

HEXHAM ART CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting

VENUE: Andy's home – Long Barn, Humshaugh NE46 4AG

DATE: Thursday 1st May 2025

TIME: 10am

Present: Andy, Phil, Ian, Anne, Jan, Jacqui and John

Apologies from Pat.

Welcome to new committee members

Andy welcomed Jacqui and John to the committee.

Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

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

Anne needs to enroll Andy and Jan as signatories for the bank.

Andy and Phil confirmed they had attended a meeting at the Queen's Hall in relation to Hexham Arts Town. The initiative is potentially very positive for Hexham and HAC are keen to be part of the process going forward. **Andy and Phil will keep the committee updated on future developments.**

Membership Update (Jan)

Jan informed the committee that the membership currently has 29 paid up members with a further 5 who are expected to rejoin shortly. The membership total at the end of the last financial year was 50 and of this number 3 had formally confirmed they were leaving.

Both Jan and Anne confirmed that they are not unduly concerned about the drop in numbers as they expect new members to join as the year progresses. They also pointed out that numbers had dropped by 10 at the start of the previous financial year.

Jan is to circulate an updated membership list which has new members highlighted.

Programme Update (Jacqui)

Anne advised that the finance budget will allow the number of external tutors to be increased from 6 to 8 if suitable tutors can be found.

The club will close during the summer to coincide with school summer holidays as follows:

- 22nd July – last session in the Community Centre.
- 2nd September – first session back in the Community Centre.

Anne is to confirm dates with the Community Centre.

Jacqui suggested that blank postcards be made available to members before the summer break which could be used to prepare artwork and then shared with members after the summer break.

This was agreed and Jacqui is to organize.

Jacqui suggested that plein air painting could still happen during the summer break and suggested venues include:

- Mary Anne Rogers Studio and grounds (she has agreed to host)

- Boe Rigg (near Jan's house).
- Hexham Riverside near the café.

Jacqui is to review dates and add at least 2 of the above to the programme.

Jacqui suggested an urban sketching afternoon in Hexham for a normal Tuesday session. The Community Centre would also be made available if some members do not want to participate and if the weather is not favourable. **This was agreed and Jacqui is to add to the programme.** Jan requested that an external tutor should ideally be planned to coincide with the return after the summer break as previously attendance has been poor during September. **Jacqui is to review the programme.**

Jacqui is to check if Linda Kent's tutorial can be rebooked.

All agreed that providing the option for a painting theme was a good idea for open sessions and helped with integrating new members into the Club.

Jacqui is to contact members and enquire if any would be interested in presenting a tutorial.

All agreed that providing a number of YouTube tutorials during the year was still a reasonable way of providing variety and interest to the programme.

Phil offered to assist Jacqui with identifying the optimum digital format for the programme which can easily be opened by all members.

Exhibitions (Anne & John)

The Newbrough Exhibition is scheduled for Saturday 24th May until Saturday 31st May 2025.

Set up day will be Friday 23rd May and there will be a preview evening on the same day.

Anne confirmed a budget of £100 for nibbles on the preview evening. **Phil offered to purchase the nibbles and 6 bottles of sparkling wine from Costco.**

Anne confirmed she has a box of glasses for the preview event and that plates will be available in the Town Hall.

All agreed that Anne should continue to use the same poster format as used for previous exhibitions.

Phil, Jan and Andy all offered to assist Anne and John with setting up the exhibition.

Phil is to contact the Old Gaol to check availability for a December exhibition and also to check if ownership / administration of the facility has changed.

Anne advised that she currently has 83 pictures by 18 artists for the exhibition (previously 90 – 100 pictures). It was agreed that Laurence should be invited to exhibit in recognition of her previous role as Programme Secretary.

Finance (Anne)

Anne confirmed the following Finance details:

- £5291.96 in the bank
- £2450 membership subscriptions paid (+ 5 pending)

Anne confirmed that no negative feedback had been received in relation to the £2 fee increase.

Anne is to further review the impact of reduced membership numbers on the budget for the year ahead.

Publicity (Phil)

Phil is to include a copy of the programme on the website.

Phil suggested posting images of exhibition artwork on the website. Contact details for members could also be included to facilitate discussion with potential purchasers. **Phil to contact members and enquire if they wish to participate.**

Phil is also to post details of the exhibition on Hexham Matters.

A.O.B.

No matters raised.

The meeting closed at 11.15am