Cotswold Sculptors Association

Annual General Meeting
26th February 2021, 13:00 – 14:00
'Zoom' online video-conference

Item	Discussion	Reference
Report from the Chair	"Good afternoon, thank you for coming and welcome to the third Annual General Meeting of the Cotswold Sculptors Association. I hope you've all joined the correct Zoom session and weren't expecting a workout with Joe Wicks!! You'll be sorely disappointed if so! Anyway, for those who don't know me, I'm Debs Paproska Cole and I'm currently in the Chair – actually, I'm beginning to think it's stuck to me!! Before we begin, I'd like to introduce the committee … Debs Harrison – Secretary and Open Forums Coordinator Cameron Scott – Treasurer, Membership Secretary and 'Sculpture Loop' Editor Stephanie Cushing – Exhibitions Coordinator Philippa Macarthur – Publicity Coordinator Kim Pethybridge – Sponsorship Coordinator And lastly Shirley Sharp who's been acting webmaster since Adrian left and is also standing for election onto the committee later during the meeting. We also have another vacancy so if anyone is interested in joining us, we'd love to hear from them. Elections will be held later in the meeting so please let us know then. We sadly said goodbye to three committee members since the last AGM. Zoe Woolley who stepped down to look after her new baby who I'm pleased to say is doing really well and must be coming up for a year old by now. Congratulations from us all once again. Adrian Bates who coordinated our website updates and did an amazing job with our marketing graphics. Adrian kindly agreed to design our marketing material this year too, for which we are incredibly grateful. And lastly Matt Smart also stepped down when he and his family emigrated to France this summer. Matt had begun planning educational links which we hope to carry on with at some point. We thank them all for their hard work, dedication, and contribution they made. They are greatly missed. I'd like to also apologise for the delay in holding this meeting. Back in November when the infection rate wasn't looking that good, we decided to postpone the meeting until the last possible date we were constitutionally able to which was February 28th, this coming Sunday. We did that in the hope that we'd finally be able to meet up in person by then. How wrong we were. As an aside, I saw this earlier today and thought it I'd share it with you … *"My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Darling, throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends. Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge."* Many a true word … but joking apart, this pandemic caught us all by surprise. It took our comfortable way of life and threw it far into the air, so far up that it's taken over a year for it to begin slowly floating back down again. As yet, we don't know whether it will look the same when it returns or have changed during that long journey back but there is hope on the horizon.	

	Lockdown has affected us all in different ways. For some it's been a golden opportunity to hide themselves away and really knuckle down to producing their work. For others, they've been unable to get to their studios and for some, they've been unable to feel creative as worry and anxiety has hit them harder than they expected. I'd put myself in that category. This last lockdown has perhaps been the toughest, darkest, coldest and cruellest. Despite the challenges, the committee members have become experts in using Zoom, WhatsApp messaging and Dropbox where we've set up file storage and sharing system between us. We've also continued to work hard in the background and despite everything, and thanks to the untiring expertise of Stephanie, last year, we managed to stage our most successful exhibition yet – Steph will tell you more about that later. Cameron continues to do an excellent job keeping our account in order, dealing with membership comings and goings and has done a sterling job with Sculpture Loop. Shirley is doing an amazing job updating our website. We also have a very successful publicity sub-group comprising of Kim, Shirley and Debs Harrison, led by Philippa. They've done a great job so far this year and taken a lot of pressure off me. I'd like to thank them all for their continued support and commitment, especially throughout this last difficult year."	
Finance	Cameron Scott reported that the current membership stands at 88 with 7 needing to renew. He expected this to rise again this coming year. Regarding the accounts, he said that the bank account was healthy enabling us to spend more on advertising this coming year. He talked through the accounts, below, that reflect the period November 2019 to November 2020 including the present balance at the bottom. **Cotswold Sculptors Association accounts for 2019/20** Net assets 9,074.36 **Income and expenditure from 6/11/2019 to 6/11/2020** **Income** Membership 2,600.00 Exhibition entries 2,170.00 Sales 41,350.00 Catalogues 3,282.00 Sponsorship 100.00 49,502.00 **Expenditure** Payment to artists for sales 25,740.00 Payment to Abbey House 8,270.00 Various exhibition expenses & publicity 4,002.83 Web upkeep 340.00 Open forum expenses 158.90 38,511.73 Figures as at 6 Nov 2020 Present assets as at 23 Feb 2021 £12,187.30	This report is available as a separate document in the members section of the website

Sculpture Loop	Cameron reported that keeping Sculpture Loop going last year was a challenge as so many things had been cancelled but he was eager for more things to put in it this coming year. Please send him any interesting articles, exhibitions or sculpture related articles that could be included. Debs Paproska Cole thanked Cameron for managing to write some interesting and enjoyable Sculpture Loops last year, despite the challenges.	
Open Forums	Debs Harrison reported that we had been having quarterly Open Forum speakers but due to the lockdown in March 2020, we had to cancel. We realised we had to move online with talks as frequently as every alternate month, so once we got to grips with Zoom, the CSA invested in the Zoom Small Teams platform costing £143 a year. This hosts up to 100 participants which can be increased to up to 1,000 participants with a 'Large Meetings' add-on. Group meetings of up to 30 hours can be held. There is also Social Media Streaming included and 1 GB Cloud Recording (per license) Regarding the scheduling of the meetings, Debs explained *"I found lunchtime meetings have proved to be the best as people are tired in the evenings. It has been tricky to find speakers as people were reluctant to talk online (ten were asked and all refused) and people were also reluctant to be recorded."* There are two ways to access the Zoom link for an Open Forum. Via the email sent to all members by Cameron Scott or via the members page on our website www.cotswoldsculptorsassociation.com. The password can be obtained from Cameron. Information about forthcoming Open Forum meetings will be advertised in our newsletter, Sculpture Loop, Facebook and Instagram. Both non-members and members can sign up for our newsletter. **Signing up for a Zoom Open Forum Meeting:** Once you click the link, you will be asked to register your details. You will then be sent an email providing you with the connection to the zoom platform. Any questions you may have for the speaker can be sent in advance to debsjharrison@hotmail.com Once you join the meeting, your microphone will automatically be muted. We will unmute people at the end so you can ask any further questions. The Zoom 'chat box' facility can also be used for this purpose. **Speakers in 2021** On Monday 25th January at 1pm we had our first speaker. Patricia Van Akker, the director of the Design Trust, https://www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/, was an informed and confident speaker. We had a good attendance of 40 participants. On Monday 1st March at 1pm we have the photographer and designer Michael Holman of Red Forge Studios, Corsham, Wiltshire https://redforgestudios.net/ . An opportunity to learn about taking great photos for your website and social media. We had another good attendance with 38 participants. The speakers are recorded and will be added to our website as a learning resource. Unfortunately, the Design Trust's talk was only available for two weeks future talks we will be recorded and be available indefinitely. If you want to be a speaker or recommend a speaker do get in touch with Debs Harrison or someone on the committee. Debs also reported on the following discount benefits to members:	

	<table><tr><th>Company</th><th>% discount</th><th>Channel</th><th>Code</th></tr><tr><td>Industrial Plasters</td><td>5%</td><td>Online</td><td>COSA5</td></tr><tr><td>Tiranti</td><td>10%</td><td>Telephone</td><td>Ask for CSA discount</td></tr><tr><td>Scarva</td><td>10%</td><td>Online</td><td>CSA 2021</td></tr><tr><td>Pegasus Arts</td><td>5%</td><td>Online</td><td>MCSAFIVE2021</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> Debs Paproska Cole thanks Debs Harrison and said that the talks so far this year had been superb with some excellent feedback.	
Website	A report from Shirley Sharp *"I took on the role of webmaster for a trial period. The aim being to update the website quickly and regularly without the need to ask the designer each time something needs changing. Despite a few issues along the way I am now comfortable making changes to it knowing that the designer is there as support if needed, which is reassuring as I am not an IT expert.* *The website is intuitive, and the overall design and page structure is strong already, so I didn't want to change something that already works well. My aim was to keep it updated on a weekly basis making sure it works both for the general public and our members.* *I have been adding artists' information as I receive it and would like to get every member represented as soon as achievable. A strong feature of the website is the members only area.* *This page is password protected so not open to the general public. All members will have received the password on joining. This is where all the formal documents are held including meeting minutes and constitution rules. I have recently added a notice board for messages and zoom links etc. I am happy to continue with this role officially if voted in today and encourage everyone to really engage with the website."* Debs Paproska Cole thanked Shirley for the work she'd done so far. The committee are very grateful. Debs went on the explain that during the exhibition, she'd received a substantial number of emails asking about the work of members. Quite a few resulted in sales. As our website is being accessed by the public, especially during exhibitions, we need all members to have their work and a brief bio on there. We also need those who have existing profiles on there to update their bios and photos. There is nothing worse than seeing the same photos year-on-year so please send them to Shirley and get them updated. You can do this via a committee member or by using the contact email for 'Webmaster' on the website.	
Exhibitions	Stephanie Cushing reported that in November 2019 after a very successful 'Creating Spaces' at Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury we invited all members to submit work for 'Creating Spaces 2020'. We were overwhelmed by the response and received 100 outdoor submissions and after a rigorous selection process, ended up with 87 indoor exhibits. Thanks to one of our dedicated committee members Adrian Bates, we were able to produce a fabulous colour brochure detailing each artist and showing a map of all outdoor sculptures. A Private view was planned for 3rd April 2020, and we were on tenterhooks waiting to see if it could go ahead, after social distancing discussions had started	

	to take place. Following warnings of a potential lockdown in March we had no choice but to cancel the entire exhibition. Full lockdown was announced before we had opportunity to de-install the outdoor exhibition, and all pieces remained in place throughout the lockdown. As lockdown was lifted, we made the bold decision to continue with the exhibition as most of it was in situ. Abbey House Gardens were pleased to let us continue and we were able to run from 1st July until 31st October. Having an extended exhibition together with the public's desire to get out and about meant we benefited from enhanced footfall, and we are pleased to report an amazing £40,000 worth of sculpture sales. Catalogues sold for £3 each and we sold 1300 making a healthy £2,000 profit. Our thanks go to all exhibitors, who, despite numerous emails detailing changes stuck with us and enabled us to put on an inspiring and much-admired exhibition in very challenging circumstances. Sadly, only about half of our 49 exhibitors sold, but the standard of work this year was very high and the lack of a sale is certainly not a reflection of the quality of the work. After a sunny lockdown I believe the general public had an opportunity to concentrate on their gardens and it was garden ornamental sculpture created by a number of different artists, including some fantastic glass work that received by far the greatest interest. The indoor work sold less well, and this could be because access to the Belvedere was restricted, required the wearing of a mask or because people were reluctant to enter an indoor space. 1,300 catalogues were sold so all exhibiting artist's details and images of their work are in at least 1,300 homes, if you didn't make a sale this time you never know what may happen in the future. 'Creating Spaces 2021' is underway, and we are planning on opening both indoor and outdoor exhibitions on 21st March 2021. The exhibition will run until 31st May. We are also planning an exhibition at Berkeley Castle for the whole of July and information will be circulated to all members once the Abbey House Gardens exhibition has started. Debs Paproska Cole added that she'd like to thank Stephanie on behalf of us all for the time and effort spent on putting on such a superb exhibition. We're all extremely grateful.	
Marketing & Advertising	Philippa Macarthur reported that on your behalf we have reached out to over a hundred companies so far this year. We've also formed a sub-committee to coordinate the marketing advertising and sponsorship and have been building on previous years relationships, but many companies and personnel had changed during these altered times. We have arranged advertising and editorials in prestigious national and regional magazines like Gardens Illustrated and Cotswold Life and kept within the budget guidelines so we feel we are giving our members the best possible value for their membership and entry fees. Members were invited to place an advert in this year's brochure if they ran classes for instance and were informed of the charges. Debs Paproska Cole thanked Philippa and reported that the advert in Cotswold Life last year made quite a difference to footfall at Abbey House gardens and this year, the magazines are actually contacting us, which is a great position to be in.	
Election of Officers	Election of members.	

	Chair: Debs Paproska Cole (re-election) – proposed by DH, seconded by SC - 22 votes (unanimous) Secretary: Debs Harrison (re-election) – proposed by DPC, seconded by CS - 22 votes (unanimous) Treasurer, Membership Secretary & Sculpture Loop Editor: Cameron Scott (re-election) proposed by DH seconded by PM – 22 votes (unanimous) Stephanie Cushing (re- election) proposed by DH, seconded by DPC – 22 votes (unanimous) Kim Pethybridge (re-election) – proposed by DPC, seconded SC – 22 votes (unanimous) Phillipa Macarthur (re-election) - proposed by DH, seconded by KP – 22 votes (unanimous) Shirley Sharp (standing for the first time) – proposed by DH, seconded by DPC – 22 votes (unanimous) Andy Hopkins: A new nominee from the floor – proposed DH, seconded by SC – 22 votes (unanimous). Debs Paproska Cole welcomed Andy Hopkins onto the committee.	
AOB	Stephanie Cushing raised the invitation received by the CSA to exhibit at Turrill Sculpture Garden based in Summertown, Oxford later this year. There have been some high-profile artists exhibiting there over the years. Discussions are underway for a small rigorously selected show that will follow our Berkeley Castle exhibition. Further details will follow. The meeting concluded at	
Questions	Debs Harrison then took questions from the floor. A question was raised regarding the number of photos and word length for inclusion on the 'Artists' page of the website. Cameron confirmed that it is three and the word length was a maximum of 200. Shirley Sharp's email will be circulated by Cameron so members can send her three good images and a bio. A question was raised asking where to obtain plinths from and several suggestions were made – please see annex 1 Debs Harrison asked if there were other companies or suppliers that she approach for possible discounts. Suggestions were Jacksons and Great Art.	Cameron to send Shirley's email to members. Annex 1
Meeting Concluded	Debs Paproska Cole thanked everyone for their support and for attending. The meeting concluded at 14:30	

Annex 1

PLINTHS - repaint NOW (or purchase if you don't have any)

Please get your plinths out and ensure they are repainted in pure matt white paint (for indoor display) and look as clean and beautiful as the sculptures being displayed on top of them.

There's nothing worse than seeing a shabby, dirty, scratched, blotchy plinth, touched up in various faded shades of creamy white, with your work on top!! It looks extremely unprofessional.

So … appearance matters!

If you're buying unpainted MDF plinths, either use a primer or something like Dulux 'once' pure white matt paint as it covers a lot better than other paints. You'll still need two or three coats though. Storing and transporting them in their original boxes helps to keep them in pristine condition.

Buying – indoor (possibly outdoor)

Great Art - online
www.greatart.co.uk – search for plinths as they're not easy to find from the main menu. The sizes available are limited but they are really well made in MDF, a good price and come unpainted.
https://www.greatart.co.uk/gerstaecker-display-plinths.html This is the full link

MDF Displays - online
www.mdfdisplays.co.uk – there is a larger range on this site and they also offer a painting service if you'd prefer. (matt white!)

Morplan - online
https://www.morplan.com/gb_en/white-display-plinths

Art Plinths - online
https://artplinths.co.uk/shop/
More expensive but a bigger range of materials

Wedding plinths - Google them but beware that some prices for hiring them only.

Facebook 'Marketplace' - good place to look for second-hand shop or wedding display plinths.

Buying – outdoor

Oak Beam UK
https://www.oakbeamuk.com/- oak beans cut into posts. Expensive but durable

Wayfair – grey and dark grey plinths

Amazon & eBay – plastic flower planters (up-ended) and concrete garden plinths and pedestals

Markey G I & Son - Newent Blacksmiths will make bespoke plinths to your own design

Wedding Mail
https://www.weddingmall.co.uk/venue-decorations/columns-urns/c12013.html?mid=3 – scroll right down to see large formal garden pedestals

Custom made (indoor and outdoor)

Richard Hart
Rich is a carpenter who lives in Avening near Tetbury, who has offered to make them for CSA members. Rich can be contacted on 07759 048008 or at richardheartcarpentry@hotmail.co.uk

Dominic Clare
One of our members, Dominic Clare has also offered to make them for other members. He's based in Slaughterford near Chippenham and can be contacted on 07833 614391 or at info@dominicclare.co.uk