Cotswold Sculptors Association

Annual General Meeting
30 March 2022, 18:30 – 20:30
'Zoom' online video-conference – 19 members attended

Shirley stepped in as Acting Chair as Debs Paproska-Cole was unwell. She introduced the current committee and indicated that we sadly had said goodbye to two committee members earlier this year - Stephanie Cushing and Andy Hopkins but happily they agreed to be on the Exhibition Sub-Committee until after the Miserden Exhibition.

Reports:

Accounts for 2020/21 : Sarah Cushing

Current Number of members	**96**
Needing to renew	**8**
Net assets	**£13,873.08**
Income and expenditure from 6/11/2020 to 6/11/2021	
Bank Account at 6/11/2020	**£9074.36**
Income	
Membership	**2,650.00**
Exhibition entries	**2,780.00**
Sales	**27,748.00**
Catalogues	**1,716.00**
Sponsorship	**1,100.00**
	£ 35,994.00

Expenditure	
Payment to artists for sales	**25,929.70**
AHG & BC exhibition expenses & publicity	**4,014.83**
Capital Expenditure	**620.56**
Web upkeep	**510.19**
Open forum expenses	**120.00**
	£ 31,195.28
Bank Account at 6/11/2021	**£13,873.08**
Present Assets as at 27/03/22	**£16,878.63**

Sculpture Loop : Cameron Scott

The newsletter goes out approximately every 6 weeks and there have been 48 editions so far and at present there are 290 subscribers.

The newsletter was started by Martin Elphick and I took it over at edition 17 and am willing to continue with it until end of 2022 when I hope someone will take it over.

Website Report 2021/2022 : Shirley Sharp

Statistics over last year:
Visitors: 11,708
Visits: 27,857
Home Page 15,572
Members Page 677
Artists Page 605

Having taken this on last year as a non IT person it has been a learning curve for me but has also been quite satisfying. My aim has been for it to be informative for members and visitors alike and am always looking at ways to improve it. Any suggestions gratefully received. I am particularly happy to have 50 artists with their work up on the website out of a membership of 97. I would love to have more but it is definitely going in the right direction. Please feel free to contact me to update your information or make suggestions. Next years aim is to add OUTREACH & INCLUSIVITY onto the website as we build in these areas.

Inclusivity / Outreach : Shirley Sharp

There isn't a specific role for this but we have as a committee started talking about how we can be inclusive in all we do. It is something that is a shared responsibility and we urge any members to come forward with ways to improve especially if you have personal experience that would give us a deeper insight. Two things we are currently investigating are Audio descriptions of sculptures at Miserden for the partially sighted to experience and a virtual gallery tour of the indoor exhibition for people that are wheelchair bound as there are steep steps into the building.

Exhibitions Report 2021 - Stephanie Cushing

Exhibition Co-ordinator for 2021

Abbey House Gardens 21st March – 31st May 2021

We held our third and sadly final exhibition at AHG in the spring of 2021. Rufus and Kristen were perfect hosts and had welcomed CSA warmly and with open arms in 2019. What followed was a wonderfully mutually beneficial relationship allowing us further exhibitions in 2020 and 2021. It was only due to the reluctant sale of the property during 2021 that we were unable to return this year and have had to say good-bye to Rufus and Kristen who for the time being have gone to the States.

Total Sales: £32,511
No. of pieces sold: 64
Average sale price: £508
No. of artists who sold work: 21 out of 43 exhibitors
Max Sale price: £2,800

Berkeley Castle 4th July – 31st August 2021

The Berkeley family and staff at Berkeley Castle were extremely impressed by the standard of work and level of organisation in our Creating Spaces II exhibition. Despite concerns about sculptures getting in the way of wedding photos, the brides absolutely loved them and the wedding co-ordinator was really sad to see the sculptures go. Feedback from staff and visitors alike was all very positive. Our exhibitors were also very impressed with the venue, and pleased to be exhibiting there.

Installation went very well, without incident, although if we exhibited there again, it would be much easier to install on dates when the castle was closed to visitors. This would allay concerns about parking and access to the castle. Josh, Chris (the gardener) and all staff were very welcoming and helpful and all are keen to have sculptures in the grounds again.

Footfall was very good throughout the exhibition period, with a peak of 8,000 over the 19 open days in August.

Total Sales: £5,980.00

No. of pieces sold: 22 of which 15 were Wrens on Forks
Average sale price: £272
No. of artists who sold work: 7
Max Sale price: £850

The sales process was reported by BC as very easy to manage and seemed to proceed without issue. Sales however were poor, compared to the same time frame at AHG albeit earlier in the year where we made over £32,000 of sales. Indoor sales were particularly bad, although this has been true at our AHG (Abbey House Gardens) exhibitions as well. Possibly placing of sculpture within the castle was too subtle and many visitors weren't aware that the pieces were part of the exhibition and were for sale. In future larger numbers and a map of sculpture locations might help.

The demographic at BC in July and August is very different from AHG in April and May, it is most definitely a family attraction focusing on entertainment for children and as such the sculptures are of passing interest only. Being our second exhibition of the year we also didn't attack the marketing in the same way that we did for AHG. We have decided not tor return to Berkeley Castle again in 2022 but may review this for 2023.

<u>New Venues</u>

Once we realised we were losing Abbey House Gardens as our exhibition venue we researched a number of venues and found very few offering both indoor and outdoor exhibition space.

However, as many of you will now know we have hit upon a fabulous venue at Miserden Gardens. There are huge plans to make the gardens more commercial, revamping cafe areas, changing entrances and having a big launch at the beginning of June that all at Miserden would very much like us to be part of. After much negotiation we have also managed to secure indoor exhibition space in the Miserden Club House.

We also plan to have a winter exhibition at the Sixteen Gallery in the Montpelier area of Cheltenham, further details about this will follow in due course.

Open Forums Report 2021 – 2022 : Debs Harrison

1. Open Forum's online. After Covid we continued to hold the Forums on Zoom.
   So the contract was renewed (November 2021).
    a. I am down as the host (uses my email). It costed £143.88 (including VAT). It was cheaper to pay for the whole year rather than to pay monthly. So purchased a years subscription. It permits:
        i. Unlimited time
        ii. Up to 100 persons
        iii. Social Media streaming
        iv. 1 GB iCloud recording per licence - with a total of 9 licences.

2. The speakers were varied according to their preferred medium and gender. The day and time were changed to give everyone a chance of attending.
   We also included wider talks to help sculptors (e.g. marketing and photography).

3. Talks have been recorded with zoom and sent to those who missed the meeting as well as being added to our website (by Shirley Sharp). As zoom only has a certain memory capacity (unless we pay more for a higher rated contract), the committee decided not to spend more which means that the talks will only be available for 4 months. If we did our own recording in future we could have a you tube account.

4. The speakers used PowerPoints or gave us tours around their workshops and spoke from 30mins to an hour.

5. Visiting speakers for 2021 - have been paid £60 but some did it for free and gave it to a charity of their choice which was heartening. Average was between 8 and 40 people.
   a. Patricia Van Den Akker – *Marketeer* - Monday 25th Jan, 2021 01:00 PM
   b. Michael Holborn - *Photographer* - Monday 1st March, 1pm 2021
   c. Sophie Howard – *Clay sculptor*- Monday 10th May, 2021 08:00 pm
   d. Kelly O'Brien - *Mixed media sculptor*- Monday 12th July, 2021 05:00pm
   e. Alex Wenham – *Stone mason & sculptor*- Monday 20th September 2021 07:30pm (liaised through Andy Hopkins).
   f. Keziah Burt - *Clay portraiture* - Wednesday 24th November, 2021 07:30pm (unfortunately Keziah had Covid symptoms).
      There was a request for this session to be run in the future

Things to decide:
1. Should we continue not to charge people?
2. Should visitors from other groups have to pay?
3. Charging:
   a. benefits
      i. Cover costs
      ii. Get better speakers
   b. Drawbacks
      i. Speakers could be a first point of engagement for non members our shop window. Charging may reduce this.

No decisions were made on these points

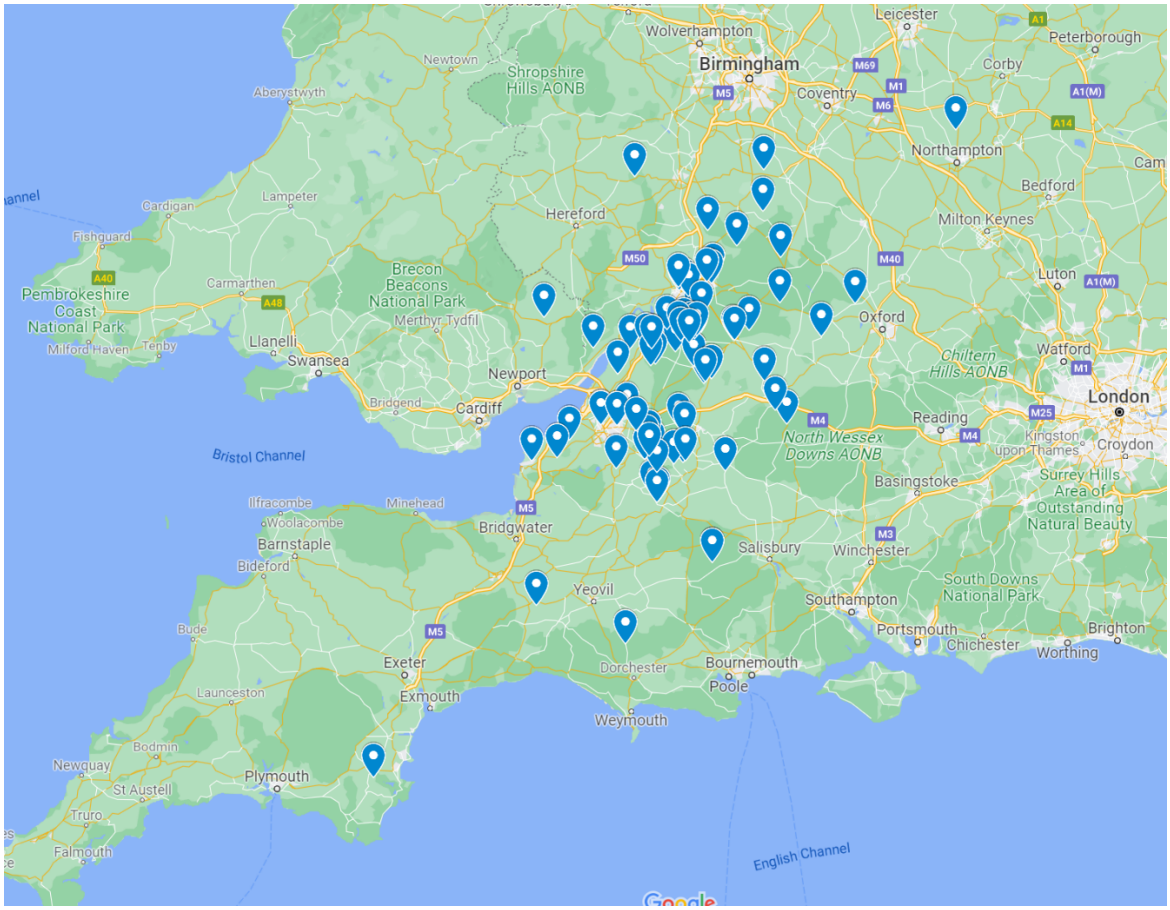
Social Hubs Report 2021-2022 : Debs Harrison

Why Social hubs

On the away day in November the issue of responsibility was raised residing in the committee and not being spread across the membership. The philosophy being that empowering people would lead to more involvement and the freedom to be more creative at a grass roots level. Our CSA Hubs are the start of that process, through which we hope members will get to meet fellow members, share ideas, make new friends, and feed ideas

and thoughts back to the committee rather than all decisions being taken top-down by us, the elected few.
There were three other factors which were pointing to us meeting more locally. Covid and climate change, now we have increased fuel prices and the looming travel tax.

Postcode assignment to a group
So I set about putting our membership into groups. The members postcodes were put into google maps and members/friends were grouped between 6 and 12 people.



These are the groups as they now stand

Social Hub Region	Potential members
Bath	12
Bradford on Avon	5
Bristol/ WSM/Wales	10
Chalford	4
Cheltenham and Gloucester	8

Chipping Norton/Burford	**7**
Dursley	**9**
Evesham and Worcester	**5**
Frome	**4**
Nailsworth/Minchinhampton/ Cirencester	**9**
Stroud	**5**
Swindon	**5**

Two areas had no-one come forward to set up a group: Malmesbury and those who lived on the Southern tips of England.

Problems with GDPR
Then the problem arose of how to let the members of the group know about each other without breaking GDPR. As we cannot share your data with others without their permission. I decided on having a point of contact so group members could opt in by responding to that person. But less than a half of people contacted responded.

Insider group
Sarah Cushing had the idea of the 'Insider's List' allowing details to be shared for a particular purpose for a particular time period. So the point of contact could ask for the list and blind copy everyone into that email. This was moderately successful.
A long term solution is far members when they renew their membership or when people join we have a box that says you are happy for your details to be shared in your local hub.

Other sculpture group members joining social hubs
Members of other sculpture groups wanted to be part of the CSA Social Hubs so the agreement between the Oxford Sculpture Group and possible the SWSA is that people wishing to join us from other groups pay the CSA £20 annual friendship fee.

Social Hubs and open forums

At an impromptu discussion at the last Open Forum in November our artists were encouraged to share how they felt about the future of Open Forums. The consensus was that although zoom is now part of how we associate with each other, people still liked to see live speakers where we could all meet together and liked the idea of socialising in small regional groups to get to know each other and lift sharing from regions to the bigger meetings..

Feedback
The social hubs that managed to meet said that it has been beneficial.

Future plans include: meeting for coffee, groups crits, visiting a foundry.
Some said that people worked 12 hours a day 7 days a week and struggled to find time off.
Others said that people were at different points in their careers which made it less useful than they had hoped.
Some smaller groups plan to double up with the larger groups.
Looks like Bath's group had the most successful outcome in the south and Cheltenham and Gloucester went well in the North.

Proposed schedule for 2022

Social hubs aiming to meet at least twice a year

January	**Hubs in local regions**
February	
March	**AGM/speaker**
April	
May	**Social Event - in Stroud**
June	
July	**Hubs in local regions**
August	
September	**LIVE Speaker for CSA - in Tormarton**
October	
November	**Online speaker - Tormarton**
December	

Vote for bursary

Action

This was discussed and the decision was made to go ahead in principle, but to take it back to the committee to see how it could work in practice.

Election of Committee Members

There was discussion about how many members should be on the committee and how many could be co-opted on.

Action
The decision was taken to not have a set figure of members on the committee in the constitution or how many could be co-opted, but to leave it general so that this didn't have to come back to the AGM when it was felt numbers should be changed.
The constitution needs to be amended to accommodate this.

Election of Committee Members and Officers.

As we have 3 people stepping down from the Main Committee there are a few roles to fill : Chair; Secretary and Sculpture Loop; Open Forum.

Chair : Shirley Sharp was proposed and seconded
Secretary : Keziah Burt volunteered and was accepted
Treasurer : Sarah Cushing remains as Treasurer and Membership secretary
Philippa Macarthur: Member
Kim Pethybridge : Member
Anna Simpson - Member

Co-opted Members (Until end of year)

Cameron Scott (Sculpture Loop)
Debs Paproska-Cole (Supportive role)
Debs Harrison (Exhibition co-ordinator)
Stephanie Cushing (Exhibition sub-committee)
Andy Hopkins (Exhibition Sub-Committee)

Julie Fowler volunteered to be on a sub-committee

Kim Pethybridge gave a vote of thanks to our founder members Debs PC; Debs H and Cameron S for all their hard work and dedication since starting the Association. All agreed they have done an amazing job building up the Association from the ground.

Following the AGM, Debs Harrison introduced our guest speaker,
Caroline Summerfield. Her talk was 'An Introduction to Sculpture and the Law - Exhibiting' (and a recording of which can be found on our website – member's section)

The presentation covered Insurance, public and product liability, professional Indemnity, how to assess the value of your work if you needed to make a claim, and what happens if your sculpture is damaged or stolen.

General guidance on these points is to be put on the web page, and the presentation is available on the website for 4 months. From the presentation came the query whether it would be best for all members to have to have insurance before being allowed to exhibit in one of our exhibitions, or should CSA take out a group insurance and increase the membership fee to cover this. This was to be sent back to the committee to discuss and research.