Annual General Meeting

Cotswold Sculptors Association

24th January 7.30pm. Zoom

Apologies
Debs Harrison, Ana Menec, Marie Shepherd, Sue Navin

Chair's Report - Shirley Sharp

Welcome everyone to AGM / apologies
At the last AGM in March I was voted in as Chairman to take over from Debs PC as she came to the end of her 5 years on the committee but it wasn't until Aug/Sept that we had a chance to complete the handover.

Being new to the Chair with virtually a new committee as three prominent members stepped down has been a challenge but I have to say thank you to the Founder members for making the transition easy and the new committee for really stepping up. You have all been supportive and encouraging.

But of course CSA is all of **OUR** organisation and we **ALL** make it what it is. Debs, Debs and Cameron had a vision 5 years ago and made it happen. Whatever your reason for joining we all have the ability to make of it what we want it to be. To keep building not only on their vision but on **all of our visions.** If you want something then voice it so we know about it.

Gallery 16 cancelling
Sadly my first job was to cancel the Gallery 16 exhibition. Not a good start but it became clear that we didn't have enough time and people to take it on in the short space of time we had. In hindsight it needed to be organised back in June - not easy with Miserden going on.

However we would like to have more than one way to show our members work throughout the year and are already looking at different options.

Communication strategy
One very important thing in such a spread out organisation is communication. And that was the first thing we decided to look at to see if we could fill in any gaps. Jane has a clear way of presenting ideas and made us think of why and how we communicate. Unfortunately for Jane she is so good at it, she is now the go to person for all strategies. Sorry Jane.

Transferring of Named Accounts
There have been many accounts that have needed to be transferred to new committee and we are extremely thankful to have an IT person (Roy) on hand to help with these transitions from DebsPC.

New Projects
2 new projects this year
- Wax Project (Keziah)
- Bursary (Roy)

I will leave it to relevant Ctee members to talk them through.

Goodbye to Founder Members - Afternoon Tea .
Lovely afternoon tinged with sadness as Cameron and Debs H couldn't be there but thankfully Debs PC was able to be there.

Committee Roles
But of course there is a lot the committee have taken over and run with and so I will leave them to tell you about their particular areas. Anna and Kim though not reporting today do fulfil many roles including a very efficient Secretary (Anna) & for all round support inc.Sponsorship/advertising (Kim). So thank you to everyone for their support and huge commitment and I will pass you on to the Committee to hear about their roles.

Finance & Membership (Sarah Cushing)

Cotswold Sculptors Association accounts for 2021/22	
Currrent number of members	107
Needing to renew	4
Present assets as at 24/01/23	**£16,773.41**
Income and expenditure from 6/11/2021 to 17/11/2022	
Final assets brought forward from 2021	£13,873.08
Income	
Membership	£4,440.00
Exhibition entries	£2,220.00
Sales	£35,898.76
Catalogues	£1,303.76
Sponsorship	£200.00
	£44,062.52
Expenditure	
Final AHG/BC adjustments	£253.50
Committee away day 2021	£942.50
Bursary	-£105.00
Web upkeep	£271.09
Open forum expenses inc AGM speaker	£210.39
PIL insurance	£222.36
Miserden 2022 Payment to artists for sales	£31,033.80
Miserden 2022 expenses, advertising, grand opening etc.	£8,596.24
Miserden 2023 expenses	£300.33
General expenses	£7.60
	£41,732.81
Final assets	**£16,202.79**
Bank account as at 17/11/22	£16,202.79

Bursary (Roy Evans)

The CSA Bursary Scheme was set up for the first time this year with the aim of supporting and encouraging new and emerging artists and as a result we have:

- Set up a bursary process which will be further refined and improved as a result of any lessons learned this year
- Had 4 applications in this our first year
- Awarded 2 bursaries of £500 to Jo Hepburn and Kazz Hollick
- Assigned mentors to Jo and Kazz to support and help shape their development this year including exhibiting at Miserden
- Encouraged the 2 other bursary applicants to join CSA

Question - is money put aside to help people with the membership fees? SS said this was discussed but not finalised. Will be reviewed later in the year by the committee.

Sculpture Loop (Roy Evans)

Sculpture Loop was handed over to Roy by Cameron Scott with some training. Here is a quick update on what was already a very popular newsletter:

- The intention is to publish bi-monthly
- The look and feel was slightly changed to introduce iconography and regular headings for everyone to populate
- There are currently 331 contacts who receive Sculpture Loop
- The average rate of opening by subscribers is around 50% and we will aim to raise this number going forward
- Roy is always looking for content to include from other sculptors - including things to sell.

Thanks from Martin Clarke to Roy for the quality of newsletter. He has a number of sieves he will add to the next newsletter.

Exhibitions (Debs Harrison)

It was a good time to join with Miserden as the son was taking over and rebranding alongside renovating the café, shop and glass house area.

This year there was more of a focus on provision for disabilities: Wheelchair access and visual impaired thanks to Shirley.

There was a discussion about who should be insuring the work. CSA secured PL insurance but each artist has to ensure they have their own insurance – consequently I arranged a talk by Caroline Summerfield to help us understand.

Entries

- 62 sculptors
- 85 Indoor – 70 accepted
- 132 outdoor – 128 accepted
- Total of 200 pieces.
- 18 artists exhibited both indoor and outdoor work.

Apologies to those who had pieces that weren't accepted as there was limited indoor space and tried to accommodate pieces in the café and outdoors if they were weatherproof.

Recommendations are to use covered areas within the gardens for the bigger indoor pieces to free up more space for more indoor entries.

Indoor exhibition

- Initially the indoor exhibition was going to be in a glass house but it leaked, had extremes of temperature and there were questions about security.
- Found the alternative club house, which was secure, well-lit although it was a 5 min walk from the gardens.
- Footfall was 1,313

Thank you to all who invigilated and left feedback.

Recommendations

- to ask for voters email details when they participate in the public vote so we can increase our contacts list.
- And for all participants both indoor and outdoor to take turns invigilating as it increases ownership with the members and good for interfacing with the public.

Outdoor exhibition

- Thank you to Stephanie Cushing who gave me an introduction on how to go about curating.
- Also, a thank you to Alex the gardener who had fantastic solutions to problems. For example, we couldn't have pieces on the grass around the water so he suggested putting Adrian's pieces within the water which worked well.
- I worked with the artists to help find the best spots for their pieces which worked well but this is not a precedent. The next curator may have a different strategy.

Recommendations

- use more of the grounds including the buildings which offer cover.
- there were problems with the numbering system as there were indoor and outdoor numbers 1-70 so next time have continuous numbering to prevent confusion.
- To help people understand that there are still editions for sale although one has sold. We have developed a spot system where a red dot is a unique piece sold and green if there are editions still for sale.

Risk assessment

Risk assessment was carried out by a member of the Miserden team and a few of us including Sarah C and Debs PC. It was decided to inform the exhibitors of the risk assessment so in future exhibitors can learn how to make pieces more secure form the start.

Private View

- The quintet organised by Miserden went down well, the weather was superb and we used over 500 glasses. So the attendance was good.
- Great feedback from the demonstrations.

Recommendations to have a time for thanks and speeches and invite the press to do a preview.

Catalogue

Unfortunately, we ordered too many. But I have given out boxes to the art department in Gloucester University and they are being distributed to potential advertisers & sponsors.
Thank you to Adrian Bates and Andy Hopkins for their hard work. The catalogues were initially £5 but we reduced it to £3 as people were finding them too expensive.
Recommendation Next year have a catalogue with a separate price sheet and order no more than 1000 catalogues and reorder as we need them.
Overall though a great Exhibition with support from the staff at Miserden and fabulous sculptures from our members. Thank you.

Comment - Sarah Cushing added - the value of the sculptures for sale was £259,000 with sales at £44,904 across 27 artists.

Open Forums (Juli Bharucha)

I have recently taken the reins of Open Forum from Debs Harrison who organised and cajoled artists into speaking for over four years. I am beginning to realise that it takes many hoops to jump through, connecting speakers to dates, venues and audience! And would like to thank Debs for all her support, advice and gentle help into this role.

As our organisation continues to grow and evolve so does the purpose of Open Forums. We are constantly evaluating and exploring avenues of interest and aim to present a series of forums that will appeal to our diverse membership.

As artists and sculptors we have inquisitive natures, always wanting to explore, learn about new techniques, other art practitioners, the latest exhibition. Through Open Forums we are aiming to take a wide and varied approach investigating the relevance of artistic production in all its various guises.

In order to support members with exhibition applications we felt it would helpful to offer direction on simple photography. This talk was kindly given by Debs Harrison who was on the selection committee for Miserden last year and could see how relevant some simple guidelines would be for applicants. And in a similar vein Jane Boiston Evans gave a talk on instagram, empowering each of us to promote our own work. If you missed these talks, notes are on the members area of the CSA website as well as some valuable notes on using Plinths by Keziah Burt.

The first Open Forum of 2023 will be a studio visit in Feb to Jitka Palmer in Bristol followed by a demonstration in April by one of our key members Adrian Bates.

The years programme will be advertised through our website and promoted through email to members and promises to stimulate, educate and challenge! As artists being prepared to expand our understanding and question new and innovative methods will develop our approach to our work and grow our curiosity. Further forums include a gallery talk and Museum visit, alongside several Zoom discussions. When appropriate notes will be placed on the CSA members area.

Please make time to attend as many open forums as you can, we are privileged to have artists who are willing to give their time and expertise. Open Forums are part of your membership of CSA and offer a wealth of knowledge and information.

Suggestions for open forums, feedback, offers of talks, workshops are welcome and encouraged from members.

2023 Calendar (dates and activities may change so please check beforehand)

Name	Activity	Location	Dates
Debs Harrison CSA member	Photography for sculpture	Pegasus Attic studio	8th Nov 202 7pm
Jane Boiston-Evans CSA member	Instagram for beginners	Zoom / link in members area of website	7th December 7 – 8 pm
Jitka Palmer	Jitka palmer shares her techniques and discusses the use of different mediums.	Jitka Palmer Studio 3 Florence Park Westbury Park Bristol BS6 7LS	21st Feb 11am

Adrian Bates	A demonstration by Adrian, showing ceramic techniques and skills.	Pegasus Art Griffin Mill, London Road, Thrupp, Stroud, GL5 2AZ	14th April 7pm
Orli Ivanov	Sculpting the Figure. A demonstration from Orli's Studio	Zoom / from Orli's Studio based in London	June Sunday 4th 10 am—11 am
Anna Simson & Mandy Coppes	Reciprocity Anna & Mandy discuss their current exhibition.	Spring Gallery, Cheltenham GL50 1SW	July 2nd 3pm
Holburne Museum Lucie Rie exhibition	An Adventure in Pottery. A museum visit and discussion.	The Holburne Museum Bath BA2 4DB	Friday 22nd Sept 10 am—12pm
Xanthe Wood Senior Project Manager for Arts & Health from ARTSHAPE	Xanthe discusses the role and benefits of the Creative Arts and Health and projects run by ARTSHAPE	Zoom / link in members area of website	Tuesday 10th October 7:30 –8:30
Nicola Turner	Nicola discusses her recent residency at Skaftfell, Iceland.	Studio Visit / Bath Location to be forwarded.	Sunday 19th November 10:30 am

Comments
Reminder that there is a congestion charge going through Bristol which members may need to be aware of it. The studio is outside the charge area.
Please let us know about ideas for other open forums. Any member that would like to share their techniques/experience too.

Social Media / Marketing (Jane Boiston-Evans)

Jane took on the role of supporting our social media accounts in October 2022, and since that time we have:

- Drawn up and shared our communications framework with our members, which includes the role of our social media activity along with all the other channels we use to communicate and engage with our members and the public
- Been actively posting to Instagram and Facebook both with our own content and also many 'reposts' of our members posts to increase their reach and promote their activity – 117 posts as at 16th January 2023
- Seen mostly increases in our performance statistics over the last 90 days compared to the previous 90 days, which is the limit of statistical analysis period offered on both platforms
    - the number of accounts reached (+203% on Instagram, -5% on Facebook)
    - the number of accounts engaged (+133% on Instagram, +39% on Facebook)
- Grown our followers since September – from 1336 to 1389 on Instagram, and from 575 to 590 on Facebook
- Year ahead want to leverage social media even more and push Miserden in different ways.
- SS and JBE working together with Miserden to increase the marketing efforts for this year hopefully to increase the footfall and sales for this year.
- Delivered an Open Forum session for members on 'Instagram for Beginners' (now available as a recording on our website and a short document of the slides used).

Comments
SS - Received a comment that the indoor exhibition didn't get as much coverage as the outdoor so that'll be an aim to improve this for 2023.
Martin Clarke set up a Twitter account "Global Sculpture" which he offered to CSA if they would like to take it on. It has over 400 followers. He can revive it or pass to Jane. JBE to give it some thought.
Zoe Wooley queried that the exhibition is called the Gardens at Miserden could it be called Sculptures at Miserden? SS said that exhibition is called Creating Spaces 20??. DPC said for 2022 Miserden wanted it called *The Gardens at Miserden* and suggested that we go back to Miserden and ask them if that reference could be changed.

Website (Roy Evans)

The website was transferred to another hosting platform to divorce it from Debs PC's personal business site.

- The move was relatively straightforward and this was seamless to end users with no loss of continuity or service.
- The 5 mail accounts are being set up for committee members so that they don't have to use their personal e-mail for CSA business.
- Shirley Sharp maintains the website on a daily basis with technical support from Roy.

Website (Shirley)

- Good to have Roy on board for technical help.
- I try to upload info on a weekly basis. So send me your artist info and any events you are doing for the members page.
- Please visit Website and let me know if you see anything that needs attention.
- Home page & Miserden info needs improving - its on my list.
- Password changes on 1st Feb to : OurNews23
- Statistics 11,000 visitors this year (30,000 visits).

Wax Casting Project (Keziah Burt)

- Very sad that so many people didn't have time to get their wax project done in time. Keziah moving mid-July but she might be able to squeeze in one more round at the Foundry if enough interest. Keziah and Roy to discuss putting it on Sculpture Loop.
- One more session on 6th February for helping with patina. Contact Keziah if you would like to participate.
- Hope some sculptures will be included with Miserden. Hoping to make a display of them in the indoor exhibition. They don't have to be included in the usual submission process.
- WhatsApp group created for Wax project which has been communicative, sharing experiences and information. Really positive.

Questions
To do another round of sculptures there needs to be a minimum of 10 and 20 would be optimal.
SS to send KB details for exhibiting as part of Miserden.
Is there time for another Foundry visit be included with Miserden? SS - might be hard to include in catalogue but likely to be yes. SS & KB to discuss.
If exhibited do they have to be for sale? No, but editions may be available on request - the Foundry may be able to create a cast of it.

Conclusion (Shirley Sharp)

So as you can tell the committee are working so well together, but we all have other commitments too (especially sculpture) so bear with us if we are not always on the ball.

Miserden: As you know we are very happy to be exhibiting again in Miserden which is testament to the great exhibition last year and the call for entries closes 31st Jan. Planning is underway and we are very grateful for the offers of support we have had from members. We will be in touch again soon with the next step.

Comments
Martin Elphick - thanks to the old committee and new committee for doing such a fantastic job.

Election of Committee members

Proposer and Seconder for
Chair - Zoe Woolley proposed Shirley Sharp, seconded by Debs PC. 21 in agreement.
Secretary - DPC proposed Anna Simson, seconded by Kim Pethybridge. 21 in agreement.
Treasurer - DPC proposed Sarah Cushing, seconded by Anna Simson. 21 in agreement.
Membership - Caroline Barnett proposed Sarah Cushing, seconded by DPC. 21 in agreement.
Remaining committee members; Keziah Burt, Roy Evans, Jane Boison-Evans, Juli Bharucha, Kim Pethybridge. All proposed by Martin Elphick and seconded by Caroline Barnett and agreed by 21 members present.

AOB

Hubs

Martin Elphick - They have 2 new members and met this morning in Bath. Plan to have an exhibition in Bath themselves in the Autumn. How does this tie in as a sub-group of CSA? Encouraged by all.
Juli Bharucha - Stroud hub has not been very active and feels that the same in some other areas. Maybe as a committee need to appoint someone to oversee hubs. Feels fragmented.
Sarah Cushing - Hubs were meant to grow themselves and become autonomous and discussions are under way about how we can improve and perhaps find an overseer-er of the hubs. Plan to discuss at next committee meeting. Possibly adding a fun competitive element between the hubs.
Keziah Burt - Great idea for the Bath exhibition and for other members of CSA to come and see. Hubs a great idea. Would like to have an audit of what all our members have and if this can be done with regard to GDPR. Less formal than the forums.
Sarah Cushing - GDPR - we have 95% of members have said they are happy for their information to be shared.
Shirley Sharp - No problem with the Bath exhibition and thank you to Martin for mentioning it.
Lindsay Neale waring - Would love to have a hub around the Milton Keynes area.

Exhibition Possibility

Lindsay Neale Waring - has been given an opportunity. 2022 was approached by Ascott Estate (Bedfordshire) and they asked if Lindsay would display her sculptures. 6 weeks of a sole exhibition which was great but was very last minute. Sold nearly £3,000 worth. This venue has never had sculpture before and there is interest from the visitors. They have 300-500 visitors per day. Looking for more sculptors for this year Dates are straight after Miserden - mid July to September. Lindsay to pull together information and send to Roy for Sculpture Loop. Agreed to offer it up to members for a member-led exhibition co-ordinated direct with Lindsay and the Estate.
Martin Elphick suggested that Newark Park (National Trust) run a sculpture show too and they could be used as a model for Ascott Estate.

Miserden

Karen Edwards - question about delivery and collection as conflicted with the dates. KE to email information to SS and committee will see what can be done.

Social Media

Lynn Baxter - really happy with how the website and instagram put up her work. Really fabulous. Also including people who are nothing to do with CSA - found it very pleasurable to be involved in that degree of enthusiasm and helpfulness.

Zoe Wooley - went to a talk in Bath about Instagram. It was suggested following all other CSA members, tag at least 5 other members and comment on at least 5 other members' work.
Meeting ended 9pm