

## **Notes from Volunteers meeting – 5 pm on Tuesday 18 July 2023**

### **St Patrick's Club, Leamington Spa**

**Present:** Sue Bent, Alessia Sissa, Ed Nash, John Boden, Virginia Murphy (secretary) and 29 LSA members

**Q: Current situation re lease at the Art Room.**

A: Rolling situation month by month.

**Q: Are there enough volunteers to steward – is it just a suggestion that each exhibitor volunteers once?**

A: Stewarding once has been suggested – NOT a must – as this may discourage a huge number of people from exhibiting.

**Q: Do we need 2 people stewarding in the exhibition rooms at East Lodge or can a studio holder be one of the stewards?**

A: Stewarding at East Lodge needs to be 2 people – not counting studio holders.

**Q: Could there be a bank of people who wish to volunteer but who are not LSA members?**

A: The Art room does have some people who aren't members but who do volunteer. (we would need people's details if they are to do this because they would have access to security codes, etc.)

**Q: There was an issue in the WOS promotional exhibition when it was difficult to steward as people who were exhibiting were busy preparing for their own Open Studios. It was also difficult during Open Studios to get support.**

**Q: When is East Lodge lease due to expire? Are LSA planning to continue to lease East Lodge.**

A: Due in January 2024. Yes. David Guilding to be contacted before he leaves his role in September to query.

### **The members were then asked for any thoughts that they may have on what they want from LSA**

- There are still issues with the website – Mike Patrick advised that the content is suspended at the moment and although there are many documents on the site they are not visible. The present website is not good. Another webmaster is working with Mike. It will probably take another 3 months to sort out some of the main issues. The Art Room is not on the website. The Art Room and East Lodge to be brought together. Joost advised that there is a lack of members bios and photos – many blanks. Mike is able to do links from the website to members own websites.
- There needs to be a strategy around communication: Communication working group to be set up – those at meeting Joost, Carol and Mike. Further request to go out for others.
- There are issues around getting messages out. All info could go onto the website.
- There was a general concern that the members present did not want to see East Lodge portrayed as the poor relation.
- Both locations give a completely different experience.

- Mary Usher Thomas is happy to start up the coffee morning at East Lodge again. Previously this was not advertised and the numbers were low and so they did not continue. This could be advertised at the Art Room.
- An advert to go out to find an East Lodge Manager – role to be identified – curation of exhibitions (Virginia standing down from this role as of 1 Sept 2023), social media for exhibitions. Discussion about shared role with shared studio space. John advised that this would be a loss of £200 per month – it could be at a reduced rate though. Managers for both the Art Room and East Lodge need to be treated the same.
- There needs to be separate social media for the art room – at present – Instagram goes out on Maddie's and Cassie's personal social media accounts.

#### **Art in the Park**

- This is proceeding – this will open up next week for submissions. Small dimension pictures. 40 People responded to initial enquiry that was sent out and so a small marquee was chosen. There will be a selection process. To hang approx. 40 pieces.
- A member's survey to be created from questions raised this evening.
- Plans for a member's social before the AGM.