



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WPA  
held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at The Kenn Centre, Kennford EX6 7UE**

**Attendance**

There were 62 members present at the meeting including 10 committee members and 3 guests.

**1. Apologies for absence - Anna Hearn**

Apologies were received from Peter and Vera Stride, Bev Rowe, John Riley, Anne Howlett, Nicky Noble, Angela Patterson, Norma Harris, Barry Boffy.

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM - Anna Hearn**

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved unanimously.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes – Anna Hearn**

There were no matters arising from the 2018 minutes.

**Advance Reports**

**Chair's report and Acknowledgements/Review of 2018 / 2019 – Lorraine Gilroy**

Our 25th anniversary year in 2018 was tremendously successful with much positive feedback from many of our membership in person, by email, on social media and in our magazine. Committee had planned and prepared these events for up to 18 months beforehand and it was wonderful to reach the end of 2018 in such good shape, even if we were a bit weary.

Due to these major events, our other demonstrations and events were curtailed last year, now reinstated with gusto for 2019.

On 3rd February, our social lunch at historic Dartington Hall was very well received, followed on 25th March by our Annual General Meeting at The Kenn Centre, Exeter attended by 59 members, with annual demonstration by renowned porcelain thrower Geoffrey Swindell, featuring excellent pot sales of over £1,300. Karen Edwards, John Watson and Anna Hearn led the demonstration day and AGM superbly in Lorraine's absence, as she was unable to attend.

In the following months, several committee members stayed on due to the need for us to complete work before new members were recruited. Thanks from the whole Association are due to Adrian Bates, Norma Harris, Lorraine Gilroy and Barry Boffy for seeing this through.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April, Adrian Bates delivered a beautiful and popular photography workshop at Cossington Hall, focussing on the skills required to capture images of your pots/sculpture. This was ideal for many members who wanted to update their photographic records and indicative of the increasingly practical nature of our events, as planned by our events team. These experiences do however take about three times as long as usual professional demonstrations to set up and are dependent on uptake from membership. So far, this hasn't been a problem.

In May 2018, a founder WPA member, Doreen Gardner sadly passed away at home after a short illness. She had been a major contributor to the Association, not only as Chair three times but also in overseeing many shows and exhibitions such as our annual presence at the Contemporary Craft Festival and will be sadly missed.

The WPA Gallery stand at The Contemporary Craft Festival from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June, was dedicated to Doreen's memory. As usual, we had an exceptional showing of members' pots and sculpture at this fine national show and our stewards, overseen by Karen Edwards, did us proud. Pot sales of £2492, continued our rise in popularity at CCF since having our stands redesigned and modernised by Adrian during 2015 - 2017, plus we attracted 33 new members who joined at a special offer price at CCF and Potters' Market.

23 WPA ceramicists out of a total of 65 exhibitors showed and sold work at the 2nd Festival of Ceramics on 1<sup>st</sup> July, organised by Tracey Benton in the stunning architectural space of Barnstaple Pannier Market. This is rapidly becoming a favoured summer show for the WPA and 2019 promises to include demonstrations from some of our makers as well as a presence there for new memberships, led by Martin Harbour and Anna Hearn.

Elaine Hughes again planned and led our Exeter Potters' Market at the Quay on 28<sup>th</sup> July; a very positive colourful occasion with some good sales for over 25 of our members.

Following on from Spring 2018's new style magazine cover from Adrian Bates, Autumn 2018 saw the introduction of our new magazine team led by editor Bindy Saywood, supported by Martin Harbour, Liz Challis, Anita Gibson, Simon Wright and Adrian Bates, continuing the tradition of our full colour magazine production.

On the sunny weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September, our keynote celebration and firing weekend, 'Clayfest@25', took place at Teign Valley Community Centre, Christow, which had been planned and led by John Watson with his team of Karen Edwards, Abi Higgins and Adrian Bates over the preceding 18 months. Over 90 WPA members and ceramicists attended the weekend, which featured WPA demonstrators: thrower Nic Harrison, pressmoulder Tony Smither, handbuilder Adrian Bates and Throwdown finalist, Tom Knowles Jackson. Tom and assistant Martin Harbour led a memorable Saturday afternoon relay race event in the main hall, throwing as many egg cups as possible in 20 minutes, whilst swopping around in teams of three. This produced a lot of mud and laughter. . our Throwdown supplies were generously donated by CTM supplies of Exeter. On Saturday evening, we all had a delicious meal from caterer Georgina, thanks and acknowledgements from Lorraine and Clayfest organiser John Watson, with a bar led by Louise and a lively Ceilidh to follow, from musicians Jeroka.

Karen Edwards and Martin Harbour shared Master of Ceremony duties for our Clayfest weekend's events and Abi Higgins liaised with Christow staff throughout. Raku outdoor firings were led by teams of John Watson, Alison West, Abi Higgins and David Chilton with help from Annie Sykes, Christina Peters, Claire Murray, Babs Kirby, Patsy Lang, Rose Ellis and Lorraine. Smoke firings were by Sue Rouillard with exquisite barrel firings led by Tim Gee. A two hour glazing session was laid out on the stage area at the side of the hall, where participants could work their way through how to decorate their bisque pots, under the

tutelage of Susan Luker, Christina Peters and other glazing helpers. Further glazing was available particularly for barrel firing effects outside with Tim Gee. Firings were soon underway on Saturday morning with magical effects ensuing and tables set out to welcome the birth of scrubbed, polished pots . . .

Elaine Hughes organised a Sunday morning book and ceramic seconds sale and Lorraine, Martin and Mandy Biscoe did a ceramics film showing. Norma Harris and Liz Challis oversaw reception and Bindy Saywood, Adrian Bates, Tim Hearn, Karen Edwards and Tony Smither took many fine photographs of Clayfest for our records. Lorraine and Adrian oversaw a 25 year WPA timeline of photographic images and dates, which was hung on bespoke whiteboards at the side of the hall, by Anna and Tim Hearn. Karen Edwards curated a show of members' pots over the weekend. Maggie Harbour, Anita Gibson and Simon Wright joined committee members to set up and oversee the Teign Valley community centre over the weekend, preceded by a delicious BBQ prepared by Diana Bates and well-earned glass of wine for everyone on Friday evening. This weekend was hugely appreciated by all members attending, who were surprised by the variety and quality of events on offer. We will endeavour to answer members' clamours to hold another such event in our future calendar.

In mid-September, our Honorary President, Tim Andrews, celebrated 40 years as a potter, with a celebratory and moving weekend exhibition opening at his studio at Woodbury, Exeter, and a fascinating, inspiring retrospective of his life in 40 objects, including a large David Leach bowl.

Our other 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition, held at RHS Garden Rosemoor from 29th September to 14th October was the 'WPA@25' selected show in their new Lecture Hall, fielding the work of 34 artists, planned and delivered by Tim Gee, Kevin Green and Lorraine Gilroy. This delivered almost £5,000 in sales across 14 exhibiting days and built on the already good relationship enjoyed by WPA artists with RHS Rosemoor. Our thanks to Diana Gilding and staff for their hospitality and to our set up and take down crew.

Tim Andrews ended our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in fine style for us with a memorable demonstration and retrospective talk on 8th December at Woodbury Village Hall and he is now in Japan for his annual stand at Tokyo Art Fair.

Financially, we had a successful year, which had been very closely planned in order not to overspend on our anniversary events. Our Treasurer Martin noted that:

*'due largely to the huge success of Clayfest supplemented by the equally successful Tim Andrews demonstration in December we returned an annual surplus in 2018 of £2124.31 up from £1576.35 in 2017 and closed 2018 with a very healthy bank balance'*

This is helpful to us as an Association for planning future projects, including the work of our new Exhibitions Officer, Anna Hearn, who will research what members and committee would like to develop in the way of future exhibition opportunities. We do not seek to make a profit but sometimes a buffer is needed to support our running expenses and the capacity to deliver our shows and events. We would like to thank our auditors Tim Gee and Eric Saxby for their superb work and accuracy in auditing the accounts for many years with Treasurers Norma Harris and latterly Martin Harbour. We are in need of someone to take up the mantle of Treasurer and also another auditor to join Mark Sweetland in this important aspect of our delivery to WPA. Do consider this please if you are not averse to number work and to our committee, who don't bite and are very gregarious. You receive free membership and travel mileage @ 30 pence per mile to bi-monthly committee meetings in Exeter.

Lorraine and Martin have been developing his work as Chair elect of the Association since summer 2018 and he brings a wealth of IT skills and committee leadership to this post. Martin has already supported the introduction of the new magazine team and is ready to

take up the reins of Chair, welcomed by all. Good luck Martin and enjoy this extraordinary venture. Lorraine will be staying on committee to oversee CCF and her website work. Meanwhile, exhibition season is in full swing around the country, with Ceramic Art London this weekend (22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March) and a range of inviting shows in prospect. WPA members show their work in many professional settings and this is represented by the wonderful calibre of artists showing with Tim Andrews when he opens his doors to international clay exhibitions. You can make a real difference to our gallery owners in the southwest (as indicated in the Members' Handbook & Directory) if you go and browse their work on show at their gallery and maybe select a piece for your home or studio shelf.

Opportunities exist for you as a ceramicist to show your work through the WPA's free online Members' gallery on [www.westcountrypotters.co.uk](http://www.westcountrypotters.co.uk) in the Members' gallery section. Over 120 artists are stored there and this goes out worldwide. Contact [website@westcountrypotters.co.uk](mailto:website@westcountrypotters.co.uk) if you would like to set up your own gallery page of your vessels. It is obligatory in most shows now for artists to send their applications in by email and to refer to their online gallery. If you don't like using computers, grab a favour from a friend or family member to enable you to access this.

We now have links with other ceramic associations around the UK via York Art Gallery and will be using this to market our Association in the wider ceramic community. There is a national index of artists being developed by the Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA) to which we will be introducing you soon.

It is clear from these statistics and notes of our last twelve months, that we have a thriving community of artists and ceramic enthusiasts who are committed to engaging in the life of our Association. I hope that those who work in very rural areas can also derive support from the number and diversity of our events, and the willingness of many members to carshare to enable us to get around the southwest, especially those who are based in Cornwall. Given that many of our members have been honing their craft for several decades or more, I invite you to buddy up with younger potters, schools or colleges/universities or take on an apprentice at your studio workshop, to celebrate and pass on your knowledge and craft inspiration to the next generation. If you are a ceramic professional, do consider offering to lead a demonstration for our events.

If you're one of those members who has been with us all the way since the beginning of the Association in 1993 or even since year 2000, we would be delighted to hear from you, now that we are over 25 years in existence. Your feedback, your opinions and your memories would all be much appreciated by the membership. You know how to get in touch and do let us know what you think of Westcountry Potters Association now in its 26th year . . . If you have any historic photos, do please send these in to our editor, so that we can all share them. Thank you for your tremendous support and here's to the success of 2019 and the future of our brilliant Association.

## Treasurers Report – Martin Harbour

### Year-end Accounts

	2017			2018		
	income	expense	total	income	expenses	total
Membership	£8,204.00	£509.34	£7,694.66	£8,686.48	£586.00	£8,100.48
Magazine	£2,136.00	£6,125.12	-£3,989.12	£1,876.00	£6,030.48	-£4,154.48
Activities	£2,799.45	£2,338.59	£460.86	£2,763.00	£2,062.28	£700.72
Clayfest				£5,260.65	£4,686.61	£574.04
AGM	£60.00	£674.41	-£614.41	£20.00	£840.64	-£820.64



## **Membership Secretary's Report – Norma Harris**

It was reported that there were 392 paid up and committee members at the end of 2018, an increase of 29 over the previous year and the highest total to date. 39 members resigned or did not renew at the end of 2017. Membership recruitment at the Contemporary Craft Festival was successful and other new memberships came in steadily throughout the year. Membership continues to grow strongly this year.

## **Magazine Editor's Report – Bindy Saywood**

There have been a large number of positive changes in the organisation and production of the magazine since the last AGM. As you will all know, Adrian had been keen to step away from editing the magazine for some time and had been working to find a replacement. During that time, several WPA members took on different roles within what has now become the WPA magazine team. Somewhere along the way, I became the editor!

Before reporting on the work of the magazine team over the last year, the most important thing is to acknowledge and thank Adrian. As most of you will know, Adrian developed the WPA newsletter into the current magazine format we have now. The positive feedback we receive each edition is due largely to the work Adrian did in laying out this format and establishing what we know of as the WPA magazine.

During 2018 to help transfer the work from Adrian we have changed printers and several WPA members have stepped into roles which relieved Adrian of some of the tasks he has previously fulfilled alone as editor. Most notably, Anita and Simon, WPA members who kindly took on the packing and posting of the magazine to over 350 members every two months. Norma continued in her crucial role of updating the members list before each edition is printed and posted. Liz, continues to oversee the magazine advertising and we have a valuable team of very thorough proof readers – Karen and Martin in particular, who proofread the articles and also the completed magazine before printing. Thanks also to committee members happy to step into this role and other roles, as and when needed. Without this amazing team, I would not have been able to take on the role of editor. A key role is that of the graphic designer and we were unable to find a WPA member with InDesign skills who had time to devote to the magazine team. We were fortunate to find Jacob, from Artizan Gallery in Torbay, who worked with me for my first two editions. Sadly, despite the positive reception of members to these editions the commitment involved was placing a strain on Jacob's business interests and we agreed to seek an alternative designer.

Edition M157 (March/April) has been produced by our new designer, Dean Fraiquin, from Devon Designer, who is now working alongside me. His professional approach has been evident from the start. He has put things into place which will save a lot of time, not only for editor and designer but for the whole magazine team.

To further streamline the magazine delivery, from early 2019 the magazine, address sheets and booking forms are now printed by the same printer and sent by courier to Anita and Simon to pack and post.

After the frustration and delays of the editions before and after Christmas, I was determined to ensure that the magazine was assembled, printed and ready for posting out in the first week of the publication month. Even with the many changes, and working with a new designer, this posting date was achieved for March/April met. The new set up will work well and has been achieved with the cooperation, as well as the wealth of knowledge and experience, of everyone involved.

During his time as editor Adrian introduced 'Postcards for the Clayface' and I have been keen to build on and encourage contributions from the WPA members. With WPA@25 and Clayfest in particular, I had a great opportunity to talk to members and to get their thoughts and feedback about the magazine, and to encourage them contribute whether a full article or just snippets and photo.

Although recognising the power of print on paper, I also appreciate the value of social media. My aim is to build on the links already existing between the magazine, website, social media and e-news.

Finally, I would like to thank Adrian for sticking with it until all these changes were in place, and to Martin for all his work in helping to bring this to fruition; to John for his moral support, and to the magazine team and of course the committee for their warm welcome and support every step of the way.

### **Advertising Report – Liz Challis**

Once more it has been a good year for magazine advertising even though figures for this year, as you will see in the Treasurer's report, are slightly down on last year's. This is due to a couple of advertisers who (short-sightedly in my opinion) did not renew and late payments from a few others which will shortly be redressed.

Again we have not increased our advertising rates as now is not a very politic time to do so!

In conclusion, it is clear we have a good value product which reaches our audience and that appeals to advertisers despite the somewhat uncertain times we are living in. A tribute to your contributions and the design and production team.

### **Activities and Events 2018 – John Watson**

As this was our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the pattern of events was somewhat different from previous years. The committee decided that it would be appropriate to celebrate this milestone by focusing our organisational resources on fewer but significantly larger events such as the Clayfest @25 activities weekend in September and the WPA@25 exhibition at RHS Garden Rosemoor in September and October. In doing so we tried to reflect the many ideas on how to celebrate which members had contributed.

A brief report on each of the events is given below:

#### **Social Lunch at Dartington Hall Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Dartington Hall was a very suitable venue for a really good celebratory meal which was enjoyed by 50 members. The hall itself looked beautiful in the sun and gave us plenty of attractive space to socialise and have our food which was of good quality at an acceptable price. The atmosphere was, as ever, most convivial with members clearly enjoying each other's company. Many more members than usual took the trouble to email their thanks after the event which indicates a high degree of satisfaction.

#### **Annual demonstration by Geoff Swindell at AGM on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Geoff Swindell gave us an outstanding demonstration which amply illustrated why he is such nationally celebrated potter. He combined his great skill and experience at throwing and turning his exquisite small vessels with a very warm and generous commentary and response to questions which everyone who came appreciated greatly. We were also most fortunate that his wife came with him and that they sold his work at significant discount. Very many thanks to Karen Edwards for organising his demonstration.

### **Photography workshop by Adrian Bates on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

Adrian gave us a detailed and comprehensive presentation covering the principles of photography, how different cameras work and their various advantages and disadvantages, what makes a good image of our work and how to achieve this together with an overview of lighting and other photographic equipment. He did this in a way which was very accessible so that we all managed to get to grips with what many people find a daunting subject. His very thorough preparation, detailed knowledge and communication skills helped to make this possible. Very many thanks Adrian.

### **WPA exhibition and stand at the Contemporary Craft Festival at Bovey Tracey from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June**

This is our main annual event for the WPA. As ever, the standard has been excellent, with 25 potters exhibiting in our 6 x 3 metre tent. We were very pleased to see so many applications for this award-winning festival. A key element this year was the number of new memberships; up from around 17-18 per year to 30 new memberships for the 2018 show. Thanks were given to all the stewards for all their hard work and particularly for encouraging so many new memberships!

### **Clayfest @25 Activity weekend at Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September**

In response to suggestions by the membership for our main 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the aim of the event was to put on a weekend of collaborative activities in which everyone could participate. These activities included: glazing and decorating; raku firing; barrel firing; a member's pottery exhibition; pottery Throwdown challenges; an illustrated WPA timeline; pottery films; a celebratory evening meal; a ceilidh; pottery demonstrations; pottery recycling and an exhibition about ball clay. Given all this it was certainly active for all concerned! The weekend was a resounding success with over 90 members taking part with lovely weather in an excellent venue and some outstanding activities.

This would not have been possible without the unstinting and generous help of very many members who readily contributed time energy and expertise both before and during the event. Particular thanks to the organising subcommittee of Adrian Bates, Karen Edwards, Abi Higgins and John Watson.

Above all however, what stood out was the active participation and mutual support given by so many members. This is one of the hallmarks of our Association.

### **WPA@25 RHS Garden Rosemoor from 29<sup>th</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> October**

This was an excellent and successful exhibition, with nearly £5,000 worth of sales during the show. The show was organised in response to the 2016 survey, which showed that our membership were keen on increasing our exhibitions. The WPA plan to do this again. Thanks were given to Tim Gee and Kevin Green for their sterling work in organising the exhibition.

### **Tim Andrews presentation and demonstration at Woodbury Village Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Tim gave the 65 members and guests who attended an outstanding presentation and demonstration, full of information and ideas about his work, inspiration and methods together with fascinating and most amusing details about his worldwide travels and about his ancestral links to Japan and about Japanese and Chinese culture and ancient pottery heritage. All this was delivered with his characteristic generosity, enormous wit and presentation skills. This was clearly appreciated by the audience who subsequently sent the largest number of "thank-you" emails received in recent years. We were also fortunate in that Laurel Keeley came to support Tim. Many members helped on the day but Cathy Ward, Sarah Williams and Elaine Hughes who ran the kitchen deserve special thanks as does



Chris Walpole [not a member] who videoed the demonstration to be shown on the large screen.

## 2019 Events and Activities

The programme for 2019 is given below

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Arranged by</b>	<b>Magazine article to appear</b>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Social Lunch at Broomhill Art Hotel, Barnstaple	John Watson	November 2018
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Demonstration day by Amanda Popham and AGM  Kenn Centre, Kennford	Karen Edwards and committee	January 2019
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Studio visit to RAMP [Roop & Al make pots] Silverton	John Watson	March 2019
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Presentation and talk by Peter Lane  Kenn Centre, Kennford	John Watson	March 2019
7 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Association exhibition at Contemporary Craft Festival, Bovey Tracey	Committee	March 2019
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Potters' Market. The Quay Exeter	Elaine Hughes	March 2019
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> August	Social Firing Day  Highfield Ceramics, Tiverton	John Watson	May 2019
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Studio Visit to Jennie Hale  St. Neot, Cornwall	John Watson	July 2019
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Presentation and demonstration by Laurel Keeley at Kenn Centre, Kennford	John Watson	July 2019
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Pottery sculpture workshop by Rebecca Buck. Highfield Ceramics, Tiverton	Karen Edwards	September 2019
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Presentation and demonstration by Adrian Bates. Cossington Village Hall, Nr Bridgwater	John Watson	September 2019

## **Exeter Potters' Market – Elaine Hughes**

The Exeter Potters' market was held as usual in the Transit Shed on the Quay in Exeter. If you are not familiar with the venue the transit shed it is a large open sided but covered area on the quayside located alongside craft shops and cafes.

We had 30 potters displaying and selling their work. A tremendous variety of ceramic ware from professional potters and amateurs, a great opportunity to look around and see what your fellow potters are producing.

We had a great atmosphere and the market had a real buzz about it in the morning. We had a steady flow of people and sales, but, the weather became rather unpleasant lunchtime which probably accounted for the reduced footfall and sales in the afternoon. However, the feedback from potters indicated that most found it a positive and enjoyable experience.

### **July 2019**

The market is weather dependent; this year the market is arranged for July 20<sup>th</sup> (before the local schools break up) so I am hoping for better weather and improved sales.

The cost of a table to potters will be £33 as Exeter City Council now charge to book the venue. Booking forms are available today and are in the current magazine.

Advertising the market remains a challenge and as always I am grateful for all your support in displaying posters and sharing the event with friends on social media.

### **Website - David Chilton, Lorraine Gilroy, Martin Harbour**

We are updating website information for Spring 2019 and in particular, seeing which areas Lorraine and Martin can update for us, rather than us having to contact our administrator, Miles too much. This might save us some money. Online application forms are being used for booking major events, which are proving popular with members.

Soon the front page will be updated to embrace the new WPA logo. Also photos of members at events still need updating and we will be liaising with Karen, who has the WPA historical index of photos. Lorraine has updated the 'About Us' section with 2019 events.

There are currently **119** members' gallery pages showcased on the website and big thanks to David Chilton for maintaining these. LG will support during March/April with maintaining members' Gallery pages until DC has moved studio into his new premises. Members' gallery pages have been updated for Nichola Hanman, Tina Hill-Art and Claerwen Gillespie. New gallery pages are being created for Deborah Clarke and Penny Little.

We hope soon to have an influx of entries from prospective CCF exhibitors, creating or updating their gallery pages. Please send your images and details sooner than later to [website@westcountrypotters.co.uk](mailto:website@westcountrypotters.co.uk) to allow for processing time, as the final date for entries is **12<sup>th</sup> April**.

Lorraine looks forward to having more time to work on the website after March. Martin has been very helpful with looking at the technical website set up and seeing where we can update areas ourselves.

Thanks were given to Martin Harbour for his assistance with the website, which is an excellent vehicle to reach out to our membership.

## **E-News – Tim Gee**

The E-News is there to support the magazine and fill the gaps between the copy dates. We try to avoid sending it too often, and instead send it when there are sufficient items and articles to share. Currently it is sent to 340 e-mail addresses and approximately 55-65% of the e mails are opened and read. This is a good, high figure!

## **Social Media – Barry Boffy**

Barry Boffy sent his apologies; he stepped down at the last AGM, and has kept in touch.

Thanks to Committee who run the admin on our Social Media accounts. Membership are encouraged to use our Social Media accounts and send details of events, activities and other items they would like to see posted. We have several volunteers for the Social Media Officer post which is very pleasing.

Anna Grayson commented that Instagram seems to be the way forward, and is in some ways overtaking Facebook; MH agreed and commented that our Instagram does get a good number of views.

## **Membership Fees**

The Treasurer asked the membership to consider that subscription rates for 2020 remain unaltered.

This was proposed by Pam Johnson and seconded by Mark Sweetland.

## **Election of Officers – Anna Hearn**

It was agreed that officers would be re-elected onto the committee “en-bloc”. This included Bev Rowe’s voting onto Committee.

The vote was unanimous.

## **Appointment of Auditors & Social Media Officer**

It was agreed that Mark Sweetland and Graham Macey would be Auditors.

It was agreed that Claire Davey Potts and Leigh Mason would be Social Media Officers, sharing the role.

Both votes were unanimous.

## **Thanks to Retiring Members**

### **Lorraine Gilroy**

Martin Harbour gave thanks to Lorraine Gilroy for her incredible work as our Chair. Martin commented that Lorraine had been very welcoming from his first introduction to the WPA, at the Social Meal. Lorraine has been very supportive in inducting Martin into the role of Chair, and Martin commented that she will be a hard act to follow!

### **Adrian Bates**

Lorraine Gilroy commented that Adrian Bates was the magazine Editor for 51 editions, and although he formally stepped down at the 2018 AGM, he stayed on as Editor until a replacement – Bindy Saywood – was found. Lorraine commented that Adrian was excellent fun to work with, and complimented his professionalism, his forthright and direct manner, and his way of always looking to the future.

### **Tim Gee and Eric Saxby**

Lorraine Gilroy gave thanks to both Tim and Eric for their sterling auditing work – they are an excellent double act!

### **New Chair's Reflections on the Role**

Martin Harbour commented that Lorraine Gilroy would be a very hard act to follow, and that it was a joy to be part of the WPA. Martin joined the WPA to meet fellow potters, and has learned a lot, and met a lot of great people. Martin is keen to put in what he has got out of the WPA, by building on Lorraine's work, and is passionate about educating and engaging the next generation of potters.

Martin commented that for the WPA to thrive, the key is our people – all are volunteers who give their time generously, and the membership see the benefit of this.

Martin is keen to increase the visibility of the WPA throughout the West Country. This is being done by Social Media but Martin is keen to explore other avenues; Martin is very pleased that Anna Hearn has taken on the role of Exhibitions Officer, which will help us achieve this. Martin is keen to set our sights sensibly; it would be wonderful to have an exhibition such as Rosemoor on a yearly basis, and we will look to build up to this.

Martin gave thanks to the committee for all their support.

### **Future of Members' Handbook**

A lively discussion was had about the handbook, as with the significant membership increases over the past few years, it is becoming harder to format into the booklet that we are all familiar with.

Adrian Bates commented that it was the only networking tool currently available, but that Social Media could possibly replace it in due course.

Anna Grayson commented that the WPA should be cautious about the number of addresses on the internet.

Martin Harbour commented that an online Handbook needs security – logins, passwords, etc – which makes it more cumbersome. Martin suggested a PDF which could be e mailed around, and could be searched for pottery terms such as "raku".

Patsy Lang suggested that copies of the PDF could be posted to members.

Graham Macey commented he would like to see the resource online, but does understand the security issue. GM suggested a members' section of the website to be accessed via password or similar.

Peter Lee commented that he has a 1995 version of the Handbook and loves them!

Susannah Bradley brought up the issue of safety online; a number of members commented that they did not want their number published online.

Heidi Knight-Thomsett commented that there is a difference between the way we communicate with each other and the way we communicate with the public; they are two separate elements – mutual communication and marketing/selling communication.

Adrian Bates commented that when the Handbook is received members must undertake not to share this outside the Association.

A brief straw poll was held, which was 28-30 in favour of keeping the Handbook.

Martin Harbour commented that Committee will discuss in October at the next printing.

### **Open Session**

There were no questions or issues raised during the Open Session.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.50pm.**