



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY
5th FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

1. Apologies for Absence

One apology was received from a new member, Bridget Harnett. 31 members were in attendance

2. Minutes of last year's AGM

Accepted as read

3. Matters Arising - Peter Tuitt

The effects of COVID-19 on the society meant that we were forced to adjust quickly to the restrictions imposed onto us. Since March 2020 we have not been able to use our Studio on a Friday evening. We had to cancel the 2020 programme including all demos, workshops, and exhibitions etc. I have viewed the studio to carry out a risk assessment along with the Adult Learning Centre, we agreed that it was not safe for us to return until such time when the government can lift the COVID-19 restrictions. The date of which is still unknown.

4. Chairman's Report - Peter Tuitt

I am sorry that I am starting this report with the sad news of 3 of our much-loved members who have passed away, Brian Richardson, Alan Milne and Valerie Brooks all who will be sadly missed by their friends at the society.

On a lighter note, although we are not through the crisis, we are planning a positive approach to 2021, We are hoping for a speedy end to this pandemic and returning to a more predictable safe ordinary life, I did not think that I would ever wish for an ordinary life.

Hopefully most of you have now viewed the FCSA new website and seen all the hard work and effort that Olga our new webmaster has put into it, which has made it possible to have the Online Exhibitions & Zoom demos. The webmaster also works closely with our Newsletter Editor Carole Head, which gives us a team that all work together keeping members all informed of events etc. The Online exhibition gave us a great opportunity to showcase our art work to a wider audience, it attracted 1100 visits plus 300 visits to the Christmas Exhibition. I understand that 7 paintings were sold and two of them went to Devon.

We hope to build on the success of last year's online exhibitions with more planned for the coming year. The first one will run from the 01/03/21 until 01/05/21, the submissions deadline to Olga will need to be in by 15/02/21. At present I do not know if the Surrey Heath Show will go ahead this year. I have already booked High Cross Church for the 15th 16th and 17th July 2021 in the hope that the main event of our year, the Annual Exhibition can be held again this year.

We can only look on the bright side and plan that things will improve and events will happen.

Because we were unable to have our booked demos at the studio, we managed to review this and arranged four successful Zoom Demos, which was free to all FCSA members. All the artists that we have booked to do demos for the coming year, can do both face to face in the studio or Zoom, which will mean no demos will need to be cancelled. We will come back later on this evening with more details of the programme and demos planned, which you will find in your new 2021/2022

Programme.

As a way of keeping involved with our local community and helping others, we will be holding a raffle at the Annual Exhibition. All proceeds will once again go to The Brush with Art Group, at the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Farnham. The Raffle prize will be a framed painting kindly donated by Liz Seward. In 2019 the raffle raised £234.82p so let's see if we can beat that amount but we can only do that with your help, every £ counts so that they can purchase painting equipment.

It was brought to my notice that our Exhibition Display Panels are in urgent need of upgrading so that they comply with H & S regulations and standards. So, I made enquiries to four metalwork fabrication companies for quotations to manufacture the new connectors and brackets required. I have now placed an order to carry out the works to J & R Fabrications, Wokingham, which is the same company that made the originals for us 10 or 12 years ago. All the parts will be in place ready for July. Terry Ralph is kindly going to write a booklet for us showing how to fix the connectors and brackets to the display panels.

I would also like to say thank you to all the members of the committee for their outstanding work in this difficult year. All working together they make a great team.

Susan Whitehead, Vice Chairman.
Lesley Kilner, Hon Treasurer.
Valerie Painter Hon Secretary
John Stacey, Membership Secretary
Carole Head, Newsletter Editor
Marie Bunce, Additional Member
Olga Salgado Webmaster

Plus a special thank you to Fred Green for auditing the accounts this year.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report - Val Painter

As the events of 2020 started to unfold, the committee concentrated on establishing the new website. The subcommittee had several informal meetings via zoom with Olga and her husband Steve Hammatt, to iron out practical details, but as the website launch approached, we had 2 formal subcommittee meetings to finalise arrangements and assign areas of responsibility. Thanks to Olga for her very patient tuition in website maintenance.

As it became evident that the situation was not going to change in the short term, we became more aware of the potential of Zoom to re - establish a programme of demonstrations. Initially this involved either cancelling or re - scheduling demonstrations which had already been booked dependent on whether they could offer Zoom. Fortunately many artists could offer Zoom. As we wanted to maximise the use of the website, we discussed the practicalities of organising an online exhibition with regard to format, facilitating sales and payment. We were at pains to ensure that all members felt secure with the arrangements. It was decided not to charge commission and the arrangements made for the Lockdown Exhibition remained in place for the Christmas Exhibition and will do so for the Spring Exhibition.

Payments in a wider sense eg for Demos, for the basic subscription etc. involved us in considerable discussion in subsequent meetings and Peter will refer to the issues involved later in AOB. If you ever think of an idea or issue which you think would be of benefit, please contact me via the website and I will gladly include it on the agenda of the next committee meeting and of course give you feedback.

6. Honorary Treasurer's Report - Lesley Kilner

You should have all received a copy of the accounts for last year.

The salient points are a loss of £663 in the year as shown in the account spreadsheet.

On the plus side our actual trading profit for the year was actually just over £190.

The difference is accounted by the following:

- 1) £1090 were paid this year for last year's studio fees;
- 2) Surrey Heath Show payment of £70 was paid out of last year's funds;
- 3) We received an unusual "unexpected" early influx of subscription fees for 2021 amounting to £304.

Income has dropped dramatically with very few weekly meetings and no paying demonstrations, workshops nor a summer exhibition.

Expenditure has inevitably increased.

The committee has so far decided to keep things simple so there is no fee for our on-line exhibitions and no commission taken on sales so far. This is something we may have to revisit.

Zoom meetings generally cost around £150 each. We have not yet sought a contribution from the members.

Postage and printing are a big outlay for the society so we are going paperless whenever we can. Inevitably more communication will take place over the internet and through the website in an effort to reduce these costs.

Sundries includes website development cost as well as a gift to Olga and her husband for all their hard work. It also includes our annual insurance and the purchase of a set of keys to the Adult Education centre. This latter item is also shown under the tangible assets in the balance sheet. These are written off in the year of purchase as is customary.

Costs for the autumn programme of workshops and demonstrations are also under review to determine what level of subscriber contribution will be needed. If we are allowed back into the studio later in the year the fees charged by Surrey County Council are not yet known but could be higher.

Demonstrator fees have also increased.

For Health and Safety reasons we will be using some of our funds this year to buy some bespoke metal brackets for our exhibition stands. These are currently on order and will be an asset for the club for many years to come.

To summarise 2020 has been weathered with a small trading profit.

The outlook for 2021 is uncertain, with the likelihood that our expenses will increase and we will need to find ways of mitigating the outgoings.

Finally, I would like to thank Fred Green for auditing the books for which I am very grateful. He has indicated that he would be willing to continue in the role.

.7. Programme 2021/22 Sue Whitehead

The committee have once again worked hard on a very varied programme for 2021/2022 which we hope will appeal to the interests of all our members and it is my pleasure to share the details with you.

We start the beginning of the year with 3 more zoom demonstrations having already enjoyed Mick McNicholas demonstration in January. In March we have Boats in pastel by Rick Holmes, in April a drawing workshop by Rebecca Le Tourneau and in May a watercolour landscape by Phil Biggs. By September we hope we may be able to continue with demonstrations in the studio and in September we have Kristin Rawcliffe booked for a portrait in oils. In October a wildlife pen / ink and colour by Judith Matthews, in November a street scene by Joel Wareing and finally encaustic wax painting by Phil Madeley.

We have also proposed an outdoor painting day in June and look forward as always to workshops by LIZ Seward in October followed by consecutive workshops by Graham Scandrett in November.

We also look forward, with present restrictions lifted to continue to participate in the Surrey Heath show in May and most importantly our main exhibition at High cross in July.

We will continue with online exhibitions which have proved to be very successful and have generated sales. We have our Spring exhibition this March and hope to repeat an Autumn and Christmas exhibition again.

We certainly missed celebrating Christmas 2020 with you all but plan to celebrate 2021 with an even bigger party at the studio this year !

In these uncertain times I hope you agree with me that this programme gives us many opportunities to look forward to and plenty of incentives to keep painting!

8. Membership Secretary's Report - John Stacey

Membership in 2020 fluctuated between 84 and 88, the number of members at the end of the year being 87. However, seven members have left for various reasons and six members have not renewed, but we have two new members this year already. This means that the total at the start of 2021 is 76. As it is uncertain whether our two main recruiting events, the Surrey Heath Show and the Annual Exhibition, will go ahead, extra effort will be needed to boost our membership during the coming year. We usually aim for around 100.

9. Election of Executive Committee

Post	Name of Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Vote
Chairman	Peter Tuitt			
Vice Chair	Sue Whitehead	Jeanne Threlkeld	Fran Green	NEM CON
Hon Sec	Val Painter			
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Kilner			
Membership Sec	John Stacey			
Committee Member	Marie Bunce			
Webmaster	Olga Lucia Salgado			
Newsletter Editor	Carole Head			

All existing members of the committee were returned unopposed. Sue Whitehead who has served as Acting Vice Chair for the past year was elected unopposed, as Vice Chair. Those attending the meeting were asked if they were interested in serving on the committee.

10. Themed Competition at the Annual Exhibition

This competition will go ahead whether the exhibition is at High Cross Church or online. The suggestions made are as follows:

Peter Tuitt :	A Grand Day Out Summertime Day Trip
Tom Moss:	Lockdown NHS Heroes The Bright Side of Life
Jeanne Threlkeld:	Freedom
Margaret Heath:	My Favourite.....
Sarah Wilkinson:	Sun, Sand Sea
Janet Wilson:	The Great Outdoors A New Beginning
Liz Seward:	Lockdown Dreams

The meeting decided that a vote should be offered to the entire membership by email.

11. Any Other Business

i. Zoom Demonstrations - Peter Tuitt for the coming year. The first four will be free for members and £5 for non-members. From the autumn we will need to charge members to cover the cost of the zoom demos which cost the society £150 for each demonstration. Later in the year we hope we can return to the studio, so we can have face -to -face demos again.

The fees for artists have increased over the last few years. The cost for demos in the studio is now £40 rent plus artist fees of around £175 = £215. At present we charge £4, so hopefully you can see and understand why we need to increase the amount payable for demos. So the questions are:

1. Do you agree to a fee of £5 for Zoom demos?
2. Do you agree with a fee for £6 for studio demos?

It was decided that these questions be put to the entire membership.

ii. June Pugh wondered how non- members could make their payment for Zoom demos. Carole Head replied that bank transfer was preferable and as soon as payment was confirmed by the treasurer, the Zoom link would be given, but the problem needed to be addressed in the long term. Several members offered opinions on this topic . Cheques were deemed acceptable but slow to clear, especially sent at the last minute. Sarah Watkinson suggested advance payment for several demos. Some agreed that this could be convenient in several ways. Craig Whitehead felt that if it was easier for members, cheques should be readily accepted, despite the small risk and that it might encourage more participants. Ian Sams was of the opinion that flexibility for members was definitely preferable, because plans change often at the last minute. The discussion closed when Peter Tuitt reminded the meeting that hopefully this problem might not materialise if, by September we could return to studio demos when members could pay at the door.

iii. Liz Seward asked why it had been decided not to charge commission on online sales as most societies do so and it was most generous of us to choose not to. The Treasurer explained that would have been difficulty in securing the commission as the society plays no part in the money transactions involved in online sales, but vendors could ask for a donation. Liz then pointed out that most people would pay if asked and this applied to any business directly generated from the exhibition. It was decided to ask the opinion of the entire membership.

iv. The Treasurer asked that the whole membership be reminded that the society bank details have changed and details can be found on the website membership page.

v. Heritage Gallery: Lesley Kilner also reminded the meeting that we had two exhibitions at the Heritage Gallery. The Woodland Exhibition downstairs was briefly open at the end of 2020, but the general exhibition upstairs had been in place for a year and will need renewing as soon as circumstances allow.

vi. The Society accounts were accepted as accurate and the Treasurer expressed her thanks to the auditor, Fred Green.

vii. Both Liz Seward and Margaret Heath expressed their thanks and appreciation for all the work of the committee in keeping the Society going so well in these difficult times. Liz closed the meeting expressing these sentiments, while Margaret sent an email to the Chairman prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

Val Painter, Hon. Secretary
6.02.2021