stewarding at the Exhibition and putting chairs away at the end of our meetings. Little things that really make us feel we are all part of a successful Society. Thank you all.

Sue Wells
Chairman

5. Treasurer's Report:

I would like to start by saying a big thank you to all our members, new and old, who have helped me and the society to proceed during the past difficult year by paying subscription fees and pay and receive payments for the exhibition by internet banking and/or forwarding and accepting cheques to and from me. We all have adapted very well with the new ways of doing things within the Society.

As you will see from the copy of the year end accounts we have a healthy closing balance of £4,436. There were 74 members during the past year.

We did very well with the Annual Exhibition at the Town Mill. We also managed to contribute to the RNLI this year £226.10.

The society's outgoings this year have been a little unusual due to the lockdowns and without meetings in the hall or Workshops. But the Society came up trumps with the Zoom Demonstrations. There is a large amount paid out to our wonderful demonstrators on Zoom.

A big outlay is the LRAS 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 committee. I must commend all the hard work

from our Society Secretary Sue Hodgetts who has really moved us into the 21st Century, by managing our website to keep everyone informed of all the activities and how to contact the committee and working so hard to record the demonstrations so those who could not attend can watch the demo on Zoom.

Sue has also assisted me and the committee by setting up web pages we can all share so we all think this expenditure is great value for money.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to offer refreshments at the demonstrations, so, for a while, we have lost the revenue but I am sure as soon as it is safe and agreed by everyone it will be resumed.

The accounts have now been audited and you should have received a copy via email or posted to you for your perusal.

I must thank Sharyn Walker for volunteering to audit the accounts to trial balance again for us.

Let's hope this new year will be a good one for the society.

Sue Unwin
Treasurer

The Accounts were accepted by the Membership. Proposed by Jean Heard, Seconded by Kay Hicks .

6. Programme Organiser's Report:

Last year we unfortunately were unable to have any live demos due to Covid restrictions, but with the help of Sue H we managed to organise monthly zoom demos for our members:-

Oct 20 - Hannah Twine started with the first zoom, demonstrating using coloured pencil and oils

Nov 20-Mark Warner - acrylic seascape

Jan 21 - Richard Thorn - watercolour seascape

Feb 21 - Les Darlow - Pan Pastels

March 21 - Carole Massey - portraits in pastel pencils

April 21 - Jean Turton - Chinese brushwork.

These demos were well attended and it was great to have live interaction, and we all had an excellent view of the demonstration!

The reports of all these demos are still available on our website.

As these were zoom demos, I took advantage of the fact that we could explore artists who were not local to our area, and would therefore not be available to us for live demos. They included artists from Shropshire, Blackpool, Suffolk and Bristol. Perhaps we could have even explored international artists!

I would like to thank Sue H for hosting these demos, for her masterclasses in zoom for members and helping some of the artists who needed a guiding hand with the technology. None of this would have been possible without her expertise.

In the new year, I will be starting to think about the programme for the 2022-2023 season. If anyone knows or would like to suggest an artist who might be able to demonstrate for us, please do let me know. We very much like to have personal recommendations.

Janet Clayton
Programme Organiser

7. Election of Officers:

The following are presently serving on the committee:

Sue Wells – *Chairman*, Sue Unwin – *Treasurer*, Sue Hodgetts – *Secretary*,
Janet Clayton – *Programme Organiser*, Sheila Stratton – *Exhibition Organiser*,
Hilary Buckley – *Social Media*, Jean Heard – *Venue Booker*; *Members*: Julie Ball, Pat Dench, Denise Powell and Terry Gibbons.

The following officers have served a term of 2 years and are seeking re-election:

Sue Unwin – *Treasurer*, Sue Hodgetts – *Secretary*, Janet Clayton – *Programme Organiser*, Hilary Buckley – *Social Media* and Jean Heard – *Venue Booker*.

The election was accepted by the Membership. Proposed by Ania Driver, seconded by Anne Cater.

8. Constitution: The proposed changes to the Constitution were accepted by the Membership. *Proposed by Sue Wells, seconded by Pat Dench.*

9. Exhibitions:

Members were advised of the dates for forthcoming events.

- Annual Exhibition: 25th May to 7th June 2022 (Malthouse)
Sheila Stratton advised that there are going to be changes to the changeover dates at the Malthouse – the Town Mill are intending moving all start days from Wednesdays to Fridays – to be confirmed in due course.
- RNLI: Sat 23rd – Sun 24th July 2022 (Marine Parade).

10. Annual Subscription

The annual subscription is going to remain at £25 per annum for the coming year.

11. Any Other Business:

Questions & Comments -

Molly Spencer asked if there would be a gift for the outgoing Honorary President - it was confirmed that a gift and a card has already been arranged.

Jenny Humphrey thanked the committee for their hard work in support of the Society.

The AGM meeting closed at 2:30 pm.

Minutes Approved

Signature (Chairman):

Sue Wells

Date: 06 December 2022