

Lincolnshire Artists' Society

Minutes of the 101st Annual General Meeting, Saturday 21st July 2007, 1pm
at the Sam Scorer Gallery, Lincoln.

Present: members of the Society including the Management Committee and guest Edward Mayor.

Presidents opening remarks- Peter Moss

So there is life beyond the Centenary and I am pleased to note that all the very hard work put into maintaining the reputation and future of the Society is now being realised.

I am sure that your outgoing chairman, Carol Butler, in leaving her post which she has so determinedly managed over the past three years is looking forward to a more relaxing time- not that she will sit still for long- more painting, dancing and house arranging will no doubt bring her a fresh focus.

Once again, as President and on the members' behalf, I must use this AGM to remind us all of her clear thinking and business-like approach to keeping the Society in touch with its true aims and responsibilities. She has maintained a strong relationship with The Collection and Usher Gallery and has encouraged your Committee to look forward to new exhibitions in the sure knowledge that the very high quality of work engendered by our members continues to attract a positive response from galleries and the public alike.

Our new Chairman, Frank Marston, is well versed in the mysteries of our Society, having well managed the onerous task as Secretary for a number of years.

Under the watchful gaze of Carol and Frank, your Committee continues to triumph- lively knowledgeable debate and the ready acceptance of the many duties required to make this Society so successful continue to be fulfilled by a small number of hard working volunteers. I am sure that thanks will be individually recorded to them in the Chairman's report.

The Society must continue to flourish as an exhibition Society. This year's exhibitions at the Blackfriars/Haven Galleries in Boston and this summer's 'Paper Works' at the Sam Scorer Gallery surely illustrate the range of professionalism, skill and originality enshrined in the Society over the past 100 years.

In conclusion I encourage all members to take an active part in the Lincolnshire Artists' Society; it is a major player in Lincolnshire's cultural life.

Apologies

Apologies received from Max Marschner, Janice Kok, Richard Hatfield, Jacky Lee and Cilla Chapman.

Minutes of the last AGM

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

Matters Arising- to be dealt with later in the meeting.

Chairman's Report- Carol Butler

Last year I reported that 2005 -2006 was probably the busiest year in our history, well 2006-2007 has been even busier. We have of course still been celebrating our centenary and also dealing with the devastation of not having The Usher Gallery every year for our Annual show.

We heard a lot about school mottos when our new prime minister came to power, my school motto was, 'non nobis domine'(not spelt correctly) not for ourselves alone, and one that I believe your committee should adopt. I find it impossible to tell you of all the hard work they have done, but as I remind you of the past year perhaps you will become a little aware.

Membership

I have to report sadly of two deaths, Maggie Dean, our membership secretary, died after being involved in a car accident, she is missed, a lady full of passion and poetry.

More recently, Marjory Blatherwick, after a long illness, a friend of the society and a close friend of many of our members, she too will be greatly missed.

We have 129 members made up as follows: 104 full, 11 honorary, 14 seniors and 10 friends, this however changes daily as memory returns!

I thank David Morris for running the membership so smoothly, never a problem.

Although I would ask him to bring back the small membership card in memory of Maggie.

Exhibitions

The centenary exhibition 2006, held at The Usher Gallery and at The Gallery on The Strait was memorable, every member that wished had at least one piece included, opened by Anthony Green R.A., who dragged himself from his sick-bed to be with us.

He proved a generous and genuine man.

We had 12000 visitors to both exhibitions (centenary and Archive) and sold 28 works.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

The Toni Bartl Prize for portrait: Caroline Matthaei for Eva

The Sue Hayward award for the most progressive piece: Janet Schooley for Body of work

The Lincolnshire Society of Architects' prize : Cilla Chapman, Garden Grids, Homage to Eden

The Gill Nadin award for drawing; Gill Marschner, Stubble Field

The Jo Volley award for most outstanding newcomer; Fiona Procter for Drawing-Nude Speedframe Prize awarded to Barry Carter for Barton Boat Yard
The Solo exhibition Prize awarded by The Gallery on the Strait now The City Art Gallery: Terry Stephens
The Miller, Mockford and Winkworth purchasing prize : Hilary Brown, Midsummer breeze
The Maggie Dean award for the over 75's ; Mary Fitzpayne, Burmese Puppet.
Paintings were also hung in the Waitrose coffee shop throughout the duration of the exhibition.
Ian Hyslop featured the Lincolnshire Artists' on his radio 4 programme 'Middle England' and although the publicity was good, it almost brought about a court case . I did not take kindly to having a patchwork quilt made of my words, not one single sentence was broadcast as I had said it, and I was heard to give opinions that I most definitely do not hold.

The Haven and Blackfriars Exhibition 2007

It is unusual to report on two annual exhibitions in one year but the Boston exhibition took place early in the year.

The Staff at Boston took care of everything for us including Posters, some advertising, selection, hanging and wrapping the work for collection.

The fact that the exhibition was hung in two separate buildings did cause one or two problems.

The major one I will refer to as a crime of passion and will say that it has been resolved satisfactorily. However I would like to point out to the members that we are extremely lucky as a society to be offered space in wonderful galleries, we do have to sign contracts, if the contract is broken in any way we could be asked to leave, and we would find it very difficult to be accepted by other galleries in the county.

The exhibition was opened by Mark Simmonds M.P. for Boston and Skegness , he warmly welcomed us and said how delighted he was to see such a high quality of work and hoped we would soon return. Only two works were sold

Prizes were awarded as follows;

The Sue Hayward for most progressive piece: Kevin Wallhead: Iceflow

Gill Nadin Drawing Award: Mary Fitzpayne

The Architects Award: Robert Machin for Interior

The Judith Oyler award; Kieth Roper body of work

The Toni Bartl portrait prize is to be awarded at the Paperwork exhibition

Again everyone that entered this exhibition had at least one piece selected.

Thank you Fiona and Fenella for providing a wonderful feast. Paul, Derek and Leslie for serving wine

Also a special thank you to Lizzie Hallam for rushing to B& Q to cover while the couriers van was being repaired! We employed Mike Challenor, a professional art courier, to transport the work to and from Boston, the society covered the cost of £900.

Paperworks at The Scorer Gallery

We were overwhelmed by the response and sadly had to turn away at least half the excellent work brought in. I don't believe there has ever been so large an exhibition hanging in this gallery before and we have to thank Richard Hatfield for his ability to bring chaos to perfect order, he is now on a well deserved holiday.

Future exhibitions

We have two exhibitions a year booked for the next three years but would also like to introduce a third, possibly held in the summer at the same venue and time each year.

Our next exhibition will be at Patchings Art Centre at Calverton, Notts.in April 2008

In the autumn we return to our home The Usher Gallery

2009 Spring Beverly Art Gallery

2009 Autumn Sam Scorer Gallery

2010 The Hub Sleaford

2010 Autumn The Usher Gallery

Finance

Our treasurer John Maddison will report that things are looking good financially but at this point I must apologise to John for making his book keeping difficult during my time in the chair, thank you for your precision and your patience.

Publicity and Planning

I have to first thank Hilary Brown, who is retiring from the committee this year, for the enormous amount of work she did in the centenary year. Jenny Elicott and Sheila Bartl who gave Hilary a helping hand
This year Bruce Duncan aided by his wife Pamela are doing no less, covering the two exhibitions and two lectures. A very big thank you to all of you

Last year we had two wonderful lectures

Ken Lee; The older the better, an illustrated talk on Picasso and Matisse left us all feeling that the best is yet to come, everyone so enjoyed the evening, despite the acoustics, that many have asked if Ken will do more.

We will not forget the finale, putting us all in the mood for the tea Dance!

Bridget Riley generously took us on a journey through the development of her work, giving us insight to her mind, she lived and was educated for a time in Lincolnshire.

Julian Bray, in June this year, took us on a very different journey, showing us through his watercolours a secret world at Welbeck of underground stables and tunnels large enough for coaches to pass carrying the eccentric Duke of Portland on his hidden journeys.

The 7th of November is the John McEwan lecture. An illustrated talk on the work of John Bellany
My Thanks to Max Marschner for all the hours he puts in writing to many artists in order to find one good lecturer. Also for the work Max has done looking for new venues.

August 4th. Is our coach outing to the Royal Academy, a repeat of last years outing. The coach is now full and I thank Janice Kok for all arrangements. Janice is also stepping down from the committee this year and so I thank her for all the work she has done.

We must not forget the Tea Dance, which was a great success and gave members a chance to meet and talk, something we don't do enough of!
A big thank you to all members and committee for helping and supporting.

Website

The website is slowly coming together, we are beginning to include work from current shows. We would like to see more individual members included before we start to send the web address to galleries across the country. Jacky Lee is now working with Alexis on updating the site as well as serving as minute secretary, thank you Jacky.

Book

The book continues to sell and Edward continues to do book signings on our behalf, we now have books on sale at Waterstones in Lincoln and Boston, at the Usher Gallery, The City Art Gallery and galleries wherever we are showing. Fiona Procter and Jenny Ellicot struggle with the books, they are heavy, thank you both. Frank deals with the postal sales, thank you Frank too.

We look forward to Edward's talk later this afternoon.

We also thank Edward for introducing us to The Hub Gallery.

Gill Carter for finding Beverly Gallery

David Morris for Patchings

I thank everyone that I haven't already mentioned on the committee. The President and the vice presidents, who last year worked so hard towards the production of our book and this year are actively seeking new gallery spaces and new ways of exhibiting

Last but not least lovely Derek who as Secretary has fast made himself indispensable.

I started this long report saying how devastating it was for us not to be using the Usher Gallery every year. It is difficult, but we do understand the reasons for it and do look forward to being there every other year, Jeremy Webster assures me that this will happen, he has also offered the Lincolnshire artists the use of a fully equipped studio for certain dates in the coming year, further details in the next news letter.

We appreciate the unwavering support of The Usher Trust and The Friends over our use of The Usher Gallery and also individual members that have written on our behalf. I believe that the second century will see this society spreading it's wings and receiving the acknowledgement it truly deserves.

As you know I am retiring from the chair in just a very few minutes. I have to say that I value the friendships I have made, I will never forget the support I have been given, I could not have had a nicer or a better committee I hope Frank enjoys it as much, and I wish him well.

Treasurers Report – John Maddison

John explained that the figures could not be out any earlier as the end of the financial year was too close to the date of the AGM. However, there was plenty of money in hand for the Centenary year, and even after generous spending the Society was still £600 better of than two years ago.

The President proposed that we accept totally the financial statement.

Passed unanimously.

Election

The committee proposed and seconded Frank Marston as Chair.

The committee proposed and seconded Leslie Stoneham as Deputy Chair.

Both were elected unanimously.

Peter Moss proposed three members to join the committee.

Janet Schooley, Kevin Wallhead, and Terry Stephens were elected unanimously.

Election of Officers The following officers were elected to continue –
General Secretary - Derek Roberts

Minutes Secretary -	Jacky Lee
Exhibition Secretary -	Richard Hatfield
Membership Secretary -	David Morris
Publicity Officer -	Bruce Duncan

New Vice President

Peter Moss proposed and David Morris seconded that Carol Butler be invited to become a Vice President of the Society. This was passed unanimously

Any Other Business

Floor. It was noted that John Ward, who spoke to the Society in 2000 had died recently.

Floor. It was asked if anything had been done to correct the loud speaker system at The Collection. Members of the audience in half the hall were unable to hear.

Peter Moss said the matter had been raised many times and the suggestion made that directional mikes be installed. The matter was still under debate.

Floor. Ian Walter, an auctioneer and new Friend wished to say how impressed he was with the exhibition, the book and the publicity leaflet. However, he felt the Society "hid it's light under a bushel" and should advertise more, particularly in the business world. The president thanked him for his comments and said he would be asked to help the Society with this work.

The President brought the meeting to a close, saying the Society should keep a high profile in the political and cultural life of Lincolnshire at this time.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm.