

# THE FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD HOUSE

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Guildhall, Guildford, on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at 7.00pm.

### Present:

Patron            Lady Hamilton of Dalzell DL

Committee:	Pauline Surrey	Chairman
	Hilary Leigh	Vice Chairman
	Greta Willis	Hon. Secretary
	John Surrey	Hon. Treasurer
	Nancy Butcher	
	Beryl Davies	Lectures Organiser
	Barbara Logan	Visits Secretary
	Phyl Morris	Membership Secretary
	Ann Fearey	(co-opted)

and 31 members.

The Chairman, Pauline Surrey, opened the meeting by welcoming Lady Hamilton and the members who were present to the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Guildford House.

### 1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Mavis Archer, Norma & Peter Bateman, Gwyneth Craske, Anne Dudley, Alison Farara, Beverley Healing, Iris & Bill Hawkins, Leslie Hines, Tessa Johnson, Mike & Angela Joule, Brenda MacKinnon, Malcolm & Liz Sinclair, Olive & Reg Wholey.

### 2 Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The minutes had been circulated with the agenda. Their adoption was proposed by Nancy Butcher, seconded by Hilary Leigh and agreed by the meeting. They were signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising.

None.

### 4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman had enclosed her report with the agenda, but she wished to add several points-

a). She thanked the Committee for their hard work and support during her time as Chairman. She paid tribute especially to Malcolm Sinclair, who was retiring from the Committee after many years, including a long spell as Chairman. She also gave special thanks to Nancy Butcher, who had served on the Committee for about twenty years, organising stewards, when needed, in Guildford House and acting as Lectures Organiser for several years.

b). Pauline had enjoyed her three years as Chairman, but her life had become very busy and she felt that it was time to go. However, she was reassured that the Committee would be strong, being joined, subject to their election later in the meeting, by three new members. Ann Fearey had been co-opted onto the Committee during the year and Carol Cox and Gwyneth Craske had both been nominated and agreed to stand. So the Society was well placed to flourish and grow. The best way for a society to grow was by word of mouth, so she urged members to tell their friends about our activities and perhaps bring them to meetings as visitors.

c). Next year would be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends, begun by Iris Hawkins, the then curator of Guildford House, to build up GBC's collection of pastels by John Russell – the largest in the world. Catriona would be telling us more later in the evening.

d). Finally, exciting news ! The Friends had just purchased a new Russell for the GBC collection, a pastel of a little girl with a squirrel. It was now awaiting shipment from Canada.

## 5. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the accounts had been distributed before the meeting. They had been prepared by the Hon. Treasurer and reviewed by Leslie Hines, the External Independent Examiner.

They showed income from subscriptions was marginally up, but profits from visits was less due to fewer participants on some of the winter trips. The year ended with a deficit of £555.

A donation of £500 had been made to Challengers to help them to purchase art supplies for their summer holiday activities.

The only question from the floor was about the cost of the recently purchased Russell. The Hon. Treasurer thought that with import and other costs this would amount to about £3000.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Barbara Logan, seconded by Steve Palmer and agreed by the meeting.

## 6. Election of Officers.

**Chairman :-** no nomination.

**Vice Chairman:-** Hilary Leigh

*proposed – Jane Landells, seconded – Jill Purslow, elected unanimously.*

**Hon. Secretary:-** Greta Willis

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

**Hon. Treasurer:-** John Surrey

*proposed - Barbara Logan, seconded – Sheila Beswick, elected unanimously.*

## 7. Election of Committee.

There were six nominations for six places:-

Carol Cox : *proposed – Ann Fearey, seconded – Phyl Morris, elected unanimously.*

Gwyneth Craske : *proposed – Jane Olds, seconded – Hilary Leigh, elected unanimously.*

Beryl Davies : *proposed – Olive Wholey, seconded – Sheila Remnant, elected unanimously.*

Ann Fearey : *proposed – Pauline Surrey, seconded – John Surrey, elected unanimously.*

Barbara Logan : *proposed – John Surrey, seconded – Greta Willis, elected unanimously.*

Phyl Morris : *proposed – Joan Wrenn, seconded – Greta Willis, elected unanimously.*

The present Chairman, Pauline Surrey, explained that as there had been no nomination for **Chairman**, Hilary Leigh and Barbara Logan had agreed to serve as acting **Co-Chairmen** for the coming year. This was approved unanimously by the meeting.

## 8. Election of External Independent Examiner.

Leslie Hines was proposed by John Surrey, seconded by Barbara Logan and elected by the meeting as External Independent Examiner.

## 9. Any Other Business.

Lady Hamilton presented Nancy Butcher with a bouquet and Pauline Surrey with a basket of rose plants and thanked them for all their hard work for 'The Friends'. The Hon. Secretary thanked Pauline, on behalf of the Committee, for her enthusiastic leadership as Chairman.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Lady Hamilton for her support and for attending the meeting and presented her with a bouquet. Lady Hamilton expressed her thanks and pleasure at being with us.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm and members retired upstairs for refreshments before a talk by Catriona Wilson on 'The Borough collection: 60 Years of Art for All in Guildford'.

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