

Tuesday 20th November 2018

**at The Art Workers' Guild,
6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT**

41 members attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from seven members.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 25th November 2017

The minutes were accepted.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report (including Financial Report)

John Dunlop, Chairman, presented the report, giving a summary of the activities for the year and the accounts. Membership had increased by 20% during the year, as it had the previous year. This was partly related to the new website which was launched in the autumn 2017 and was well received. It is currently being upgraded.

The Society's relationship with Birkbeck has been deepened, with regular meetings with senior staff, and we are grateful to John Peacock for leading for the Society in this liaison. A total of 36 events took place in the 2017/18 programme, including 6 lectures, 6 courses, 2 tours, 10 study days, 3 study visits, 4/5 study walks, and some seminars and schools. All these were organised by Committee members working for the Society including: Susan Nettle, lectures; Jackie Leigh, courses; Sue Anstruther, seminars and schools; Michael Pearson, tours; Maggie Stockton, study days; as well as other members who contributed to running courses. The Society was very grateful to them all. The Review was published in summer 2018, by Barrie MacDonald's team. In 2017/18 the Society made donations of £3,500 to Birkbeck and £3,000 to the Warburg, with Robert Gwynne leading on liaison.

The financial position was a loss of about £4,000 in 2017/18: this was intentional and due to the development costs of £6,900 for the new website and for which the Committee made a decision to use some of the Society's reserves. A surplus of £8,000 was made on the usual activities.

Paul Sanders queried the significant difference in net receipts for paid events (for course, seminar and school income, and for study tours) between 2017 and 2018 on pages 4 and 6 of the Accounts. The Chairman clarified that this was an error in presentation of the accounts, due to the transposition of the 2017 study tour net receipts to course, seminar and school income, and vice versa.

Acceptance of the Annual and Financial Reports was proposed by Sue Anstruther, and seconded by Robert Gwynne.

4. Election of Officers

John Dunlop, Chairman for the last four and a half years, was standing down. Sue Anstruther was nominated for Chairman by John Dunlop and seconded by Gwen Ovshinsky. No other nominations had been received. She was elected nem con. John Dunlop was standing for Treasurer, a post he has held for several years, and was nominated by Gwen Ovshinsky and seconded by Susan Nettle. No other nominations had been received and he was elected nem con.

Rosemary Clarke had been Secretary for 6 years and was standing down. Gwen Ovshinsky was nominated for the position of Secretary by Rosemary Clarke and seconded by Sue Anstruther. No other nominations had been received and she was elected nem con.

5. Election of Committee Members

Two members of the Committee, Susan Nettle and Robert Gwynne, were standing again after their three-year term of office had finished.

Susan Nettle was nominated by Rae Richardson and seconded by Nora Moss. Robert Gwynne was nominated by Rosemary Clarke and seconded by Gwen Ovshinsky.

A new member, Peter Bryden, was standing as a member of the Committee and he was nominated by Sue Anstruther and seconded by John Dunlop.

All these nominations were approved by the meeting.

Malcolm Armstrong, a long-standing Committee member, was standing down and was presented with a gift and thanked for his contribution.

Rosemary Clarke, also a long-standing Committee member, was standing down from the Committee and was also presented with a gift and thanked for her contribution.

6. Election of Account Reviewer

The acceptance of Gary Dolphin as Account Reviewer was proposed by John Dunlop and agreed by the meeting.

7. Any Other Business

1) Susan Nettle asked members to express their preference with a show of hands as to whether they preferred the AGM to be held on a Saturday afternoon or a weekday, since the survey of members had shown no clear preference. The meeting showed a preference for a weekday.

2) John Dunlop handed over to the new Chairman Sue Anstruther. She thanked John Dunlop for his enormous contribution as Chairman. He had led the Society through a period of change and expansion, with a new name that gave it better recognition, and a new website that made it much easier to find out what events were taking place and make bookings. In addition John had also led improvements in the Committee's procedures and processes which had strengthened how it worked. John was presented with a book about Romanesque architecture in France, and warmly thanked for his work as Chairman. He has kindly agreed to act as Deputy Chairman for one year to provide continuity. Jackie Leigh, Course Coordinator, also highlighted John Dunlop's initiative in suggesting that the Society offer short courses, and said that these had been very popular and a successful development.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm.