

**THE ARTS SOCIETY**  
**SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Minutes of the Area Meeting at  
The Grouse and Claret Restaurant, Kinross.  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- 1 **Welcome:**  
The Area Chairman, Sue Osborne opened the meeting by welcoming members from 11 societies. She extended a very warm welcome to our guest Arts Society Trustee, Julie Goldsmith, Chairman designate of The Arts Society.
- 2 **Apologies:** John Fleming, Penny Johnston, Brian and Margaret Whitten and Helen Han.
- 3 **Approval of the Minutes of the Area Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017**  
Approval was proposed by Jennifer Harding Edgar and seconded by Angela Taylor.
- 4 **Matters arising from the Minutes:**  
There were no matters arising.
- 5 **Area Chairman's Report:**  
This had been previously circulated but the Area Chairman had the following to add:
- Thank you all for your reports which make for interesting and positive reading.  
It is particularly encouraging to learn of all your initiatives and the links you have made with other like-minded organisations along with the generous grants and donations that you are able to give. Your Jubilee plans are now firmly in place and this is a great opportunity to gain publicity for The Arts Society.
  - The common thread of concerns which runs through your reports are about membership numbers and recruiting new committee members. I am also aware that some members are feeling that too much emanates from the London office and individual societies feel they are in danger of losing their autonomy and being swamped by London directives. Maybe some reassurance is needed.
  - The Arts Society recognises that the whole organisation depends on its members and unpaid volunteers. They are aware that they must not overload those whose time and enthusiasm go into running societies and Areas. However, we have to recognise that we are a charity and an internationally acknowledged arts organisation and that does carry certain obligations. We must adhere to a good code of practise and ensure that things are carried out in a certain way. Hence the missives from London.
  - Each society's autonomy is important and they should not feel threatened. Later on, we will be having short group discussions, answering different questions. The results will be passed on to

ensure that The Arts Society is moving in the right direction with the support and input of its members.

- Recently I attended the Annual directory meeting in London. This is a strong reminder of the high quality of lecturers available for our society lectures. It was encouraging to hear a number of new young lecturers.
- It has been agreed that we should start working towards making Edinburgh a *hub for Training*. This would enable more training in all aspects of running societies and could take place in Scotland rather than in London where it is appropriate.
- The new Banners are here for collection and I hope you will all be able to use them as much as possible at any venue where you are present. A Volunteer banner is also to be made.
- We say goodbye to three society Chairman today. Caroline Donegall from the Borders, Gayle Sinclair from Fife and Margaret Whitten from Tayside. Thank you for all your time, enthusiasm and hard work. You have achieved much and I am grateful to you all. We welcome Charmian Findlay, Cynthia Robb and Clare Paton and wish them well in their new roles.
- I would like to thank my Area team as well for all their support and initiatives.
- I am delighted to be able to tell you that Jen McDowell has won a Marsh Award for her Heritage Volunteer work in the Edinburgh society; many congratulations go to her. I am also delighted that Kate Nightingale from Fife has been selected to attend the Holyrood Garden Party in recognition of her work with Church Recorders.
- Finally, we must say 'goodbye' to Tony Strachan and a huge thank you for all his work as Treasurer and Webmaster. His reassuring manner, courtesy and knowledge will be much missed and I hope he will accept this small gift from us.

## **6. Julie Goldsmith: The Arts Society Trustee and Chairman designate.**

Julie began by saying how energised she felt by reading all the reports and considered Scotland and Northern Ireland to be in safe hands. She thanked everyone for their time, energy and commitment towards making this a vibrant area. Julie reminded us that the new General Data Protection Regulation comes into law in May. This must be taken very seriously and will impact every part of The Arts Society; Headquarters, Areas and Societies. Although the GDPR will have the same fundamental objectives as the existing Data Protection Act, there will be major changes.

- The definition of what constitutes personal data will be wider. The fines for non-compliance increases up to 4% of the relevant entity's turnover. Non-compliance will severely damage reputations and compromise member's trust. Positive consent is of great importance.
- Whilst you do not need to register with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) nor do you need to appoint someone as the Data Protection Officer, it is recommended that a member of your committee is charged with keeping up to speed with GDPR.

- Nothing needs to be done around using your member's data i.e. for emailing dates of events etc. but it must not be sold or misused in a way that a member did not sign up to.
- Member's personal data should only be kept for as long as necessary. Your society should develop a policy for a retention period. Keeping it forever will be deemed noncompliance. HQ will be producing a template to help you develop your own bespoke policy.
- Head Office will be producing some guidance to help you through this aspect of requirements. We recommend that each society completes an inventory of the personal data it holds and where it is kept. You must give some thought to how long you intend to hold it and why.
- Under GDPR members will have the right to opt out or 'be forgotten'. You must ensure that you have a policy that covers any requests you might receive.
- Give some thought to how you will use the personal data you hold. Because of the contractual nature of becoming a member of The Art Society, it is not necessary to obtain separate positive consent to hold personal data. However, it is strongly recommended that societies do obtain positive consent from them.
- The March newsletter has a link to templates for Membership application and renewal with appropriate wording.
- If you have any questions about this subject, **DO NOT** contact the ICO as wrongly phrased questions might attract unwelcome scrutiny. Instead contact Tim Nicholls, *Finance & Resources Director* at Guildford Street. You may find the ICO document "Preparing for GDPR: 12 steps to take now" useful.

A question was asked about whether everything on GDPR had to be done by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Julie has answered this following the meeting with the following: Tim Nicholls advises that because HM Government has not got its house in order, there is less urgency than previously thought. However, it would seem sensible to do it sooner rather than later.

### **Grants:**

The grants committee of the Trustees has been considering its strategic Funding Framework for 2018-2021. They have identified five areas of giving that are in accordance with our charitable objectives and meet specific needs in the arts and heritage sector. With limited resources we decided to ask our voting members where they considered we should prioritise our funding. We asked them to consider five areas we favoured of which three would distribute grants from the Patricia Fay Memorial Fund.

It must be pointed out that in future, if a local society applies for a grant from this fund, applications will have to be in one of the three areas chosen by the voting membership. Societies have complete autonomy to award grants within their own society as they wish to do.

If societies wish to reduce reserves of their own money, they can loan it to the Patricia Fay Memorial Fund. This is only a loan, repayable on request.

## **Questions and Answers:**

Some questions were asked in advance of the meeting. It is hoped that the detailed finance ones about the 2016 accounts have been answered satisfactorily already.

### **Affiliation Fee:**

This is renewed annually by the Trustee Board. Any increases are in line with inflation or below. In 2015/16 the fee was frozen and has now been increased by 40p to £12.60. This pays for the resources provided by 17 staff and volunteers based in Guilford Street who support the societies. It funds governance costs; the AGM, our quarterly magazine, our volunteering activity, the Lecturers Directory and the Directory Day. Without advertising in the magazine and commission for our tours, the affiliation fee would have to increase to £17.80. This fee also gives every member and society insurance cover.

### **Widening the appeal of The Arts Society:**

We did not get the significant publicity from our change of name that was expected or which we hoped would raise awareness and attract new blood. However, we did get some coverage and continue to seek to identify how to increase our presence. This year we are the headline sponsor for 'Rhythm and Reaction' at 2 Temple Place, London. Up to 50,000 visitors are expected, many of whom will not have heard of The Art Society. We hope to attract media interest in our Jubilee celebration at Westminster Abbey in May and we also have a lecture programme running during the Great Exhibition of the North.

We have appointed a Membership Communications specialist to work on the magazine and our increased digital presence. But awareness of us and our activities will take time.

The meeting was then split into four groups each with a different question. Below is a summary of key points identified by each group; these will be taken back to Guilford House for analysis.

#### **Group A – Our strengths**

- Superb quality & range of lecturers
- Social interaction enhancing one's well being
- Affordability & non-elitist
- Access to behind the scenes tours
- Volunteering – learning new skills & giving back to Society
- Professionalism of Guilford St

#### **Group B – Our challenges & weaknesses**

- Strengthening communication & support from Guilford St
- Raising our profile
- Finding volunteers
- Website
- Feedback & support on lecturers
- Changing of personnel at Guilford St
- Lack of notice of events particularly training

#### **Group C – Future opportunities**

- Diversify – Theatre, music, dance, literature
- Partnerships with other organisations (musical groups, volunteers)
- Digital membership for all podcast recordings
- Venues where volunteers work

#### Group D – Threats to our future success

- Modernise communication – social media etc.
- Lack of profile
- Lack of energy/volunteers/time /commitment
- Competing organisations
- Age demographic
- Cash rich – time poor members

### **7. Area Treasurer and Technical Advisor's report:**

- The Treasurer's report had been circulated.
- Finances are in good shape thanks to the success of Area events.
- Thank you for prompt payment of the affiliation fee which still stands at 80p per member.
- Our reserves are now in line with policy.
- New banners and visiting cards for the Area committee are ready to be taken away.
- IT: Do keep back-ups of your Society records and passwords and take the new and penal legislation (GDPR) coming into force in May, very seriously.
- This is my final report as Treasurer and Webmaster. Thank you for your support during the last 4 years. I have enjoyed my role with The Arts Society very much and I wish my successor, John Fleming, every good wish.

## 8. Society Reports:

These had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Society extra comments included:

- **Ayrshire:** Has made a big effort to involve members in the society and feels there is a more positive atmosphere at the lectures.
- **Bearsden & Milngavie:** Have decided not to make an award to the Koestler Trust because of the concern of being overwhelmed by numbers. The Area Chairman said she had very much enjoyed being with them for their Jubilee celebrations.
- **Borders:** The 43 new members have now gone up to 44. Free guest passes may have helped with this. The Committee have decided to go ahead with changing their name to The Art Society Borders.
- **Edinburgh:** The Golden Jubilee Lecture will take place in September. Dr. James Lawson will give the lecture 'Listening to art.' It will be free and open to all.
- **Fife:** have a new Chairman and 3 new members and will also adopt the new name.
- **Grampian:** Have a new secretary and will also be changing their name for the 2018/9 session.
- **Highland:** No committee member attended.
- **Lomond & Argyll:** Had a very successful trip to Madrid. They are looking forward to their Jubilee day in May.
- **Northern Ireland:** Are pleased to have found a new techie man but have still to identify a possible new Chairman.
- **Speyside:** Has Co-Treasurers for books and accounting and hopefully a new Programme secretary; this is currently being done by the chairman.
- **South West Scotland:** The Jubilee arrangements are going well and Bertie Pearce is to be their lecturer. A new Chairman has been found.
- **Stirling & Forth Valley:** Due to snow in February, the lecturer Leslie Primo arrived very late. They are still struggling for new members for the Committee.
- **Tayside:** Have 2 new members for their committee. Their Jubilee celebrations are being held at Broomhill House, the home of the Earl of Elgin.

## 9. Reports previously circulated

- **Area Trainer:** There are to be two Training days and a 'Confident Speaking' day in April. Mel is doing a course on Programme secretary days.
- **Area Co-ordinator for Education (ACE):**

### **Monday April 16th 11am/ 4pm Visit to The Scottish Parliament**

One hundred years ago this year legislation was passed allowing women with property over the age of thirty to vote and women to be elected to parliament. The first female MP was elected that year. Our visit to the Scottish Parliament celebrates these momentous anniversaries. Fiona McDougall, Art Curator and Events Manager and the Events Team have created a unique day for The Arts Society. The day will start at 11am. Coffee will be served and members and their guests will be divided into groups for one of four tours, with Fiona McDougall and the Scottish Parliament Guides. The Art Tour, The Literature Tour (including Queensberry House), The Architecture Tour, The Curator's Tour.

Lunch with a glass of prosecco will be served in the stunning Members Room with views over The Queen's Park and there will be another tour for each group after. The day will finish at 4pm

### **Tuesday June 5th 6pm Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, National Gallery of Scotland Andrew Graham Dixon Explores the Later Life and Times of Caravaggio**

Andrew Graham Dixon will give the second lecture in his Caravaggio series "*The Later Life and Times of Caravaggio*" The National Gallery have generously allowed us to use the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre.

### **Wednesday August 8th 11am White Stuff, George Street, Edinburgh (formerly Greys of George St)**

Private View of this year's Summer Show at The Festival Fringe by kind invitation of Craft Scotland. This event Comprises a selling exhibition of the work of 39 makers, chosen from 90 applicants. There will be an introduction from one of the Craft Scotland Executives, coffee and cake and visitors will have an opportunity to browse the stalls speak to the makers and purchase items.

### **22nd /23rd September.**

This weekend has been earmarked for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations for The Arts Society I have arranged events for either side of the weekend.

### **Friday 21st September**

I am putting together "**The Arts Society Team Gold**" will take part in Maggie's Culture Crawl in Edinburgh. This is not a fundraising Area Event but instead a collaboration and profile-raising exercise.

I think that Maggie's is a cause close to many of our hearts. I have volunteered at the Edinburgh Culture Crawl for the last few years and it is always fun and there are usually some Arts Society members taking part. This is the extract from their website

Register now and secure your place for an evening of fun, food and culture. Venues, entertainment and food and drink will be released in due course but don't miss your opportunity to walk with your friends for another fantastic evening, all in aid of Maggie's Edinburgh.

The 2017 event saw over 450 walkers join us for a behind-the-scenes experience of some of Edinburgh's most iconic landmarks. Starting with a

curry at George Heriot's School our Culture Crawlers set out on a tour across Edinburgh that took in 10 iconic buildings over a 10km route. From Edinburgh Central Mosque to Dynamic Earth and Old St Paul's Church our participants enjoyed an evening of culture, cracking cookery and craft beers thanks to our generous sponsors and venues – all to raise money to help us help everyone with cancer.

The 2018 event is set to be bigger and better than ever and with plans well underway this is your chance to snap up your entry early and secure your place at our early bird rate.

It costs £20 per person to register and we are each asked to try and raise £100 sponsorship. If you would like to join us please email me and I will make the arrangements. There are similar events in Aberdeen on 21st June and in Glasgow on 28th September.

### **Monday 24th September**

Andrew Graham-Dixon will give his lecture “*Reflections on Rembrandt*” followed by a Private View of The National Galleries of Scotland’s Summer Blockbuster exhibition “Rembrandt - Britain’s Discovery of the Master”. The Dutch Golden Age’s greatest painter for our Golden Jubilee! This year the lecture will be in the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre.

**October 19th. 11am-12.30** Elements will take place from **19 – 21 October 2018** and will More Gold when we return to The Incorporation of Goldsmith’s Elements: A Festival of Jewellery, Silver & Gold. This will take place from **19 – 21 October 2018** and will bring the finest UK-based designer-makers together for a selling fair, an exhibition, and a series of events. The Arts Society has been allocated the first Private View and there will be coffee and cakes and a talk from **Elements** will be held in the stunning Lyon & Turnbull auction rooms in Broughton Street, Edinburgh.

### **November 21st The V & A Dundee.**

As you know I have been in talks with the V & A Dundee; the eagerly anticipated opening of Kengo Kuma’s magnificent building on the banks of the Tay is on the 15th September but they are not accepting requests for tours and hires until January 2019. However, in celebration of NADFAS/ The Arts Society’s close connection with the V & A since our foundation, our contributions to Scotland’s Museums and Galleries during this time and our Golden Jubilee the promised “Statement Event” for The Arts Society will take place on the **21st of November**. There will be an introductory lecture, lunch and tours of the “Liners” Exhibition and the Scottish Galleries.

Booking forms will be on the website and the usual booking arrangements will apply.

**10. Area Volunteer Reports:** All reports had been previously circulated.

- **Church Recorders North & South:** No CRAR present.
- **Heritage Volunteers and Partnerships Representative:** Olivia is planning 2 Training days but no dates have been agreed yet. She congratulated Jen McDowell on her award. Attention was drawn to the new HV aprons. There will be a Co-ordinators meeting in Helensburgh in June with lunch in the Macintosh room at Hill House.
- **Young Arts:** Sarah asked the Chairman to remind their young Arts representatives to fill in the online form whenever a project is completed. Denise Topolski has volunteered to come to Scotland for a Young Arts training day.  
**Children's/Church Trails:** This is now to include 'Trails of Discovery' which includes historic sights, a dementia trail is also being explored.

**11. Election of Area Committee:**

- Sue Osborne as Chairman – proposed by Fiona Campbell, seconded by Liz Mitchell.
- Fiona Campbell as Vice Chairman – proposed by Olivia Birch, seconded by Anne mason Brown.
- John Fleming as Treasurer – proposed by Tony Strachan, seconded by Fiona Campbell.
- Virginia Cardwell Moore as Secretary – proposed by Jen McDowell, seconded by Jeanette Scobie.
- Melanie Houldsworth as Trainer – proposed by Nicky Torbut, seconded by Liz Mitchell.
- Jennifer Harding Edgar as ACE – proposed by Olivia Birch, seconded by Mel Houldsworth
- The Committee – proposed by Rupert MacHenry, seconded by Nicky Torbut.

**12. AOB:** It has been proposed that the October meeting will take place at the New Club in Edinburgh. The Vice Chairman thanked the Chairman for all her hard work during the year.

Sue Osborne, Area Chairman, thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 3.00 pm

**Dates of next Area meeting at the New Club, Edinburgh**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Programme Planner's Forum**

**at the Grouse and Claret, Kinross**

Thursday 30th August 2018