

THE FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD HOUSE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in The Guildhall, Guildford on Wednesday, 27th April 2022 at 2.30pm.

Present:

Committee:	Barbara Logan	Co-Chairman
	Hilary Leigh	Co-Chairman
	Greta Willis	Hon. Secretary
	John Surrey	Hon. Treasurer
	Gwyneth Craske	Visits Organiser
	Beryl Davies	Lectures organiser
	Ann Fearey	

and 24 members.

Barbara Logan chaired the meeting. She opened it by welcoming all those present, saying how good it was to see everybody again after two years without meetings. She explained that Lady Hamilton, our Patron was unable to be with us and had sent her apologies.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Lady Hamilton, Sally Barker, Mr & Mrs Peter Bateman, Sheila Beswick, Jenny Bray, Mary Broughton, Nancy Butcher, John & Sheila Collins, Anne Dudley, Frances Eggo, Beatrice Gould, Shirley Gruber, Ann Hyde, June Irlam, Sylvia Jones, Coral McGinn, Hilary Mitchell, Phyl Morris, Pauline Read, Cynthia Preston, Jenny Sabin, Margaret & Tony Walker and Reg Wholey.

2. Co-Chairmen's Report.

Barbara Logan reported that :-

a). During 'Lock-down' the Committee had met on Zoom and latterly in person. The 2020 and 2021 AGM voting had been on line or by post. In 2020, 45 members voted and in 2021, 52 members voted. On both occasions, all motions were unanimously agreed.

b). Committee. Unfortunately, Carol Cox had moved away and so resigned from the Committee. This reduced the number to 8, whereas it should be 10. Luckily two members, Tessa Johnson and Pauline Read had put themselves forward to join the Committee and there would be the opportunity to vote for them later.

Barbara introduced Tessa to the meeting and explained that Pauline sent her apologies as she was on holiday.

She emphasised that more volunteers were needed for the Committee, as several of the present members were wishing to retire.

Gwyneth Craske had taken over the task of Visits Organiser and would be talking about her plans later.

c). The most important news, since we had last met in person, was the fact that 'The Friends' had donated over £7,900 for the conservation of 17 John Russell portraits in the Borough collection. This sum included a legacy of £1,030 left to 'The Friends' by June Cockell, who was an active member for many years. The pictures will be displayed in Guildford House in the autumn in the exhibition 'Georgian Women. Portraits by John Russell'. Gemma Haigh, who has curated the exhibition and written the catalogue for it,

will be talking to us about the pictures in our first lecture in October. Meanwhile, the exhibition can be viewed on the GBC website under Guildford House – exhibitions.

d). Gwyneth Craske and Beryl Davies were now able to arrange outings and lectures once more. Gwyneth would tell the meeting about the summer outings shortly.

e). Barbara thanked Ann Fearey for the delicious refreshments she had prepared and which we would enjoy with tea at the end of the AGM.

3. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the accounts had been distributed before the start of the meeting. They had been prepared by John Surrey (Hon. Treasurer) and reviewed by Arthur Savage, the External Independent Examiner, whom John thanked. There had been very little financial activity in the past year, as subscriptions had not been collected and there had been no expenditure on meetings or outings.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Hilary Leigh, seconded by Janet Beazley and agreed by the meeting.

4. Election of Officers.

Co-Chairmen. As, again, there had been no nomination for chairman, two members had agreed, once more, to act as Co-Chairmen:-

Hilary Leigh – *proposed* – Gwyneth Craske, *seconded* – Greta Willis.

Barbara Logan – *proposed* – Tilly Twum-Barima, *seconded* – Sheila Beswick.

Both were elected unanimously.

Hon. Secretary:- Greta Willis.

Proposed – Ann Hyde, *seconded* – Sheila Beswick, *elected unanimously*.

Hon. Treasurer:- John Surrey.

Proposed – Greta Willis, *seconded* – Barbara Logan, *elected unanimously*.

5. Election of Committee.

Four serving committee members were willing to stand for re-election:-

Gwyneth Craske (Visits) – *proposed* – Sylvia Jones, *seconded* – Jane Olds.

Beryl Davies (Lectures) – *proposed* – Ann Fearey, *seconded* – Beverley Healing.

Ann Fearey – *proposed* – Pauline Surrey, *seconded* – Beryl Davies.

Phyl Morris (Membership) – *proposed* – Frances Eggo, *seconded* – Gwenyth Pickering.

They were elected unanimously en-bloc.

The Co-Chairman, Barbara Logan, thanked two members for offering to join the committee:-

Tessa Johnson – *proposed* – Greta Willis, *seconded* – Barbara Logan.

Pauline Read – *proposed* – Greta Willis, *seconded* – Ann Hyde.

Both were elected unanimously.

6. Appointment of External Independent Examiner.

The co-Chairman explained that Lesley Hines, who had been our Independent Examiner since 2014, had retired in 2020 and, sadly, had since died. Arthur Savage had agreed to take on the position. He was proposed by John Surrey, seconded by Hilary Leigh and elected unanimously

7. Any Other Business.

Barbara Logan reported that she had received a telephone call from Hilary Mitchell that morning to tell her that her husband, Christopher, had died suddenly. Barbara had details of the funeral if anyone wanted them.

Gwyneth Craske, who had taken on the responsibilities of Visits Organiser, explained that, following all the problems of the previous two years, she was planning to move ahead cautiously. The first three visits were outdoors – to Leonardslee Gardens, Hever (castle and gardens) and Kew Gardens. Everyone had received the details, but, so far bookings had been disappointing. She urged everyone to support the programme and to encourage their friends to do so. The visits could only go ahead, if they were viable. She asked for ideas for future visits.

There was no further business.

Before the meeting closed, Gwyneth on behalf of all those present, as well as members who had sent in messages with their apologies, thanked Barbara for all she had done as visits organiser – not only organising monthly visits for 27 years, but also cultural holidays both at home and abroad, as well as lunches and suppers for 'The Friends'. She had given the members a great deal of pleasure and always most professionally and with thought and kindness. Gwyneth stated that Barbara would be a hard act to follow, but everyone was delighted that she was continuing on the committee as Co-Chairman.

Barbara was presented with a bouquet as a token of 'The Friends' appreciation.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.0pm. Members then enjoyed tea and cakes before reassembling for a talk by David Rose entitled 'Guildford Past and Present'.
