

WINCHESTER ART HISTORY GROUP
Annual General Meeting held on 25 May 2022
in St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester

PRESENT:

Rodger Hake (Chair), June Brooks (Website & Publications Secretary), Catherine Campbell (Treasurer), Christine Clarke-Smith (Events Secretary), Margaret Munro (Membership Secretary), Carol Orchard (Committee Secretary), Felicity Pennycook (Programme Planning Group Liaison), Evelyn Thurlby (Venues Organiser & Publications) and about 35 other members

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Hazel Croft-Phillips, Clair Duncan, John Harding, James & Susie Long, Jane & Peter Parsons, Val Pile, Rose Plincke, Elizabeth Skeet, Diana Sommerville, Lisa Spooner, Felicity Urquhart, Antonia Whitley

2 MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM

The minutes of the 2021 AGM, held on Zoom on 26 May 2021, were accepted as a true record.

3 TREASURER'S REPORT

Catherine Campbell presented a summary of the accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31 December 2021, which had been circulated to members before the meeting. Income for the year was £12,595 and expenditure £8,800, leaving a surplus of £3,795. Thanks to Zoom, seminar attendance had held up well during the pandemic lockdown, and expenses had been reduced by the restrictions on in-person meetings. There are currently no plans to raise fees or subscriptions.

4 CHAIR'S REPORT

Rodger Hake described the year's events. Seminars from January to June (on a 'Pot Pourri' of topics) could not take place in person so were broadcast to members on Zoom. Lockdown restrictions were eased in the summer, so the autumn programme (on 'The Art of Dissent') could be enjoyed in person, with members offered the option of watching on Zoom if they preferred. Two trips were organised: a four-day visit to Glasgow and a day-excursion to The Cartoon Museum in London.

The seminar programme was further disrupted towards the end of the year when the Discovery Centre announced at short notice that it was closing for refurbishment and would subsequently be under new management. Seminars were held at the Hampshire Record Office from November 2021, except for the one including Christmas drinks, which was held at St Peter's.

Members of the Management Committee and Programme Planning Group held an 'awayday' in July to prioritise the group's activities. It was agreed that WAHG's

primary functions were to hold seminars, produce printed programmes and seminar notes, maintain a website, and keep abreast of members' views including, *inter alia*, by conducting an annual questionnaire. Less central, but also valuable, were day-trips, social gatherings, and the exhibitions list. Trips involving overnight stays (both in the UK and abroad) were much enjoyed by those who attended but involved a minority of members, and study-days and outreach work were classed as optional.

The committee agreed that its workload could be rationalised by a) moving to an online booking system and b) getting external support to help maintain the website. Subsequently, both decisions were implemented. 'Bookwhen' (based in Oxford) was adopted for members' bookings and subscriptions.

It was also decided no longer to offer members a choice between attending seminars in person and watching on Zoom, partly because of the general uncertainty about future operations but mainly because of the extra workload it entailed for committee members. Equipment and technical support varies between venues, necessitating preparatory work beforehand; Zoom itself is prone to technical problems; and members change their minds, often at short notice, about using Zoom.

The ARC, who now run the Discovery Centre, have now confirmed our bookings there for the autumn 2022 session. When things (hopefully) return to normal and as the technology improves, the decision about hybrid operation - much appreciated by some members - could be revisited. Meanwhile other members who valued WAHG seminars as social occasions said they hoped this was where the group's emphasis would continue to lie.

Finally, Rodger highlighted the names of committee members and volunteers who help keep WAHG running and whom he wanted to thank for their work.

5 ELECTIONS TO THE WAHG COMMITTEE

Catherine Campbell and Margaret Munro are leaving the committee and were thanked for their excellent work as Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively. Christine Clarke-Smith was also thanked for her work as Events Secretary, much of which has now been automated; she has agreed to be co-opted to the committee in a new role as Membership Liaison Officer. Two new members have put their names forward for election: Jane Plummer and Katrina Tanner (Membership Secretary). They were proposed by Felicity Pennycook, seconded by Carol Orchard and elected unopposed.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

co/30.5.22