Cotswold Sculptors Association

Annual General Meeting
14th November 2018, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Compass Inn, Tormarton, Nr Badminton, Gloucestershire. GL9 1JB

Item	Discussion	Reference
Report from the Chair	*"Good evening, thank you for coming and welcome to our very first Annual General Meeting. For those who don't know me, I'm Debs Paproska Cole, Chair of the Cotswold Sculptors Association.* *One year on and I am still as enthusiastic as I was a year ago when we had our very first public meeting at The Bear of Rodborough …… actually, that's a compete lie! On 30th November last year, I was absolutely terrified! I think we all were. Firstly, terrified that no-one would turn up … and secondly, when loads of people did turn up, and we received overwhelming enthusiasm and support, and absolutely terrified with the resulting responsibility … but we've achieved quite a bit and we're working on the rest.* *So where did we come from, how did we arrive here and where we are now? Like most things, from small beginnings but mainly through frustration. There was no group or association specifically for sculptors closer than The Oxford Sculptors Group or the South West Sculptors Association down in Devon. There was no organisation that specifically promoted sculpture in this region either, so as I explained last year,* "A mud lover, a stone carver and a wood carver met in John Lewis café at Cribbs Causeway in Bristol and mulled over the idea of setting up a sculptor group closer to home". *It was a bit like going on a blind date because we were all complete strangers. We had rough descriptions, but it was definitely Cameron's pink trousers that saved the day!* *We met up regularly to work out where to go next, then, five months later we got wind of another group of sculptors based in Bath who were trying to do the same, so we contacted Martin Elphick and joined forces with him and Zoe Woolley. The group of us then got around the table, pooled ideas and wrote down what we wanted to achieve. The list eventually formed our aims and objectives. To remind you … SLIDE OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES SHOWN* *Let me now introduce you to the other committee members:* *Debs Harrison – Secretary and organiser of Open Forums* *Cameron Scott – Treasurer and Membership Secretary* *Martin Elphick – Editor of our electronic newsletter 'Sculpture Loop'* *Zoe Woolley* *Stephanie Cushing – Exhibitions coordinator* *Adrian Bates – Website coordinator* *Alexa Davenport – Social Secretary - stepped down a few weeks ago* *The CSA committee exists to ensure that the association is run in a responsible and efficient manner based around certain principles. We need ensure the association is run on a sound financial footing. We need to ensure the association is run in a way that provides the right opportunities for our members, and we need to ensure the association focusses on both the present and the long-term success in whatever guise that takes. There's nothing revolutionary with any of that except that not in my wildest dreams did I expect the association to be where it is today after just 12 months.*	'Aims and Objectives' can be found on the 'Join Us' page on the website

	Before I hand over to the other committee members who will talk in more detail about the specific areas we've been working on, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the them, for their continued hard work and the desire and passion each and every one of them brings to the table. They've been a fantastic group to work with. That also includes Roger Tann who stepped down a few months ago and Alexa Davenport who stepped down last week to enable us to bring in new blood. We thank them too. *Not many people get to see everything that goes on behind the scenes, but you have to trust me when I say that these guys do an inordinate amount of work, and as a group we should be extremely grateful. That's not to say it's just those with 'official' titles that should take all the plaudits, there are also those who sat on the exhibition sub-committee and others who gave up their time helping at our exhibition this summer. Without you, our very first exhibition would not have happened, and it would not have been the success it was. The CSA owes you all a huge debt of gratitude for everything you do – thank you.* *Thank you also to you, the members. Without you and your support, we wouldn't be where we are now. Now it's time to look at what we have achieved so far so here's a quick 5-minute overview from the team."* Debs then introduced the relevant committee members who gave reports on the important areas we'd focussed our attention on this inaugural year.	
Finance	Cameron Scott reported that our current membership stands at 56 which is an amazing achievement in just one year. He also announced that he would be issuing renewal letters to those who's membership was coming up to 12 months. Cameron went on the talk through the accounts which stands at a healthy £1625.19. £400 is due to come out of that for the new projector	2017-2018 Accounts Document is available in the membership section of the website
Open Forums	Debs Harrison gave an account of this year's Open Forum meetings. They had all been very successful and well supported. Past speakers and future speakers will be posted on the website on the 'Events' page. Having listened to members feedback, she explained that in future, we will hold them on different days of the week and try and vary where they take place so that every member should be able attend at least one within easy travelling distance. The committee will be putting together an anonymous postcode map of where members live in order to help.	Please see 'Events' page on website
Website	Martin Elphick thanked to those involved in getting the website up and running. He went on to emphasise the need for members to get information about their work (a maximum of 200 words) and four good quality photos for the website to Adrian Bates or Debs Paproska Cole as soon as possible. Martin explained that we were also setting up domain associated email. Sculpture Loop now has 135 subscribers and comes out roughly once a month. He also stressed the wish to hand it on in a year's time but in the meantime, to please keep sending him information to put in it.	
Exhibitions	Stephanie Cushing gave an account of our 'Creating Spaces' Exhibition in Uley in June. We had submissions from 27 members which amounted to 115 exhibits and took £4,500 in sales. We had over 800 visitors on the day and received very positive feedback about the high quality of work and the overall professionalism of the exhibition. We recognise that a day wasn't long enough however.	

	Future exhibitions: Uley Gardens open again in June 2020 and have invited us back to join them. We've agreed to extend the exhibition this time to 1 week, possibly longer. We've opened negotiations with Abbey Gardens in Malmesbury and Westonbirt House, just outside Tetbury in relation to holding a big exhibition next year. Both placed offer good outdoor space. Abbey Gardens may offer us a couple of months, however - indoor space is limited and for a short time. The property is on the market, so a possible sale brings uncertainty. Westonbirt House, which during term time is a private school, offers four large ballrooms, good access, parking and a cafe. Again, negotiations are underway. We are also exploring Chapel Arts in Cheltenham. 17 members have submitted work for a possible indoor gallery style exhibition sometime next year. Negotiations are underway.	
Conclusion	Debs Paproska Cole wrapped up annual report by saying that we'd set ourselves a big agenda this last year and so far, we haven't done too badly … but there is a lot more to do. She explained that we are making good progress in some of those areas and will continue work hard on members behalf, to grow the membership opportunities and ultimately the regional and national reputation of CSA in 2019.	
Election of Officers	Current committee members, except for Alexa Davenport, had asked to remain on the committee. All members were proposed, seconded and passed unanimously. This does mean that we have a vacancy for another member.	
AOB	*A copy of the constitution had been given to each member as they arrived with the request to read the document prior to the AGM taking place.* Debs Paproska Cole explained that at the last Open Forum which took place on 27th June 2018, we also held an EGM with the purpose of adopting the constitution. One of our members attending, who had a legal background, suggested that we needed to make a slight addition to cover ourselves following a future dissolution of the association and kindly assisted us in its redrafting. Debs asked if anyone had any comments regarding the document or the wording within it and if not was the audience happy to formally adopt it. Unanimously agreed and passed.	A copy of the CSA Constitution can be found in the members section of the website
Speaker	Following the AGM, Debs Harrison introduced our guest speaker, Anna Gillespie. After a superb talk, Anna was offered honorary membership which she accepted	