

Minutes of DCPG AGM

Sat 15th Oct 2022 at 9.30am Kings Langley Church Hall

Attendees

John Higgins, Jackie Harrop, Mary Anne Bonney, David Evans, Judi Tribe, Gay Crommelin, Ros McGuirk, Mandy English, Tony Baxter, Jill Baxter, Colin Hazelwood, Sylvia Fitzwilliam, Jerry Seaborn, Maud Eager, Patrick Joyce, Les Parrott, Vivienne Rodwell Davies, Bipin Raithatha, Jean Langdon, Jane Jackling, Amanda Toms, Audrey Hammett, Joy Trpkvic, Camilla Bignall, Vijay Thind, Georgina Johnson, Fenella Mowbray, Tony Bowler, Fran Bowler

1. Apologies

Nigel Carrick, Charlotte Anstey, Alison Harding-Carroll, John Alderman Beverley Benson, Jill Gleeson, Jane Jacoby, Fiona Booy, Katherine Gillings, Laurie Keck, Fiona Crystol, Joan Morris, Fiona Wilcock, Ros Eijgehuisen, Christopher Norden, Linda Bryant, Ian Jones

2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 15th October 2021 were agreed as a true record.

3. Chair's Report

A precis of the illustrated presentation is summarised below and is available on our website:

Membership figures are holding up with a total of 130 this year of whom 6 were new. Audrey Hammett has handed over the role of membership secretary to Jill Gleeson. Many thanks to Audrey for her long service during which she introduced gift aid. revised the membership form and introduced online payments of subscriptions.

Judi has kept the socials going on a regular monthly basis with coffee mornings, walks and studio visits. The venues vary widely across our area and many members have enjoyed the opportunity for in person and on line meetings.

Thanks to Colin for his long service as a trustee now that he is leaving that role. We are glad he remains on committee and are hoping we can soon find his replacement with another trustee.

Thanks to our communications team for doing a great job. Mandy (website), Amanda (Facebook) and Nicole (Instagram), and Mary Anne for co-ordinating them all. Also to the Newsletter team: Ros (editor), David (design and production) and Vicky (proof reader).

The Fitzwilliam competition had a record 16 entrants this year. The theme was "natural forms" and the entries were displayed at the Kingsbury exhibition. A public

vote was held for the first time and the members voted online for the winners. The prizes generously donated by Sylvia Fitzwilliam.

Potters" Open Day was held at the University of Hertfordshire and the theme was „Wood firing“. The day began with a talk from Australia on zoom given by 3 wood firers followed by in- person talks and demonstrations by Sabine Nemet and Ben Brierley. The whole event was broadcast globally on zoom. POD 2023 will be held at the Trestle Arts Theatre in St Albans on Sunday 19th March and the guests will include Keith Brymer Jones.

A hands-on Workshop led by Richard Ballantyne and Carol Read at Kings Langley Methodist Church, was a great success, attracting 30 participants who were taken step by step through a process to make their own chicken on thrown bases prepared by John Higgins. Members enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work together again.

Once again we ran a Big Build event for St Albans Cathedral. This year's theme was Tudor Times. Andrew Gardner researched and led an excellent tour of Tudor buildings in St Albans to select 10 Tudor buildings. A team of volunteer members constructed the formers in the Kingsbury Barn studio which several hundred participants embellished during the Alban festival.

After a 2 year delay due to Covid restrictions we were finally able to host the Hamada/Leach centenary celebration. We were honoured and privileged to receive Tomoo Hamada, Philip Leach, their translator Koi Isaka, to the Lindop theatre in University of Hertfordshire where they talked about the collaboration between their families started by their grandparents Shoji Hamada and Bernard Leach. Thanks were given to Japanese American ceramic lecturer Minori Thorpe who sponsored the event.

A strong relationship has been developed this year with the Chiltern Open Air Museum . They have generously made a site and shed available to us for Kiln building and firings. The kiln site has been cleared, a base has been laid, many paving slabs shifted and wood stacked. Thanks to Sandie who has coordinated and negotiated on our behalf and to an amazing team of helpers and spouses who have laboured there clearing and levelling ground, laying slabs, chopping and stacking wood and moving equipment from the old Boxmoor site. They include David Evans, Amanda Toms (and husband), Judi Tribe (and husband) and Jerry.

A raku workshop will be held there on Tuesday 25th October to check the equipment and test the arrangements on the site.

Throughout the school holidays a team of helpers led by Sandie and Judi have been running hands on clay events - Terrific Tuesdays which incredibly popular with the public and hugely appreciated by the museum. Thanks to all members who helped run the workshop in Northolt Barn throughout the summer. The last one this year will be at half term, on 25th Oct.

The members' annual exhibition at Kingsbury Barn was well attended despite the Queen's death and consequent impact on the public. Children from St Michael's school enjoyed a hands on session making owls on the Friday, and over 400 people attended throughout the 3 day event where 29 members displayed and sold their work. A social evening for members was well attended. Thanks to the team who planned, set up, stewarded and dismantled the event.

The 16 Fitzwilliam entries were displayed again this year as well as and an imaginative education table. Many thanks to Nicole who organised all the competition and both display tables.

A donation of £500 to the community arts organisation Open Door in Berkhamsted was made to aid the development of a pottery studio. Members of Berkhamsted Arts Society were supported in another Big Build which was a large scale replica of St Peter's Church. We also ran a popular hands on workshop and selling tables at Boxmoor Autumn Fair .

This season's demonstration programme has been organised by Gay Crommelin who also has managed and reorganised our extensive library of pottery books for loan to members. Please get in touch if you would like to take on the demonstration programme organiser role as she is offering the opportunity for someone to "shadow" her and to "take on the best job on committee" in 2023.

The International Ceramics Fair at Aberystwyth will run from Fri 30 June till Sunday 2 July next year. Judi is hoping to arrange a group trip. Look out for further information shortly.

4. Treasurer's report

In John Alderman's absence , the treasurer's report and spreadsheet were summarised by Jackie Harrop

There were 2 questions on the finances: to check the figures for gift aid in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, and as to why the HSBC deposit account was restricted this year. These questions will be passed on to the treasurer for discussion at the November committee meeting as the treasurer was not available to answer on the day due to sickness at home.

Members voted to accept the accounts, subject to clarification of the two issues noted

5. Election of Officers

Ros McGuirk and Jackie Harrop were both re-elected as trustees.

All the committee members were individually re-elected unanimously. There remains the need for more trustees, a minutes secretary, a vice chair, and a programme organiser.

6. Two special motions notified by email to members:

- a. Adoption of supplement to the Constitution: "The terms and conditions for the day to day operation of the DCPG Management Committee."

Mary Anne explained the following:

The supplement to the constitution, which had been circulated to members before the meeting, had been devised to explain the way we run the Guild with a committee formed of both trustees and non-trustees, each having equal status on committee. The trustees have a legal responsibility to ensure that the Guild is run according to our aims as stated in our constitution. The paper included a mechanism for resolving serious disagreements between trustee and non-trustee committee members. The motion to adopt the supplement, as a guide to present and future committee members, was unanimously agreed by members.

- b. Agreement of corrected, clarified and updated Constitution: an inconsistency in the sub-clause numbering in the Guild's Constitution has been corrected, a sub-clause clarifying the mechanism for taking decisions by written resolution has been re-instated, and references to Charity law have been updated.

The Constitution had been drawn up using a proforma from the Charity Commission, and it had been noticed that it contained inconsistencies: a mis-numbered paragraph and a reference to the explanation of the procedure to be followed for members to take decisions in writing, as opposed to at a general meeting, which had been deleted in the process of adapting the pro-forma to the Guild's circumstances. The committee had agreed that the prospect of taking decisions other than at a general meeting, though remote, was not to be ruled out and recommended the re-insertion of the explanatory paragraph. Additionally, references to Charity law had been updated in the revised constitution, presented for members to agree. The revised constitution was unanimously agreed by members at the meeting and would be sent to the Charity Commission, for inclusion in the Register of Charities.

7. Any Other Business

A query raised by Vijay concerning member photos being put on the website was responded to indicating that there may be confidentiality issues, but members may wish to put their photos on their gallery pages. This will be the subject of discussion at the November committee meeting

The Fitzwilliam Winners.

Visiting speaker Rachel Wood was invited to announce the winners. The public vote from visitors to Kingsbury exhibition went to the bull.

The Fitzwilliam prize winners received cheques from Sylvia Fitzwilliam:

In third place was Jerry Seabourn with his enormous shell.

In second place was Judi Tribe's glorious bowl-shaped fungus.

In first place was the magnificent bull, made by Jackie Harrop, who will hold the Stan Romer Bison trophy for the year.

Suggestions for the theme for next year's competition to be submitted to the committee by January. The meeting was closed 10.30