

FRIENDS OF THE HATTON  
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016  
AT THE LAING ART GALLERY MEETING ROOM

PRESENT: Alysia Trackim (AT), Bob Young (BY), Richard Thompson (RT), Pamela Parrish (PP), Jean Taylor (JT), Kelsey Thornton (KT), Jill Arthey (JA), Heather Baker (HB), Vhairi Cardinal (VC), Simon Court (SC), Jo Kendal (JK).

1. APOLOGIES: John Dance (JD)

2. MATTERS ARISING: JK asked why the Glasgow Conference was not mentioned in the minutes. JK to provide information.

3. GALLERY/REFURBISHMENT UPDATE:

There was no update available from gallery staff. Lindy Gilliland informed AT that a company was appointed in August to do the work. Stripping out has begun. There was some asbestos found, but not much. The Merz Barn wall has been protected. The fit out is scheduled to start in February.

The Hatton now has a **Re-Cycle Gallery**, which is a 'stop-me-and-buy-one' type bicycle manned by Ruth, the new Assistant Learning Officer. This bike was present at the open day and a freshers' week to maintain a profile for the Hatton in the university. Leaflets were distributed, though a collage activity was a limited success. AT was present at the open days with Richard Hakin.

4. NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS AND FRESHERS' WEEK:  
See above.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:  
There was no treasurer's report.

6. MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

At the end of May we had 231 members. The current membership stands at 190, a drop of 40. There have been no new members to compensate for this drop in numbers. It seems the gallery closure has hit numbers significantly.

KT asked what we could do to increase membership.

RT pointed out that events have continued, so the drop in membership is a surprise.

BY said that the bulletin would be an important aid to keeping the profile high.

7. EVENTS:

JA reported that 7 members had attended the MFA talk. The exhibition was an eclectic mix with lots of conceptual art, but she found it interesting.

## 7. EVENTS contd.

PP reported on the Discovery Museum event, held in conjunction with the Natural History Society. 7 people attended. They spent the morning examining artefacts and bones. Sadly, there were not enough staff available to facilitate the sketching component of the event.

JT announced that she wishes to retire at the AGM and that we should canvass possible events organizers to replace her.

## 8. BULLETIN:

The next edition of the bulletin will be out soon. The deadline for contributions would be 7<sup>th</sup> October.

## 9. A.O.B.

KT suggested a grand opening event for the reopening and perhaps an exclusive, members only, tour of the new facilities. An artist from among the Alumni might be persuaded to conduct the tour. He also suggested making a book to distribute to members giving the history of the Hatton and FoTH. It could be part of the welcome pack for new members. JT offered KT access to the archive to facilitate the writing of the book. JK offered memories of the Fine Art Department for the book.

RT suggested some writing for the bulletin along the lines of, "Exciting Times Ahead..." and writing directly to non-renewers.

AT will email Julie Milne (JM) to inform her of the drop in numbers and to ask the Laing and other venues to stock FoTH leaflets.

HB suggested a full day symposium with lectures and lunch.

SC asked about exhibiting again. AT asked if he could find a possible space/wall. There is no news from the Shipley about exhibiting there. SC to canvass students. Perhaps Julie Milne (JM) could help.

Hazel Barron-Cooper (HB-C) will check out the use of the new seminar room.

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in the meeting room at the Laing.