

The fifth Annual General Meeting was held in the Village Hall, Coton, near Cambridge at 10.30am on Tuesday, 9 April 2024.

There were present:

Jenny Josselyn (Chair: JJ)  
Kate Steen (Treasurer: KS)  
Ann Keith (Membership Secretary: AK)  
Janet Huskinson (Grants Officer: JH)  
Frances Hazlehurst (Secretary: FH)

Thirty-two members attended. Tess Bottomley attended as a guest of the Chair.

Apologies had been received from 16 Members and their names were read out at the beginning of the meeting. The list included Robert Lawson who was standing for election.

JJ welcomed Members and guests to the meeting. Before the meeting started, she invited Members to remember two Art Friends who had died since the previous AGM: Anthony Hopkinson, who had been Treasurer for many years in Art Fund days and had given much advice and encouragement during the setting up of Art Friends Cambridgeshire, and Penny Olesen, who had suggested “Art Friends” as an appropriate name for the charity.

1. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 17 July 2023.

The Minutes had been made available via the website and were **approved**.

2. **Report and Accounts for the year ended 2023**

- 2.1 The Report and Financial Statements, which had been approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 29 February 2024, had been made available to members via the website. Printed copies were available at the meeting.
- 2.2 FH advised that the Accounts, which had been circulated in draft, had now been approved, following receipt of the Independent Examiner’s Report, which was included in the printed version of the Report and Accounts.

JJ thanked KS for her meticulous care in looking after AFC’s financial affairs and she was given a round of applause.

JJ drew attention to the receipt of £1,256.74 from HMRC which represented Gift Aid receipts since the charity’s inception, supplemented by interest. This had been added to the Grants Fund. AK and KS were thanked for their work to achieve this payment and Members were thanked for signing up for Gift Aid. AK asked Members to contact her if they wished to register for Gift Aid or if they were no longer eligible.

- 2.3 JH reported on Grant-giving, drawing attention to the Trustees Report in which it was recorded that over AFC’s first five years grants to the value of nearly £30,000 had been made to some 35 projects, which was a remarkable achievement. Grants made in 2023 were listed in Appendix B of the Trustees Report.

To date in 2024, a grant of £500 had been made to the Whipple Museum of the History of Science for handling boxes as learning materials for visiting school children, and of nearly £675 to The Creative Dimension Trust towards workshops giving young people training and work experience in the skills needed for three-dimensional design.

JH reviewed the range of causes AFC had supported over its first five years. These included:

- Conservation: of church wall-paintings, textiles in museums, houses and churches, and book bindings
- Digitilization, often leading to widened access: collections (such as Emmanuel College's portraits which could now be seen via their website), or information such as the Sculpture trail in Cambridge
- Museums and galleries: towards acquisitions, display cases, and for learning materials to help engage visitors, especially children
- People: the education and training to take traditional skills forward.

Finally JH reported that, with AFC's grant arising from the lecture given by Frank King on *Sundials: Time as an Art Form*, the Lettering Arts Trust had been able to arrange a two-day workshop for four letter-carvers to allow them to learn the special skills needed to design sundials.

She thanked Members for their continued support, noting the real difference which can be made by even quite small, but carefully focused, grants.

In addition to thanking Members, JJ drew attention to the contribution made by speakers and guides who frequently waived their fees which allowed an increased donation to be made.

The Report and Financial Statements for 2023 were **adopted**.

### **3. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the accounts**

- 3.1 **Jeremy Wong** was **re-appointed** Independent Examiner of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024, and was thanked for his willingness to serve. The Management Committee was **authorised** to set the level of the Independent Examiner's fees.

### **4. Any Other Business**

- 4.1 JJ noted that to date some 50 Members had renewed their subscriptions. New Members would be needed to enable AFC to continue. She encouraged Members to encourage others to join, or to invite guests to events, drawing attention to the scheme whereby a guest attending an event who then chose to join the AFC would have their guest premium taken off the membership fee for the first year.
- 4.2 JJ also noted it would be helpful to increase the number of volunteers assisting with events or in other ways on an ad hoc basis and encouraged anyone interested to get in touch either with JJ or with AK.
- 4.3 JJ drew attention to the blue card advising of forthcoming events which had been made available with the Trustees Report. Further information would be forwarded by email and would be available on the website in due course.

4.4 JJ thanked those members who were retiring from the Committee:

- KS, who had been Treasurer of Art Fund Cambridgeshire and then AFC, with a short break, since 2010 and thanked her for all her work in connection with the accounts, the bank and HMRC
- FH, who had been a member of the Committee since 2021 and in addition to being Secretary, has organised events, worked on grants and created and maintained the website. (She noted that someone needed to be found to take over the website in due course.)
- JH, who had achieved so much in the few months since she had stepped in getting to grips with the Grant-giving operation.

## 5. Election of Management Committee

5.1 The following were thanked for their willingness to serve, and were **elected** to serve as Officers, to the AGM in 2025:

- Chairman: **David Way**, proposed by Jenny Josselyn, seconded by Ann Keith
- Treasurer: **Richard Medland**, proposed by Kate Steen, seconded by Mary Garratt
- Secretary: **Robert Lowson**, proposed by Frances Hazlehurst, seconded by Julia Bagguley.

5.2 The following were re-elected to serve on the Management Committee, having been proposed together by Janet Huskinson, seconded by Richard Andrewes:

- **Jenny Josselyn**
- **Ann Keith.**

5.3 Members elected to the Management Committee also act as Trustees of the Charity and serve to the end of the AGM following their election.

Finally, JJ recalled that she had been Chairman, first of Art Fund Cambridgeshire and then of AFC since 2009 and thanked Members of AFC and of the Committee over the years for their support and for the spirit of encouragement, enthusiasm and involvement which was so characteristic of AFC.

Richard Andrewes thanked JJ, on behalf of the Membership, for carrying the weight of the transition from Art Fund to Art Friends Cambridgeshire and for steering the first five years of its existence.

The meeting closed at 11.15am and was followed by a short talk on Hogarth's *Gin Palace* given by Tess Bottomley who had been one of the 2020 participants in the Articulation prize for 16 to 19 year olds. The morning concluded with coffee, tea and biscuits.