

THE FRIENDS OF THE HATTON GALLERY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2013
IN THE SEMINAR ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ART

Those present:

Chairman:- Simon Court

Committee:- Vhairi Cardinal, John Dance, Jean Taylor, Alysia Trackim, Richard Thompson, Marion Thompson, Bob Young, Kelsey Thornton, Aubrey Anderson.

Members:- Jill Arthey, Ken Bolton, Sue Brophy, Howard Cleeve, Kate Cleeve, Caroline Coode, Judith Houston, Margaret Hunter, Mavis McMahon, Pauline Nand, Isobel Patterson, Judith Ramsay, Eileen Sandy, Ron Scotwick, John Stabler, Isobel Taylor, Pamela Parrish, D. Pritchard, Irene Awcock, Pat Stevens, Malcolm Yorke, Doreen Elcox, Lorna Rosner, Isa England, Ken England.

Proxies: - Remo Boccacci, Alan Bond, Miriam Hall, Jo Elliott.

Apologies for Absence:

President – Eric Cross, Ray Cardinal, John Thompson, Sue Tideswell, Julie Milne, Jo Elliott, Hazel Barron-Cooper, Rob Airey, Doris Dance, Remo Boccacci.

Opening Remarks.

The President was unable to attend. He sent his apologies. He has agreed to remain as President. He has intimated that he would be like to include music in future events.

2012 AGM Minutes:

It was proposed that these were a true record of the 2012 AGM. The motion was carried unanimously.

Gallery Report:

There were no gallery staff present, having sent their apologies. Simon Court reported on the gallery refurbishment. It is a slow process. Funding is being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, not the Arts Council as was previously thought. The Hatton's Merz Barn is key to this application and there will be a fundraising event at Tate Britain on 1st May with representation from FoTH.

The stage 1 application to HLF has been submitted. This is to support development and planning for the delivery phase. If successful, stage 2 application will be made in February 2014 for the main award. The total cost will be £3,533,000, with HLF, it is to be hoped, providing £2,656,000. The gallery will close in March 2015 and will re-open in September 2016 with an inaugural exhibition on Schwitters.

Learning Officer's Report:

Hazel Barron-Cooper, though unable to attend, sent the following report:

The learning options at the Hatton Gallery continue to develop and thrive.

As usual, many school groups have visited and taken part in art-based workshops connected to the exhibitions such as Helen Petts' film, Susan Aldworth's Re-Assembling The Self, Mary Webb and Framing Icons. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends in giving funds towards the conservation of the pre-19th century paintings in the collection, the Framing Icons exhibition was made possible.

Schools and community groups also worked from Professor Hatton's Indian Miniature collection and the Uhlman African collection, which is ever popular.

The fortnightly adult art session continues to thrive with about twenty participants. This session is open to all. There is also the FoTH Art Group's meetings on the third Wednesday evening of the month, which has developed into a successful self-led life drawing session.

The Hatton's Home Educated group is a great success. It has been running for four years now and interest is so great that it has increased to two sessions, morning sessions for 11-17 year-olds and afternoons for under 11's. The older students are taking ab Arts Award qualification.

A young adult mental health group from Northumberland Tyne & Wear Mental Health Trust also attends the Hatton every fortnight to take part in a practical art workshop and enjoy the ambience of the gallery.

A two day project for young people has just taken place over the Easter holidays in partnershi with the Tate, the National Galleries of Scotland and Anthony d'Offay based on Artist Rooms – Ed Ruscha. Anthony d'Offay's vision was that as many young people as possible could experience high quality art in the regions where they live. 32 young people aged 13-18 from Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham and North Tyneside attended the gallery for two days. It was a big ask to invite young people in over their Easter holidays, but come they did. They took part in either photography, artist's books or music workshops taught by professional practitioners and based their ideas on Ruscha's work. We hope now to offer further opportunities to these brilliant young people. There was particular focus on bringing secondary students in to experience the Ed Ruscha exhibition, and this was achieved.

The Hatton Gallery has worked with the German department in the University on a project inviting school students to submit work based on Schwitters, the results of which are currently on show in the Art Lounge. This was undertaken by Aletta Roucha and supervised by Professor Henrike Lehmann.

As well as education groups visiting and working in the gallery, the Outreach programme continues to be developed with a wide range of groups participating. Groups include children on the wards of the RVI, Harwood Court Care Home and Bernard Gilpin and Shiremoor Primary schools as well as 10 secondary schools who were visited this January and February.

Thank you to the Friends for their continuing support to many of these activities.

Chairman's Report

Simon Court, the Chairman, began by thanking Eric Cross for his support over the past year. He thanked Julie Milne, who is Chief Curator for the TWAM galleries, Hatton, Shipley and Laing. He thanked her for her support in general and attending committee meetings, and more recently for supporting the idea that there should be a space for FoTH in the new refurbishment plans. He extended thanks to the committee for their unstinting efforts planning events and bringing the exhibitions to fruition, and for the new-look publicity and newsletter.

Simon reported on what he felt were the highlights of the past year's events, in no particular order:

- Sarah Blood's neon cake and the talk on her work
- Rob Airey's behind-the-scenes tour
- Ana Flynn's talk on conservation and the Old Masters exhibition
- The MA exhibition tour
- Our own summer exhibition with Jack and Margaret Slade's retrospective
- Malcolm Yorke's talk
- The winter exhibition displayed in the Hancock's Galleria with comments from children – should we hang it lower in future?
- The postcard auction
- For Simon the highlight of the highlights was the Mary Webb exhibition. She was an alumna of Newcastle in the days of Hamilton and Pasmore.

As for plans – members were referred to the programme for 2013 in the Bulletin, and urged to submit work for the summer exhibition. Members were also urged to make sure their e-mail addresses and other information were up to date to enable delivery of preview invites and the bulletins/newsletters by electronic means.

Treasurer's Report

Financial summary (figures rounded down to the nearest £):

Balance carried forward from 2011	£6368
Total income for 2012	£4201
Total expenditure for 2012	£3065
End balance – 31 Dec 2012	£7504

The Treasurer, John Dance, reported that there has been a small but significant drop in income in 2012, partly attributable to a decline in membership receipts, but mostly to a decline in entries for the summer and winter exhibitions.

A grant of £200 was made to the Gallery, which was used to support the Lough exhibition. It is hoped to support a major project during 2013 and £400 has already been given towards the cost of signage for the Merz Barn renovation.

Gift Aid continues to be an increasingly valuable source of income and more members are agreeing to sign a gift aid declaration to recover tax from HMRC.

Standing orders are a convenient way of paying your subscription and the preferred method of keeping your membership up to date. Please make SO arrangements directly with your bank and not through the treasurer.

Newsletters and other mailings to members – these, though still considerable, have been much reduced, partly by members agreeing to accept electronic mail communications. The committee is continuing to try to reduce these costs further and encourages everyone with internet access to sign up for the e-mail bulletins.

If any member wishes to see a copy of the full accounts for 2012 or a breakdown of any item, please contact the treasurer.

Membership Report:

Membership currently stands at 224. Although numbers have increased, a considerable number of members have still to pay their subscription. Reminders will be sent out soon, but given the numbers (90 unpaid) this will impact on finances. To improve communications it would be helpful if members could ensure that their e-mail addresses are up to date. Of a membership of 224, only 105 have provided e-mail addresses. In a recent attempt to e-mail these members, there were 27 failures to deliver. Members are urged to update FoTH with any new addresses so as to facilitate communication. To date 33 members have decided to receive the regular bulletin exclusively by e-mail.

Nominations and Election of Chair and Committee Members

Simon Court advised the membership that he is standing down as Chair as he plans to study Fine Art in the art department of the University. He is willing to remain as a committee member. Simon Court proposed Vhairi Cardinal as Chair and this was seconded by Caroline Coode. The proposal was unanimously carried. The rest of the committee was re-elected by unanimous agreement. This was proposed by Pauline Nand and seconded by Ron Scotwick.

Any Other Business

There was much discussion over the format of the newsletter and bulletin.

- Caroline Coode said that the Quaker newsletter was done electronically.
- Lorna Rosner thought the shorter the better was a good maxim.
- Jean Taylor, Irene Awcock and Simon Court like the present format.
- Caroline Coode pointed out the cost of large format newsletters.
- Simon Court reminded members that our remit is to generate funds to support the Hatton Gallery, not spend them on our newsletters.
- Alysia Trackim pointed out that bulletins are online on our website.
- Simon Court pointed to the example of the Shipley's website.

The summer party:

- Simon Court proposed attaching it to the summer exhibition and abandoning the Christmas party.
- Dorian Pritchard proposed a Déjeuner sur l'Herbe theme.
- Irene Awcock was in favour of a summer party, pointing out that attendance might be better in the summer.
- Pamela Parrish pointed out that people had a lot of events to attend at Christmas.
- Lorna Rosner said it would be nice to include the music department.

Recruitment:

Doreen Elcox suggested a recruitment drive in the quad. Aubrey Anderson referred to a previous suggestion at a committee meeting of inviting 6th formers and schools to become members. Caroline Coode pointed out that anyone dealing with youngsters has to have a current CRB check.

Christmas Exhibition:

Jean Taylor asked members to contact her with ideas for venues for the Christmas exhibition.

Gallery Closure:

There was discussion around the venue for FoTH exhibitions and events whilst the gallery is closed for refurbishment.

- Pauline Nand suggested the Laing.
- Aubrey Anderson suggested using the studios.
- Dorian Pritchard suggested holding an auction of unwanted paintings.

The AGM closed with lunch for members.

Signed: _____ Date: 28/04/2012