Cotswold Sculptors Association

Annual General Meeting

15th February 2025, 2-5pm
Malmsbury Town Hall

Minutes

Chair - Shirley Sharp
Hi Everyone Thank you for coming.
We have a quorum so voting can go ahead.
We don't intend to drag the AGM out and there will be time at the end to ask questions. Each Committee member has written a report which will be emailed to all members.

Talking of The committee haven't they been incredible this year?

Website
Starting off the year we had Grant who invested lots of time and energy into improving the overall look and efficiency of the website in particular.
He also trialed a communication app within the committee which then led us to starting up the community Whats App Group. A free alternative.

The Whats App Community is taking off well.
We have 35 members on the general Members Chat.
- STONE - 12
- CLAY - 14
- WOOD - 6
- GLASS - 1
- Ask a question - 15
- & a few Hub Groups are communicating.

Hubs
We also had Martin as overall Hub Coordinator at the beginning of the year.
Now largely thanks to him the HUBS have started to become more active.
We have 6 active Hubs and 2 Non-active.

Active
- Bath Bradford on Avon (Sara King)
- Stroud, Dursley (Shirley Sharp, Julie Bharucha & Clare Mahoney
- Chelt & Gloucester (Simon Denmen)
- Chipping Norton & Burford (Kiki Black)
- Evesham and Worcester (Alex Pickles)
- Swindon (Kim Pethybridge)

Not Active

- Nailsworth / Cirencester
- Bristol Weston super mare

Bath Hub has had 2 exhibitions so far.
Stroud, Dursley Hub has an exhibition in Jenner Museum this summer.
Other Hubs are starting to become more active and meeting regularly.

Miserden

We have a good relationship with the new Estate Manager Archie and his team.
Also The Head Gardener Alex who is so helpful and we would struggle without him.
There are lots of ways we and they could improve the experience and are working on them. As you know we have gone for outdoor only this year and will be showing Indoor later in another venue. We don't always get it right and this information came as a bit of a surprise to some. In hindsight it should have been made clearer what we were thinking earlier.

Venue Seekers

Throughout the year we have been looking at widening out where we exhibit. So now we have a new Venue Seekers Team : Anna and Juli (& myself) who will tell you some plans that are afoot.

Stepping Down

Kim Pethybridge. We will miss her pragmatic and joyful attitude on the committee. She has done a great job and we are sorry she cant be here today to show our gratitude.

Chair: I am also due to stepping down as Chair and so I am hoping a volunteer will be stepping up during this meeting.

So thanks to all of you - our members for supporting our committee and the Association as a whole. We are a family, related to each other through our passion for sculpture. Like families we provide emotional and practical support, a sense of belonging and a framework for personal development. We get some lovely emails from you and we wouldn't be doing this without you.

Cotswold Sculptors Association

Treasurer - Sarah Cushing

Cotswold Sculptors Association accounts for 2023/24	
Current number of members	124
Needing to renew	10
Present assets as at 01/02/24	**£18,430.74**
Income and expenditure from 01/12/2023 to 31/12/2024	
Final assets brought forward from 2023	£16,714.95
Income	
Membership	£4170.08
Exhibition Income – Miserden 2024	£8,053.95
Total Sales - £46,023	
	£12,224.03
Expenditure	
AGM/Meetings	£601.68
Capital Expenditure	£1004.78
General Expenses	£52.00
Technology	£1209.44
Open forum expenses	£386.34
PIL insurance	£280.53
Exhibition Expenditure – Miserden 2024	£9,283.47
Total paid to Artists - £32,313.60	
	£12,818.24
Final assets	**£16,120.74**
Bank account as at 31/12/24	£16,120.74

Cotswold Sculptors Association Income and Expenditure Breakdown

Current

Financial Year	2017 - 18	2018 - 19	2019 - 20	2020 - 21	2021 - 22	2022 - 23	2023 - 24	Total
Membership	1,746.30	2,280.00	3,005.00	3,090.00	3,790.00	3,880.00	4,170.08	21,961.38
Exhibitions	507.70	(527.05)	7,037.46	2,385.80	546.98	495.36	(1,229.52)	9,216.73
CAPEX	(620.92)			(651.56)		(1,302.98)	(1,004.78)	(3,580.24)
AGM/Meetings	(176.50)			(942.50)	(135.00)	(370.50)	(601.68)	(2,226.18)
General Expenses	(100.00)	(184.64)	(172.41)	(316.03)	(7.60)		(52.00)	(832.68)
Open Forum	(128.30)	(232.00)	(126.50)	(120.00)	(75.39)	(524.34)	(386.34)	(1,592.87)
Technology	(116.30)	(1,201.00)	(738.08)	(541.52)	(239.76)	(756.29)	(1,209.44)	(4,802.39)
Bursary					105.00	(1,000.00)	0.00	(895.00)
Lost Wax Project					(300.33)	156.00	0.00	(144.33)
Public Liability Insurance					(222.36)	(270.09)	(280.53)	(772.98)
Unidentified	25.00		(235.70)				0.00	(210.70)
								16,120.74
Year Spend	1,136.98	135.31	8,769.77	2,904.19	3,461.54	307.16	(594.21)	16,120.74
Running Total	1,136.98	1,272.29	10,042.06	12,946.25	16,407.79	16,714.95	16,120.74	16,120.74

Annual Income	2,254.00	1,752.95	10,042.46	5,475.80	4,336.98	4,375.36	2,940.56	31,178.11
Annual Expenditure	(1,117.02)	(1,617.64)	(1,272.69)	(2,571.61)	(875.44)	(4,068.20)	(3,534.77)	15,057.37
Annual Total	1,136.98	135.31	8,769.77	2,904.19	3,461.54	307.16	594.21	16,120.74

Overall Surplus & Loss - Creating Spaces Exhibitions							
Year	**Venue**	**Duration**	**Exhibition Income**	**Total Expenditure**	**Surplus or loss**	**Total Sales**	**Running Surplus**
2018	DM	1 day	1,111.58	603.88	507.70	£ 4,500.00	507.70
2019	AHG	2 months	1,645.00	2,172.05	- 527.05	£ 13,215.00	19.35
2020	AHG	5 months	11,194.50	3,996.54	7,197.96	£ 41,470.00	7,178.61
2021	AHG	3 months	7,564.60	5,561.26	2,003.34	£ 32,511.00	9,181.95
2021	BC	2 months	1,831.00	1,189.54	641.46	£ 5,910.00	9,823.41
2022	MN	2 months	8,876.22	8,716.24	159.98	£ 44,709.00	9,983.39
2023	MN	2 months	8,732.00	8,269.14	462.86	£ 48,110.00	10,446.25
2024	MN	3 months	8,053.95	9,283.47	- 1,229.52	£ 46,023.00	9,216.73

TOTAL EXHIBITION SURPLUS	**9,216.73**

Outdoor Curation & Website - Ange Williams (& Lynda Knott)

2024 review - I joined the committee a couple of years ago and have taken on two main responsibilities: outdoor curation at Miserden, and maintaining the CSA website.

Miserden:

I've been part of the curation team for the outdoor exhibition at Miserden for the last two years along with Lynda Knott, Kim Petheridge and Jane Yarnall and the four of us have all agreed to take on the roll once again for 2025. There is an amazing amount of planning that goes into putting on such a big exhibition and having an enthusiastic and knowledgeable curation team makes the task so much easier along with invaluable help and support from the whole committee. The curation involves many responsibilities including being part of the selection process, liaising with artists, collating risk assessments, organising the installation logistics and timings, as well as working closely with the Miserden Gardeners and estate management. This year will see some changes for the Miserden exhibition with only exhibits being shown outdoors and for a shorter period of time; but with some exciting submissions it promises to be another wonderful display showcasing some fabulous sculptures in an amazing setting.

Website:

Secondly, I have taken on the role of maintaining the CSA website along with help from Lynda and Shirley. This involves keeping the sculptors gallery up to date with new members information, keeping the members page current and informative, listing open forums and dates for your diaries and displaying a gallery for exhibitions such as Miserden and the Button Challenge. Lynda helps with the exhibitions especially uploading all the images and labelling, etc., and Shirley is trialling a new events booking system linked to the website which will make bookings for open forums and hopefully exhibitions easier in the future. There are still lots of improvements we will be making over the coming year to make the site more useful for member and visitors to the site alike.

Indoor Curation - Anna Simson (& Juli Bharucha)

The Indoor exhibition took place in the Club Room for the 3rd year (opposite the village pub) and was curated by me, Anna Simson, and Juli Bharucha. Main successes included:

- In person group selection with Committee at Shirley's house was good to meet in advance and discuss pieces together.
- Several advance planning meetings with Juli were essential to plan the layout and decide how many pieces we could fit in without compromising the work.
- Sunday access for painting plinths (and large team) was fun and really helpful. Thank you to all.
- Grant Sonnex built a temporary free standing wall which broke up the space and increased the sense of spaciousness around each piece. This, along with the temporary wall from 2023 that hid the kitchen entrance, gave a clean, white space. (Excellent steward comment "where is the loo?"). Thank you Grant for making this.
- Peter Pullon built several wall-hanging plinths. These were great and enabled us to hang sculptures on the walls (thankfully Miserden don't mind us making holes and we always make-good afterwards). Although they take a lot of weight some of the pieces we had planned for them ended up being too heavy so we had to re-arrange a bit. They now form part of the CSA kit (see below). Thank you Peter.
- We are slowly building up a store of plinths (and the temporary wall above) which make a huge difference. Members still lend plinths but we don't need so many and we can create the layout in advance. It reduces the chance of damage and having things under foot during installation. BIG thank you to Lynda Knott for storing these. They are available for members to borrow for their own or hub exhibitions. Contact Lynda Knott.
- We used 3 of the Ikea cabinets from 2023 which increased the number of smaller pieces we could display and are well lit. The 4th we did not use as it was slightly water damaged from being in the greenhouse in 2023.
- We re-positioned the lighting in the space to highlight particular pieces and borrowed a clip-on light for the new temporary wall.
- We used the same online rota system as 2023. This made it very easy for members to sign up and to see where the gaps were. Big thank you to all volunteers and especially those that travelled a long way and stayed over in order to fulfil their shift(s). Special thank you to those Members with the top five shifts below:
    - Shirley Sharp - 9 shifts
    - Juli Bharucha - 8 shifts
    - Tim Wells - 8 shifts
    - Veronica Dudley - 8 shifts
    - Gina Baum - 7 shifts
- We increased the number of wall pieces, including textile pieces which helped with the echo (as did the dividing wall).
- The Ikea cabinets and false wall have been left in the Club Room after the exhibition as they are too delicate to move easily.
- Club Room was given a thorough clean by the plinth-painting party and we even cleaned the windows, (just as we finished the window cleaner turned up - organised a bit late by Miserden).
- We ran the public vote for their favourite indoor sculpture again. This gives an opportunity to engage visitors and makes them look longer at each piece. (Topline results below).

Public Voting Results - Top 7 - Club Room 2024

	NAME	TITLE
1	Mandy Coppes-Martin	Transient Myopia
2	Peter Pullon	Arctic Hare
3	Emma Kemp	Pendulum
4	Lindsay Neale Waring	Wren on Wire
5	Chris Elmer	Wooden Twist
6	Mandy Coppes-Martin	Momentous Insight
7	Clare Mahoney	Patterns in Nature

- Juli introduced a new invoice system which enabled us to track sales more easily, especially with the absence of Sarah Cushing.
- Juli also introduced a system whereby we could gather names for our mailing list for future events.
- There was a slight increase on the previous year's sales but not much considering the additional month.

  2023 16 sculptures £4,915
  2024 15 sculptures £5,858

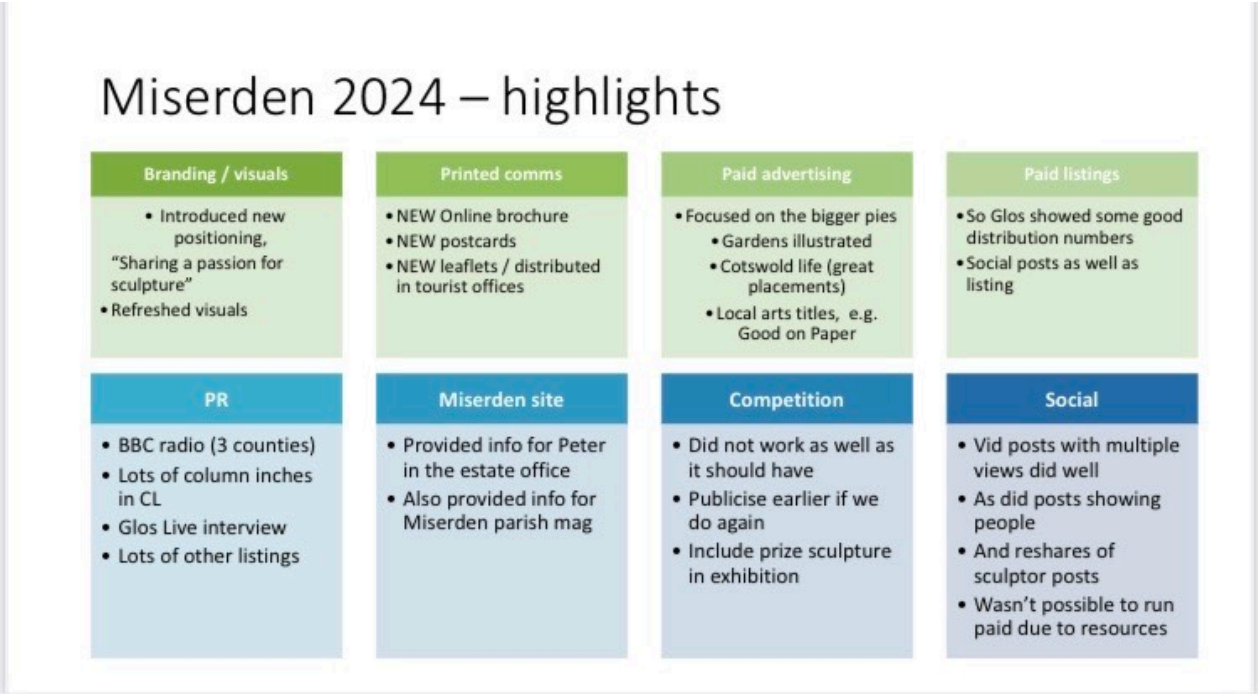
2. What was unsuccessful? In what way?

- With the length of the exhibition extended, coupled with Miserden closing their shop, we needed to find double the amount of stewards (one garden, one Club Room) for a month longer. It did prove very difficult and some days we ended up paying a "youth" minimum wage to cover in the Club Room only. Thankfully Miserden offered to contribute towards some of these costs.
- Bringing traffic from main garden was a constant issue. However we had an average of 33 visitors a day versus 43 from last year. This could be affected by the extra month (numbers tailed off), and many rainy days in 2024 compared with the warmth of 2023.
- We tried to have a couple of big sculptures linking the outdoor with indoor but due to the lack of security we couldn't guarantee someone wouldn't rock up and nick or damage them, therefore the artists, unsurprisingly, were not willing to take the risk.
- Committing sculptures for a 3 month stretch in one place was a bit too long for some artists.

3. How can it be improved?

- After discussion within the Committee we decided to focus the indoor exhibition for 2025 in a different venue and for a different duration. We hope to link it with an Open Studio (likely to be the Autumn Trail in the Stroud District, October 2025) and will be open for approximately 10 days. We have just had confirmation that the indoor exhibition will move to the Long Table in Brimscombe (just outside Stroud) during October 2025.
- There is a possibility of moving the indoor exhibition in future years to link with other open studios across the region, thereby more engaging local hubs and increasing our geographic reach. Any members that have good Open Studios and possible venues in their areas, please let us know about them!

Marketing - Jenny Baddeley









Various - Kim Pethybridge

My role on the committee has this year included the following:-

- I mainly pick up the odds and ends jobs.
- Organising the discounts from various suppliers for our members.
- Emailing lots of businesses to ask them if they'd like to put an advert in; or sponsor us for our exhibition brochure.
- Secured the prize from Tiranti for the Miserden exhibition.
- Organised the Private View at Miserden last May. Ordered drinks, glasses, flowers, gifts etc and booked the wonderful vocalist for the evening.

- Helped curate the Miserden exhibition again, taking on an area of the garden. This helps spread the load from one lead curator, working as a team and putting our heads together makes the task much more manageable. Highly recommend joining this team as it is an interesting experience!
- Attended Miserden on installation and deinstallation days.
- Organised the Demonstrating days, liaising with each sculptor on their needs for the day they were there. Joined in on the two group days to make up the numbers.
- Visited Malmesbury Town Hall for possible AGM venue. Organised speaker and food for AGM 2024 and booked again for 2025 meeting.
- Always on the look out for other potential exhibition venues, inquired on prices of room hires etc.
- Site visits early in the year to start thinking about where to place sculptures in the gardens at Miserden.
- I'm excited to be included in the Miserden curation team again for 2025.

I am now sad to be leaving after 5 years on the committee. It has been a huge eye opener for me as I only thought of my sculpting as a hobby but being on the committee has helped grow my confidence in my myself hugely!

Open Forums - Juli Bharucha

As the committee member responsible for open forums, I have the wonderful excuse to be nosey, exploring ideas, possible tours, exhibitions and chatting to artists in order to bring our yearly programme together.

Last year we combined visits to sculpture shows, zoom talks, along with outings to two foundries. The foundry visits gave us a real insight into the complex process of casting and the many stages involved and were of particular interest to those members who use this method to create their work. It was fascinating to note the different approaches of each foundry.

Another avenue was the delve into “Meet the artist” as part of our Miserden exhibition. Building on the success of this we now feel confident to include it into our exhibition programme inviting the public to attend.

This year’s programme is in the final stages of completion offering a wide variety of tours alongside CSA member involvement. As a large organisation we have many diverse skills and collective knowledge to exchange with each other.

Creative folk often stumble across new challenges and problems to solve, however, within our CSA association there is usually someone out there who can help – It is a never-ending pathway we walk, continually evolving and learning from each other.

Sculpture Loop - Roy Evans

SLOOP continues to be produced by me, Roy. Key requirement is content so please continue to send me all and any information: - exhibitions, items for sale, recommended books, sharing ideas and more.

Voting - All

All voted in favour of:

- Treasurer- Sarah Cushing
- Secretary - Anna Simson
- Chair- Shirley Sharp

And General Committee:

- Ange Williams
- Jenny Baddeley
- Lynda Knott
- Juli Bharucha
- Roy Evans
- Jane Yarnall

All members are invited to join the Committee or come along to any committee meeting which are mostly on zoom. 1st Tuesday of each month 7.30pm (link is provided on the Members page of the website).

Kim Pethybridge has stepped down. She was thanked for commitment over the last 5 years.

Shirley Sharp, Chair, was due to step down but there are no volunteers to take over so she will continue to be Chair for **one** more year.

Gina Baum volunteered to join the committee as Vice Chair to shadow and support Shirley.

Questions from the floor.

- Could the Chair be a shared role? *YES* this is a possible solution to share responsibility.
- Can we change the constitution to allow for people to remain longer on c'tee? *YES* we can do that although the 5 year time limit does mean that the c'tee keeps evolving and doesn't stagnate.
- What is Chair's role? Mainly a supportive role to the c'tee; chairing meetings, communicate to members.
- Shirley will compile a job description and share with members.