



THE ARTS SOCIETY FYLDE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2020

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The President, Hugh Ellwood, welcomed everyone in the theatre and those joining via Zoom, to the 11th AGM.

A quorum was noted and the President declared the meeting open.

2. Apologies

Mr & Mrs Stirrup, M Nuttall, C Holland, R Holden, M Race.

3. Minutes of the AGM 4th December 2019 [Previously circulated.]

The Minutes, proposed by Jo Darbyshire and seconded by Christine Cockburn, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair after the meeting.

4. Annual Report & Annual Accounts. [Previously circulated.]

Reporting for the period 1st August 2019 – 31st July 2020.

The Chair, Pat Corless, thanked everyone for supporting the AGM, those members joining via Zoom, and especially those who came to the theatre despite the current difficult restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic. She said the Fylde Society was one of the few TAS societies having 'live' lectures.

She thanked the Lowther Theatre management for their exceptional social distancing procedures and also the 'Friends of The Lowther', volunteers who have been meticulous in carrying out the procedures.

Highlights from the Report. The Chair referred to the six lectures between September and March - all had been rated highly by members. The average attendance was 192, compared to 174 the previous season. In October the members celebrated the Society's 10th Anniversary with a special lecture and afterwards cake and fizz with TAS Chief Executive, Florian Schweizer.

Vice Chair, Nigel Bramley-Haworth, organised an October cruise around Greek Islands; the Events team organised a visit to the Grand, Blackpool, in November, and the members' Christmas lunch in December. Supported by the Arts Society Fylde, two students from Rossall School were chosen to exhibit their artwork in the RBA Star Students Exhibition in London; one of whom was awarded the Exhibition's First Prize.

In March the four remaining lectures and planned visits and SID's had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus. The Committee continued to hold monthly meetings via Zoom, working on social distancing procedures for the safety of members and planning for the new season. Programme Secretary, Denise Malpas, rebooked cancelled lectures and produced an exciting and interesting programme for 2020/2021.

The Chair thanked the Vice chair for standing in, so ably, for her during her absence from January to March. She thanked Communications Officer, Pam Foster, for the spring newsletter, *In The Picture*, and for keeping members updated by Mailchimp about free online lectures and the Committee's plans for restarting live lectures at the Lowther. She thanked all the Committee for their unstinting commitment to the Society during lockdown. She thanked Christina McHugh for her outstanding contribution to the Society during her term of office as Secretary. The Society needs a new Secretary, mentoring is available and any member joining the Committee will be made most welcome. She invited members to contact Nigel Bramley-Haworth for more information.

The Chair pointed out the drop in renewals - a loss of 20% of the membership. The main reason being concerns about coronavirus. Some members have said they would re-join the Society once the current situation improves.

This year, due to social distancing restrictions, the Treasurer did not present the Annual Accounts. Members had been asked to send questions to the Secretary concerning the accounts or the Annual Report prior to the AGM. No questions had been received. The Chair thanked Treasurer, Rowland Darbyshire, for his report and drew the members' attention to the healthy reserves and the sound financial position of the Society, despite the lockdown and the cancelling of lectures and events, ending the year with a balance on the Current Account of just over £15,000.

Raffles from the six live lectures raised over £700 for the Good Causes Account, the Chair thanked Christine Cockburn for her continuing support at lectures and Rita Calvert for organising our small army of volunteers to help on lecture days. She invited the members to accept the Annual Report and Annual Accounts. Proposed by Tony Depledge and seconded by Rita Calvert, the members gave their approval by a show of hands.

5. Election of President

The Chair said Mr Hugh Ellwood a founder member of The Arts Society Fylde had given sound advice and unsparing support to the Committee. His lecture to launch the 2020/2021 season in October was rated Outstanding. The Chair proposed Mr Ellwood be re-elected as President and this was seconded by Nigel Bramley-Haworth.

6. Election of the Committee

Elections were conducted by the President, he reminded members of the criteria for elections as stated in the Rules and Constitution. There were no contested elections and members approved the following:

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AGM NOVEMBER 2020

[Officers must have been members of the Society for at least 2 years.]

	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Chair	Nigel Bramley-Haworth	Pat Corless	Christina McHugh
Vice Chair	Jean Holland	Lesley Peabody-Brewer	Ruth Holden
Treasurer	Rowland Darbyshire	Hazel Pye	Allan Foster
Secretary	Vacancy		

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Programme Secretary	Denise Malpas	Christine Marshall	Pauline Hamilton
Membership Secretary	John Driffill	Pat Corless	Bernard Davis
Communications Officer	Pam Foster	Olga Depledge	Christine Cockburn
Events Coordinator	Jean Holland	Lesley Peabody-Brewer	Ruth Holden

The President thanked the returning Committee, and congratulated Mr. Bramley-Haworth on his acceptance as Chair and Jean Holland for becoming Vice Chair. He wished the new Committee every success. He also expressed the need for succession planning and asked members to consider contributing to the running of our highly successful and vibrant Society.

7. Election of Independent Financial Examiner

The President, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Jeremy Stirrup for auditing the Society's accounts and was pleased to propose him for the following year. The proposal was seconded by Jean Holland. He thanked John Parkinson for his advice and support given to the Treasurer throughout the year.

8. AOB. Questions pertaining to the Society had been requested in writing prior to the AGM, no such question had been raised.

9. President's thank you to the Chair and Committee

The President thanked the Committee for the notable success of all six live lectures and for their steadfast loyalty to the Society during a difficult five months of lockdown. He thanked Christina McHugh for her diligence and proficiency as Secretary and in her other roles on the Committee. He thanked Pat Corless for her combined talent and ability to 'get things done'. He praised her leadership of the Committee over the past three years and hoped that the Society would benefit again at some future date of her exceptional qualities.

The President declared the meeting closed.

He presented Pat Corless and Christina McHugh with beautiful bouquets of flowers in the Society's colours.

10. Date of the next AGM

3rd November 2021.