

Haslemere Art Society

AGM

6th July 2023

President: Roger Dellar
Chair: Kaja van Walt
Treasurer: David Pattenden
Exhibition Officer: Rachel Vitolo
Committee Member: Sheila Carr
Committee Member: Maggie Harker

Apologies Catherine Bullock, Pauline Stone, Margaret Benton, Susan Ridley, Barbara Murray, Carol Barlow, Chris Vardy, Brezetta Thonger, Penny Greaves, Sonya Vine

Kaja van Walt – the year's news

Kaja welcomed Roger and thanked him for judging the President's Prize.

Kaja recapped on the year 2022/23. Post Covid HAS had been more active with new events. Roger had introduced a paint and picnic event in the museum's grounds in August 2022. There had been 4 zoom presentations, 3 museum events and 2 workshops and the Christmas party. In the New Year three painters, (Roger Dellar, Sonya Vine and Robbie Murdoch) painted each other, in a painters' painting evening.

Kaja gave thanks to Sheila for organising many programmes over the years, including ordering wine from Majestic!

Sonya was thanked for organising the website which is colourful and up to date. In addition, she created a well organised facility for new members to register online.

Jane Larkin, Instagram Account Manager, had shown great enthusiasm and generated global interest by posting about new members and art news. Jane's support has resulted in gaining many followers from as far afield as Japan and Amsterdam!

Regular events include:

1. Plein Air – Sonya has revived a plein air painting session which has been conducted by Sarah Manolescue at two sessions to date at Grayswood and Frensham Pond.
2. Coffee and Sketch – Sonya has introduced a get together on the third Monday of the month. Artists can join at Lion's Den, Weyhill and a table is reserved for an hour's chat and sketch session.

3. Tuesday Group - runs for 10 weeks in the Spring and 10 in Autumn, in the afternoon. This is a relaxed session with tables set out, no tutor, where artists work on their own projects.
4. Life Group – David conducts a life drawing/painting group in Camelsdale on a Friday afternoon.

Kaja concluded that the society has worked hard at providing something for everybody.

Kaja had recently visited 7 local Surrey Artist Open Studios to meet the next generation of artists which helped her formulate a plan for the future HAS.

Kaja believed the success of the society was due to everybody, members and committee. As an example, over the Covid months David Culpin asked and encouraged members to write about what influenced them and their art. This is available for members to read. David has also put together the Heritage booklet.

Kaja gave thanks to the Treasurer, David, for his input and involvement keeping the financial books in order.

Roger Dellar gave his thanks to Kaja for her long commitment to HAS.

David Pattenden, Treasurer - year's figures

David explained the Income and Expenditure sheet for HAS for the accounting year 1/5/22 to 30/4/23. The balance of the account is £5588.80. The HAS exhibition in Autumn made £119.30 profit. The workshops pay for themselves and the Tuesday group funds itself. The increasing costs of hiring: museum space, speakers, cleaners have meant a £2450.98 decrease in funds for the accounting year compared with 2021/22.

David and the committee felt that the subscription fee must be addressed to ensure HAS's success in the future.

Kaja had checked with Sonya how many members there are at present = 92 members (13 not paying).

Rachel compared HAS with other societies where the fees are £25-30, and HAS £15 and has been so for many years.

Roger Dellar detailed the costings for workshops: £200 for the hall and £300 for artists sessions and £25 for use of the kitchen. The average attendance is 10 people. Sheila added that 15 people would make this more viable. Jane Larkin added that zoom sessions may help the deficit. It was agreed by the committee and membership attending the AGM that the HAS membership fee should be £25 per annum.

Rachel Vitolo – Exhibition Officer

Rachel gave the figures for the 2022 exhibition:

34 artists took part and there were 75 paintings, 53 folios and 18 crafts eg ceramic and jewellery.

Sonya Vine won the exhibition prize with Pond Dipping and there were 181 voters. The entry fee was £5 per painting, £3 per folio and £5 for ceramics, sculptures etc. There was no fee for cards but 10% was deducted at sale. Rachel thanked her 2022 exhibition helpers. There is a vacancy for an Exhibition Officer as Rachel will be standing down after 11 years supporting HAS.

Kaja van Walt proposes new committee members

Kaja introduced Olga Houghton as the new Chair for HAS. Olga is Head of Art at Highfield School and will bring creative thinking, good organisation and management to the role. Kaja asked for first and second consents and Olga was appointed Chair.

Kaja introduced Sarah van den Broek for the Secretary position. There were first and second proposals and Sarah was appointed Secretary.

Sonya was voted as Membership Secretary for HAS.

David asked that a successor for his role as Treasurer was identified as he would complete his work by April 2024.

Any Other Business

Sheila requested that somebody take over her position towards the end of the year. She organises bookings of halls, venues etc as a Committee Member.

Kaja felt it would be beneficial for the new committee members to coordinate and organise events for the future.

Marketing of the HAS exhibition was discussed, using flyers, newspaper editorial, Instagram and signs (though with council approval). Radio and schools were noted as possible networking solutions.

Judging of Still Life

Roger Dellar reviewed the still life paintings and there were three which he particularly enjoyed – Olga Houghton and Jane Larkin were of special mention with Rachel Vitolo winning, with an outstanding picture of three bottles. The new Chair presented Rachel with the plate.

Photographs of the AGM below:







