

HEXHAM ART CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting

VENUE: Phil's home – The Burgage, Lily Mews, Acomb, NE46 4FE

DATE: Monday 17th February 2025

TIME: 11am

Present: Phil, Jan, Laurence, Anne, Andy, Lesley, Pat and Ian

There were no apologies.

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record

Matters arising

Logo – Anne will again try to get in touch with Edmund to design an additional logo.

Membership Update (Jan)

Jan informed the committee that the membership has 46 paid up members. There are several who do not attend meetings and there have been 3 new members recently.

Members Questionnaire (Phil)

Phil led a discussion about the feedback from the questionnaire sent to members. 58% of responses preferred weekly sessions to continue. Anne had studied the data relating to attendance over the past 4 years and it had remained fairly constant. It was agreed to introduce themes to some of the open sessions. It was also decided to retain 'You Tube' video sessions for those that wished but agreed that gallery and exhibition trips had had a poor take up in the past.

Phil will send out the 'Summary of Responses' to all the members.

Programme Update (Laurence)

Laurence had sent out another programme update to include the AGM. Despite relinquishing her committee role, she will continue as a member and still welcome members in April for a sketching day during lambing at her Northumberland home. Linda Kent is unwell and unable to run a tutor session tomorrow. Laurence will inform members and also let them know that there will be the theme of 'bridges' for the session for those that want to take part.

AGM (Phil)

- The date for the AGM is Tuesday 1st April.
- Phil, Lesley and Laurence are all standing down from their current roles at the AGM
- The roles of Publicity Officer and Programme Organiser have not yet been filled.
- Lesley also hopes she can hand over responsibility for the website and reminded the committee that in its present form, work could not be sold directly from the site.
- Phil thanked everyone on the committee for their work this year. Ian thanked Phil for writing the role descriptions to inform and encourage members to be willing to join the committee. Andy agreed to be put forward as Chair. The committee agreed that the club would benefit from a fresh intake of committee members.
- There would be a student presentation prior to the AGM as this was the only date suitable.

- There was a minor change to be made to the constitution at the AGM (**Phil**)
- Phil checked that other members of the committee were willing to stand again for re election and asked the relevant members to **prepare short reports for the AGM**

Exhibitions (Andy & Anne)

- The Newbrough Exhibition is scheduled for Saturday 24th May until Saturday 31st May 2025. Set up day will be Friday 23rd May and it is hoped we can again have a preview evening. The primary school will again have their exhibition alongside ours. **Anne will send out entry forms to members at the beginning of April and will need them returned by 30th. Andy will inform members of the dates.**
- Anne had passed over contact with Queens Hall to **Phil**.
- Anne also suggested another exhibition sometime at Bywell. The Committee discussed possible ways to retain Anne's display panels as she is planning to get rid of them. Nothing needs to be finalized as yet.

Finance (Anne)

The finances are in a healthy state currently although it is difficult to do a projected costing for 2025-6 without a clearer idea of member numbers. **Jan agreed to contact members to ascertain if they intended to renew. She will also reiterate to members that they can pay in two installments if they wish.** It was felt the finances could cope with a shortfall and it was agreed the Membership Fees should rise in line with inflation to £86p.a. It was also agreed that the student sponsorship could be raised from raffles at exhibitions rather than Jan asking for voluntary contributions.

Christmas Social

This was poorly attended with only 17 members. In view of this, the committee agreed to move the date to 9th December this year. **Laurence will update members** and there will still be a session on 16th December, the last of the year.

A.O.B.

Lesley asked if anyone had heard about Hexham Arts Town. **Phil will look for information.**

Joe Morris, Labour MP for Hexham had mentioned the Art Club in the House of Commons! Phil is waiting for a copy of his speech.

Anne needs to enroll Andy and Jan as signatories for the bank. **She will undertake this after the AGM.**

Ian thanked Phil on behalf of the committee for his 3 years as Chair.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm