

**WINCHESTER ART HISTORY GROUP**  
**Annual General Meeting held on 8 May 2024**  
**at The ARC, Winchester**

**PRESENT:**

Rodger Hake (Chairman), Catherine Campbell (Programme Planning Group), Christine Clarke-Smith (Member Liaison Officer), John Harding (Programme Planning Group), Margaret Munro (Online Booking Secretary), Carol Orchard (Minutes Secretary), Felicity Pennycook (Programme Planning Group Liaison), Richard Sutton (Treasurer), Katrina Tanner (Membership Secretary), Evelyn Thurlby (Venues & Visits Organiser) and about 31 other members

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

June Brooks, Mary & Stuart Evans, Graham & Penny Ferguson, Bela & Milan Fuchs, Lucy Gosse, Jennifer Hayward, James & Susie Long, Sally Milligan, Paull & Sharon Montgomery, Lawrence & Sian Morphet, Barbara Peacock, Chris Peck, Jane Plummer, Barbara Purvis, Susan Ricketts, Jill Saltmarsh, Sophie Shoemsmith, Elizabeth Skeet, Felicity Urquart, Jo Watson, Antonia Whitley

**2 MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM, held at The ARC in Winchester on 3 May 2023, were accepted as a true record.

**3 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Richard Sutton presented a summary of the accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31 December 2023; these had been circulated to members before the meeting. Income for the year was £11,459 and expenditure £15,823, leaving a deficit of £4,364. Adjusting this for income received in 2022 or relating to 2024 produced a net figure for the year's losses of £3,570, meaning that WAHG's net reserves fell from £18,713 to £15,865 during the period. The main cause was rising costs during a period of inflation.

Rather than see reserves continue to fall, the Management Committee had decided that seminar fees should be increased to reflect the rise in costs; it is proposed to increase the price of tickets from £10 to £15 with effect from September 2024. Members would also be asked to approve an increase in the membership subscription (unchanged during the last 9 years) from £20 to £30 from July 2025.

**4 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Rodger Hake described the year's events. Seminars were once again back at The ARC (formerly the Discovery Centre). The session from January to June focused on 'Portraiture' and that from September to December on 'Muses'; both were generally well received by members. However, on three occasions speakers had withdrawn at short notice; in two of these cases no replacement could be found and WAHG had no option but to cancel the seminars and refund the tickets. The

Programme Planning Group has since established a panel of speakers willing to be called at short notice if necessary.

A trip to Copenhagen organised by Christine Clarke-Smith last autumn was much enjoyed by those who went. However, it has been noted that, since the pandemic, it has been difficult to recruit enough people on to proposed trips and visits to make them financially viable.

Membership renewals have been concluded for the coming year, with those leaving WAHG for various reasons having been replaced by new members recruited from the waiting-list. Membership remains at 116, a level which allows us to meet demand for places at seminars without exceeding the maximum of 80 allowed in the performance hall when it is set out seminar-style.

Finally, members were asked to vote on the proposal to raise the membership subscription to £30 with effect from 1 July 2025. The motion was passed *nem. con.*

## **5 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Rodger Hake took the opportunity of Christine Clarke-Smith's retirement from the Management Committee to thank her for her contributions to it over the last nine years, firstly as Events Secretary and latterly as Membership Liaison Officer.

In turn Felicity Pennycook, on Rodger's retirement as Chair of the Committee, thanked him for all he had done in that role since 2018; he had guided WAHG through the changes of venue caused by the management changes at The ARC, overseen the introduction of on-line booking, acted as Treasurer for a period, and, above all, helped steer WAHG through the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

For the time being, the Committee will rotate the chairmanship among its members, with Felicity Pennycook initially taking on the role.

No other nominations having been received, Anne Oestmann was elected to the Management Committee, having been proposed by Margaret Munro and seconded by Richard Sutton.

## **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Vote of Thanks**

Nicholas Muers-Raby offered a vote of thanks to all the volunteers, past and present, who have contributed to making WAHG the successful organisation it has become.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

co/9.5.24