

FARINGDON ART SOCIETY AGM March 2020

Minutes of the last AGM can be found here: http://www.faringdonartsociety.co.uk/uploads/1/3/8/3/13836846/fas_agm_minutes_2019.pdf

Chairs report:

A non-contact AGM is a first for me but then unusual times call for unusual solutions. I hope you are all safe and self-isolating or social distancing, an ideal time to pull up the drawbridge and devote lots of time to art.

As you will see from our secretaries we have had another good year. Lots of great trips, popular workshops, a very successful exhibition and children's art competition. We also started the Draw a Day initiative last April where people received a ten minute art task, either by email or via Facebook. I have received messages of thanks from those taking part see two below. Many have said that they will be using these days of staying at home to complete more of the exercises.

Both FAS and SAG have drawn up some terms and conditions for exhibiting at the White Horse Surgery which will hopefully make this run more smoothly. These were forwarded to the practice manager but no reply had been received before the current crisis started. Obviously I am not expecting to hear from them until we are back to normal. New dates have been proposed for the changeover between art societies; FAS would exhibit from the first Friday in June until the first Friday in December. The dates were proposed to keep changeovers clear of our exhibition and Artweeks. The changeover this year may have to be delayed if self-isolation and social distancing is continuing.

We have booked the Corn Exchange for June 21st for an Artistic craft market, currently the venues are closed and some of our participators are self-isolating for 12 weeks. We will wait until closer to the date to make a final decision but it may be that we postpone it until the autumn.

Thank you to the committee for all the hard work they put in to ensure that our society continues to thrive.

Treasurers report

Attached separately

FAS Trips Report - Shelagh Baxter

5 coach trips to major art exhibitions have been organised in the last year .

In 2019, the April trip was a lovely opportunity to visit the wonderful house and grounds of Compton Verney and see their major Spring exhibition 'Painting Childhood'. This was followed by a trip in June to Tate Britain to see 'Van Gogh and Britain'. It included the largest selection of Van Gogh paintings seen in the UK for over a decade, and other famous works by artists inspired by Van Gogh.

The trip in November turned out to be an organisational nightmare but very enjoyable when it finally happened! It was to Dulwich Picture Gallery to see 'Rembrandt's Light' but a week before the scheduled date, the Gallery was broken into and two of the large Rembrandt paintings were stolen. Fortunately, the thief was caught by police and dropped the paintings in the grounds while trying to escape. The Gallery had to close for nearly three weeks while police investigated the crime and the trip was eventually rescheduled for the start of December.

2020 started well with a very popular trip to the Wallace Collection in London. 'Forgotten Masters: Indian Paintings for the East India Company' was a stunning exhibition displayed in their new gallery space.

Sadly, the April trip to the Royal Academy's exhibition, 'Gauguin and the Impressionists' and the 'David Hockney' exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery has had to be cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. It is also unlikely that the June trip to the V&A will go ahead this year.

With luck, we will be allowed out of isolation in the autumn and the September trip, 'Cezanne, Rock and Quarry Paintings' at the Royal Academy and 'Raphael' at the National Gallery will go ahead.

FAS Membership report - Jo Webster

The total membership for 2019 was 138 which generated an income of £1018. This was made up of £10.00 and £8.00 payments.

41 members exhibited at the Annual Exhibition

25 people did not renew and there were 19 new members

Following the decision to have just one membership category of £10.00 from now on, income from 2020 members has already exceeded that at £1100.00

The current 2020 membership stands at 117 (some members who joined post exhibition last year have had their membership rolled over and are not required to pay again until 2021 hence the discrepancy in income). We would usually expect our numbers to increase as we approach exhibition time.

25 people have not renewed. The increase in membership fee has not been cited as a reason for non-renewal, in general, age, infirmity or the loss of transportation are the main reasons.

We have 5 new members to date.

Going back 3 years the numbers of members recorded at AGM time were 126, 125 and 128 so we are slightly down at the moment. However, only one previous exhibitor has not renewed so this will not affect potential numbers for the 2020 exhibition.

An increasing number of members, about 50%, are now paying by BACs and the only issue with this is that sometimes I am not notified that they have done so. On the positive side we continue to receive kind comments and thanks for the work of the committee.

The redesigned renewal form gave members the opportunity to tick the ‘areas of interest’ boxes and just 48 were completed. The results were:

Trips = 38, Workshops = 25, Exhibiting = 22, Assisting at events = 11, Drop in = 7, joining the committee = 0

FAS Workshops Report – Sheila Isabel Irigoyen

Isabel Irigoyen (II) reported that over the past year the take up in workshop places had been excellent. Liaison with SB had ensured no clash of dates occurred between trips and workshops as in the past, along with having a good publicity officer (Dawn Mortiboy), advertising of the workshops had been much better. As a result of this, most workshops were full or nearly full. There had been 6 workshops over the year in a variety of mediums.

For this year, we set up workshops that include different skills and one outdoor activity at the Ashmolean. However, this workshop, the second of the year, among others, have been cancelled until further noticed because the Coronavirus.

Isabel is asking to members to have their saying and propose tutors, themes and technique they wish to have in the future.

Publicity Report – Dawn Mortiboy

During 2020 we have dramatically increased the presence of Faringdon Art Society both on-line and in local publications. This has helped to ensure that both trips and workshops are subscribed to ensure financial viability for the Society. This publicity from the Society has also helped to promote other activities and membership numbers.

Publications:

All trips and workshops are submitted to 10 publications or local art groups for advertisement in their monthly pages or calendar of events. Publications include Ripples Magazine and The Advertiser which are the main 2 free publications in the Faringdon area

Facebook advertising:

As well as the FAS Facebook Page workshops and events are also publicised and shared via 8 local social media pages. To give an example of the amount of coverage that this can provide for no cost – The “Drawing at the Ashmoleum” workshop reached 1923 people through the FAS Facebook page and was shared 8 times. Between 10th February and 8th March 2020 posts from FAS reached 2.1K people and had 217 engagements. This activity is predominantly new over the last 16 months since I have started in this role.

FAS Facebook page:

This dedicated page for the activities of the group has 178 followers and is continually increasing. All workshops and activities have been promoted through this channel along with

drop in sessions, the annual exhibition, membership renewal and opportunities to purchase materials from Shillbrook.

Draw A Day Page:

This page was created as a link from the main FAS Facebook page and between 1st April 2019 and 19th March 2020 posted a daily activity / idea to encourage people to have a go at devoting a small amount of time to improving their drawing. Ideas ranged from copying the style of specific artists, using different media, tackling fantasy and real ideas as well as feelings and abstract concepts.

During the initial 8 months, people were regularly contributing their drawings, although this was not mandatory but as expected the number of engagements has tailed off, although we believe there were still individuals drawing for their own pleasure at home.

The FAS Draw A Day public group had 98 members on Facebook and was supplemented by a daily email sent to any other people that had signed up for the service.

I anticipate that this page would have had quite a good response at the moment during the current COVID19 situation but people can still scroll back through daily ideas for inspiration retrospectively.

Overall the publicity has worked well alongside Trips, Workshops, Annual Exhibition and Membership renewal to promote the Society's activities to the best and we would value any other ideas of where we can promote ourselves. How do people feel about posting their work on Instagram for example?

The advantage of Facebook is that it is free and very accessible, although often can exclude members that are not confident with social media. Facebook is no longer seen as a young person's app either and perhaps if we want to encourage younger people to join our membership we need to investigate more youthful options – any ideas?

Drop in

Report from Alan Kings

The weekly drop in sessions have obviously had to be stopped due to the current situation but the Wednesday mornings have been left open for us to book as soon as we return to normal. I hope that we may be able to get back to painting in September, we will have to wait and see.

Before closing the painting we were getting anything from 10 to 15 members attend each week, so we are doing very well. I am keeping in touch with members by email so we stay together as a group.

Re-election of FAS committee

We are always happy to welcome new members to the committee, please contact me or any other committee member if you would like to join us. We do need to re-elect the current members so if you would be willing to propose their re-election please email me. Thank you.

AOB

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the future please let me know.

Thank you to those who have sent kind messages two examples below:

“I just wanted to express my thanks to whoever it was who put in all the work for the Draw a Day. Although I didn't do it everyday I made an effort 2/3 days a week. I kept all the emails which I think will come in very useful over the next few months..... In fact I might just start from the beginning again!”

“Although I am not a member of FAS I would like to thank everyone involved in the Draw a Day course. I have greatly enjoyed doing the tasks and will miss it, but I have a few gaps in my sketch book still to be caught up with.

The course has made me look at many artists and appreciate them more, though I doubt my ability to copy their skills, but it has been great fun trying.

I would be very grateful if you would pass on my appreciation to the membership in your AGM reports.

With best wishes, and thanks again for circulating the daily emails”

Thank you to the committee who work so hard and for your ongoing support and I look forward to when we can return to business as usual.

Date of Next AGM to be arranged