

MINUTES: Ashford Visual Artists

Wednesday 7th June 2023 6.30pm

Tesco Crooksfoot Supermarket, Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford TN24 OYE

Attended: Lorrain Mailer, Will Dickinson, Izzy Dickinson, Greg Daines, Peter East-Hall, Molly Newton, Mary Samson, Sally Barton

Apologises: Anne O'Driscoll, Cherry Tewfik, Susie Vittay, Eva Blume, Vicky Furse

Minutes collected by Sally Barton

Coffee & Catch Up – what we've been working on

Summary of recent work & exhibitions by those members attending.

Exhibition Opportunities

Will has been in touch with Richard Goodenough at **Chartham Vineyard**: there is an opportunity for AVA artists to exhibit their work between October 7th and late December (Saturdays only) this autumn/winter, with final day of exhibition probably taking place on 16th December. Exhibition time: 10am – 5pm. No hiring fee but 20% commission on sales. Available space excludes the large barn, but the rest of the gallery space available is familiar to those members who have already exhibited there; Will and Izzy estimate that there is room for 5-6 (Will suggested possibly up to 10) in the larger room and 2-3 in the smaller adjoining room which has less wall space. Artists would be required to invigilate.

Will suggested that about 18 AVA members, potentially, could participate if there was a rotation of artists halfway through the exhibition time. However, it was decided not to go ahead with this idea as it would cause complications; it was agreed that the exhibition would be open to 9 members in total, for the full duration.

Will proposed that AVA members who are present at the meeting today should have first refusal for the exhibition at Chartham, this was agreed by the members present this evening.

The issue was raised as to whether a PV would take place and, if so, whether wine is supplied free of charge by Chartham Vineyard. Chartham handle all the sales and therefore take commission at source. Suggested theme/title for exhibition: 'AVA returns to Chartham'

Lorrain announced an opportunity to exhibit at the Christmas Art Fair at **St Mary's, Sellindge** which would be taking place on the 2nd/3rd December. £35.00 fee with 20% charge on all sales, 'D' rings would be needed on wall hung artwork. A hanging system is already in place in the church. Images of St Mary's space showing frames:



Further opportunity at **St Mary's: Easter '24** exhibition with theme 'Tyger, Tyger' (quoting from William Blake's poem concerning the wild and awe-inspiring in nature). No date has been set but looking at around 31st March. 25% commission on sales. Submission fee is still to be confirmed as exhibitions require funds from artists to cover the cost of A5 flyers, other publicity, and refreshments. Lorrain suggested £15 per artist (to be confirmed). In addition, there will be a fee if any artist cannot invigilate.

Installations and all types of artworks are welcome.

'Art in the Park' project, Victoria Park Ashford. Izzy brought forward this event for discussion. Greg has been in contact with Diane Comley who is interested in AVA members perhaps participating in the project – they're looking for artists and craftspeople. It's a one-day event, taking place outdoors in the park, probably during the August bank holiday. Theme: 'nature'. Artists would be needed to invigilate and are invited to send in ideas for both 2D and 3D work.

Lottery funding for Ashford's Victoria Park art projects ceases at end of this year.

Lorrain said that Ashford Borough Council arts/culture department are looking for innovation & contemporary ideas/work from artists, including from AVA, for them to potentially award funding.

Coachworks, Ashford – keen on attracting new art demonstrations or classes.

Lenham Barn, Creek Creative (Faversham), and Tin Tabernacle (Hythe) might have openings for AVA artists – potential exhibition spaces.

Will suggested a questionnaire be sent out to AVA members to see if & what they might be prepared to offer in terms of contemporary art performances, demos, outdoor work etc. Greg said that it would be useful to publish the results of any such questionnaire. Lorrain is keen for AVA to elevate its activities generally, e.g., by participating in the Victoria Park project.

Financial Report

Will gave a summary of the AVA financial report. Bank balance stands at £2,476.77 in credit. The full cost of the Rye exhibition frames will need to be deducted from this. The frames can be seen in the photos of St Mary's interior above, taken by Molly Newton. They provide a versatile and visually appealing way of presenting an exhibition. However, Lorrain said there was a need to work on the frames / adapt them in some way so that the backs of framed artwork aren't so visible. It was suggested that 'radiator cover' lattice (usually made of MDF or similar) could be adapted in some way for this.

Constitution Update

Lorrain has followed Kerry Donati up about this. However, Kerry is extremely busy, but it's hoped that she'll be able to work on the constitutional issues soon.

Web Update

Several problems with the website – access to it etc. Weebly has been taken over by Square & Heart Internet own the site. Lorrain inherited the AVA website from Wendy and then Sue Hards but it's unknown who has access to the current email address for the site. Therefore, it's not possible at present to add new members. Greg has very kindly offered to take over the website and to try to remedy its problems – probably by transferring all material to a new website entirely.

Resignations & Elect Committee Members

WEBSITE – **Greg** (nominated by Lorrain and seconded by Peter & Sally)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – **Mary** (nominated by Will and seconded by Sally)

EXPLORING NEW VENUES – **Peter** (nominated by Greg and seconded by Lorrain)

Will to retain social media for now.

Jane Richardson has left the committee but remains a member of AVA.

Deborah Woollard has resigned from the Committee and resigned as a member due to too many commitments.

Resignations from AVA: David Hover, Fiona Taylor, Deborah Woollard, Debbie Humm.

There was a discussion about how active current AVA members are in terms of participating in AVA activities. It was suggested that AVA might contact the University of the Creative Arts (UCA) in Canterbury to offer some exhibition space to UCA students – perhaps via an open call via Instagram; this would be mutually beneficial.

AVA might investigate having a presence on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Currently AVA membership stands at 28.

Key Dates

Next Committee meeting will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 5th July, from 6.30 – 8 pm.

Next Members' meeting will have no agenda other than enjoying a 'bring your own picnic' in Mary Samson's beautiful garden; Mary has kindly invited everyone to her place for a relaxing get together on Saturday 5th August at 2.30pm. See the invite below.

Please RSVP to Sally if you've not done so already – thanks!

