



## THE ARTS SOCIETY SEVERN VALLEY

### MINUTES OF THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2018 AT CHIPPING SODBURY TOWN HALL

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Patricia Arding, Felicity Brock, Geraldine Buchanan, Jenny Gilbert, Heather Harries, Barrie Lea, Lesley Wilson, Ann Lewis, Verity Pickard, Sue Rawlings, Siân Rogers

#### **2 Approval of the Minutes of the Last AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated. Sue Joyce proposed, and Lilian Brown seconded, that the minutes be adopted as a fair representation of that meeting. This was agreed by a show of hands and the Chairman signed them.

#### **3 Chairman's Report**

Mariette Farrell's report is attached.

#### **4 Treasurer's Report**

Anne Colbourne's report is attached.

Clementine Smith proposed, and Christine Adams seconded, that the annual accounts for the year ending 30 April 2018 should be adopted. The proposal was carried unanimously.

#### **5 Appointment of Independent Examiners**

Linda Griffith proposed, and Margaret Jones seconded, that Barry Gilbert should be appointed for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

#### **6 Election of Officers and Committee for the Forthcoming Year**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee had nominated its officers.

At this point Mariette handed over to our Vice President, Sally Kitching, to conduct the election of the Chairman.

Sally said that the nomination for Chairman was Mariette Farrell, nominated by Elizabeth Miller and seconded by Sally Rose. Sue Joyce proposed, and Margaret Maple seconded, the proposal, and all agreed. Mariette was duly elected.

Sally then passed the chairing of the meeting back to Mariette to elect the remaining officers.

The nominations were:

Vice Chair – Linda Griffith, nominated by Barbara Hooker and seconded by Gloria Isaac

Honorary Secretary – Sarah Fernandes, nominated by Lesley Wilson and seconded by Barrie Lea

Honorary Treasurer – Anne Colbourne, nominated by Marian Wills and seconded by

Margaret Jones.

These were duly elected.

Mariette said that nominations for re-election had been received for all members of the current Committee: Helen Cooper, Val Dixon, Kate Ellis, Martin Farrell, Margaret Jones, Barbara Mitchard, Siân Rogers, Clementine Smith and Judy Brason. A further two nominations had been received for Irene Miller and Oliver Simmonds. Mariette said that this brought the number up to 15, which is permitted by the constitution, so no ballot was required. She asked for a show of hands for approval, all agreed.

## **7 Questions from the Floor**

Mariette asked if there were any questions from the floor. Lilian Brown said that she wanted her thanks to Mariette to be recorded for the excellent work that Mariette did at every meeting.

Val Hurston-Gardner asked that the Committee stand up so that she could identify them, the Committee did this, and Mariette named them; unfortunately the two new members were not there. Val also congratulated Barbara Mitchard and her team for their Church Recording work, as she had been to West Littleton Church and seen details of what they were doing displayed in the porch. This was the first time she had ever seen that. Martin Farrell thanked the Town Hall Manager and staff for all their sterling work.

## **8 Date of the next AGM**

Mariette announced that the date of the 38<sup>th</sup> AGM would be on Monday 24th June 2019. She then declared the AGM closed.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's report is a romp through what has happened in Severn Valley over the last 12 months. I'll start with our three Volunteering Arms.

- ◆ Our Trusty Team of eleven Church Recorders is completing writing the record of the church at North Nibley, continues work at Ozleworth and has embarked on its new project at West Littleton.
- ◆ Our Heritage Volunteers are completing conservation and restoration work on the cushions at Newark Park.
- ◆ Regarding our Young Arts, I hope you will all have seen (and admired) the LED and concrete pebbles Emily Ketteringham was able to complete with our sponsorship. We have also enabled a young singer to continue her training for a career in music.

Many thanks to Barbara Mitchard, Siân Rogers and Linda Griffith respectively.

I think our Committee has offered us nine interesting lectures on many different aspects of the Arts this Season, complemented by Val Dixon's three DoSIs, on

- ◆ *The Seine, River of Light, Home to Impressionism*
- ◆ *The Treasures of Far Cathay* and
- ◆ *Three Andalusian Cities, Cordoba, Seville and Granada*

Many thanks to you, Val.

Where would we be without Margaret Jones's visits? We started with Gloucester Cathedral and continued with an "at leisure" visit to the V&A, then a visit to some Oxford Museums, back to London for the Ocean Liners exhibition, off to Dresden for a cultural tour and will end up at Wightwick Manor later this month. Never a dull moment. Thank you, Margaret.

- ◆ Sarah Fernandes has dutifully recorded our Committee meetings and Anne Colbourne has ensured our finances remain viable.
- ◆ Helen Cooper, aided and abetted by Ian, her husband, has managed our Membership and Guest Bookings and Judy Brason has worked assiduously to find and manage a lovely evening out for us, at the live viewing of *Swan Lake*. Unfortunately, it didn't work out entirely as expected but we are not deterred and will have another go.
- ◆ Clementine Smith has manned our What's On Table and Martin has looked after our Publicity and Marketing.

Another jewel in our crown this Season has been the Arts and Crafts Exhibition in April. This was organised to celebrate The Golden Jubilee of The Arts Society and left many of us speechless with admiration. I am sure I speak for us all when I offer our heartfelt thanks to contributors and curators, Kate and Siân, alike. Kate will soon begin work on our annual magazine which will be mailed to members in September.

We have two unsung heroes in Ian Cooper, our projectionist, and Maurice Maple, our web master, proof-reader, programme card-preparer and anything else I dare push his way. Ian, Maurice and Martin have all contributed to Severn Valley's GDPR policy. I also wish to acknowledge Barry Gilbert's contribution; he is our Auditor and Anne will speak of him soon. They are all highly-valued members of our Team.

It would be impossible to over-emphasise how much I have enjoyed working with and for the really exceptional team just mentioned. Their commitment and good humour have been a huge encouragement and a complete joy.

I have to say that we also highly value our members and take great pleasure in their pleasure at what we offer them. Many have brought friends and relatives as members and guests without which we could not survive as a Society. So thanks to them too.

In conclusion, I think we are very fortunate, not only because we have a successful season to look back on, but also because we have another interesting season coming our way in September.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Firstly, I would like to thank Barry Gilbert for acting as the Independent Examiner for the Society's accounts and for his helpful advice. He has agreed to continue in the role for another year but says that this will be his last, so if anyone would like to take on the role, please let me know.

Looking at the Income & Expenditure, Severn Valley ended the year with a deficit of £579. This was not unexpected as we had budgeted for several increases in costs and had duly raised subscriptions last year. However, the deficit is largely due to the cost of a new projector costing

£1,178. We are pleased to report that membership has increased and visits continue to be fully booked. Record numbers attended our last Day of Special Interest.

The gift aid administrative fee shows another small increase. Severn Valley only receives back £1 per person from The Art Society head office and, I know that I have said this before, but I feel that it is an important thing to do as the remaining money collected from HMRC is put into the Patricia Fay Memorial Fund and used exclusively for grants for art projects. Therefore, I urge you, if have not already done so, to gift aid if possible.

On the expenditure side, the cost of lecturers' fees and their travel have risen by 7.8% and as reported last year we expected the increase in costs for the hall & catering. The printing cost for the magazine remained stable. The re-branding grant covered our cost for new Art Society badges,. However, it is the administrative costs which include stamps & stationery which show a substantial rise. The new members' lunch was again popular. Our subscription to the Art Fund is a charitable donation but it does provide 2 Art Fund passes for members to borrow, enabling them to have a reduction on entry to museums & galleries. Please contact Margaret Jones if you would like to borrow them.

It should be borne in mind that The Arts Society affiliation fees account for just under a third of expenditure. However, members receive the quarterly magazine and very importantly The Arts Society Head Office provides many services to local societies such as insurance, Annual Directory of accredited lecturers and organises an annual meeting where programme secretaries can meet lecturers.

Funds have been set aside for the work of Church Recorders and Young Arts which require intermittent funding (see notes). Church Recorders have just started work on West Littleton Church. Young Arts has supported UWE student, Emily Ketteringham, who came to our lecture in January to display her concrete pebbles and explain their development and a Choral Scholar has been funded to work with the Bristol Choral Society. We have not set aside further funds for Heritage Volunteers who although very active have not drawn on funds and until they do so, we will not set aside additional funding.

Therefore, having looked at the budget for coming year, the Committee have decided not to increase subscriptions for the coming year 2018-19. It must be remembered that many of our costs are fixed so that much depends on the renewal of subscriptions and the extent to which costs can absorbed to enable the Society to retain the current subscription level in future years.

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....