

## Minutes of the Odiham Art Group – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held at North Warnborough Village Hall - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019

1	<b>Present:</b>	36 members with Christine Sharp in the Chair
2	<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Aline Ash, Eirwen Rosam, Wendy Bennett, Eileen King, Alison Granger, Jenny Inwood, Penny Fleet, Carol Southgate, Kate and Warren Gilcrist, Jane Baikie, Cicelie Fry, Val Peterson.
3	<b>Minutes of the last AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b> were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman	
4	<b>Chairman's Report 2018/2019:</b>  The Chairman welcomed everyone present and firstly wished to thank the current committee for their support during the year by 'just getting on with it!' when she wasn't able to.  The chairman reported that it has been interesting year. Membership stands at 132 and thanks go to Joan Crawford for all her hard work as Membership Secretary.  Demos have been a success with between 25 and 55 members attending. Workshops, however, have not been so well attended. We need a minimum 12 to cover the costs. The Treasurer considers a minimum of 14 required. She urges members to support these events and stressed the importance of spreading the word about the group to encourage new blood and ideas.  Thanks go to Maureen Ashworth for her tireless efforts in putting together a programme of demos and work shops for 2019/2020 which will be distributed with the new membership cards later in the year. The Programme of Events has already been published on the new website to download if required.  The chairman also thanked the Exhibition Committee for their hard work planning, setting up, running and dismantling the Exhibition last year. Entries have been decreasing over the years with 162 entries in 2017 vs 136 in 2018, partially due to some artists taking advantage of exhibiting one large painting instead of three smaller ones. Sales, however, have held steady with 17 paintings and 6 folios sold last year.  The OAG relies heavily on its members to participate with the running of the group and the chairman expressed her gratitude to Bill Searle for setting up and clearing up the hall for each event and to Jan Mabbott, Trish Kearney and Anne Morris for organising the refreshments so efficiently. Thanks also go to Peter Peacock for looking after the video equipment.  This year we will be losing Sheila Gadsby and Anna McGeough from the Committee. The Chairman thanked them both for their sterling work which was most appreciated.	

	<p>The Committee meets four or five times a year and is essential to the group's existence. The roles are not onerous and the Chairman encouraged any members interested in joining to get in touch. She also mentioned that we are currently looking for a member or members to organize a Summer Sketching programme or individual sketching events and invited anyone interested to get in touch. She would also like to thank Yvonne Powell for continuing to manage the OAG Gallery at Hook Surgery.</p>		
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report 2018/2019:</b></p> <p>The Treasurer presented his report. Subscription fees are up this year due to the increase in the membership fee and new members joining and also Exhibition Sales were good but the group still made a loss of £839.28, bringing the balance at year end to £3689.</p> <p>The Treasurer voiced his concerns as the group has made a loss for the last four years largely due to undersubscription of the workshops and a fall in revenue from exhibition entries. John stressed this was 'crunch time' and we now need to reverse this trend to keep the OAG in a healthy financial position.</p> <p>It is hoped that with the modest increase in the subscription fee, reintroducing the 20% commission on exhibition sales and moving the Exhibition date to August will make for a more financially successful year.</p> <p>The chairman stressed again the importance of all members contributing to the success of the group</p>		
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Committee Members</b></p>		
		<p><b><u>Proposed by</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Seconded by</u></b></p>
	<p>Chairman - Christine Sharp</p>	<p>John Kynoch</p>	<p>Jocelyn Kynoch</p>
	<p>Secretary – Ann Grigg</p>	<p>Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Anna McGeough</p>
	<p>Treasurer – John Kynoch</p>	<p>Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Tony Yates</p>
	<p>Membership Secretary – Joan Crawford</p>	<p>Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Silvie Peacock</p>
	<p>Programme Secretary – Maureen Ashworth</p>	<p>Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Elizabeth Durrans</p>
	<p>DVD and Workshop Secretary – Diane Welsh</p>	<p>Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Pat Burt</p>
	<p>Website Editor – Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Joan Crawford</p>	<p>Lisa Bartlett</p>
	<p>Committee Member – Michael Fox</p>	<p>Christine Sharp</p>	<p>Joan Crawford</p>

7	<p><b>Appointment of the Independent OAG Accounts Examiner 2019/2020:</b></p> <p>John Ashworth is to continue in this role. The proposal was accepted by a unanimous show of hands</p>
8	<p><b>Annual Exhibition 2019:</b></p> <p>As members are aware, there have been some significant changes made in respect of the 2019 Annual Exhibition and the Chairman wished to explain the reasons behind them.</p> <p>Firstly, the date has been moved forward to 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August (running for a full three days). This enables the exhibition to take part in the Hampshire Open Studios 2019 which will promote the group and attract more visitors to the exhibition and potential sales.</p> <p>Holding the event in the summer will also mean the Private View will be on a warmer, lighter evening as opposed to a cold and dark winter evening.</p> <p>This year we are introducing the ‘Reserve System’ where members can submit three paintings and a fourth reserve painting for no additional charge. Paintings will be sold ‘off the wall’ and the reserve painting hung in their place, allowing customers to take the painting away on the day, bearing in mind some may have travelled a fair distance and may not be able to return to collect a painting at the close of the exhibition. The option will still be there for buyers to collect by 4.30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> if preferred. Reserve paintings may still be hung to fill spaces on the display panels, even if the member’s other three have not sold, subject to space becoming available.</p> <p>The venue remains Robert Mays School. Larger, easy to assemble display panels are being hired from the Guildford Art Society this year so larger paintings can now be exhibited. Thanks go to Jane Perkins who has kindly agreed to be in charge of hanging the exhibition once again.</p> <p>It is hoped these changes will give the exhibition a boost of new energy and dynamism and the chairman thanks the excellent committee who are working to make it a success.</p> <p>Finally, for those donating cakes it would be appreciated if you could email her to say what type of cake you are bringing and she will pass the information on to Anna and Jan so we don’t end up with too many of the same variety.</p> <p>The Chairman opened up to the floor for any questions:</p> <p><b>As the panels are larger would be better to allow members to enter four paintings plus the reserve?</b> The chairman agreed this would be something to consider for next year once we have seen how the layout works this year.</p> <p><b>Will the old panels be used as well this year?</b> No, the old panels were too difficult to assemble. The new panels provide the same length of room but are full height allowing paintings to be hung down to the floor. The stainless steel grid panels may still be used around the edge of the wall, subject to hanging requirements.</p>

	<p><b>Why are exhibition revenues declining and would it be possible to create a questionnaire to get some feedback?</b> The Chairman agreed this was a good point and worth considering after we review how this year's exhibition went. Joan Crawford mentioned the paintings sold tended to be the less expensive in the exhibition.</p> <p><b>Why the decision to sell 'off the wall'? People like to see the red dots.</b> A large sales board will be set up by the entrance which will have a record of all sales. There will also be the option to collect paintings at 4.30 on Monday if preferred.</p>
9	<p><b>Proposed date of AGM 2020:</b> Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p>
10	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b> None. The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.</p>
11	<p><b>Favourite Painting Competition:</b> Ann Grigg's painting entitled 'The Night Watch' was voted best picture on show at the AGM</p>
	<p>Authorised Signature ..... Date .....</p>