

THE ARTS SOCIETY RICHMOND

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 2 JULY 2019 AT 7.30PM AT DUKE STREET CHURCH

PRESENT

Jenny Lebus (Chairman), Louise Capell, Christine Dymond, Richard Lebus, Linden Loader, Betty Making, Heather Montford, Alex Sims, Pauline Tuft, Heather Vallely, Jane Wardle and 69 members.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Tessa Barras, Jane Buckingham, Lidia and Ian Campbell, Emer and Paul Clarke-Hutton, Bella Hobson, Frances Holland, Penny Langlands, Alex and Alan Macfadyen, Lorraine Neale, Kara Radcliffe and Val Williams.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Slides were presented. Membership numbers have increased from 309 at 30 June 2018 to 315 now. 30 members did not renew but there were 36 new members.

Slides were shown of the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet.

An operating loss of £750 was made in 2018/19 compared to an operating profit of £39 in 2017/18. A laptop has been bought for £439, the provision of £3,000 for a planned bursary for a student at Richmond Adult Community College (RACC) has been reversed because no suitable student has been identified by the College, and provision of £750 has been made for the Museum of Richmond to fund five disadvantaged children to attend a summer holiday art workshop. As a result the net profit for 2018/19 was £1,061 compared to a net loss of £2,961 in 2017/18.

Reserves at the end of the year increased from £11,780 to £12,841. The Society is a non-profit-making organisation and it is acknowledged that the Society's reserves are more than it needs. The aim is to make losses now in order to reduce the reserves. In due course though, the membership fee will need to rise, probably by a substantial amount.

The accounts still need to be reviewed by the Honorary Examiner but they were unanimously approved by the meeting.

3. RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

The Treasurer thanked Clive Littler for reviewing the accounts. It was unanimously resolved that he be re-appointed Honorary Examiner.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jenny Lebus reported on the following.

Buoyant membership - thank you for introducing your friends; this is the best recruitment strategy.

Attendance at lectures has increased with an all-time record of 162 in May 2019.

We ran successful trips to Cornwall last autumn and to Yorkshire this spring.

There has been an excellent variety of lectures and study days - many thanks to our organisers.

Our visit secretaries have arranged a great programme of visits as you see on the screen before lectures.

Socials - pre-lecture drinks are increasingly popular (!) - a new members' drinks party, AGM and Christmas drinks and a summer lunch party. A special thanks to Heather Montford, Pauline Tuft and Jane Wardle (queen of the dishwasher!).

Volunteering continues at Turner's House and at Kneller Hall which will soon be sold.

Church recording at St Mary with St Alban, Teddington is ongoing and we have successfully approached The Arts Society Kingston who have provided some new volunteers.

We are close to launching the Heritage Trail for St Mary Magdalene Parish Church in Richmond which is celebrating its 800th anniversary.

Young Arts - As Richard explained in his report, the £3,000 bursary we had hoped to award to a student at RACC has not been possible. Despite Heather Montford's best efforts, staff changes at the college made recruitment difficult and nobody suitable applied for the second year running. We have therefore withdrawn the £3,000 reserved for this award and have promised £750 to the Museum of Richmond to fund up to five children from low income families to attend summer workshops. Thanks to Heather who is handing over Young Arts to Christine Dymond after many years. We are exploring ways to support music provision in schools through a charity called Richmond Music Trust which loan instruments, subsidises lessons etc.

Programme cards will be available in August as well as The Arts Society membership cards. There are printed lists of events available and all the information is on the website.

The Chairman thanked all the committee for their hard work and also Conrad Venn who provides such efficient and professional IT support. He was presented with a small gift as a token of our appreciation.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The Committee over the last year has been as follows, Christine Dymond having recently taken over responsibility for Young Arts from Heather Montford..

Chair	Jenny Lebus
Treasurer & Membership	Richard Lebus
Lectures	Linden Loader & Louise Capell
Secretary	Heather Montford
Marketing & Young Arts	Christine Dymond
Study Days	Heather Vallely & Val Williams
Visits	Betty Makin, Alex Simms, Pauline Tuft & Jane Wardle

The Committee was re-elected unanimously en bloc.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members thanked the Committee for organising an excellent programme of events.

7. DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S AGM

The Chairman gave Notice that the next Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 July 2020 at 7.30pm at Duke Street Church, Richmond TW9 1DH.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.