

POOLE and EAST DORSET ART SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting
05 March 2023 @ 2.30pm
Holy Angels church hall, Lilliput Road

MINUTES

Chaired by Jacqui Gush

1. Welcome and Apologies Carole Gadsby, Sally Wimpres, Wendy Stanford, Dick Hewitson, Margaret Crofts, Valerie Taylor, June Knighton, Linda Knox, Gill Mullen. The meeting was easily quorate with 36 members attending.

2. Minutes of last year's meeting and matters arising

Minutes accepted as a true record of the meeting. We had two action points:

The online gallery – Point 8 AOB: *There are already thoughts of making the website gallery more a means of connecting artists with interested buyers, with no indication of costs or prices. Action: Trustees to review how the on-line Gallery should operate.* Members had been requested over the year to put forward some artwork to appear on the site, sending contact details and photos to Sally Holland however the uptake had been minimal and no sales had been secured. It's not possible to track visits to website page. Members were invited again to submit work. It was felt that the online gallery should include links within it to social media such as Instagram, Facebook.

ACTION: Trustees to review this issue again.

Archives – Point 8 AOB: *Action: The Chair to invite Pat Burnham to attend a Committee Meeting to talk about and help resolve outstanding issues with archives.* This point was actioned and will be discussed further under the umbrella of centenary celebrations.

The Annual Report for 2021 was sent to the Charity Commission – no response received
Proposed: Joy Gow, Seconded: David Roberts.

3. President's review

John Biggs gave his review of an interesting and busy year! The President and Patron roles are work in progress. He explained he sees his role as ambassadorial and has been building up relationships with the art community – e.g. BCP councillors, Bournemouth University and other art groups. JB suggested members may like to contact him with other opportunities that he could investigate.

JB acknowledged the hard work put in by the Trustees, Committee and GUS. At each AGM the club looks for a new Trustee/Trustees. John highlighted the benefits of such a role: being part of a close and supportive team of fellow artists, to influence what happens in the club, learn new skills and exercise the grey matter – and perhaps most importantly of all – giving something back to the group. Please contact JB for more information about the role and to put your name forward.

JB noted the exciting events lined up for 2023 – Equilibrium, the Poetry Exhibition run in collaboration with our artists, the summer pro-loco event and the Open Exhibition at UCP at the end of the year. He mentioned too the art tour to Antwerp and Brussels in the autumn and that there were some spaces left to be booked but this needed to be done within the next day or so. John highlighted the variety of what is on offer to members, the weekly and Sunday art sessions, en plein air, parties and quizzes. He expressed his gratitude to all that made these events happen.

The newsletter is outstanding for the variety of information that is included and this is reliant on members doing their bit in providing interesting articles/drawings etc. JB thanked Sally Holland for her work in collating the newsletter. He also thanked Sally and Steph Jones for projecting our group into the world of social media where our followers grow daily. In closing John thanked Jacqui Gush for all her hard work and leading the group so successfully as Chair.

Art Patron's review

Helen Talbot expressed what an honour it had been working with everyone over the last year and she now appreciated the hard work that goes into organising a group such as our own. Helen thanked members for embracing the Equilibrium project and hopes it will inspire and give food for thought and a chance to experiment and she is looking forward to a wonderful exhibition in May. Helen also advised she is still working and not a local resident so she is unable to join in with us as often as she would like. She thanked the group for welcoming her so warmly. Jacqui Gush thanked Helen for her motivated and active participation in our Society.

4. Trustees' Report from the Chair

JG did not read out her whole report as this had already been published on the website two weeks earlier. A summary and update was given to the meeting. This included a review of the year and plans for the future.

Jacqui Gush reported a very successful year with community engagements as one of the key features. With our ability to distribute information and publicity via social media to hundreds of people we are moving away from hard copy printing.

We have noted increased interest in our club with 76 visits from 35 new, non-members in the last year resulting in more new members. We are looking to try and capture how new members have heard about us whether via social media, word of mouth/other.

We held a very successful auction in the GATHER Space at Poole Dolphin Centre, to raise money for a local foodbank charity, Waste Not Want Not. Steph Jones and her husband were thanked for finding homes for artwork that remained unsold at the end of a very successful day. Members and partners who were involved were thanked for their hard work. £1,400 was raised. It was noted that social media had played a key part in attracting attention to this event. Another successful GATHER initiative held in February 2022 was a joint exhibition with Broadstone Art Society. At Dunshay Manor, as part of the Heritage weekend, an exhibition of artwork along with live painting demonstrations by Pam Marshall, Barry Kavanagh and Dawn Goodson was held. It raised our profile and the organisers were happy too and expressed their gratitude. Our art pro-loco this year is expected to be at Poole Park.

Art therapy sessions, part of Wellbeing courses run by Bournemouth Skills and Learning took place at UCP led by John Biggs, Dawn Goodson and Val Willetts. Gift Aid: As a charity we can benefit going forwards by asking members to sign for GiftAid. Also, due to our charity status, John was able to secure a significant amount of grant money, from Low Carbon Dorset, towards the cost of light replacements in the gallery.

It was noted that attendance at our regular Wednesday and Sunday sessions is very healthy with an average of 23 attendees rising to between 30 and 40 for certain events. JG thanked Pam and Carol for monitoring attendance at these events. Thanks also to David Roberts for organizing the Wednesday and en plein air sessions and Sally the Sunday sessions. David circulated a form for members to suggest venues for en-plein air.

JG thanked John Biggs and Helen Talbot in their new roles. JG expressed her gratitude to the working group looking at our Centenary planning and the GUS Committee – John, Barry, Liz, Joy and Steph, to Pam and Joy as Treasurers for both our group and GUS, to Susan in her admin role.

Both GUS and Poole & East Dorset Art Society accounts have to be merged going forwards for the report to the Charity Commission and we have received help from Peter Barber on this, therefore he cannot any longer represent us as an Independent Financial Advisor so a new IFA has been appointed – Karen Malik.

In respect of social events, we could do with a few more members taking part in our trips e.g. to London and holidays. We look forward to a good attendance at the quiz night on 30th May. We are looking to change our logo and will discuss this later in the agenda. In closing, JG thanked all the members for a great year in 2022.

5. Treasurer's Report to include Accounts from PEDAS and from GUS

Pam Marshall highlighted that the report on the website had been updated to now include information about Gift Aid. The report had been aggregated with GUS and prepared by Peter Barber, accountant. Due to fewer memberships in 2022 (85) we had a small dip in subscriptions. We paid out more in tutor payments and these costs have increased and along with venue hire we came out at -£1,000. This year we have 8 new members and the cost of membership has increased slightly by £5. We donated £1,408 to Waste Not Want Not following our art auction at GATHER. With relation to Gift Aid, the requirement of the Charity commission is that all income to our group charity has to be termed as 'donations'. The Gift Aid application is made to HMRC. The benefits are that your subs and income from meetings can be boosted by 25%. Members that are taxpayers can make a Gift Aid declaration, a simple form requiring name, address, tick in the box – then the Charity will receive 25% of your £35 annual subscription, so just over £8 per member. The extra income would help increase the number of professional demonstrations, subsidise trips to galleries etc. We have started the process off by applying for membership to the Gift Aid scheme and will add a Gift Aid declaration form to our membership paperwork as soon as we are recognised by HMRC. We now have an income of £28,000 so we have taken on a new independent reviewer as previously reported.

6. The Gallery Upstairs' Report

Liz reported 2022 had been another busy and successful year where we recovered from COVID. We had a full programme of 24 exhibitions, fewer people visiting initially due to shielding and not as many as in 2019. We had 11,700 people through the gallery in 2022, appx 250 per week. Sales were quite good. A wide range of exhibitors included Dorset Art Prize, a photographic group, textile groups, glass artists, individual artists etc. Liz confirmed she tries to visit them all. The Dorset Arts Prize booking was a bit disappointing. They had booked a week only to occupy the space for a weekend.

Going forwards, the gallery looks beautiful following redecoration. New chairs are being sourced. Visitors and exhibitors alike really appreciate the space and gallery although some issues around the noise from the tea rooms e.g. coffee machine. Interaction with UCP can be difficult on occasion. Signage continues to be an issue as is the "Range artwork" they put up in the café! GUS are in discussion about replacing with original artwork and information about The gallery exhibitions. The recent Doctors and Dentists exhibition raised £2,500 which sum they donated to Médecins Sans Frontières.

We have had fewer members entering artwork to exhibitions but we are expecting fuller participation at Equilibrium. Members can now enter 3 paintings, and 3 x3D pieces. Greetings cards need to all be at the same cost per artist and stewarding slots will have to be covered. As part of ongoing publicity at UCP, Steph has made up table signs to be placed on tables in the tea rooms. In closing JG reiterated her request for members to join the GUS Committee and be involved with everything that happens in the gallery.

A question arose re the Bird Project at UCP. JB responded that the project wasn't yet complete.

7. Committee changes

Under our Constitution, according to rules of the Charity Commission, one third of Trustees resign at each AGM. As longest standing Committee members, John Biggs and Sally Holland will stand down at this meeting and members will be invited to re-elect them as Trustees.

MOTION 1

Members agree to re-elect Committee Members, John Biggs and Sally Holland as Trustees.

Vote on the Motion

John Biggs and Sally Holland were unanimously re-elected as Trustees.

Officer appointments

The following positions remain unchanged:

Jacqui Gush has agreed to serve as Chair for another year.

Chair:	Jacqui Gush
Secretary:	Susan Huskinson
Treasurer:	Pam Marshall
Gallery coordinator:	John Biggs

The Gallery Upstairs Sub Committee to continue with:

Joy Gow, Barry Kavanagh, Liz Magee, Steph Jones with John Biggs as Gallery co-ordinator.

8. Resolutions and questions from Members

Matters for discussion or resolution raised by Members.

No questions were forthcoming.

9. Any other business

Carol Cox confirmed we have 73 members to date.

Jacqui acknowledged the sad loss of Penny Wilton, Linda Addison and Jeff Hill.

Close of AGM

Following tea

Open discussion Led by Jacqui Gush.

Change of logo - how we came to this and what ideas we have had so far. DR collected new logo examples from members and asked those present to review them and make a tick on the ones they liked.

JG reported that changing our name had been considered. However, it was strongly felt by the Chair and Committee that Poole & East Dorset Art Society should not change name - we have a legacy and history and have had for nearly 100 years. It was proposed we try, in future, to make less use of the acronym PEDAS in favour of the whole name, Poole and East Dorset Art Society. Hence a review of the logo. Pat Burnham is going to go back in the archives to check that we had had this name since 1924. JG thanked those that handed in their logo submissions and Members were invited to indicate their preference. DR reported that most ticks had been put against the existing logo albeit only the acronym. HT suggested taking the original logo and sharpening it up, taking away the curves and replacing with corners and replacing the acronym with the full name. DR will work on it.

Diana will ask her son for suggestions, he is a graphics student and has done some work on logos. HT and JG agreed it could be a live brief to BU art students if the subject fits their learning parameters.

AGREED: In principle to keep the name, use the full name in an effective brand new logo or sharpen the existing one with the full name. If we cannot come together to agree on one logo we may need to approach a professional for their advice.

Centenary celebrations and Archives -where we are now and discussion of any other ideas from Members.

JG confirmed that the small working party had added to their numbers with Susan Hawes who today kindly agreed to join it. It is made up of Pat Burnham, Carole Gadsby, John Biggs and herself.

JG referred to an initial draught with suggested events and schedule which can form the basis of our discussion. We will mark the centenary from May 2024 up to September/October 2025. We are seeking a venue in Bournemouth/Poole to seat 100 (members, partners, guests) for a celebratory lunch or dinner. Those present were asked to show by raising hands whether their preference was for lunch or dinner and the result was evenly split. We would like some dignitaries to be involved and a recognised artist to join the meal and give a talk. Celebrations could include an open day to include other local art groups joining in with us at an en plein air event. A Poole & East Dorset Art Society painting holiday is one suggestion, and if the GATHER space was still available in October this year during half term, an event inviting local schools to participate in an exhibition.

The big event in 2025 will be the legacy exhibition at Poole Museum. They have a collection of artworks including pieces by Augustus John and Henry Lamb which will help us tell the story of the club and show how it changed in the 1980's when John Bowen joined us. Archive materials such as early catalogues will form part of the display. Other artists to include Dennis Hill and current and eminent members. Members' paintings will be chosen by an independent curator and can also be shown at the exhibition in May 2024. Liz to check DAW's starting dates to see if we can make the May centenary exhibition part of DAW's.

AGREED: Following a discussion, it was agreed that the production of a small centenary booklet would be a legacy for the next 100 years to include a brief preface of the history of the group.

Archives

Pat Burnham described the numerous cardboard boxes and bags that arrived at her home. It took a week to unpack and view the contents and to make a decision on what people would want to look at in the future, including things that happened in the group that were of note. Pat kept the initial catalogues from 1924 to the 1960's which she said were fascinating. Mundane correspondence was disposed of. Pat had paperwork up to 2012 and Marissa had provided all the newsletters from 2008! John Biggs had information on meetings held from 2012 onwards. A decision had to be made as to what needed to be kept as hard copy and what information could be digitised. Help was at hand from Steve Smith, an archivist who is also going through the information. The archive now fits in one box covering 1924 to 2012 and some digital information can be included on our website. It was felt that Dorchester was too far away to house the archive. Any current enquiries about the archive should be directed to Pat Burnham. It may be that Trustees house the archive in turn.

Jacqui Gush thanked all those present for their participation, thoughts, ideas and views and looked forward to another successful year with Poole & East Dorset Art Society.