



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019  
16 July 2019 at Hall Place**

**Attendees**

The Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Geraldine Lucia-Hennis, Guest Speaker  
Mike Ellsmore, Chair of Trustees and Finance Director  
Geoff Norris, Project Co-ordinator  
Guy Tarrant, Trustee  
Rosie Eaglen, Trustee  
Jenny Watson, Trustee  
Fiona Miller, prospective Trustee  
25 CIO members, artists and guests (Full list held by Centrepieces, and of apologies)

**1. Centrepieces' Chair of Trustees, Mike Ellsmore**

Mike welcomed everyone to the fourth Annual General Meeting of Centrepieces in its 20th anniversary year. He said what a privilege it was to be meeting in Hall Place this year with its long history and current celebrations of WW2 events. He introduced Councillor Geraldine Lucia-Hennis, the current Mayor of Bexley, and thanked her for being here to address the meeting.

**2. Welcome by The Mayor, Councillor Geraldine Lucia-Hennis**

The Mayor said how honoured she was to be invited to the meeting, especially because she was Councillor for Crayford Ward and Centrepieces had long connections with Crayford. She congratulated Centrepieces on its 20th anniversary and its 5th year based at Hall Place. She loved the creativity of the workshops and the artwork displayed on the walls. She hoped that Centrepieces' financial situation would remain strong and wished everyone a good day.

**3. Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held on 17 July 2018 had been available on the Centrepieces website. The minutes were accepted as accurate and there were no matters arising.

**4. Chair of Trustees report**

The Chair's Annual Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mike felt that Centrepieces was growing in confidence and had increased diversity in its activities. It progresses every year with strong governance. He thanked Geoff Norris for his continued invaluable contribution. Mike also highlighted the recent growing public awareness of mental health issues, which had previously been under the radar, and he was pleased that Centrepieces has had a role in this change.

**5. Finance Report and Accounts**

The Finance Report and Accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mike said that the cash position was strong and his aim was for Centrepieces to be sustainable and in a good position to apply for external funding. He thanked Jean Lyons and Annie Greywoode for their work on the accounts and their monthly reports.

Acceptance of the Annual Report and the Finance Report was proposed by Guy Tarrant and seconded by Jenny Watson, and the motion was carried.

## 6. Co-ordinator's report

The Project Co-ordinator's report had been circulated before the meeting. Geoff Norris reflected on the 20 year history of Centrepieces, and how holding the AGM here was like a return to its spiritual home. The first exhibition was held here, also art and mental health conferences, and Hall Place has purchased artwork. The spirit and ethos of Centrepieces have not changed over 20 years, but the scale has. It now has around 100 artist members and 30 volunteers and Trustees. The move to The Lodge at Hall Place represented an important stage in its development. Geoff thanked Oxleas NHS Trust for its funding and Hall Place for its support, and Olwyn Sinclair and BVSC for their help in making Centrepieces a registered charity. He also thanked the Mayor and Councillor Eileen Pallen for their support.

The activities of Centrepieces continue to expand and it works closely with partners such as Reinststate and the Erith Exchange. It held its biggest and most successful auction in December 2018, and a highly successful exhibition in The Stables gallery. Geoff thanked everyone for their contributions and looked forward to the next 20 years.

## 7. Appointment of trustees

Andrew Grieve and Olwyn Sinclair stood down from the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution but were willing to stand for re-election. Andrew had moved to Nottingham but was still in touch. Fiona Miller was standing for election as a new Trustee. The remaining Trustees, Mike Ellsmore, Guy Tarrant, Britta von Zweigbergk, Rosie Eaglen and Jenny Watson, were all willing to continue serving on the Board.

The nominations were proposed by Rosie Eaglen and seconded by Guy Tarrant, and all were duly elected.

## 8. Any other formal business

None

## 9. Short speeches by Centrepieces' artists and volunteers

- Lucy Thomas gave a presentation about the recent Body Image exhibition in Sandwich
- Karen Larkin described the Broken Yet Still Beautiful mosaic project
- Jocelyn Erskine-Kelly spoke about how Centrepieces had helped her
- Peter Kent described how Centrepieces had helped his recovery and spoke about how the new activities and creative atmosphere in the Pop Up Studios were benefitting artists

## 10. Short presentation about Centrepieces

A presentation was shown describing a Year in the Life of Centrepieces, featuring workshops, projects and trips.

## 11. Jackie Grieve Inspire Award presentations

The Jackie Grieve Inspire Awards were established in 2016 to recognise outstanding contributions to Centrepieces and as a lasting memorial to Jackie, a Centrepieces artist, who died of cancer.

This year's winners:

**Neil Butler** for help and dedication with many Centrepieces projects, and development as an artist  
**Fatma Durmush** for producing work of great impact through persistence and dedication as an artist

**Terry Longley** for long term volunteer support to Centrepieces by running the Photography Club  
**Aisling O'Daly** for enthusiastic support for arts administration delivered with humour and kindness  
**Danils Porubins** for innovation and excellence of artwork