

Waveney & Blyth Arts Annual general meeting 2021



AGM 2021

**4 December The Cut,
Halesworth**

Draft Minutes

Present Grace Adam, James Barrett-Nobbs, Dorothy Courtis, David Cumming, Geoff Doggett, Iestyn Edwards, Ann Follows (chair), Brian Guthrie (secretary), Pat Holtom, Spadge Hopkins, Serena Inskip, Janet Koralambe, Jo Leverett (marketing coordinator), Ivor Murrell, Jean Murrell, Jade Nice, Lister Noble, Alva O'Malley, Simon Raven, Chris Reeve, Rachel Roft, Shirley Smith, Julia Sowerbutts, Nicky Stainton (treasurer), Netta Swallow, John Westgarth

1 Minutes 2020 AGM

Approved
No matters arising

2 Financial statement and chair's report 2020/21

Ann Follows and Brian Guthrie presented a PowerPoint summary of activities in a year badly affected by covid. The annual sculpture trail had to be cancelled. But other activities included Bugs and Blossoms (filmed creative workshops); virtual contributions from members; Talk-Walk-Reflect; and a mix of live, online and hybrid events in the Two Rivers book festival – at Diss Corn Hall (Patrick Barkham on his biography of Roger Deakin) Stowmarket's Museum of Rural Life (George Ewart Evans' books) Zoom (Women and Place chaired by Sarah Lowndes, with three other authors) and three book-based movies (*The Innocents*, *Kes* and *After Sebald*).

Preparation started for 2021's Spell Songs in the Green (planned as a live performance, switched to a film).

Nicky Stainton presented the financial statement, with accounts and balance sheet. for 2020/21. This was proposed by Ivor Murrell and seconded by Lister Noble; approved unanimously. Tribute was paid to Greg Tebbble, who was WBA's treasurer for many years and who died, sadly, this year. Ann also thanked Nicky Stainton for her work in this area.

3 Recovery subcommittee

PowerPoint was used to highlight events since 1 April 2021.

Simon Raven, who managed Sculpture in the Valley at Potton Hall, reported on a really successful event, despite the continuing Covid challenge. There were 80 pieces of work from 41 artists; 37 sales, over 2,000 tickets sold, good contributions from volunteers (marshalled by Netta Swallow) and plenty of publicity.

Netta Swallow spoke of the four successful walks she had coordinated – Westleton's Sandlings by Ivor and Jean Morrell, Industrial Great Yarmouth with Mark Cator, Right up your Street with Dean Parkin and Bungay's wildlife with Chris Reeve.

Brian Guthrie reviewed September's Two Rivers book festival – disaster literature discussed online and chaired by the Guardian's Claire Armitstead, Yarmouth crime thrillers, Wortham's romantic novelist at war against tithes (with enactments by Roughcast Theatre), Flipside and First Light in Lowestoft with Liz Calder and Genevieve Christie. And in Halesworth: Auschwitz survival at The Cut, children's activities at Abbie Clements' bookshop, Victorian letters brought to life by Circle 67 actors, and a haunted walk.

Ann Follows spoke about the remarkable work done preparing the film of *Spell Songs in the Green*. Online, 75 adult singers, 17 dancers and 44 children rehearsed their work, under the overall direction of Janet Koralambe and the dance directed by Caroline Mummery. Grants and donations totaling £8,750 were received from local authorities and organisations to pay for the project costs. The costs included hiring professional sound engineers and film makers. Two sold-out premiere performances at The Cut were a triumph.

In summarising the present financial position (£9,658 in the bank on 3 December) Ann Follows pointed out that there were still some copyright issues about the *Spell Songs* film that might affect that.

4 The future of Waveney & Blyth Arts

Ann Follows summarised the circumstances behind the management committee's reluctant proposal that WBA be dissolved. (She also reported that four members of the committee were resigning at this AGM – Melinda Appleby, Julia Devonshire, Nicky Stainton and Lou Walker; she thanked them for their contributions.)

Spadge Hopkins introduced himself, and an alternative proposal aimed at preserving WBA. He is an ex-businessman, now a sculptor and involved in running a youth centre in Framlingham. He has many contacts in this area and hopes to add other people to the mix. He emphasised that he wanted the management committee to be able to present a plan of action to the membership by March 2022

After some discussion, Simon Raven proposed, and Lister Noble seconded, this motion:
It is proposed that W&BA form a new management committee chaired by Spadge Hopkins, with any other current and/or new members who wish to continue/volunteer. This committee will review the current operation in pursuit of delivering the aims of the constitution and report back with a programme for action to an extraordinary general meeting.

This was approved unanimously. The original proposal was rejected unanimously.

At the conclusion of the meeting there was a screening of Spell Songs in the Green.