

FRIENDS OF THE HATTON GALLERY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Held in office 2 on Tuesday the 14th May 2013

Present: Vhairi Cardinal (Chair), Bob Young, Jean Taylor, Aubrey Anderson, Jo Elliott, Richard Thompson, Simon Court, Pamela Parrish (new member) and Martin Williams.

1) Apologies for Absence: Marion Thompson, John Dance, Alysia Trackim, Kelsey Thornton.

2)Matters arising from the minutes:

22.5.13 Heritage lottery fund (HLF) decision re Hatton refurbishment.

3)Catalyst event at the Tate:

Welcome to Martin Williams, no other Gallery staff members present.

Martin gave a short account of the London event at Tate Britain showcasing the development plans for the Hatton. Sir Nicholas Serota gave an extremely positive Introduction with Prof. Eric Cross and Julie Milne providing the specific detail. There were 138 guests, including VC, together with other alumni artists (Mary Webb) and donors. It proved to be a beautiful evening leaving a very positive overall impression with the Tate wanting to be supportive by way of loans (pictures) with praise going to the University and Tyne Wear Museums.

There was a short film by Fred Brookes showing the Schwitters Merz Barn (MB) being put in place at the Hatton. He talked passionately about the MB. In addition there was a film by Helen Petts "Throw them up and let them sing). The Hatton commissioned this film as Helen's response to the Schwitters MB. MW felt this had been a good event giving a powerful message, but he recognized that this was just the beginning. The HLF outcome will set the pace. Catalyst Arts paid for the event. There was mention of a possible second London event relating to a Richard Hamilton exhibition being held by the Tate Modern next year. VC had a positive discussion with a representative of the Sainsbury trust. This wasn't an overt funding event, but it is clearly hoped that the quality of the presentation will stay with potential donors and open up funding avenues .There are photos of the event available at <http://www.fyfepphoto.com/HattonGalleryTate1May13/> .There are local events planned and FOTH may be called on to lead an event. If the HLF bid is positive (£150,000.) it provides a green light to develop the case for £2.65 million application. The project is currently RIBA (C) and with above

funding this would move to RIBA (D). We were reminded that this is the start of a journey and FOTH should be developing its ideas concerning the kind of presence we want within the new build. We were also reminded of Julie Milne's support of FOTH presence.

4) Vice-Chair:

Plan A is to invite Alysia Trakim to take up this office which we had failed to canvas for at the recent AGM. There was no plan B

RY reminded us that in the past we had a student representative on the committee. **JT** mentioned that HB-C had students working with her who might be interested.

5) Gallery report: None

6) Treasurer's Report:

We have £8,431.25p there was a discussion concerning an increase in fees. This was agreed:- Students £5, Individuals £15, and Families £20 to be started immediately.

SC agreed to discuss a joint fee of £25 for Friends of the Hatton, Shipley & Laing.

7) Membership report:

RT presented the current figures – 224. There are 53 who still have not paid, despite a reminder at the cost of 50p/person.

8) Events:

There had been a successful AGM with 38 attendees. Similar numbers attended the talk by Dr. Malcolm Gee on Richard Hamilton and Marcel Duchamp. We were reminded that the Watercolour Workshop (Ben Haslam) was on in the life room the following day (12) have signed up. Workshop by AA was completed despite the cluttered state of the space provided.

Winter show venue remains problematic. 36 Lime St. not available. A number of options were suggested, a hanging space in the Live Theatre being the best. **JT** to explore this option.

9) Summer exhibition:

Date June 28th - Aug 17th. **BY** pointed out June 26th a Wednesday which would provide difficulties in collecting in and hanging the exhibition. Further discussions are needed with the Gallery staff re dates, which will inform the decision concerning a Preview. (Summer Party postponed till next year) Further details of events will be provided in the next Bulletin.

10) Publicity:

In the absence of **AT** there was little discussion but it was accepted **AT** and **BY** would email and confirm dates for the posters.

AOB:

Dorian Pritchard had sent an e mail with a suggestion concerning fundraising. "FOTH could function as a clearing house for art work left at the death of local artists" these could be auctioned off. The committee was not persuaded by this idea.

AA brought up again the idea of canvassing schools, particularly the Art department staff, who might select up to 3 pupils' work for inclusion in the Summer show. It was felt pupils' work couldn't be rejected following such an invitation. Adult art staff should be encouraged to be members of FOTH. They could however present work as non-members.

AA agreed to canvas 3 schools where he knew members of staff with these ideas.

Date and time of next meeting:

June 11th at 4.30pm in room 2, Hatton Gallery