

LEAMINGTON STUDIO ARTISTS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TRUSTEES 4.30 PM 27TH AUGUST 2014 At Gallery 150, 10 Livery Street, Leamington Spa.

Present: Clive Engwell, Tony Cartwright, James Callaghan, Hilary Roberts, Bryan Kelly, Kate Livingston and (for part of the meeting) Alison Chantrey

1. The chair, Clive Engwell opened the meeting. It was assumed that Nikki Monday was still on holiday abroad and had not received notice of the meeting.
2. The **minutes of the previous meeting** were read and it was agreed to amend item 3 to make its meaning clear. Clive Engwell said that there was no intention to suggest that the gallery was being run for the personal benefit of anyone involved, but that the issue referred to was the implementation of the longstanding intention to make all members of LSA also voting members of Gallery 150. All those present were in agreement with this proposal.
3. **Chair's comments:** An excellent folding leaflet has been produced as an information document for prospective members to replace the out-of date existing document. Clive is to email it to trustees for comments or amendments.

A large public relations firm engaged by Magenta wish to promote art in Warwickshire and to this end are offering to help us to increase our membership by providing free publicity, producing our newsletter etc. They also propose to set up a new website, Henley and Blue, for the purpose of promoting artists. Agreed that although this sounded to be a proposal which would benefit us, we should also be careful to be fully informed of all the ramifications, and to this end Ben Rye would be invited to come and make a presentation to the trustees.

4. **Treasurer's report.** Tony Cartwright said that currently LSA has £8945.00 cash in the bank and £4000.00 in the special account. Tony has not finalised the situation regarding Art in the Park, but estimates that the £8945.00 will reduce to just under £5000.00 once all Art in the Park costs are settled. If a payment of £1,100.00 from the Round Table materialises, he expects Art in the Park to have cost LSA approximately £1,500.00.
5. **Membership report.** Trustees thanked Alison for her report. Membership stands at 358 members. Trustees agreed Alison's proposal about how to deal with people who have still not amended their standing orders next year.
6. **Artspace.** It was suggested that a new chair of the committee which produced Artspace was needed and that Jonathan Treadwell would be an ideal person to approach. After some discussion it was agreed that in the interest of transparency it would be best to circulate all members inviting applications. A new editor is also needed, and it appears there is someone at Warwick University who is willing to do this and who would be suitable.
7. **Gallery 150 notice to quit/future management and finance procedures:** Gallery 150 Directors were to meet on the following day and Tony Cartwright said it was highly likely to be agreed that all members of LSA would become voting members of Gallery 150. There was discussion about the financial procedures and Tony Cartwright said that someone with accounting qualifications/experience was needed as a 'controller' to supervise maintenance of day to day records and to keep us on track. It was also agreed that G150 needed to have a credit card and that the current use of the petty cash tin was inappropriate.

Discussion followed about the possibility of approaching the owners of Regent Court in an attempt to persuade them to offer us a secure tenancy of No 10, at least for a year. This might

be achieved by offering £10,000 or £20,000 rent, together with proposals for an exciting programme of exhibitions which would enhance the Regent Court experience for visitors and enable the owners to demonstrate a commitment to the community and the Arts. It was agreed that we would need to obtain sponsorship in order to raise the funds for this, and Alison Chantrey said she knows someone whose work is raising sponsorship for the Arts very successfully. Alison will give us contact details for this person.

It was agreed that we need to act as fast as possible on this, as there is a real risk that another restaurant will soon make application to establish itself in Regent Court and we may find ourselves again on a month's notice.

There was discussion about whether it was necessary to form a committee of members to assist and advise with the running of the gallery, but Kate Livingston thought this could be problematic. It was agreed that this had been necessary in the past, but now things were much better organised, regular meetings of the manager and the trustees should suffice. However, it was agreed that communication with members needs to be improved, particularly by giving more notice of opportunities to exhibit if at all possible.

Kate Livingston told the meeting that the programme for the gallery until Christmas was as follows:

From 2nd September a two week exhibition with invited artists called Human Spaces. Then, reverting to the usual three week periods, Alan Dyer, the AMA, Andy Farr, Ian Preece and the Christmas and New Year exhibitions. She had already secured bookings for next year for an exhibition by Nancy Upshall and the Embroiders' Guild, and had assumed Warwickshire Open Studios, which had brought a lot of new visitors to the gallery, would be run again.

8. Art in the Park and Driven! Art in the Park had been very successful. It was agreed that it should be put on again next year, and that Carole Sleight would probably be prepared to project manage it again, after negotiations about payment. It was noted that various people, having seen it to be successful, wanted to join in next year, and that with the benefit of this year's experience, we could probably do various things more economically.

Driven! had also been a huge success and had brought a lot of people into Regent Court and the gallery. Tony said that full financial details were not yet available, but the final figures were likely to be very positive. It was agreed that we should consider doing it again next year, perhaps to coincide with the locally run Festival of Motoring.

9. 2014 AGM It was agreed that the AGM should be held on **Tuesday 21st October**. All trustees would be required to resign, and to put themselves up for re-election if they wished. The next trustees meeting would be on **Wednesday 8th October**.

10. Any Other Business: Bryan Kelly said he had been offered the opportunity by Gerry Smith to hold a solo exhibition of his work in the Maison Bleu premises in the very near future, on a commission only basis, and he had accepted. Kate Livingston expressed surprise as the manager of Regent Court had offered her the same premises for an Art in the Park display during the same period. Kate agreed to clarify the position immediately.

Clive said he is to tell the Council we have moved, to maintain the discount on business rates we already receive.

Kate Livingston reported on her meeting with BID, and said that it costs about £600 a year to be part of this organisation, but New River had paid for our new premises until Christmas.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm