



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WPA
Sunday 23rd May 2021
online via Zoom**

There were 51 members, including 14 committee members, present on Zoom

1. Apologies for absence

Kay Waite, Jennifer Gourley, Eric Saxby, Carol Scott, Wendy Calder, Simon Wright, Anita Gibson, Nichola Hanman, Susan Luker, Caroline Ralph, Babs Kirby, Mark Sweetland, Sandra Peters, Bill Moore.

2. Special Resolution

“We approve of the action taken by the committee in March 2020 to cancel the 2020 AGM due to the restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Unanimous agreement via the online poll.

3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM and Reports prepared for the 2020 AGM

Circulated as separate documents.

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved unanimously via the online poll.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters were arising from the Minutes.

5. Annual Report from the Chair – Martin Harbour

It goes without saying that 2020 did not turn out to be the year we had planned and I would like to extend my thoughts and best wishes to all who were adversely affected by events both personally and professionally.

From the perspective of Westcountry Potters, whilst not wishing to diminish the wider impacts in any way, there is some merit in the old adage that “Every cloud has a silver lining” as we were forced to confront the new reality and devise ways in which we could adapt in order to provide a continuing service to our members.

Our move to online activities has proven to be more successful than I think we ever imagined when we planned the first one, and has opened up opportunities that we would probably not otherwise have considered. Alongside this, the familiar sound of the magazine dropping onto the doormat every couple of months has given us a sense of normality mixing the traditional with the new in a somehow reassuring way. I remain indebted to all those who continue to make these things possible, and in

particular John Watson & Karen Edwards for grasping the Zoom nettle, and Bindy Saywood for editing our colourful and vibrant magazine.

Sadly, we lost almost all of our regular events last year but did manage to squeeze in a new, and very successful, Potters' Market between lockdowns for which we must thank Elaine Hughes and the local team of volunteers who publicised the event and provided a welcome and stewarding service throughout the day.

The relative lack of activity also gave us the opportunity to undertake the major redevelopment of our website which was completed in the first few months of 2021 and is now in live operation. Alison Hannah, with the considerable support of Graham Macey managed an extensive review of potential suppliers leading to the design and implementation by Matrix, a Plymouth based web design and hosting business, of what I hope you will agree is a fantastic new shop window for us all.

I hope that everyone will engage with this new website by visiting regularly and contributing content to keep it lively and up to date. In particular I would encourage all members, whatever your standard and experience, to create your own gallery page so that we can learn a little more about you and what you are doing. We also need to be made aware of exhibitions, open studios, sales etc. so that visitors to our site can see at a glance what is happening both in our area and the wider ceramics community.

The AGM is your opportunity to review, comment on and guide the direction of the Association. For all the reasons we have already acknowledged, we were unable to have an AGM last year but I do hope that you will have read the reports which were printed in the magazine last year. Losing the AGM also denied us the opportunity to thank in person those committee members who had stood down since the 2019 AGM. To these we add this year Bev Rowe and Dave Chilton who have stood down from committee. Again, we will be unable to thank them in person but I know that everyone would echo my thanks for all their hard work on our behalf.

We are always keen to welcome new faces on to the committee, so please volunteer if you think you would like to help us develop the work of the WPA. For differing reasons, this year we are looking to fill two significant roles; namely Secretary & Treasurer. Anna Hearn needs to devote additional time to her role as exhibitions officer and Patsy Lang has other commitments which mean she cannot continue as treasurer. Both will be remaining on committee and will be available for a meaningful handover period, so if you think you may be able to step into one of these roles please do get in touch.

It remains unclear exactly how the rest of this year will develop, so it would be unwise of me to be more than cautiously optimistic. However, I am confident that whatever happens we will continue to make the most of our opportunities and offer you, our members, as rich a variety of activities as we possibly can.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of the WPA over the past year, my fellow committee members who devote their time and effort to making us the Association we are, and in particular to you, for sticking with us through difficult times. I really do appreciate everyone's support.

MH stated that he is very keen to give members more opportunity and greater visibility to the wider ceramics community – delighted to have a Potters' Market last year and an exhibition this year, with further markets and exhibitions planned for the future. The website is also a critical feature of this.

LG gave thanks to Martin for all his hard work and GM gave thanks, seconded by Karen. Various members also sent thanks via the Zoom chat function.

6. Treasurer's Report – Patsy Lang

Year-end Accounts

We have all had a challenging year. Lockdowns have provided us with some time however to iron out the new spreadsheet system devised by Martin. When I took over the accounts I thought it could be made more stream-lined, less cumbersome to enter data, and Martin, as the resident spreadsheet expert, took up the challenge. It is now running smoothly with all kinks ironed out.

Lockdown and pandemic restrictions have affected how we have run activities and the payment systems needed to provide our online activities and events. This year we have used Eventbrite to book these sessions with an online payment system. It does simplify accounting somewhat as there is one lump sum payment rather than many individual payments. The amount taken for these online activities is similar to what we would take for a live event, but the committee has taken the decision to pay our demonstrators a larger fee than in years previous as we are able to, and it enables us to get some well-known potters.

John has now found us a caravan storage facility where our exhibition stands are now stored. There is a monthly standing order to pay this cost. Speaking of exhibitions, we had paid for our stand at the Bovey Craft Fair which didn't happen, but they have rolled it over to next year rather than refunding it to us.

As a surplus has been accumulating for many years, the committee took the decision to invest in a new website. A Tender was put out for the job of re-designing the website, and payments have gone out in instalments as the work progressed. This makes our end of year figure lower than in previous years. We do now have a wonderful new website up and running so money well spent.

My life has become very hectic of late so I have decided to step down from the position of Treasurer as soon as someone can be found to take up the role. The new system currently in place is very user friendly and makes the process of logging income and expense, and producing reports very easy, done at the touch of a button!! So anyone interested do get in touch.

Year End Summary

2019-2020

Total – 31/12/2019	Income	Expenses	Balance	Total – 31/12/2020	Income	Expenses	Balance
Membership	£8,813.50	£243.47	£8,570.03	Membership	£9,283.71	£372.31	£8,911.40
Magazine	£2,640.10	£6,939.37	-£4,299.27	Magazine	£1,618.16	£8,250.13	-£6,631.97
Activities	£5,129.46	£3,984.14	£1,145.32	Activities	£2,474.36	£3,732.00	-£1,257.64
TW	£0.00		£0.00	Donations (inc TW)	£149.00	£44.96	£104.04
AGM	£40.00	£619.49	-£579.49	AGM	£0.00		£0.00
Craft Festival Bovey	£3,142.00	£3,288.57	-£146.57	Craft Festival Bovey	£996.00	£996.00	£0.00
Potters' Market	£1,339.60	£1,006.59	£333.01	Potters' Market	£2,910.34	£2,804.93	£105.41
Exhibitions		£28.23	-£28.23	Exhibitions	£0.00	£30.00	-£30.00
Insurance		£306.20	-£306.20	Insurance	£0.00	£306.20	-£306.20
Misc	£93.85	£0.20	£93.65	Autumn Gathering	£0.00		£0.00
Website		£318.00	-£318.00	Website	£0.00	£2,136.00	-£2,136.00
Directory		£128.66	-£128.66	Assets	£0.00	£382.76	-£382.76
Committee travel		£1,108.06	-£1,108.06	Committee travel	£0.00	£433.63	-£433.63
stationery		£15.00	-£15.00	stationery	£0.00	£31.01	-£31.01
postage		£7.32	-£7.32	postage	£0.00	£66.15	-£66.15
phone		£0.00	£0.00	phone	£0.00		£0.00
general		£465.93	-£465.93	general	£149.92	£532.38	-£382.46
Deposit interest	£3.01		£3.01	Deposit interest	£2.17		£2.17
Credit/deficit	£21,202.52	£18,459.23	£2,742.29	Credit/deficit	£17,581.49	£20,118.46	-£2,534.80

current account	£7,503.28		£3,863.07
deposit account	£6,022.76		£6,024.93
total assets	£13,526.04		£9,888.00
Financed by:			
Accumulated Funds	£10,278.67		£13,020.96
Surplus/Deficit	£2,742.29		-£2,534.80
True Balance	£13,020.96		£10,486.16
2020 subs paid 2019	£216.00	2021 subs paid 2020	£229.00
post M161	£293.16	Post M167	£303.88
activities 2020 dep	-£71.00	2021 potters' mkt	-£180.00
Norma Harris expenses	-£21.96	CF stand c/f	-£996.00
TW	£44.96		
	£13,526.04		£9,843.04

PL highlighted the additional costs for 2020 including the website, the feather banners, the exhibition storage and the increased fees to our demonstrators.

PL also commented that MH's assistance with the spreadsheets made reporting, collating accounts and updating very easy.

PL is keen to retire as Treasurer and commented that she is happy to do a full handover to teach the incoming Treasurer the full details.

MH confirmed that the accounts above have been signed off by Graham Macey and Mark Sweetland, Auditors.

MH highlighted that the first four Zoom demonstrations last year were free of charge; the potters were paid for doing them but the membership were not charged. Roughly speaking this cost about £1300 but we felt this was the right thing to do. To balance this, as Committee are meeting on Zoom, Committee costs have reduced quite significantly.

MH also highlighted that the postage cost for the magazine was inflated; the reason for this is that Royal Mail chose to surcharge us £800 for two magazine distributions. We appealed against this and got the money back, but this was not received until the current financial year, so this will reflect in the next Accounts.

7. Committee Reports

a. Membership Secretary – Norma Harris

There were 398 paid up and committee members at the end of 2020, a slight decrease on the figure of 416 at the end of 2019. 22 members resigned, many saying they had enjoyed their membership and sending thanks to the committee. 40 additional members did not renew.

As the Contemporary Craft Fair at Bovey Tracey and the Festival of Clay were both cancelled, we were unable to run our usual membership recruitment offers. However, we did gain seven new members with a special offer at the Tavistock Potters Market in October. Other new memberships came in steadily throughout the year via email and post.

From April 2021 new members can join and pay via the new website and this is working successfully.

NH updated membership figures – as of now membership is 386. NH wanted to give thanks to MH for his help and support – hardworking, knowledgeable and cheerful!

b. Magazine Editor/Advertising – Bindy Saywood

There have only been a couple of real changes for the magazine in the last year. We started using oxy-biodegradable envelopes for the March/April edition, and later in the year, when Bev stood down from coordinating the magazine advertising, I took on this role alongside my role as Editor.

It has proved to be an interesting challenge finding magazine content at a time when many ceramic events, in the southwest and nationally, have been cancelled, rescheduled or have taken place online. The WPA activities team have continued to provide wonderful and varied articles and write up throughout the whole pandemic and, despite the new set of challenges that online demonstrations, and social distancing restrictions have created for them, the organisers have been amazing in their ability to ensure that I have had the details, images and write ups to include in each edition.

The magazine has had a lot more contributions from members over the last year. This was helped, I think, by the introduction of some fun and creative ideas to help get us through the first lockdown. We had John Watson's spirit-lifting Make Something Zany challenge, and then Karen Edwards' inspired Past and Present, where members told us their story of their journey with clay, with images of their early work and what they are making now. Both have proved to be a great success. I know members have really enjoyed hearing, and learning, about each other's work, and for

many this has encouraged them to share their own stories and photos in the magazine.

Having contact with WPA members, as well as with others from across the ceramics community, has meant that the role of editor has continued to be an enjoyable and rewarding task. I'd like to say a thank you to everyone who has sent me articles and items to share in the magazine, and of course, a huge thank you to all those behind the scenes who help produce, publish and post out each edition of our WPA magazine.

BS gave thanks to MH for all his help and support during the year, and thanks to all who have submitted an article. BS also asked for members to send through any content to the Magazine.

Tina Hill-Art asked for the lead time for articles; BS commented that the deadline is the 9th of the month before publication but ideally 4 weeks before. So July/August magazine, the deadline is the beginning of June.

c. Activities – John Watson

In what seems like a different age and time a good number of us met for a most enjoyable lunch and get together at our annual Social Lunch at the Devon Guild on Saturday 1st March last year. Staff at the Guild were most helpful and accommodating and we had the bright, airy café area to ourselves. Many thanks to Anna Hearn for making the arrangements.

The Covid crisis then broke and everyone's lives and arrangements changed as we went into the first lockdown on 16th March. Our changes were minor in the grand scheme of things but restrictions meant that we had to cancel all the planned face to face events and activities including:

- *The AGM and annual free demonstration by Craig Underhill on 28th March;*
- *A studio visit to Arwyn Jones on 22nd April;*
- *Our exhibition at the Bovey Tracey Craft Fair in June;*
- *The Potters Market in Exeter in July*
- *Social Firing, also in July.*

A small group of us met online as it became clear that we needed to find alternative activities for members to replace and compensate for those we had lost. As a result, we organised the series of four free online Zoom demonstrations by well-known potters in July and August. These were given by:

- *Wendy Lawrence on 11th July;*
- *Carolyn Genders on 25th July;*
- *Linda Bloomfield on 8th August and*
- *John Stroomer on 29th August.*

These potters gave us excellent demonstrations with considerable and positive variety and which proved very popular with members. They also allowed us to

become confident and effective in setting up the event, recruiting and registering the audience using Eventbrite and in running the demonstration on the day.

On the strength of this we organised two further excellent online demonstrations in the autumn. These were by:

- *Doug Fitch and Hannah McAndrew on 3rd October and*
- *Ross Emerson on 7th November.*

Association finances meant that we had to start charging a small fee to members for these demonstrations.

Whilst we all miss the opportunities to meet in person, the Zoom format has a number of advantages. It gives us much wider scope in geographical terms compared with hall-based demonstrations; we can “afford” to engage some better-known potters; it is logistically easier for our demonstrators; it is easier for members who can take part from their own homes and it is flexible and can be arranged and advertised relatively quickly. This last feature is important given the frequently changing pandemic situation.

We have continued to run online demonstrations very successfully during the first part of 2021. Plans for the period June to December this year are given in the May edition of the Association magazine. All live events are, naturally, subject to the situation over the pandemic and we can and will be flexible should this be necessary.

We are starting to think about the programme for 2022. This will be subject to whatever regulations are in force but seems likely to involve a mixture of live and online activities.

Finally I would like to recognise the hard work and support of several WPA committee members in organising and running Association activities. In particular:

- *Karen Edwards for organising some demonstrations and for her unflinching support and wide knowledge of potters nationally;*
- *Anna Hearn for hosting and chairing some demonstrations and*
- *Martin Harbour whose unstinting hard work, knowledge of technical issues, availability for consultation and chairing skills have been indispensable.*

JW commented how nice it was to see so many attendees at the AGM. There has been a lovely member response to activities this year which is heartening to see in such challenging times.

JW gave thanks to the membership and to Martin Harbour, Karen Edwards and Anna Hearn for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Many Members commented how encouraging and inspiring the Online demonstrations have been during Lockdown.

d. Exhibitions including Craft Festival (Bovey Tracey) – Anna Hearn

We started the year with several events in the pipeline but unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions planning was put on hold.

The Bovey Tracey Craft Fair, originally planned to be held in June 2020, was rebranded as a Digital Craft Festival, wholly online, and held from June 26 to June 28. The WPA created a video showcasing some of our members, short interviews, little demonstrations etc and this was linked to on the Craft Festival's page.

We are looking forward to the Bovey Tracey Craft Festival in 2021, due to run from September 10-12 (moved from June 2021).

We were also looking forward to having a demonstration and membership stand at Clay: A Festival of Ceramics which was to be held at Exeter Racecourse in September 2020. Sadly due to Covid restrictions this had to be amended to a Digital Festival which was held on the same dates in September. We were delighted to be involved in this as hosts of the online Potter's Question Time events, held via Zoom and streamed on Facebook each morning of the Festival.

We were delighted to hold our WPA Member's Exhibition at the Devon Guild, Bovey Tracey, from 13th March to 9th May 2021. Due to Covid restrictions this was an online exhibition until 12th April, at which time the Guild opened to visitors. The exhibition has been a very happy success with a lot of our selected potters selling their work, and some of them selling out entirely and needing to replenish!

I am working on some exciting Member's Exhibition plans for 2022.

e. Potters' Markets – Elaine Hughes

Exeter Potters Market – Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to the Covid restrictions.

Tavistock Potters' market – A new venue for us and a very successful first event. Butchers Hall is a great venue, recently renovated, well lit, tables provided, access to electricity for stall holders if required. We had good footfall and we had positive feedback from the potters who attended and visitors.

2021 – We have two markets arranged for WPA members;

Exeter Potters' Market on The Quay, Exeter arranged for Saturday July 31st 2021, fully booked.

Tavistock Potter's Market at Butchers hall on Saturday 16th October 2021.

Bookings for these events are arranged on a "first come first served" basis, they are becoming more popular so please apply early.

2022 – We hope to arrange the pottery market dates in the New Year so please check your WPA magazine.

The pottery markets are a great opportunity to meet WPA members, come along and see what your colleagues and friends have been creating during the past challenging year.

EH updated members; both Tavistock and Exeter markets are fully booked with waiting lists. EH gave thanks to all who attend the Markets and make them such a success.

f. Website – Alison Hannah/Graham Macey

The committee appointed website officer, Alison Hannah in the Spring of 2020. Alison along with the website sub-committee; Martin Harbour, Graham Macey with input from Adrian Bates has had over-sight of the development of the new website. Key requirements of the project included improved content management, an improvement in the design to support use across all devices and additional features to improve usability and web-presence for the WPA members.

Plymouth based website developer, Matrix Design were commissioned with the project and have been working with the website sub-committee to develop the site and in-line with member expectations and with committee approval. The website development was completed in March 2021 and went live on 6th April.

We have seen a gradual increase in traffic on the site; this, along with six online membership payments is a good sign that we are reaching a wider audience. Feedback from members has also been positive with 5 new galleries created since March giving a total of 133 live member galleries hosted on the site.

The team is always looking for news stories, open studios or other events to feature on the website. We're particularly keen to see everyone featured in the gallery, so why not consider adding your work?

So, just to remind you all, please send us anything that you think will be of interest to other members.

Contact us at website@westcountrypotters.co.uk for help or more information.

AH commented that we have had some lovely responses from Members as they contribute to the Member's Gallery, and also some news items have been coming in; all welcome so please keep these coming.

AH gave thanks to Graham Macey for updating the galleries and for being brilliantly resilient and ensuring that the Galleries look amazing. Also many thanks given to Martin Harbour for his technical assistance and for liaising with the developers on the more complex details; huge thank you for his diligence and support.

AH hopes that with the new site being used as an events management resource and update, it will attract more members to the Association.

Graham Macey commented that he would encourage anyone who does not have a Gallery to set one up. He would also encourage Members who do have a gallery to update their work and add additional information such as events etc. GM also commented that if Members are struggling then there is guidance at the bottom of every gallery as to how to set your own page up.

MH commented he is very keen to make the best possible use of the website, so please can members let the website team know of any events, news, anything of interest to potters and ceramics enthusiasts throughout the South West. We are aiming to climb higher up the Google rankings and by adding a good amount of content we'll be able to achieve this.

MH commented that we have now had 10 members join via the online joining system; this was only implemented at the start of April so this is an excellent start.

GM gave thanks to Martin Harbour for all his support and assistance.

Members commented many thanks to the website team using the Zoom chat box function.

g. E-News – Tim Gee

As is usually the case I have little to say. The E-News are sent out only when sufficient or particularly important items are available, therefore their timing can vary.

The last E-News had 369 recipients to the post, and on average approximately 70% of these were opened.

Thank you all to the ones who open and read what I send out.

h. Social Media – Claire Davey-Potts

Social media continues to be a presence in WPA both by promoting events and members work. Follower numbers have grown significantly, and we now have national and international followers. It is exciting for WPA since it indicates that we are developing an online presence.

- *Facebook followers have reached 1022 from 824 in September 2020.*
- *Instagram followers have reached 1024 from 784 in September 2020*

Social media has been helped by the fantastic range of online events throughout the last year. WPA's online demonstrations and the Potters Question Time have been so popular. Posts are uploaded to Facebook by both members (thanks to MH in particular!) and committee for pottery related information.

Instagram followers tag WPA and I try to promote members work every so often. Tavistock Potters Market was particularly effective with the WPA Facebook post

afterwards reaching 3,504 people. The stallholders were able to post up to date info regarding their stalls. The initial Tavistock Facebook post reached 4,243 people. Very impressive - best figures so far. Shows the importance of sharing posts.

Recently social media was used to spotlight members work from the Westcountry Potters Members Exhibition at the Devon Guild which was both virtual and face to face.

Ways forward

- *Continue to update and monitor posts.*
- *Need to continue to ensure that posts enhance WPA presence rather than dominate - the magazine and E-News also require material. More collaboration with magazine*
- *Look into establishing a presence on Pinterest*

CDP gave thanks to Martin Harbour for his assistance with Facebook and noted that Facebook is used by many members of Committee to share information.

CDP noted that the numbers of likes on Instagram posts is increasing, and was happy to see the follower numbers climbing steadily.

In response to a question from a Member CDP confirmed that an @ will be a post she will see and can then share.

JW commented that he wanted to know about posting on Instagram and Facebook; Heidi Knight suggested that we have a training session to teach members how to share posts on Facebook. CDP also commented that JW could message Westcountry Potters and then one of the Facebook Admins could put the details on our page.

CDP will look at setting up a short training session for Members to assist them in using Facebook and Instagram.

BS suggested that instructions could be put in a Magazine Article; and also asked that anyone wanting to put something on Social Media, to please send her the details for the Magazine as well.

8. Membership Fees – Norma Harris

Proposal 1: We ratify the decision taken by Committee to offer free of charge membership to ceramics apprentices working full-time with an accompanying skills development programme.

Adrian Bates asked whether we would be approaching apprentices or asking them to contact us; MH commented it would be nice to approach them and be proactive.

Heidi Knight Thomsett asked whether we could advertise in any schools and colleges; Martin Harbour commented that we had put flyers into colleges previously (Plymouth College of Art is a member) and that it may be time to reignite that effort. Now we have a new website we can advertise ourselves further.

Adrian Bates suggested that we contact working potters and give them the opportunity to register their apprentices.

Proposal 1 received unanimous agreement via the Zoom poll.

Proposal 2: That membership fees remain unchanged for a further year.

Proposal 2 received unanimous agreement via the Zoom poll.

9. Handbook Proposal – Proposed by Norma Harris & Martin Harbour

Background

Following discussion at the 2019 AGM, the committee took the decision to offer the most recent edition of the handbook in either digital (PDF) or printed format.

Members were invited to request which format they wished to receive. There were 128 requests in total with 83 opting for the printed copy.

In anticipation of the next edition, Norma emailed those members who had requested a copy in any format to determine the potential demand. Of the 57 replies 20 said that they did refer to it and of those 7 said that they still preferred a printed copy.

It is clear that there is insufficient demand to justify the overheads of administration, professional layout and printing involved in retaining the existing document in its current form. In designing the new website we have greatly enhanced the features of the Members' Gallery and there is no logical reason to duplicate this information into the Handbook.

We do however recognise that some members will continue to wish to contact each other and would continue to benefit from a private (members only) directory of names and contact details. This can be done from the existing master membership spreadsheet with minimal additional work. Producing this as a digital (PDF) file means that it can be distributed easily and securely and members can, if they wish, print it out themselves.

Proposal

The committee propose that a revised format of Members' Directory be produced as a simple PDF file containing basic contact information for those members who have not opted out of inclusion. Members will be encouraged to provide details of their work and influences on a Members' Gallery website page along with access details for their studio, any galleries stocking their work etc.

Martin Harbour reiterated the comments above, stressing that keeping the physical members handbook up to date is quite onerous, as the membership does change quite frequently. Martin explained that we cannot put the details on the website due to data protection.

Pauline Parnell asked about putting the details onto the website so it could be updated speedily and efficiently (unlike a printed or PDF copy); Martin Harbour explained that this would need to be behind a password-protected area (Member's

Only Area) due to GDPR. MH commented that the PDF option could be updated quite easily.

Tina Hill-Art asked whether the GDPR policy applied to pdf's sent out to membership as well as the website? MH commented that it does, and this is why we have the tick boxes for GDPR, and why we ask members if they are happy for their details to be shared. The PDF is sent out in encrypted form, and a separate email is then sent with the password, which complies with the GDPR details.

Tina Hill-Art asked why we need a list of all the members? MH commented that technically we don't, but that people do like to know who else is a member, and particularly in their area, or if they are visiting another part of the South West. MH commented that a lot of this is covered in the Member's Galleries. We have had members set up Support Groups in their local area using the detail in the Handbook.

Jilly Russell commented via CHAT that she would like to see a map of the West Country with all the potters detailed on this. MH commented at the moment that this could not be put on the website as it would not be private.

Katrina Smith commented that she would like to know locations of other members and other details such as the type of work – as a beginner it is useful for her to know who is near her and what they do. MH commented that the Member's Galleries carry this detail but of course not every Member has set up a gallery as yet. MH commented that the Member's Galleries could be categorised by style and type of work.

JW commented that one of the overriding benefits of the organisation is the mutual support and communication with other potters, and the more we can emphasise this the better.

MH commented that when the website was in development, one option we discussed to share information is a private Facebook page; this was a little more difficult as harder to control the content.

Graham Macey is interested to find out from the membership how many would use a Member's Area on the Website. MH commented that we could set up a SurveyMonkey to gauge thoughts on this.

Proposal was voted on via Zoom Poll and was carried by a significant majority (96% for/4% against)

JW commented that the Proposal was ambiguous; it needed to state that the hard copy would not be printed any longer but that the PDF could be printed out. So essentially there will still be a hard copy but in a different format.

MH relaunched the Poll to see if anyone had changed their vote; new result still a significant majority and thus approved.

10. Election of Officers

Positions available for nomination/election are shown in black. Where a name appears alongside that position, the Committee member is willing to stand for election/re-election. Existing posts are shown in grey for information. An asterisk * indicates where a post needs to be ratified at the 2021 AGM

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Martin Harbour (1st term 2019)</i>	
Treasurer	Patsy Lang* (1st term 2019)	NOTE: wishes to stand down
Administrator	Anna Hearn* (2nd term 2020)	NOTE: wishes to stand down
Membership Secretary	Norma Harris* (2nd term 2021)	
Activities Co-ordinator	John Watson* (3rd term 2020)	
Potters' Market Organiser	Elaine Hughes* (2nd term 2020)	
Magazine Editor	Bindy Saywood* (2nd term 2021)	
Magazine Advertising	Bindy Saywood* (1st term 2021)	
<i>Exhibition Officer</i>	<i>Anna Hearn (1st term 2019)</i>	
Website Officer	Alison Hannah* (1st term 2020)	
Committee Member/Activities	Karen Edwards* (4th term 2021)	
Committee Member/E-News	Tim Gee* (3rd term 2020)	
Committee Member/Activities	Adrian Bates* (2nd term 2021)	
<i>Committee Member/Website</i>	<i>Graham Macey (1st term 2019)</i>	
Committee Member	Olwyn Keiro-Watson* (1st term 2020)	
Committee Member/Social Media	Claire Davey Potts* (1st term 2020)	
Supporting off committee		
<i>Auditors x2</i>	<i>Mark Sweetland + Graham Macey</i>	
<i>Magazine packaging/distribution</i>	<i>Anita Gibson/Simon Wright</i>	
<i>Event Support</i>	<i>Tony Smither</i>	

NOTE: Includes those nominations which should have been ratified at the 2020 AGM

Election of Officers proposal received unanimous agreement via Zoom Poll.

JW asked Martin Harbour to clarify whether we were looking for Committee Members generally; MH confirmed that we were always happy to welcome new members.

11. Appointment of Auditors

Mark Sweetland and Graham Macey have both indicated their willingness to continue for a further year.

This was unanimously approved via Online Zoom poll.

12. Thanks to Retiring Members

MH commented this is always a difficult item as essentially we are saying goodbye and thank you to the people who have helped steer the committee and association in many cases over years. It is always better to do this in person, but of course this year this is not possible. MH wanted to, on an individual basis, thank the five members who have left the committee over the relatively recent period. These are personal thank you's, and MH is sure that everyone will echo his thanks and highlight the hard work which has been put in over the years.

Lorraine Gilroy – Lorraine is the reason that MH is where he is; recruited over a Social Lunch by Lorraine when she was Chair, she steered the Association through challenging times and MH wants to wish her all the very best, say thank you and appreciate all the effort that she has put in.

Abi Higgins – retired in 2019, and worked hard in the organisation of the Clayfest@25 event which was a huge success.

Liz Challis – Advertising – Liz worked hard to establish strong relationships with our advertisers for the magazine and has been a stalwart member of the Association for a long time.

Dave Chilton – Dave was heavily involved in our website and a huge help with selection for Bovey Tracey and other events; now Dave has set up the ClayShed in Bristol with colleagues he is focusing his time on growing this business.

Bev Rowe – relatively new to committee but achieved a huge amount and helped brilliantly with event support and general committee support; we are delighted that Bev will continue to help out with this as his assistance has been invaluable. MH commented that as a fellow glaze enthusiast he has appreciated his input and advice.

MH commented it is a bittersweet time saying goodbye to those on Committee and we hope that we can meet up soon and say our goodbyes and thank yous in person.

13. Any Other Business

JW wanted to make a formal proposal to thank Martin Harbour as Chair and record this on the minutes.

Susannah Bradley asked whether the association could remember a visit 7 years ago to a potter whose wife made silk scarves. Karen Edwards commented that this was David Winkleigh at Vellow Pottery.

MH gave thanks to all attendees of the AGM; a new way of doing things but it has worked very well. MH commented he enjoys his time hugely being Chair and seeing how members develop and grow is wonderful.

MH asked Tim Andrews, our Honorary President, to say a few words to close the meeting.

Tim acknowledges this has been an extraordinary time and very difficult for a lot of people. Tim wished to acknowledge John Maltby, Ian Gregory and Phil Rogers who have all passed this year.

Tim showed us a piece of pottery he found in his garden which was a shard from a bathroom; the writing said "The DEFIANCE Wash Down" and he felt this was a wonderful metaphor for 2020.

Tim wanted to read us a short piece from a poem by Anthony Thwaite, an archaeologist and pottery enthusiast. When working in Libya in the 1960s, Thwaite found a piece of pottery; he kept this for ages in a cupboard; when it was taken out it disintegrated and he wrote a poem:

*"I threw her all away onto the flowerbed
All of her...
Her oval face lying in my palm"*

Tim highlighted that there are tiny fragments which survive beyond all else – the most precious part remained after the rest was destroyed. This is a lovely metaphor, all our lives have been fragmented, and it's a lovely reminder that those little bits hold enormous presence, power and meaning. Encouraging to all of us who have had a hard time.

Tim gave thanks to Martin and all the Committee for their work and keeping the Association going – and to the membership for staying with us!

Martin Harbour gave thanks to all for attending; with hope that next year's AGM will be in person, and reminded everyone of our first planned in-person meeting, the Autumn Gathering in October.

The AGM was formally closed at 12.36pm.