



THE ARTS SOCIETY FYLDE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2019

MINUTES

1. Welcome. The President, Hugh Ellwood, welcomed everyone to the 10th AGM.
2. Introduction.
A Quorum was noted and the President declared the meeting open.
3. Apologies.
N Bramley-Haworth, J Driffill, S Awbery, D Fagge, R Holden, J Jay, C Oldroyd, L Peabody-Brewer, C Rees, A Shepherd, M Wardman.
4. Minutes of the AGM 6th February 2019 [Previously circulated.]
The Minutes, proposed by Constance Holland and seconded by Marion Nuttall, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
5. Annual Report 2018-2019 [Previously circulated. Combined with the 10th Anniversary Newsletter.]
Reporting on the period 1st August 2018 – 31st July 2019.
The Chair, Pat Corless, thanked everyone for supporting this AGM. It had not been the intention of the Committee to hold two AGM this year, but with guidance from the financial advisers it was agreed that it was too long to defer until November 2020. She apologised for any confusion caused by the Minutes of the February 2019 AGM, stating that the next one would be in November 2020.

The Chair thanked the Secretary, Executive Committee Members and Team Leaders who had contributed to the Annual Report.

The Chair said it had been a pleasure to look back over the 2018-2019 season and the many successes of the Society; unquestionably the move to the Lowther being high on the list. Despite the trepidation of some members, concern at an increase in costs and a possible drop in membership, the opposite has happened; membership has increased; attendance at lectures is higher (averages 174 members plus 9 visitors - this number would not have fitted into the URC Hall); everyone is now comfortably seated and able to enjoy a clear view of the visual presentations on a cinema size screen. Technical operations are managed by Lowther technicians and fire wardens and Health and Safety, by the Friends of the Lowther, relieving the Committee of these burdensome responsibilities.

Thanks to our dedicated Programme Team we have enjoyed ten diverse and stimulating lectures. Members rated three 'Outstanding' and six 'Excellent'. Members also enjoyed two fascinating and informative special interest days both of which were rated 'Outstanding'. The Christmas lunch, followed by the December lecture had record attendances. Our thanks to Rita Calvert who manages the small army of volunteers who help out at lectures and study days.

Compliments to Nigel Bramley-Haworth for arranging interesting and well researched holidays in Dresden and Birmingham; and for organising the fundraising evening lecture by the Society's first Chairperson, Hilary Alcock. Thanks also to volunteers Lesley Peabody-Brewer and Ruth Holden who arranged an enjoyable festive Christmas outing to Howarth Art Gallery and Hoghton Tower.

Whilst it is good to report all the success stories of our lectures, special interest days, day trips and tours, there has been little support for Heritage, Community and Young Arts. A handful of enthusiasts have continued with projects: Jacqueline Love designed a Children's Trail for the White Church; Kate Cartmell entered Fylde students for the national RBA awards – with 4 successes; and Tony Tackett planned and curated the ground-breaking 'Outsider Art Exhibition' at the Solaris in Blackpool. We need to inject new life into volunteering endeavours, we need new ideas and new people to come forward and get involved.

Referring to the Society's Constitution which provides for 3-year terms of office for committee members; ensuring continuity is paramount. She reminded members that Election to the committee is open to all members and she encouraged them to take advantage to get involved in running the Society; we need newcomers who will contribute ideas for volunteering projects, or who will take the lead on a one-off day trip or special interest day or help with administrative tasks.

We said in February that we would look at charitable status, this was fully researched by a working party headed by former Chair, Jo Darbyshire. Tony Depledge was asked to write a paper on the findings of the working party, particularly the cost / benefit. After lengthy discussions, the Committee decided against pursuing charitable status at this time. Our thanks to the working party and Mr Depledge, their reports will be held on file for future consideration.

Before handing over to the Treasurer, Jean Holland, the Chair praised her for her tight control of the finances, resulting in a very satisfactory outcome this year. This has enabled us to support certain activities: painting materials for children's workshops at the Lowther; art trolleys for two hospitals; support to the RBA winners, and a £1000 donation to the Restoration fund of the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, in its 125th Anniversary year.

Finally the Chair expressed her thanks to the Secretary, Christina McHugh, for editing the Annual Report, and the Communications Officer, Pam Foster, for superbly editing and producing the commemorative tenth Anniversary newsletter with two striking paintings on the covers by our President, Hugh Elwood. Lastly she thanked the President, Hugh Ellwood for his unstinting support year on year.

There were no questions pertaining to the Report and the Chair proposed its adoption and it was seconded by Alicia Grant and accepted by members.

6. Treasurer's Report & Financial Accounts 2018-2019 [Previously circulated.]

The Treasurer, Jean Holland, presented a summary Financial Report for the period ended 31st July 2019. The Report had been signed as a correct record by the Independent Financial Examiner, Jeremy Stirrup.

The Society ended the year showing a surplus of £1341 which is very pleasing after ending last year in deficit. The surplus is due mainly to the rise in membership, facilitated by the move to the Lowther; an increase in visitors; special interest days and events. However, the Society faces growing running costs and the Committee approved a £1 increase in the yearly membership subscription to £52 from July 2020.

The Treasurer thanked Jeremy Stirrup for auditing the accounts and John Parkinson for his assistance and advice throughout the year. The Treasurer thanked her colleagues on the Executive Committee for their support during her term of office and she wished her successor, Rowland Darbyshire, every success.

The Chair thanked Jean Holland for her report and proposed its adoption; it was seconded by Kirsteen McGlashen-Hansen. There were no questions pertaining to the Financial Report.

7. Election of President.

The Chair thanked Hugh Ellwood for his valuable advice and support to the Society particularly during this first year at the Lowther theatre.

His re-election was proposed by Pat Corless and seconded by Christina McHugh.

8. Election of Officers & Executive Committee Members.

Elections were conducted by the President. He reminded members of the criteria for election to the Executive Committee. There were no contested elections and members approved the following:

	Nomination	Proposer	Seconded
Chair	Pat Corless	Tony Tackett	Ged Curley
Vice Chair	Nigel Bramley-Haworth	Denise Fagge	Sue Barker
Treasurer	Rowland Darbyshire	Barbara Weston	Marion Nuttall
Secretary	Christina McHugh	Margaret Carnegie	Muriel Wardman

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	Nomination	Proposer	Seconded
Programme Secretary	Denise Malpas	Marion Nuttall	Elaine Wolstencroft
Membership Secretary	John Driffill	Monica Davis	Judith Smithies
Communications Officer	Pam Foster	Christine Cockburn	Gerry Corless
Events Coordinator	Jean Holland	Marion Nuttall	Sandra Hallergard

The Chair thanked Jean Holland for accepting the new role of Events Coordinator. She welcomed two new members to the Committee; Rowland Darbyshire as Treasurer and John Driffill as Membership Secretary, who succeeds Denise Malpas, who takes on the role of Programme Secretary. The Chair thanked Pauline Hamilton, for her hard work, time and commitment, given generously, during her time on the Committee, firstly as Membership Secretary and then as Programme Secretary; we have all enjoyed the wide-ranging programme of lectures and special interest days she researched and arranged during her years as Programme Secretary.

9. 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 John Parkinson.

10. A.O.B. The President invited members to raise any points they wished relating to the report. There were no matters raised.

11. The President's thank you to Chair and Committee.

The President thanked the Chair and the Committee for an outstandingly successful year. He thanked Pat Corless for her commitment to the development of the Society; for her leadership of a highly effective committee; for her meticulous attention to all matters relating to the management of the Society. He thanked the members for attending the AGM and supporting the Committee.

12. Date of next AGM
4th November 2020.

Christina McHugh [Secretary]
18.12.2019.

Signature of Chair.....Date.....
Pat Corless