



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for the financial year 2021/22
Wednesday 15 February 2023 at Hall Place**

Attendees

Willow Winston, Patron
Mike Ellsmore, Chair of Trustees and Finance Director
Geoff Norris, Project Co-ordinator
Karen Larkin, Assistant Project Co-ordinator
Rosie Eaglen, Trustee
Georgina Lonergan, new Trustee
Sally Mc Gregor, Trustee
Fiona Miller, Trustee
Eileen Pallen, new Trustee
Guy Tarrant, Trustee
Jenny Watson, Trustee

16 Centrepieces artists and volunteers, 3 guests (Full list held by Centrepieces)

1. Apologies for absence

Britta von Zweigbergk, Ann Cronin

2. Welcome by Mike Ellsmore, Chair of Trustees

The patron had been delayed, so Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last AGM on 25 November 2021 were agreed, and there were no matters arising. Acceptance was proposed by Mike Ellsmore and seconded by Guy Tarrant

4. Chair of Trustees report

The Chair's Annual Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mike said how good it was to be meeting in person again. The lockdowns now seem a long time ago and we are already forgetting how difficult that period was. Most things are back to normal now, although there are still challenges. The Trustees are still trying hard to find additional accommodation for Centrepieces, as The Lodge is not large enough for our current activities and we need to be able to grow as a charity.

5. Finance Report

The Finance Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Our cash reserves have reduced this year. Storage is expensive, but we can save on costs if we find new accommodation. Unrestricted reserves are down to around £12,000 and decreasing. We can re-energise our fundraising efforts, but there are no grants available for running costs. Mike thanked Jean Lyons and Annie Greywoode for their work on the finances and accounts – without Jean's input, Centrepieces would not run as it does.

There were no questions about the Finance Report

6. Co-ordinator's Report

The Project Co-ordinator's report had been circulated before the meeting.

Geoff thanked our new Trustee Eileen Pallen for her continued support for Centrepieces. She has nominated Centrepieces for the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The visit from the assessor appeared to go well, and we wait to hear the outcome.

Geoff spoke about Centrepieces member Richard Jones, who died last year. Centrepieces is storing many pieces of his work that were created while he was a member. We are working with his family to decide what to do with the artwork in order to maintain his memory and to reduce storage costs.

Geoff revealed that our bid for temporary use of space at Sidcup Manor House has been successful, subject to agreement on some details. There will be space for storage, workshops and artists' workspaces. We would have use of it for at least one year. A questionnaire will be circulated to gauge likely interest from artists.

Geoff thanked all the volunteers and artists who make Centrepieces the organisation that it is.

Acceptance of the 3 formal reports was proposed and seconded.

7. Appointment of trustees

Trustees Merissa Hamilton and Stefano Nocerino had resigned this year. Britta Von Zweigbergk, Guy Tarrant and Mike Ellsmore stood down from the Board of Trustees in accordance with the constitution and all were willing to stand for re-election. Sally McGregor, Georgina Lonergan and Eileen Pallen were standing for election as new Trustees. The remaining Trustees, Jenny Watson, Rosie Eaglen and Fiona Miller, were all willing continue serving on the Board. All the nominated Trustees were elected for the coming year.

8. Any other formal business

None

9. Short talks about Centrepieces

Our patron, Willow Winston, apologised for her delayed arrival due to her completing an MA covering Art, Science and Nature. She said it was a thrilling experience to work with Centrepieces last summer. She finds Centrepieces friendly, welcoming and like a family. Our collaborative art is growing and of great importance.

Liam Davies, Sally Thompson and Izzy Gately spoke about their experiences at Centrepieces and how volunteering had improved their mental health.

10. Presentation by Karen Larkin

Karen showed pictures and clips of events during 2022

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:

Izzy Gately For development as an artist and contributions as a volunteer to social media and help to fellow artists

Sally Thompson For personal artistic development and dedication in volunteering

Annie Greywoode For quietly helping Centrepieces to keep on the right financial track through many years of consistent and reliable volunteer bookkeeping

Barry Levitt For development as a sculptor

Lesley Cody For willingness to experiment as an artist and produce work of a varied nature that is always popular in exhibitions

Adam Dean For willingness to learn and improve as an artist through Centrepieces workshops