

THE FRIENDS OF THE HATTON GALLERY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2016
IN THE SEMINAR ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ART
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

Those Present

Bob Young, Vhairi Cardinal, Jean Taylor, Pamela Parrish, Jill Arthey, Alysia Trackim, Heather Baker, Richard Thompson, John Dance.

Members

H. P. Rose, Linda Neslund, Irene Awcock, Judith Houston, Judith Ramsay, Jo Kendal, Sue Brophy, Marion Thompson, Doreen Elcox, Margaret B Hunter, P Brenda Hohl.

Proxies

Apologies for Absence

Susan Tideswell, Caroline Coode, Pauline Hughes, Syl Scott, Remo Boccacci, Doris Dance, Ray Cardinal, Jen England, Isa England, Simon Court, Kelsey Thornton, Aubrey Anderson.

Opening Remarks

Unfortunately, all representatives from TWAM (Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums), as well as our president, Eric Cross, have had to give their apologies and could not be present today.

2015 Minutes

Jo Kendal noticed that the workshops reported on the minutes had a typo of 2014 instead of 2015. Minutes were accepted: Henry Rose nominated, Irene Awcock seconded.

Matters Arising

Henry Rose inquired about printing costs of all FOTH (Friends of the Hatton) mailings. Vhairi Cardinal said that we are looking into it: electronic is best, but we do not have a vast number of email addresses. Henry suggested asking people to update their electronic correspondence, to which Vhairi responded that we will send out a reminder. Jo Kendal enquired if FOTH knew the reason why members do not supply their email addresses? Richard Thompson suggested that this is because people seem to like getting a hard copy.

Irene Awcock mentioned U3A (a local organisation) offers a discount on their subscription if people choose to receive their correspondence electronically. Doreen Elcox mentioned that U3A also offers an incentive for receiving e-newsletters and asked the committee how many bulletins or correspondence do we send out per year. Bob Young answered that it is no more than 4, or as and when needed.

Chairman's Report

Vhairi Cardinal: It has been a busy year, hectic, especially up to the closure. Our usual superb array of events, workshops, and lectures, as well as a number of new members joining is keeping the Hatton profile high. Committee is represented on a number of subcommittee panels.

The Gallery is closed, but FOTH is not. Vhairi thanks the events team, led by Jean Taylor for their sterling work. We are working on finding new venues for the near future. Workshops aren't as much of a problem as lectures, but more information will be coming out in the coming months. We have put in a request for printmaking with the school over several days and are still working on Summer.

One meeting, the Friends & Affiliates of TWAM gave us an opportunity to talk with other TWAM Friends groups, which we will be working with in the future. Unfortunately the Friends of the Shipley Gallery has folded, but we will be working with them as a joint effort. We have also made contact with Northumbria History Society (NHS) to do a workshop at the Great North Museum (GNM) in the future.

We have sad news, Jack Slade, former chair of FOTH, has passed away, we have known him a long time and some of the membership have probably known him longer. Yvonne Vint has sadly passed away, as well after a long illness. In October Scott Campbell passed away, unfortunately we only just learned this. He was a contemporary of Victor Pasmore, student in '47 and Arts Council regional director from '53 to '55.

Vhairi Cardinal mentioned that her term of 3 year's is now coming to an end and she will be stepping down. She thanks everyone for their support over her time and hopes that members will greet the new chair with equal vigour. Heartfelt thanks. A new chair will be elected at nominations.

Jo Kendal mentions that there is no date yet for Jack Slade's memorial service. Jean Taylor mentions that Yvonne Vint's service will be held in Westgate Road. Vhairi will ask Pauline Hughes for more details and send to Richard Thompson for any curious.

Curator's Report

Julie Milne sent the following information:

Activities Jan – March 2016

Gallery Interpretation

Headland Design was appointed in January to design the interpretative detail for the Merz Barn Gallery and for the African Art display in the Flexible Learning Space. Design is being coordinated with the base field. Floor and wall finishes have been discussed at the general finishes meeting with the Design team and all interpretive design will be approved by the Access Consultant.

Chris Stevens, the Tate's Head of Displays, and Isabel Schulz at the Sprengel Museum will act as critical friends as the curatorial content for the Merz Barn display is developed.

Gallery Closure & Pack Up

Two closure events were held at the end of February for stakeholders, with funders, University staff and students, Friends and artist sin attendance. At the formal event, Fred Brooks provided a full account of the originals of the Hatton, the importance of the gallery in university and city life and the journey of the Merz Barn to Newcastle.

The Merz Barn has been consolidated and boxed in behind ta wooden scree to protect it during the capital works. Conservators will monitor its condition during the closure period. The arts collections have been removed by fine art handlers to secure storage in the Laing Art Gallery. Hatton materials and furniture surplus to requirements have been snapped up by find art students and staff! The offices and galleries were vacated by 21 March and Gallery staff are ow based at the Laing Art Gallery until the refurbishment is complete.

Project Communications & Offsite Activity

-The Hatton website has been replaced by the Hatton Future website which has been updated with project images. Up to date information will be posted about the offsite activity programme, future plans and how to take part. Hatton collections will be highlighted by 'object of the month' and 'curator's choice'. Social media will be used to share staff and stakeholder stories and film clips about the Hatton, the collections and the project.

-Showcase offsite commission: a call to artists has gone out to create a major art installation which will tour to three cultural locations I the North East. The Showcase will creatively showcase the Hatton Gallery's collection and reference its important history in the development of installation art and exhibition design. The commission is intended to engage audiences by allowing them to enter into the installation and interact with the reproduction artworks on show. Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding for this project has been enhanced b Arts Council Catalyst funding, enabling the Hatton to attract a high profile artist.

-The creative ideas of the three shortlisted Showcase artists will be exhibited at the Laing Art Gallery alongside some of the Hatton collections in July, increasing the public profile of the project. The winning entry will then be selected for the Showcase design and installation to begin on campus is October.

-TWAM Communications staff are in the process of identifying locations on site and elsewhere on campus where University members and the public can find out about the Hatton, how to engage with the Showcase commission, and how to access training and volunteering opportunities relating to the offsite activity programme. The plan is to use hoardings, Hatton entrances/exits, campus projectors, plasma screen, e-communication and print, as was done very successfully at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

-The Learning Officer is working with refugee community groups on the theme of Home and Belonging, developing new interpretive materials for the Merz Barn section of the website. She will be visiting schools and community centres to maintain existing relationships and to build new ones.

-Offsite activity and University liaison will increase on the appointment of the Art Participation Officer May/June 2016.

At the end of the reading, Jo Kendal asked about space for our exhibitions. Vhairi Cardinal answered that this will depend on the Hatton programming: depending on when, the gallery and outside the gallery space will be unpleasant and dusty. The committee will try to look into doing something with the GNM, as we have in the past.

Henry Rose mentioned that Northumberland used to display at the Laing Art Gallery.

Doreen Elcox enquired about the African collection to which Vhairi Cardinal responded that it will be displayed in the new Learning space, but it's currently stored at the Discovery Museum. Doreen Elcox asked if this was displayed publicly, to which Vhairi Cardinal responded that she didn't know.

Vhairi Cardinal followed up to mention that the new archive space will have works on paper that can be accessed publicly. Henry Rose asked if this would be electronically, to which Vhairi Cardinal said yes and said that it will be available physically as well.

Learning Officer's Report

Hazel Barron-Cooper sent the following information:

Learning Report

-The final exhibition at the Hatton, 'Collection' was well attended by school and adult groups alike. Workshops were held working from the different and varied areas of the collection such as sculpture, prints, drawings and people and places. IT was also an opportunity for children, students, young people and adults to learn about the artists who have taught or studied at Newcastle Fine Art Department such as Gowing, Hamilton, Pasmore and Rowntree.

-During Closure there is an educational Outreach Programme delivering practical art sessions and talks to primary schools, secondary schools, community groups and children in hospital.

-The sessions will highlight the opening exhibitions in 2017 and encourage visits to take place to the new refurbished gallery.

-During closure a project will be delivered called 'Home and Belonging' working with the refugee community in the North East. This is to mirror Kurt Schwitter's flight from War town Germany during World War Two and his relocation in the Lake District. Art sessions are being offered to refugees focusing on Schwitter's work and the participants will be encouraged to create their own creative response which could be a visual art piece, poetry, writing, music film, audio recording. International students at the University will also be invited to participate. The project has already begun with sessions taking place with refugees from Pakistan, Kurdistan and Zimbabwe working with Newcastle based group, 'Crossings' and the North East Refugee Service.

Treasurer's Report

John Dance presented the treasurer's report.

Financial Summary:

Brought forward from 2014: £3,523

Payments in: £5,325

Payments out: £4,123

End balance: £4,725

(Please request *The Treasurer's Report to the Friends of the Hatton Gallery for the Financial Year January 1st 2015 to December 31st 2015* for a break-down of items.)

John Dance also mentioned that half our members have not paid. Doreen Elcox asked if they get informed. Richard Thompson said that this is caused by a combination of factors.

Henry Rose enquired about the cost of membership fees. John Dance responded that this is something to look at after the gallery reopens. Vhairi Cardinal mentioned that it would be something to be discussed two AGM's from now (2018.)

John Dance also mentioned that a large portion of our income usually come from our exhibition sales, although TWAM is slow to pay our artists. John Dance mentioned that we can solve this by paying the artists first and waiting for TWAM to reimburse FOTH. Henry Rose enquired about the impact of the wait, to which John Dance responded that it was about three months.

Membership Secretary's Report

Richard Thompson:

Membership as of 2013 AGM: 224

Number paid (as of end of March) 2013 AGM: 134

Membership as of 2014 AGM: 215

Number paid (as of end of March) 2014 AGM: 159

Membership as of 2015 AGM: 238

Number paid (as of end of March) 2015 AGM: 198

Membership as of 2016 AGM: 233

Number paid (as of end of March) 2016 AGM: 187

From Richard's report:

Although there are 46 members who have not yet paid for 2016, the figures are fairly similar to last year. Reminders will be sent out over the following weeks and this usually simulates a good response.

There were 32 new members joined in 2015 but as is sadly consistent with the overall figure about the same number left, failed to pay subs, moved out of the area or deceased.

An artist in the December bulletin suggesting existing members may wish to consider a last minute gift of membership to a friend or colleague produced a good response with 11 new members join during what is normally a quiet time of year.

It would be helpful if members on line could update me with their mail addresses. Out of the current membership of 239, only 125 have produced this information. In a recent attempt to email these there were still many delivery failures so an update would be most welcome.

If nay member wish to receive information via email please let me know by contacting me at richard.r.thompson@btinternet.com. To date there are only 38 members have decided to receive the regular FOTH bulletin exclusively via email. Clearly emailing information saves a significant amount on postage and members are urged to consider this option.

Nominations and Election of Chair and Committee Members

Irene Awcock nominate, Pamela Parrish seconds, all for re-election: 6 votes for / 0 against
Vhairi Cardinal nominates Alysia Trackim for Chairman, Bob Young & Richard Thompson second: 19 votes for / 0 against

Call out for any member wishing to join committee answered by Jo Kendal, Vhairi Cardinal nominates, Jean Taylor & Doreen Elcox second: 10 votes for / 0 against

Members and committee clap for Vhairi Cardinal.

Any Other Business

Vhairi Cardinal thanks Linda for bringing along such lovely food to the AGM.

Meeting ends 12:17PM.