

Friends of the Hatton

Minutes of the committee meeting of Tuesday 8th September 2015

Present

Vhairi Cardinal(VC); (Chair) Alysia Trackim(AT); Bob Young(BY); Jean Taylor(JT); John Dance(JD); Richard Thompson(RT); Kelsey Thornton(KT); Jill Arthey(JA); Simon Court(SC); Julie Milne Hatton/TWAM (JM); Hazel Barron-Cooper Hatton/TWAM (HBC).

Apologies

Pamela Parrish; Aubrey Anderson; Violet Rook; Heather Baker; Rob Airey; Martin Williams; Madeleine Kennedy;

Matters arising from the meeting of 14th July 2015

Since the last meeting Rob Airey had informed VC that he was not able to acquire the Schwitters drawing due to cost. In addition, since Foth funds were not being used for the Bacon work, Rob was seeking agreement to acquire two or three works by Murray McCheyne instead, (approx. £300/£400) and possibly a Harry Thubron and an Eric Atkinson painting (approx. £200).

It was proposed by BY and seconded by KT that this should proceed.

Catalyst Update

JM gave an overview of the HLF bid and progress to date. The bid had been successful in terms of fund raising and this had contributed to several projects, for example new programmes and commissions, one of which was a commission for work in the new entrance, utilising it as an art space. In addition there were arts residencies commissioned to produce new work for the Gallery. It had also helped with the 'cabinet of curiosity' which would promote the Hatton at locations like the Laing, the Baltic and the Sage. The bid had also paid for the new logo.

JM said there would be a 'showcase' exhibition before the closure for the Hatton refurbishment. This would illustrate the uniqueness of the Gallery.

JM stressed that the future plans would include more involvement of the Friends with the Hatton Team.

JT and BY asked about space for archiving FotH documents and although some ideas were suggested this issue remained unresolved at present.

Gallery Report

HBC and JM presented an update. HBC said there had been a summer of successful workshops involving children and young people. There had been great interest in life drawing linked to anatomical studies.

When the Gallery closes it was planned to do outreach work with schools/hospitals etc. to promote the 'new Hatton'. This would include a project entitled 'Home and Belonging'.

JM said the Heritage Lottery had provided £1.2m of an overall cost base of £3.5m. The purpose was to create a more modern learning and exhibition space and conservation work on the famous Hatton Wall. It would retain what was special about the Hatton and improve accessibility. It would also introduce natural light into gallery 6 and include a learning room equipped with sinks, computers and projection facilities.

SC enquired about a dedicated space for the Friends but JM thought this was probably not achievable. However, the Friends could have access to the seminar room but this would be on a shared basis.

Membership Report

RT reported that since the last meeting the membership had increased by 5 bringing it to 215.

Regrettably, 32 people had not paid for 2015, despite personal reminders and occasional reminders in the Bulletin.

Letters to new members continue to include a reference to the Friends 'welcome pack' available for collection at the Gallery reception. Stocks of these would need to be monitored to ensure future members were provided with the correct information.

Exhibition Report

AT: we were given a space in the Long Gallery from the 19th of December until the 10th of January. After consideration, as the gallery will be shut during this time and footfall likely very low, AT will email Richard Talbot to request having the space a week earlier with the possibility of having no exhibition this winter. AT will follow up on this.

Treasurer Report

JD: £1053.85 total sales from summer exhibition, all artists paid. We are still waiting for TWAM to forward the sales to our account. Balance is currently £3506.

Events

JT: MFA tour went very well, 10 people attended out of 12 possible. 1 person couldn't find them and 1 couldn't get in. Next time will consider starting earlier and checking the university to stay open long enough for stragglers. Perhaps give phone number out for people to check in.

Forthcoming events and numbers so far:

Chinese brush workshop: 10

Andy Warhol lecture: 21

Monoprint workshop: 10

CWA (Clare Money): 12

Fred Brookes lecture: 2

Richard Talbot confirmed Long Gallery for 19th Dec – 10th Jan (see Exhibition Report for more information.) Possibly no exhibition for summer due to gallery work.

As it is the 50th anniversary of the Merz Barn, RA suggested Fred Brookes lecture be a joint venture between the gallery & FOTH. This has been appreciated and approved.

A. O. B.

Date of next meeting: 10/11/15 16:30