

Lincolnshire Artists Society

Minutes of the Centenary Annual General Meeting

1.30 p.m. 27th May 2006 the Usher Gallery, Lincoln

Present: 35 members of the society including the management committee and guest Edward Mayor

1. Presidents Opening Remarks – Peter Moss

A very special welcome to this unique Centenary Year Annual General Meeting of the Lincolnshire Artists' Society. Before we start the proceedings I would like us all to sit quietly to remember those members who have recently died, including Brian Parsons and Peter Williams.

The Society's Centenary celebrations started earlier this year with the Archive Exhibition and the Centenary book, Lincolnshire Artists, researched and written by Edward Mayor. This excellent and important publication was carefully checked and managed by a team comprising Max Marschner, David Paton and David Morris. Funding was made available from a number of sources including the Arts Lottery, the Usher Gallery Trust and our own resources.

Today's exhibition is the culmination of a great deal of work by your Committee under the Chairmanship of Carol Butler, as well as staff from The Collection who continue to support the Society in upholding the special relationship that exists between the two organisations.

The Society continues to attract new members and the Committee is aware of the need to provide a range of activities on behalf of the membership. This year has included an excellent visit to Cambridge arranged by Rex Critchlow and an amusing if somewhat controversial lecture by Mike Goldmark. Lindum Construction, under the critical eye of Edward Mayor, published a calendar for 2006, also celebrating the work of Lincolnshire Artists' Society.

The Centenary Exhibition for 2006 has required some very careful and sympathetic selection by your Committee, managed by Richard Hatfield. The Committee has been able to hang a very engaging show that properly reflects the breadth of the membership. Additionally this year, the Gallery on the Strait is working in partnership with us to show members' work.

The Society is very fortunate in having Anthony Green, RA, as the official opener of this important exhibition.

Once again, on behalf of the membership, I must thank all members of the Committee for their hard work and recommend that you take note of our new website being prepared by Alexis Rago.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Jenny Ellicott, Dianne Davies, John Maddison

3. Minutes of the 98th AGM

The minutes were taken as read and agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chairmans Report – Carol Butler

We come to the end of what must be the busiest year in our history. We have continued working under the headings, membership, exhibitions, finance, planning and publicity and website and also set up a sub committee to work alongside Edward Mayor on the major task of producing our book 'Lincolnshire Artists One hundred Years 1906 – 2006' I have to say your committee has worked incredibly hard this year.

Membership Sadly, I have to report the death of three of our members, Brian Mason, Rosemary Lowery, and as Peter has said, Brian Parsons, Also Peter Williams a past chairman. Our thoughts are with their families.

We have 132 members made up as follows: 108 full fee, 8 over 75, 10 honorary, 5 friends That includes 8 new members. Maggie is standing down this year and I thank her for her hard work and her humour, she will be missed! She is to introduce a new award: £75 for the most interesting piece in any medium by one of the over seventy fives.

I am sure she would like me to thank those of you who paid your subs on time and remembered to include a stamped addressed envelope.

Exhibitions

Our 99th Exhibition held in May last year was opened by Jo Volley Senior Lecturer at The Slade. The day was extremely hot and Jo shortened her speech because of this, but stayed for the afternoon, mingled and chatted. The standard of the work so impressed her that she has offered a prize for this year's exhibition.

We had around 3000 visitors and sold 28 works

The Prizes were awarded as follows:

The Toni Bartl prize for portraiture: Neil Helyard 'Gypsy Girl'

The Sue Hayward Award for the most progressive work; Janice Kok 'Allegory of Abundance, Horn Of Plenty'

The Judith Oyler Memorial Prize for the most meritorious exhibit: Ashi Marawaha.

The Lincolnshire society of Architects prize for a work which best exemplifies the art of architecture: Jacky Lee 'Entrance 11 '

The Gill Nadin prize for the Most Outstanding Drawing in any Medium: Robert Machan
February 2006 saw the opening of our Archive exhibition with work drawn from the Usher Gallery collection and also kindly loaned from private homes, a time for meeting families of past members of hearing of their love and devotion to the society. The Archive exhibition is the Ushers contribution to our centenary celebrations and we thank them for all their hard work, especially Andrea Martin, Maggie Warren, Jeremy Webster and Mel. The Private View and book launch held on April 29th. was well attended, Edward Mayor read extracts from the book to a delighted audience, Waitrose provided the buffet and around 100 books were sold, they continue to sell at the Collection.

This exhibition will run alongside our Centenary exhibition until the 6th.of August.

Our Annual exhibition this year has at least one work included for every member that wished it, it is to be opened by Anthony Green R.A

Richard Hatfield our exhibition secretary once again has waved his magic wand and everything has fallen into perfect place, thank you Richard.

Finance

John Maddison our treasurer is in Canada on holiday but has left a report for us which Frank will read later. We thank The Usher Trust for their generous donation towards the research and writing of the book, Lindum group for their donation, Ruddocks for the catalogue, Awards for all for the £4,500. I thank Richard and Liz for filling in forms etc. and managing to obtain this grant for us. Also all sponsors of prizes this year.

I would also like to register my thanks to John for once again handling the money with such precision.

Planning and publicity

In June last year we had a very successful and enjoyable outing to Cambridge, organised by Rex Critchlow, who if not an architect would make a wonderful tour guide, we shared the coach and a fish and chip supper with members of The North Lincs Arts. Society. This year's coach trip is to The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition on July 8th.Janice Kok and Derek Roberts are to be thanked for organising this.

Last years lecture was given by Mike Goldsmark, who bravely took to the stage aided by a walking stick, his lecture 'Adventures in the Picture Trade ' proved highly entertaining, giving insight to his stable of artists. This year we have two lectures to look forward to, Ken Lee's 'The Older the Better 'in June and Bridget Riley in November. We thank Max Marschner for continuing to organise the lectures.

Two workshops are being planned for later in the summer, this is part of the Awards for All scheme and the workshops will be our way of reaching out to young artists Advertising this year has been a major job, we have had articles in The Artist, Lincolnshire Life, The Journal and The Lincolnshire Pride and The Echo; we have advertising in the window of the Tourist board and the library, and paintings in the café at Waitrose. Other articles are still to appear. A big thank you to Hilary Brown and her helpers Jenny Elicott and Sheila Bartl. In September we are to hold a tea dance, a social event for our centenary year.

Website

We thank Alexis Rago for building our website. In time I would like to see every member represented. The site will enable us to reach a wider audience including galleries, something that will be essential in the future.

Book

Our book, which began its life as a catalogue and ended as an amazing and amusing account of our history, has ensured that all the artists through the years, all the hard working committees will never be forgotten. I don't think we could have found a better person to research and write it, Edward has worked with dedication and enthusiasm and he has our very grateful thanks. A huge Thank you must go also to the sub committee, Max Marschner, David Paton, David Morris and Peter Moss ,they have worked so hard and also with great dedication.

The Next One Hundred Years

October 1st. saw the opening of the Collection and with it comes many changes, one of which is an Open Exhibition to be held here in the Usher Gallery on alternate years. This means that the Lincolnshire Artists have to go on tour every other year. This presents a new challenge. We are actively seeking new spaces and thinking of new ways of showing work, new ways of reaching out to the public. The Usher Gallery will always be our home and our base for meetings, and of course we will all have the opportunity to enter The Open as well as our annual show, this we believe will be held in the new Haven Gallery, Boston I thank Jenny Hammerton for her help with the gallery search, Jenny is to leave the committee this year, and I thank her again for her quite reassurance and support.

Those members of my committee not already mentioned I would now like to thank. Frank Marsten is standing down as secretary after many years. Thank you for all your help and support Frank. Jacky Lee, minutes secretary, this year we have seen how important this job is without the minutes there would have been no book. Thank you Jacky. The minute books are now lodged with The Lincolnshire Archives. The Vice presidents, Gillian, David and David and Peter Moss our President all of whom have given the centenary preparations much of their time thank you. And a big Thank you to The Usher Gallery staff who have worked hard with us and for us, Andrea, Maggie, Jeremy and all at front of house. Lastly I would like to thank all the members for bringing excellent work, (with both sets of fasteners, unbelievable!) to the 100th. exhibition, Your committee has worked hard to ensure the success of this centenary year, I hope you all enjoy it.

6. Treasurers Report – read by Frank Marston

"Firstly may I apologise for my absence today, due to a long-standing reservation of my annual holiday, arranged well before the date of today's meeting was determined. Secondly, another apology, this time for the non-availability of the Annual Accounts. The early date of this meeting did not allow sufficient time after the end of our financial year on 31st march, for the accounts to be prepared, audited and printed, in time for distribution today. The draft accounts are now with the auditor and once they have been finalized, I will present them to the Committee for adoption, after which copies will be available for members. Following that, if any member has a question on the accounts I will be pleased to hear from them.

However, I am pleased to be able to inform you unofficially, that the increased subscription, a tight rein on spending, a lottery grant and some generous sponsorships,

have resulted in a surplus for the year, well in excess of £6000, which when added to last year's carry forward of £12000, makes a grand total in our coffers of some £19000. This amount was, of course, planned for by your Committee, in anticipation of high expenditure during the current Centenary Year, not least the publication of Edward's book".

7.(8) 9. Elections

Election of Officers

Chairman - Carol Butler
Vice Chairman - Frank Marston; prop. C.Butler, 2nd J.Hammerton, unanimous vote.
Hon. Gen. Secretary -Derek Roberts; prop. C.Butler, 2nd J.Kok, unanimous vote
Hon. Treasurer - John Maddison, to continue
Hon. Exhib. Officer - Richard Hatfield, to continue
Hon. Members. Sec. -
Publicity Officer - Bruce Duncan; prop. C.Butler, 2nd F.Marston, unanimous vote
Minute's secretary - Jacky Lee, to continue

Three new committee members were proposed seconded and unanimously voted:

Fiona Proctor

Leslie Stoneham

Jill Carter

10. David Morris proposed that Max Marschner be made Vice President, David Paton seconded and a unanimous vote taken

11. Edward Mayor, was unanimously voted to be an Honorary Member of the Society.

11. Any Other Business

Rex Critchlow asked the committee to consider the following issues:

- Three year tenure of chairman/vice chairman could be more flexible (a choice of 1, 2 or 3 years perhaps)
- Subscription to be more flexible, e.g. half price for over 65, reduced for students
- Because membership is by selection, perhaps annual exhibition should guarantee all members get one piece of work hung at major exhibitions.

Max Marschner suggested that future exhibitions should have a provision or condition of submission of current work, with perhaps 3 year maximum?

Floor – concerns over increasing membership with reduction of gallery space available.

Floor – comments on Edward's book; excellent quality and a very good read.

Carol answered a question from the floor about the responsibilities of post of Membership Secretary and clarified the 'job description'.

It is anticipated that a touring exhibition next year should coincide with the AGM in May. The aim for next year is to have at least two exhibitions, and there are various venues to be explored.

Peter Moss thanked everyone for these suggestions which would be passed to the committee for consideration.

Cilla proposed a vote of thanks for all the committee's hard work organising and managing the Centenary Exhibition.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm

