

HEXHAM ART CLUB

COMMITTEE MEETING

VENUE: Phil's House, Acomb

DATE: Monday 9th December, 2024

TIME: 11am

Present: Phil, Andy, Anne, Jan, Lesley, Ian

Apologies: Laurence, Pat

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accepted as a true record. Any matters arising not covered in the agenda items will be dealt with at the end

EXHIBITIONS (ANNE & ANDY)

November Exhibition at the Old Gaol – Anne has produced a very helpful report from the recent exhibition which Andy spoke to. The layout of the exhibition was better than last year with it only being on 2 floors and use of the larger Charlton Room on the first floor. There were fewer entries than before and there was a size restriction which helped with the layout. Footfall was 995 across the week and would have been more if it hadn't been for the dreadful weather on the final Saturday which we had expected would be our busiest day. Total sales were £2993 but the exhibition made an overall loss of £107.67. Committee members felt this was acceptable as the club can afford it and the exhibition helped to raise the profile of the club. Anne said she will spend less on A5 fliers next time as members don't seem to make use of the numbers.

Phil thanked Anne and Andy for all their work in the planning, setting up, running and taking down of the exhibition and this was endorsed by the whole committee. Committee agreed that we would like to book the Old Gaol again next year and **Phil to email Jo and maintain communication with a view to booking dates for Nov/Dec 2025.**

Newbrough Exhibition – Committee agreed to hold the next Newbrough Exhibition outside of school holidays to see if this increases attendance, preferably the week before or after Whitsun week. **Andy to contact Newbrough to explore available dates and book.**

Queens Hall Library – Anne has discovered that she was speaking to the wrong person about a potential exhibition in the library. **Anne to renew communication with the original contact to explore whether an exhibition is still a possibility.**

FINANCE (ANNE)

Anne provided a written summary of current club finances which are still healthy with funds of £4080.31 comprising bank balance of £3801.76 and cash account of £278.55. The summary included a breakdown of exhibition finances and across the 2 exhibitions at Newbrough and the Old Gaol we made a profit or surplus of £45.43.

Student Sponsorship – Phil read out an email from Lucia and there was agreement that we would sponsor another student in the current academic year. Committee agreed that we would ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 when members renew their membership in April. **Action for Jan/Anne**

There was further discussion about fundraising. It was agreed that we would trial a raffle at the Newbrough Exhibition and, if successful, continue this at subsequent exhibitions.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (JAN)

The membership remains in a healthy state with 43 paid up members. However, there is some concern that there may be quite a few members who do not renew their membership in April as a number did not return to club sessions in September after the Summer break.

PROGRAMME UPDATE (Laurence)

Laurence has provided Phil with a programme update and Phil highlighted the key points. The 2025 programme begins on Tuesday 7th January. Laurence has booked 7 paid sessions tutor sessions, 2 before 1st April and 5 after. Tutors still seem happy with £100 fee. Programme includes quick sketching sessions and a table sale of art material (on 25th Feb). Laurence has also scheduled a plein air session during lambing and another in July.

The committee expressed their thanks to Laurence in her absence for doing such a good job with the programme and are delighted that she is prepared to carry on, albeit it at arms-length, over the next few weeks/months.

There was further discussion about the issue raised previously over falling attendance since September and the reasons for this. It was suggested that we send an anonymous questionnaire out to club members seeking their views about the club, what is good, what they would like to see change and any other suggestions. **Phil to draft a questionnaire to send round to the committee for comments and approval which will be sent out to all club members in the New Year**

WEBSITE (LESLEY)

Lesley has placed a user friendly copy of the 2025 programme on the website. She has not always been clear about which members have left and should have their works removed from the website. **Jan said she would send the revised membership list to all committee members in future**

Lesley has created a member's section on the website but, up till now, no members have actually created their own password and logged on. **Jan kindly volunteered to send an email out to members encouraging them to go onto the website and access the member's section**

XMAS SOCIAL (PHIL)

Discussion about the entertainment for the Xmas social. Phil has done a quiz including picture and question rounds. It was suggested that we have an art competition and ask members to bring A4 size Christmas themed art works with them. **Phil to email out to members**

It was also suggested that we have a competition creating images from abstract beginnings (blobs) as last year and ask selected members if they have other ideas for activities and are willing to lead on these. **Phil to take responsibility for both tasks**

MATTERS ARISING AND A.O.B.

Logo - Anne will ask Edmund who is a graphic designer to revamp an old logo which features Hexham Abbey. If he is not interested Andy offered to have a go