



Birmingham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the
Birmingham Decorative and Fine Arts Society will be held on

Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 10.30 a.m.
at the CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, B1 2LF
to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 To receive the Minutes of the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2016
- 3 To receive the Hon. Treasurer's report and accounts for the year ending 30th June 2016
- 4 To receive the Committee's report for the 2016-2017 season
- 5 To elect the Officers and Members of the Committee
- 6 To consider any resolutions of which notice has been given in accordance with the rules
- 7 Date and place of next meeting

Sue Berovic
Hon. Secretary

Birmingham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Minutes of the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting held on
Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 10.30 am
at the CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham

- 1 **Apologies.** These had been received from:
Jill Adams, Caroline Alton, Peter Asquith, Carol Austin, Sue Behan, Juliana & Peter Berck, Caroline Brown, Louise Burn, Hazel Campbell, Penny Clark, Phillip Clifton, Angela Collingwood, Anthony Collins, Rita Coulton, Gillian Cowin, Liz Dancey, Angela Geddes, Julia Giles, Dorothy Griffiths, Heather Haines, Mary Hallman, Margaret Harper, Pamela Harrison, Vivien Heaselgrave, Heather Hockley, Jill Houghton, Brenda & David Houston, Bridget Jackson, Jane Jones, Rosemary King, Kathy Lowe, Judy Metcalfe, Patro Mobsby, Avrille & Joseph Newman, Michael & Susan Orlik, Michael Payne, Eryl Preston, Anne Price, Mary Price, Jane Pritchett, Geraldine Quinney, Judy Raine, Lynn Raines-Smith, Bob Sankarayya, Jenny Saxby, Noreen & Kishore Shah, Joanna & Eric Silove, Beryl Smith, Jill Smith, Susan Smith, Irene Tabony, Andy Taylor, Valerie Turner, Gillian Walker, Karin Wallace, Catherine White, Judy Whittaker, Anne Woolley, Margaret Wright.

- 2 **The Minutes of the twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting** held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 had been mailed or emailed to members prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising and the Minutes were accepted unanimously by the members as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Carol Hadwen and seconded by Celia Potts. The Chairman then signed the Minutes.

- 3 **Hon. Treasurer's Report.** The accounts for the year ending 30th June 2015 had been mailed or emailed to members. As the Treasurer, Judy Raine, was unable to be present at the meeting, the Chairman introduced Fiona Collins and invited her to present the Treasurer's Report.

As usual you will all have received a copy of the Society's accounts for the year ended 30th June 2015 with the notice for this AGM.

These accounts show a surplus of £1,137 for the year after donations to our two supported Young Arts projects, which remain unchanged from last year and we also made a one-off Young Arts donation of £500 to Drama Link.

I will confine my comments to the main items in the accounts.

Our income increased by just over £2,000. Membership numbers remained stable. The increase was due to a subscription increase considered appropriate by the Committee to cover increasing costs, particularly future theatre hire cost increases.

Overall our costs rose by around £1,000. Our speakers' costs actually reduced slightly. Individual speakers fees and costs vary quite significantly with variations year on year. The figure in the accounts for the lecture theatre hire also reduced this year. During the years we used Birmingham Library, they failed to invoice us for certain dates despite our contacting them on several occasions. These uninvoiced amounts had been included in the relevant years' accounts and carried forward for some years. In view of our move to the CBSO Centre, this was considered an appropriate time to stop carrying these amounts forward and an adjustment was made. Therefore the hire of the lecture theatre figure in the accounts has received a one-off benefit. Hire costs will return to the high level in 2016. A new website was designed during the year accounting for the increased website costs and finally other additional costs incurred during the year were for a new promotional stand and the New Year's drink reception.

I am pleased to report the Society's financial position remained satisfactory at 30th June 2015 and continues to do so.

Finally, I would like to thank Judi Millward who again independently reviewed the accounts this year. If there are any questions now on the accounts, I would be happy to answer them."

There being no questions from the members, the adoption of the accounts was proposed by Bryan Martin, seconded by Judy Taylor and carried unanimously.

4 **The Committee's Report.** The Chairman spoke to the published report:

The Chairman highlighted the following points in the report:

She wished to thank the Members of the Committee who had worked so hard during the year and given such excellent service to BDFAS. Sarah Bond and Judy Raine would both be retiring at this AGM and she particularly wished to thank them for their efforts. Tokens of appreciation would be presented to them at the July Committee Meeting. The members gave a vote of appreciation to the Committee.

The Chairman also wished to thank the members of BDFAS themselves who had made the transition to the CBSO Centre effortless. She also thanked staff at the Centre, particularly Niki Longhurst and Dan Rowlinson, who had made the organisation of lectures so much easier and were always helpful and responsive to our requests.

The adoption of the Committee Report was proposed by Trina Pogmore, seconded by Gilly MacMillan and carried unanimously.

5 Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

The Chairman invited Stephanie Faroqui to take the chair for the election of officers.

The following members of the Committee offered themselves for re-election for a further year:

Chairman	Jen Collins
Hon. Secretary	Sue Berovic
Membership Secretary	Alison Oswald

They were elected ‘en bloc’ having been proposed by Caroline Liberson, seconded by Liz Taylor and accepted unanimously by the members.

The Chairman then thanked Stephanie Faroqui for her assistance and re-took the Chair.

Fiona Collins, a Member of the Committee who had been shadowing Judy Raine, offered herself for election as Hon. Treasurer. Proposed by Chris Midgley, seconded by Barbara Loyo Mayo and accepted unanimously by the members.

The following Members of the Committee offered themselves for re-election for a further year:

Visits Secretary	Brenda Hyde
Communications	Barbara Loyo Mayo
Programme Secretary	Victoria Linehan
Young Arts	Christine Midgley/Margo Sharp

They were elected ‘en bloc’ having been proposed by Angela Soule, seconded by Judy French and accepted unanimously by the members.

The following members offered themselves for election to serve on the Committee for a year:

Judy Lee – proposed by Jen Collins and seconded by Alison Oswald
Chris Olley – proposed by Judy Lee and seconded by Alison Oswald
Sue Griffith – proposed by Barbara Loyo Mayo and seconded by Sarah Bond

They were each unanimously elected by the membership and welcomed to the Committee.

Volunteers – Mary Price will continue to coordinate the Heritage Volunteers.

6 To consider any resolutions of which notice had been given in accordance with the rules. There were none to consider.

7 Date and place of the next meeting. Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 10.30 a.m. at the CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF.

The Chairman declared the meeting formally closed at 10.50 am.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

1 Amendment to Rule 1 of the BDFAS Constitution:

“**Title** – The Society shall be called “The Arts Society Birmingham.”

2 Amendment to Rule 12 of the BDFAS Constitution:

“**Financial Year** – The Society’s financial year shall end on 31st March. A Balance Sheet with an account of the income and expenditure for the preceding financial year shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting having been verified by an independent person with a working knowledge of accounts.”

To aid this process the AGM is proposed to be held in September along with the first talk of the new Society year.

Proposer: Fiona Collins; Seconder: Sue Berovic

Amendment supported by 10 others.

COMMITTEE REPORT

From the Chairman: Jennifer Collins

Change is once more afoot for the Birmingham Decorative and Fine Arts Society as it takes on the rebranding that NADFAS has been undergoing. BDFAS will become ‘The Arts Society Birmingham’ in line with all the other National and International Societies. The new logo and branding schemes will appear on all Society communications following the BDFAS AGM.

The CBSO Centre continues to provide BDFAS with a central, high quality and very efficiently run venue. It has also made it possible for the Society to enjoy social occasions where members can meet informally which is particularly helpful for new members. The Committee welcomes any suggestions for how this social aspect of the Society can be developed.

The Committee continues to move the Society forward using all the strengths and enthusiasm of its members. This year the Committee is losing Sue Berovic (Secretary) and Barbara Loyo Mayo (Communications) who have fulfilled all the requirements of their roles with the calm efficiency that enables the Society to work so well. Our thanks and best wishes go to them both. This year Chris Olley and Debby Bridge were welcomed on to the Committee and have made an active contribution.

Fiona Collins took over the vital role of Treasurer last June and has been looking at introducing Internet payments to implement more immediate reporting to the Society’s AGM. Fiona will be helping members with any future financial developments.

The membership of our Society remains full with an on-going waiting list. Our Membership Secretary, Alison Oswald, continues with the busy task of the administration of membership details and any guests.

BDFAS continues to provide a wonderfully diverse lecture programme which is so ably put together by Victoria Linehan our Programme Secretary. The majority of lectures have been graded 'excellent' or 'outstanding'. Thanks to all of you who have filled in feedback forms or made suggestions for lecture topics.

Brenda Hyde and Judy Lee, our hard-working visits and events team, continue to provide members with a wide range of varied and interesting opportunities. These enjoyable events add both to the educational and social sides of the Society and any suggestions for future events would be welcome.

Support for community activities, particularly those for young people, has been a huge strength of this Society for many years. Chris Midgley and Margo Sharp continue to work enthusiastically with various projects such as the Birmingham Royal Ballet Dance Track, as well as investigating new ones to support.

Volunteering is another very important aspect of any DFAS. For many years Heritage Volunteering has been overseen by Mary Price and she continues to look for new projects to expand the range of opportunities. Our thanks must go to Mary and all members who give both their skills and time for BDFAS.

Trails for Children continues to be developed nationally and our thanks go to Liz Dancy, the enthusiastic and committed driving force behind this, who is retiring from the West Midlands Area Committee this year.

BDFAS and Birmingham Evening DFAS continue to have good links with each other, ensuring that their respective programmes are complementary.

2018 sees the 50th anniversary of NADFAS and all Societies have been urged to organise an event to celebrate this landmark. BDFAS has a long history under the NADFAS banner and such an event will be an opportunity to reflect on the past as we move into the future. Details will be forthcoming.

In order for our Society to continue to move forward as The Arts Society Birmingham, an enthusiastic and committed team of volunteers is needed to keep a strong and dynamic Committee. I would urge anyone who has not yet considered joining us to consider how their own skills and enthusiasm could benefit the Society. Joining the Committee obviously offers the greatest opportunity to influence the Society's development but any member should feel free to put forward comments, ideas or suggestions.

LECTURES: from Victoria Linehan

The first lecture of the season was given by Alexandra Epps who spoke on John Singer Sargent's life as the leading portrait painter of the Age of Elegance. In October Julian Halsby talked about the varied life and talents of Misia Sert, a pianist of Polish descent who hosted an artistic salon in Paris and who was a patron and friend of numerous artists for whom she posed.

Peter Warwick then gave us an insight into the artistic and cultural effect of the 3 voyages of Captain Cook on the Age of Enlightenment. In January Tony Tucker inspired us to appreciate the many talents of Sir Christopher Wren, designer of St Paul's Cathedral and many other London churches but also a mathematician, physiologist and anatomist, Professor of Astronomy and designer of Greenwich Observatory. In February Peter Webb showed some film clips of the Music Halls of Paris from the 1890s onwards. He also showed some of the advertising art work by Toulouse Lautrec and other Impressionist artists.

Still to come are talks on the Elgin Marbles by Alan Read; Street Art and the City by Doug Gillen. Jane Tapley will return in May to talk of the Life and Times of Jane Austen and Naomi Motley will come in June to talk of Neoclassicism through architecture, sculpture and the decorative arts.

VISITS AND STUDY DAYS: from Brenda Hyde and Judy Lee

We have been on the move quite a lot this year visiting many interesting places with a wealth of new experiences.

38 of us set off for Port Sunlight and Lady Lever Hall on 31st May. We were blessed with glorious weather and it was very interesting to see the village which was built for the workers at the Port Sunlight factory in a similar way to the Cadbury Village here in Birmingham.

On 28th June 29 members and guests headed off to Boughton House with its fine masterpieces covering almost every aspect of decorative arts and its extensive gardens.

Many members had shown interest in a visit to Stratford to incorporate a visit to the theatre and so 40 of us set off on 31st July. It was another fine day. We spent the morning at leisure – shopping, having lunch or just strolling along the river and in the afternoon we saw an excellent performance of Hamlet.

Highgrove had been high on the list of possible visits for many of our members and 52 of us visited the Royal Gardens on 27th September. This was a wonderful experience and included a fine lunch to set us up for the afternoon's tour.

On 4th October 50 people signed up for the visit to Whitworth Art Gallery and Tabley House, a wonderful Palladian House built in 1761 and designed by John Carr. We were fortunate enough to have Tabley House to ourselves for the whole afternoon. The guides were extremely knowledgeable and it was wonderful to be able to have them to ourselves for the whole tour.

On 26th October a record number of 65 members and guests took part in our Study Day – The Age of Modern Jazz. This was led by Sally Hoban and included a handling and discussion opportunity which featured museum quality examples of fashion, accessories, jewellery and textiles from the 1920s. Some members also brought their own examples of objects dating back to the 1920s and 1930s.

The Christmas lunch was enjoyable with a quartet from the CBSO Youth Orchestra playing for us during coffee and a delicious buffet lunch. We heard from two enthusiastic speakers who gave inspirational presentations, first Rebecca Ledgard on Singing Playgrounds and Singing Medicine; then Lucy Galliard talking about her involvement with the CBSO Youth Orchestra and the family of the CBSO.

On 24th January 30 of us visited Wolverhampton Art Gallery. The theme of the trip was ‘How to look at paintings’, focussing on the work of Roy Lichtenstein. We also had a talk on how literature inspired some artists in their work. In the afternoon we had a practical session involving easels and drawing with charcoal. Artist Rob Conway set up a still life and showed us different ways in which to draw a small part of it very quickly. A challenge we all rose to!

On 12th July our Summer Lunch is being held at Edgbaston Golf Club. Professor Maggie Andrews will be giving a talk on ‘How the Pershore Plum won WW1’.

HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS: from Mary Price

It is twenty five years since the Textile Group started their conservation work on church banners and vestments. They then went on to make bed hangings and curtains for Harvington Hall and chair seats for Coughton Court. They are currently making kneelers for Stonyhurst College.

In the same year (1992), work started in the archive at Birmingham Central Library on the Matthew Boulton papers and then continued with various projects until the move to the Library of Birmingham. Book conservation and archive work continues at Birmingham University. I would like to thank all our Volunteers who have given their time and skill on a weekly basis but especially those who are still sewing after a quarter of a century.

CHURCH RECORDERS:

Any member with a general interest in churches who would be interested in leading a group of enthusiastic volunteers should speak to Jen Collins. Training for new leaders is provided by NADFAS House.

YOUNG ARTS: from Margo Sharp and Chris Midgley

This year we have been very active. We continued our support for Dance Track, a Birmingham Royal Ballet venture providing dance training for young pupils from inner city Birmingham schools. We also continued to support the School of Jewellery providing a

financial award to an outstanding final year student. This year our award went to Holly Clifford. She presented us with a sample of her work at our Christmas meeting and our choice proved to be popular with members.

We have agreed to continue our support, via Ex Cathedra, for Singing Playgrounds and Singing Medicine. Those members who attended the presentations at our Christmas meeting will appreciate the value of the work they undertake in primary schools and hospitals.

We also provide some financial support to two musicians in the CBSO Youth Orchestra and to Turves Green Girls' School to enable them to provide a workshop with Karl Slater as Artist in Residence.

Finally, two Birmingham Sixth Form students, one from Lordwood Girls' School and another from Cadbury College, have been selected as finalists in the 'Make Your Mark' West Midlands Art Society Competition. Their work will be judged at the RBSA on the 15th May and remain on display for a while for members to see if they wish.

COMMUNICATIONS: from Barbara Loyo Mayo

The re-brand and subsequent change of name have ensured a busy few months. The NADFAS website URL is changing to www.TheArtsSociety.org.

Members will be redirected from the our old website URL www.birminghamdfas.org.uk to the new one www.theartssocietybirmingham.org until we are all used to the new name. Please check the website regularly for up to date information regarding visits, study days and other events which may be of interest to our members.

Due to the re-brand you may see some changes to the programme booklet, which will be sent out to members in August as usual. We will be following The Arts Society guidelines regarding the presentation of the lecture and visits information.

If you change your email address or are having difficulties in receiving emails from us, please let a member of the Committee know.

We would like to thank our Heritage Volunteers and all other BDFAS volunteers who, throughout the year, give their time so generously and enthusiastically.

Birmingham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Income and Expenditure for year to 30th June 2016

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions		17,665		16,153
Visitors' fees		609		742
Gift Aid reclaimed		265		248
Bank interest and credit		102		86
Surplus on events and trips		1,004		772
Donation		8		-
		<u>19,653</u>		<u>18,001</u>
Expenditure				
Speakers' fees	3,015		2,855	
Speakers' travel and subsistence	1,236		867	
Hire of lecture theatre and equipment	4,320		1,458	
Printing and stationery	598		557	
Booklet and website	614		1,639	
NADFAS affiliation fees	4,770		4,467	
Travel and accommodation	161		575	
Postage and telephone	235		510	
Insurance	167		163	
Church Recorders	-		481	
Church Trails	-		-	
Volunteers	-		15	
New screen/projector	1,300		-	
Sundry expenses	625		777	
		<u>17,041</u>		<u>14,364</u>
Surplus for year before donations		<u>2,612</u>		<u>3,637</u>
Donation to Young Arts:				
Dance Track	(1,500)		(1,500)	
Singing Playgrounds/Drama Link	(500)		(500)	
School of Jewellery award	(500)		(500)	
		<u>(2,500)</u>		<u>(2,500)</u>
Surplus for the year		<u><u>112</u></u>		<u><u>1,137</u></u>

Birmingham Decorative & Fine Arts Society

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2016

2015			2016	
£	£	Accumulated Surplus	£	£
	13,273	Opening balance		14,410
	1,137	Surplus for the year		112
	<u>14,410</u>			<u>14,522</u>
		Net Assets		
	500	Loan – Patricia Fay Memorial Fund		500
		Current Assets		
5,416		Lloyds Bank	2,259	
22,581		The West Brom	26,183	
438		Stock of stamps	203	
959	29,394	Sundry debtors and prepayments	1,058	29,703
	<u>29,894</u>			<u>30,203</u>
		Liabilities		
14,344		Subscriptions in advance	14,580	
1,140	15,484	Sundry creditors	1,101	15,681
	<u>14,410</u>			<u>14,522</u>



**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE 2017-2018**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Chairman:** Jen Collins offers herself for re-election
Hon Secretary: Sue Berovic is due to retire
Hon Treasurer: Fiona Collins offers herself for re-election
Membership Secretary: Alison Oswald offers herself for re-election

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The following member of the Committee is due to retire:

Barbara Loyo Mayo

The following members of the Committee offer themselves for re-election:

**Brenda Hyde • Judy Lee • Victoria Linehan,
Christine Midgley • Chris Olley • Margo Sharp**

*It is recommended that the committee members standing for re-election should be proposed,
seconded and voted en bloc.*

The following member is willing to serve on the Committee if elected:

Debby Bridge proposed by Barbara Loyo Mayo
seconded by Judy Lee

VOLUNTEERS

Mary Price will continue to coordinate the Heritage Volunteers