



NORFOLK AND NORWICH ART CIRCLE

**Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Saturday 26th March 2022 at The Scout Hall,
Lodge Lane, Sprowston, Norwich NR6 7HL**

Hazel Pidsley took the Chair.

There were 20 members present.

Apologies were received from 8 members

The minutes of the last AGM 2019 were made available in hard copy, were approved by the meeting and signed.
Proposed by Hazel Pidsley Seconded by Ruth Mann

Matters arising from the minutes - none were raised.

Treasurer's report. Issy Coe reported

Issy reported an interesting year, due to pandemic. Issy wanted to give praise and thanks to Jan Motley who was so helpful and committed to ensuring a successful handover in such challenging circumstances. For 6 months Issy and Jan worked very closely together to ensure an informed handover in all the problems the pandemic delivered us. Issy explained that whilst the pandemic challenged us financially for a while we are securely back on track, as our end of year accounts show. Issy included 3 years of accounts in her report to illustrate the pathway through the pandemic for us.

The Annual Audit had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair moved to adopt the Annual Audit which was approved by a show of hands.

Proposed by Sue Willmer Seconded Malcolm Cudmore

Chairman's report (verbatim)

We experienced another set of challenges over the past year, with rules changing at different times and the threats of the lethal delta variant and then the omicron variant of Covid, which threatened but was fortunately not as deadly to as many people. This made it quite difficult with planning and what we could and could not do for you, our members. I would like to start by thanking all our Council members and honorary officers for their dedication and commitment over the past year ensuring that we could be as inclusive as possible. Throughout the year there has been positivity and a willingness to explore new ways to give as full a programme as possible. We continued to have monthly meetings via telephone conferencing, and I would like to thank Geoff Kitchen, who had to listen and take minutes at the same time. Thank you, Geoff from all of us. We had a monthly programme of zoom demonstrations, which helped members to stay in contact. Not everyone was able or wanted to use zoom, but it was the best alternative we could provide at the time. We held a selected virtual exhibition on our website. In July we held the 2nd Munnings exhibition at Dedham, Essex, and it was good that rules had been slightly relaxed and we did see a number of members in person. Sadly, footfall was low, but those who attended commented on the standard of the work on display. On the last Saturday Graham Webber gave a live demonstration of an oil painting which was attended by members and visitors to the museum, and was appreciated. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and building works being carried out, Council took the decision to cancel the proposed exhibition at St. Margaret's Church, Norwich in November 2021. Issy Coe, honorary treasurer, has been very busy keeping the accounts straight, as well as accepting all the art submissions for the virtual exhibition and getting the voting system sorted for Council. Thank you Issy. We continue to work in partnership with Jenny Hand at Munnings Museum, to promote our joint association with Sir Alfred Munnings RA. Council agree that this is very important and have agreed to progress this relationship even further. I am pleased to say that the Life Group and Social Gatherings, have been able to resume and members and guests have enjoyed the meeting together again. My sincere thanks to John and Jane Blatchford and Clive for organising these. I would like to thank all my colleagues on Council who have been dedicated to supporting NNAC and its members and for giving me so much support. I would like to

thank John Blatchford, Caroline and Richard Clarke and Malcolm Cudmore for their dedicated support to Council over the past three years as they leave Council. John and Jane will be stepping down from running Life Class, and I thank them for the work they have done in sustaining the group so it could carry on. Sara Edwards and Malcolm Cudmore have agreed to take over the baton. Thank you to them I wish all the retiring Council members all the best, and we will still continue to see them as members. We have been working slightly differently as Council with working groups, who look at certain aspects and report back to Council for a decision. I would like to thank: Malcolm Cudmore, Sara Edwards, Ken Hurst and Rosanne Ridler, for reviewing our selection criteria for exhibited work; Ken Hurst who has produced a paper about publicising our events and news. Sue Willmer and Issy Coe who have worked with me on current and future exhibitions. When I was elected chairman, I agreed to meet up with Clive, our President over, a cup of coffee, so he could appraise me of NNAC. Sadly, we never had that coffee, and now he has come to the end of his Presidency. Clive has done so much to support NNAC over his three years of stewardship and thanks go to him for all his enthusiasm. He will now become a Vice President and we wish him well in that role. As we look to the future, we have much planned and I am looking forward to working with our newly elected Council members, and hope they will enjoy working with us for the benefit of all of you.

Hazel Pidsley

Election of President, Vice-chairman, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary, Webmaster, Archivist

The following were elected unopposed:-

President	Malcolm Cudmore
Vice-Chairman	Ken Hurst
Hon Treasurer	Issy Coe
Hon Secretary	Geoff Kitchen
Webmaster	Ruth Mann
Archivist	Richard Motley

Nomination and election of Council members

Council members-

Sue Willmer
Sara Edwards
Shirley Easton
Rosanne Ridler
Jan Motley

New Council members

Michelle Watson Proposed Issy Coe Seconded Shirley Easton
Christine Drane Proposed Hazel Pidsley Seconded Issy Coe
Paul Zawadzki Proposed Hazel Pidsley Seconded Alison Murriner
Richard Motley Proposed Sue Willmer Seconded Jan Motley

A word from our departing President (Clive Brookes)

Clive wanted to thank everyone, especially our Chairman and Council who have worked so creatively and hard to keep the Circle going. Clive is aware many groups have folded during the pandemic, so keeping things going and taking us into new territory with the use of the World Wide Web, Zoom demos, bulk emails to over 200 members with Mailchimp etc. has to be recognised. Clive mentioned the passing of several members over the year, special mention for Joan Banger who was key in introducing Clive to the NNAC. Joan had a link with the Norwich University of the Arts, NUA, which has now resumed with Paul Zawadzki's MA studies at the NUA at the moment. Clive is so pleased that we are back in person and to more normal times. Clive thanked everyone who contacted him during a personal loss in his family. Everyone's thoughts and messages meant a lot to him in a grieving time. Clive pleaded with those present to challenge themselves, to move on with their work and to reflect on the deep meaning of what is created. Clive ended with a quote from a song by Peter Cook and Dudley

Moore “ **Now is the time to say Goodbye (Goodbye), Now is the time to yield a sigh (yield it, yield it) Now is the time to wend our way-ee , Until we meet again, some sunny day !”**

A.O.B.

Presentation to Mary Almey Hazel presented a gift and awarded Life Membership after 40 years as a member. Mary was present and thanked everyone and endorsed the wonderful part the NNAC and its members played in her creative journey over these years and hopefully future years.

Subscriptions from 2023/24

Proposal for the year beginning March 2023 to have a single membership of £25 for the year per member, and the closing of dual membership. Proposed by Hazel Pidsley Seconded by Issy Coe. This was voted on and overwhelmingly agreed.

Social Gatherings

Clive wished to mention the popularity of the gatherings. During lockdown the original venue closed and it was refurbished and this resulted in a less desirable venue for our purposes. The group had to move on and eventually settled on the White Horse at Trowse, on the edge of Norwich, accessible to all. It has proved welcoming and acceptable. We do have to pay for this venue to use a room exclusively; the cost is £30 and is shared by those attending. Clive reported 10 to 12 people are joining him each month. Recently Howard Temperley read some of his poetry and donated a book of his poetry to the NNAC archive.

Thanks and appreciation were given to John Blatchford, Caroline and Richard Clarke as they leave the Council.

There being no other business, Hazel thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 2.45pm