**LAS AGM Tuesday, 14th June 2016 – minutes**

**Apologies for absence**

Vedanti Moodley, Chris and Michael Middleton, Pam Morgan, C.J. Cassells. Lord Farringdon

**Minutes of AGM 2015**

Paraphrased and accepted

**Chairman’s Report** [Mike Lowe]

Welcome to you all and thank you for coming. As you know we have all heard the tragic news about the fire at the Memorial Hall, I was quite shocked when I went along to see the damage, it was devastating and it is obviously going to take some considerable time before re-building starts and them some further time to actually complete all the work.

During this time I would ask you all to be patient with your Committee as they try to work out a new schedule for the talks and demonstrations. This has already resulted in our secretary Brian having much more extra work to do. We thank you Brian for all the work that you have done during the past year for the Society and for this extra work that has fallen on your shoulders.

I would urge all members to help Brian by attending whatever talks and demonstrations which he is able to organise and most of all if you think that you would like a follow up demonstration and sign up to it on the evening PLEASE do not later cancel your commitment because this causes Brian an awful lot more work. Remember all your Committee members are Volunteers their time is just as valuable as yours.

Whilst on this subject I would like to thank all the members of your Committee for all the help they have given me over the past year and for the work that they do for the Society.

Unfortunately due to family commitments I will not be able to continue as your Chairperson and have resigned as from this evening.

I feel sure that you will show your commitment to the Society by supporting your new Chairperson all you can.

**Secretary’s Report** [Brian Britton]

May I add my welcome to all members?

I start my report with the recognition that the devastating fires that destroyed the Memorial hall and seriously damaged the Pavilion a week later will have a lasting effect on our society for some considerable time. The committee will continue to provide a programme of monthly meetings [excluding those few months when we don’t normally meet] follow-on workshops from our demonstrators, visits, drawing days and one-off workshops. Hopefully these will be in the Pavilion but it looks like the pavilion will be out of action for longer than initially anticipated and we will be lucky to get back in before September. It must also be appreciated that all the clubs and societies that formally used the hall want the pavilion as well. I urge you to keep a look out for the venue, date, and times of the meetings and workshops as they may not fit the usual pattern of afternoon and evening sessions as they have previously and the location may vary.

The support of members for these activities is essential if committee members are not to spend considerable time and effort in arranging these events only to be forced to cancel them through lack of interest at the last minute. Attendance at the monthly meetings varies considerably; we usually have a monthly attendance of between 25 and 35 members and visitors. To make a workshop financially viable we need about half of those attending any one demonstration to sign up for a workshop and frequently we fall well short of this target. Faced with this situation the committee has reluctantly decided that the 2017 demonstrators will not automatically be offered a follow- up workshop unless on the evening of the demonstration enough members sign up to ensure the follow-up session will not fail to meet the required number to make a workshop financially viable. The committee envisages approximately 4 workshops per year, based on member interest, and an additional 2 or 3 one-off workshop that have been requested by individual members and supported by members who have been notified of this. Hopefully there will be a day’s life-drawing workshop and a printmaking workshop offered in 2017 as usual. Members are also invited to offer ideas for day workshops or more informal support sessions in the Thursday Group meetings.

To help attendance at demonstrations and workshops I would be grateful if members would let me know what has gone well at this year’s monthly meetings and what has not been so successful, specifically I would like to hear what they would like demonstrated at next year’s monthly meetings. Although we are constantly looking for new demonstrators it is not easy to find artists who can also demonstrate, and live within a reasonable commuting distance. If members can recommend practitioners who fit the bill, you may have seen them at another society for instance, please pass on their details to any committee member, or email me directly.

I will try to find the artists who can provide the sessions that you want and then hopefully we will get the necessary interest for the follow-up workshops with ease.

It is hoped that workshops throughout 2017 will be pegged again at £30 per member/friend, although some artist /demonstrators priced themselves out of the market this year by asking for much more, and this may be trend that we will have to face. I know that other local societies charge a similar amount to £30 a session but much charge significantly more.

However not all LAS cost money. Please remember to support the forthcoming Coleshill drawing day on Thurs. 7th July and many thanks to those members who turned out yesterday for our Buscot Day. 22 members braved the weather and I think all found Lord Faringdon’s guided tour of the house and artefacts therein fascinating. I think that those who attended appreciated once again the venue and the opportunities it offered.

I cannot leave this part of my report without thanking Sue Moir for her sterling organisation of the Thursday group and Brian Adams for the Monday Group. Collectively there is a lot of good art practice about!

I would now like to say something about the LAS website. More members are looking at this to keep themselves up-to-date with the programme, catch up on news, and make use of the e-gallery. Vedanti does a sterling service and her many hours at the computer speak for themselves when you see the quality of the site. However, a glutton for punishment, she is asking for more! Members, for a very small fee can have work for sale published on the site and can also get commissions as well. In addition the images for the cards that Bob has collated for fund-raising [and all the other work he has done] will be available for ordering so there is every incentive to make the most of this asset. Please see Vedanti for more information.

This concludes my report for this year. I have pleasure in handing over to Val for the treasurer’s report.

**Treasurer’s Report** [Val Mackenzie] Read and accounts made available to all. (See separate sheet)

**Voting - in of Committee**

All current members, with the exception of Chair, are part-way through their term of office and were willing to continue. Bob Marchant and Brian Britton, having served more than their 3 years were re-elected on an annual basis. Mike Lowe tendered his resignation [accepted] and Sharon Ellis was elected [proposed by Sue Moir, seconded by Brian Britton] as Chair. John Sirrelle also indicated that he would be prepared to join the committee with a view to gaining an understanding of its work. He was accordingly voted onto the committee.

**Questions from the floor**

None asked, although there were some informal questions sked later, specifically concerning insurance.

**Oscart Award**

Voting slips were counted and it was discovered that there was a tie between Barbara and Sue. They were sent out to give a second vote but it was unanimously decided that they should share the award and each receive a cheque of £25. Which Mike duly presented.

**Special Announcement**

Brian was able to announce that he had just secured the hall at the back of the New Inn for the Summer Exhibition. A Veryspecial thank you to Sue who helped negotiate this for us.

Jen Britton

Minutes secretary