

Minutes of Tiverton Art Society's General Meeting held at St George's Hall on Wednesday 14th November, 2018

1 **Apologies for absence** was read out

2 **President's Address given by Heather Strong** - Heather spoke of another year in which TAS has had an excellent programme brought to the members by the hard work of the committee and splendid volunteers. Congratulations were voiced for the successful Spring Exhibition, the monthly meetings with some very interesting speakers, sketching days, a lovely sketching holiday in Cornwall, the painting group, workshops, pictures displayed in the local hospital and finally a one day exhibition and sale. Heather asked the members to join her in showing our appreciation for all the work and effort put into 2018 programme.

Heather expressed the sadness we all felt at the loss of Hazel-Ann, who was such a dynamic personality and whom had made such a significant contribution as Chairman to the society. Heather then spoke of our present Chairman Stuart of whom she praised for doing such a wonderful job and how lucky we were to have him. The members gave a round of applause thanking Stuart.

Heather gave special mention to Peter Radford, who unfortunately due to ill-health has had to stand down as Secretary, she spoke of Peter as an absolutely invaluable member for about eleven years, serving in that time as a committee member, Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary - all this in spite of not being an artist-Peter is still prepared to remain on the committee. She went on to wish Peter many, many thanks, expressed the opinion that she didn't know how we'd (TAS) would manage without him and finally wished him a speedy recovery.

Finally, Heather thanked all the many people who help out and how truly appreciated that help given is. She reminded the members that the committee members organise a high proportion of the programme offered to members to enjoy and learn from and that their numbers are dropping alarmingly. She requested that, even though we are all leading increasingly busy lives, people step forward and be prepared to play their part in the running of the society and ensure the society can keep running in the future. By spreading the load with more people there is obviously less work for all.

In closing Heather said that she believes the Society is thriving and wished that it may long continue to do so.

3 **Minutes of the last AGM** - Acceptance was proposed and seconded. Duly signed as a true record

4 **Matters arising from the Minutes** - None

5 **Chairman's Report given by Stuart Fowle** - Stuart began his report, with the first exhibition held at the new Castle Primary School he believes that all can agree that the venue was an improvement on the old school and he commented that he thought the exhibition looked very professional. He congratulated Sue Miles, the committee and members who's hard work and giving up of their time contributed to the professional look, running and success of the exhibition.-thank you.

Unfortunately, the school then gave us the new price structure for the hiring of the hall, which proved to be too expensive and reluctantly this meant that the Summer Exhibition had to be cancelled. Keith Bengel and Peter Radford then took on the responsibility to renegotiate a more reasonable future price for TAS exhibitions to be held at the school. The new price has now been agreed and so the work of holding the Spring Exhibition 2019 can now begin thanks to Keith and Peter's negotiating skills.

Stuart also expressed his sadness at the sudden passing away of Hazel-Anne and at the great loss to the society.

Also thanked, and appreciation given, were Wendy Valesto and Sue Searle for for their hard work in arranging such varied and excellent guest speakers and workshops.

Thanks were expressed to Richard and Virginia Holmes for organising the logistics of moving exhibition kit around, plus the display and sale of our Peter Wickham collection.

Jill Woodley, Phil Belsham and Sue Miles were thanked for organising and the running of the painting groups. The painting groups are an important part of the society.

Stuart was delighted to report that the Society's membership has increased and he thanked the very able Shirley Walton for her continued role in the administration of the membership.

Keith was thanked for his much appreciated support and experience that he brings to the committee.

Hilary Tosdevin continues to be a great support to Stuart and he wishes to thank her for accepting the role of Deputy Chairman.

The following non-committee members who help with the running of meetings and events were also thanked. Laure and Pat resident projectionists, Sandy and Gillian summer sketching days organisers, Les Tosdevin and Peter Woodyly maintaining and auditing our accounts. Sheila for organising annual TAS holiday.

Stuart ended his address by stating his great appreciation to Peter Radford not only for his energy and administration skills within committee but for his knowledge, commitment and sense of humour. He is missed by the committee and hopes he accepts the Society's gratitude for all that he has achieved.

2019 may be another challenging year and some changes have had to be made in how the Spring exhibition is run.

6 Treasurer's Report given by Les Tosdevin - The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending September 2018. - for the ninth year there is an operational surplus of £439. Peter Wickham bequest paid for a new projector costing £1000. The Spring Exhibition made a profit of £69. Painting Groups in profit due to, pay as you go, Heathcote gave us a discount at the end of the summer, we budget at full rate. Workshops overall in profit.

Peter Woodyly checked and signed off the accounts.

Les is happy to continue as Treasurer.

7 Election of Officers and members of the executive committee- the following officers were proposed and seconded, accepted by the meeting; Heather Strong President, Stuart Fowle as Chairman, Sue Miles as Exhibition Secretary, Shirley Walton as Membership Secretary. All committee members were happy to be reelected and stand for another year

8 Questions and Answers and General Discussion - members asked the date of the Spring Exhibition - 11th April (Thursday to Thursday). Pay as you go for weekly painting group meetings - Hilary thinks a good idea, flexible payment but more work for the person running the group. Monthly meetings sound quality-air conditioner too noisy. Keith said the PA was serviced and new speakers bought a few years ago. Volume controls on back of speakers but feed back can cause problems. Very expensive to buy new speakers, it would be better to improve the old system (existing). Those who are hard of hearing to reserve seats at the front. Wendy stated that all guest speakers should wear a microphone Heather agreed. Lindsay Wall congratulated committee on taking the difficult decision on holding one exhibition, the odd day selling in autumn and the open day in place of the

summer exhibition. Glory considered the Tiverton Hub had been successful for artist's selling work. Keith will ask Jill Mortimer who organised the last free show at the hub and who to contact plus details - hopefully for the summer.

There being no further business the meeting closed, to be followed by an art quiz, a bring-and-share supper, as well as the presentation of the Alan Rigby Award