



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WPA Sunday 26th March 2023
at the Kenn Centre**

There were over 60 members present, including 9 committee members.

1. Apologies for absence

Deborah Stewart, Alison Morrissey, Nic Harrison, Esther Deakin, Stephen Pettet-Smith, Bev Rowe, Roger Cockram, Tam Holman, Jayne Randell-Humphreys, Jane Snook, Amanda Graham, Elaine Hughes, Derek Singleton, Susannah & Christopher Bradley, Olwyn Keiro-Watson, Helen Sargent, Bill Moore, Sue Hutchin, Liz Challis, Miranda Qualtrough, Abi Higgins, Jax Williams.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were proposed by Jilly Russell and seconded by Mark Sweetland and unanimously approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters were arising from the Minutes.

4. Annual Report from the Chair – Martin Harbour

This year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Westcountry Potters Association and I am very proud to hold the position as Chair at such an important milestone. I am confident that we have many more such anniversary celebrations to come in the future.

Overall, I think we should be very pleased by what we achieved in 2022, with successful exhibitions at the Bovey Craft Festival and at RHS Rosemoor, a varied and well received programme of events, including a return to Social Firings, and exceeding the milestone of 500 members. This continued growth in membership is most welcome and it is always great to welcome new faces to our various activities and see new and even more varied work in our exhibitions and markets.

Unsurprisingly, much of our attention over the past couple of years has focussed on virtual activities but the gradual reintroduction of face-to-face gatherings seems to have been well received. My thanks to all who both organised and participated in these achievements. You will see more detail in the various reports later in the meeting.

Whilst by no means all this organisation is done by committee members, I would like to pay tribute to those who volunteer to take on the various positions without whom our community would be much the poorer.

In the past year we have welcomed new members Sonya Wilkins (website), Miranda Qualtrough (membership) and Jayne Randell-Humphreys (secretary/administrator) to committee but sadly have seen Anna Hearn step down as exhibitions officer to be

replaced by Claire Davey Potts who was already a committee member, and Stephen Pettet-Smith step down as secretary. Claire's previous role as social media officer now needs to be filled and I would be happy to discuss what is involved with anyone who might be interested. This AGM will see Norma Harris, Adrian Bates & Graham Macey also standing down from committee. My heartfelt thanks to all those who have done so much for us all, in many cases over several years.

Towards the end of the year we also launched the members' area of the website. This provides a secure area where we can share information and ideas and, in particular, start to build communities spanning our growing and widely geographically distributed membership. You will also find all the booking and application details and links for our activities in this area and I would very much encourage you to familiarise yourself with the content so you don't miss out on anything. This is also now the place where you should manage both your account and gallery page details. Of course, our main internal communication medium remains the bi-monthly magazine and I'm sure you will agree that Bindy has continued to develop its content and presentation such that it remains the envy of many of our sister associations. This will always provide the fullest details of our events and activities giving the most complete and colourful picture of the life of the Association and hence will remain our publication of record.

Whatever communication platform we use for internal or public consumption, we rely on having suitable content, both words and photographs, and for this we rely on you, our members. Please keep us informed of any exhibitions, open studios, interesting activities or inspirations you might be involved with so that we can share them. In particular, it is always interesting to hear from those of you in areas where we have fewer members as we are less likely to have been made aware from other sources. I would like to draw this report to a close by reflecting on a series of discussions we have been holding as a committee and which I have mentioned from time to time in my magazine articles.

Any organisation like Westcountry Potters only survives because of the hard work of, generally, a relatively small band of volunteers whose work is often largely unseen and under appreciated. Whilst there are a group of people whose names you will recognise from committee lists and the like, their contribution is underpinned by others who work behind the scenes to make things happen.

As our membership grows it becomes even more important that the work is spread more widely as we strive to offer even greater opportunities for participation in our various activities. Hopefully our increasing membership also represents an increasing pool of willing volunteers just waiting for the opportunity to play their part. We understand that the level and nature of potential involvement varies greatly amongst members and it is not always clear what needs doing and whether you as an individual can fill any gaps. Our broad conclusion is that dipping a toe in the water is the best way to realise just how warm and comforting it is once you take the plunge.

Whilst we continue to welcome expressions of interest to take on named committee roles as they arise, we understand that this may feel somewhat intimidating unless you have some previous experience to fall back on.

Our immediate plan is founded on a combination of four principal actions:

1. Extending the existing teams who cooperate in making things happen. We have small teams for such functions as website management and magazine production/distribution amongst others, but these can both be expanded and further small teams created.

2. Identify and advertise specific tasks for which individuals might wish to volunteer. These might be complete one-off tasks or more regular tasks contributing to work of a team as identified previously. To start the ball rolling there will be an initial list of such tasks at the meeting where you can express an interest
3. Organise ad-hoc working parties to fulfil a one-off activity. An example is the organising committee for Clayfest@30
4. Offer interested members the opportunity to join as a “member without portfolio” to learn more about what is involved before making a more specific commitment. This might mean joining a team, a working party or even committee itself.

Supporting all of these points we will endeavour to give much greater visibility of what needs doing and what is involved and would encourage anyone who feels they would like to contribute in any manner to express their interest by signing the General Volunteers list or volunteering for any of the specific items at this AGM. As you have seen from the recent committee changes it is increasingly important that we need to build a group of members prepared to take forward our continuing development.

I very much look forward to seeing the fruits of this and our other plans for 2023 in what will be my final year as Chair. I have decided to stand down at the 2024 AGM although I intend to continue to play an active role in Westcountry Potters.

MH introduced his report and stressed the need for people to volunteer so that we can spread the load of organising our work.

5. Treasurer – Richard Cole

Annual Accounts

	2021			2022		
	income	expenses	total	income	expenses	total
Membership	£9,884.92	£594.48	£9,290.44	£11,973.69	£543.46	£11,430.23
Magazine	£3,111.33	£7,492.44	-£4,381.11	£2,826.68	£9,522.50	-£6,695.82
Activities	£2,569.60	£3,226.77	-£657.17	£2,894.70	£2,837.81	£56.89
Donations	£204.50	£101.50	£103.00	£10.00	£50.00	-£40.00
Craft Festival Bovey	£4,035.37	£4,124.99	-£89.62			
Potters' Market	£3,502.48	£3,323.48	£179.00	£2,649.34	£2,542.22	£107.12
Exhibitions	£400.00	£371.67	£28.33	£9,558.89	£8,877.13	£681.76
Insurance	£0.00	£261.40	-£261.40			
Autumn Gathering	£0.00	£135.25	-£135.25			
Website	£0.00	£3,219.60	-£3,219.60			
Assets	£39.00		£39.00	£0.00		£0.00
Committee travel	£0.00	£76.50	-£76.50			
stationery	£0.00	£17.09	-£17.09			
postage	£0.00		£0.00			
phone	£0.00		£0.00			
general	£0.00	£242.16	-£242.16			
travel & rooms				£0.00	£20.10	-£20.10
other						
costs				£0.00	£10.88	-£10.88

Association						
General				£0.00	£4,026.76	-£4,026.76
Annual Member						
Events				£52.96	£780.80	-£727.84
Deposit interest	£0.60		£0.60	£3.09		£3.09
Credit/deficit	£23,747.80	£23,187.33	£560.47	£29,969.35	£29,211.66	£757.69
Current account			£5,886.74			£6,188.76
Deposit account			£6,025.53			£6,028.62
total			£11,912.27			£12,217.38
financed by						
Accumulated funds			£10,486.16			£11,046.63
Surplus/Deficit			£560.47			£757.69
true balance			£11,046.63			£11,804.32
2022 advance subs			£373.00	2023 advance subs		£625.10
2021 magazine costs			£627.68	2022 magazine		-£107.00
2022 Tavi potters market			-£180.00	Deposit for Clayfest		-£150.00
				Exhibition commission		£75.00
balance			£11,867.31			£12,247.42

Welcome to the summer! Well BST at least

I have now been in post for about 18 months so this is my first full year of doing the accounts and if members are happy, I will continue in the role of Treasurer.

The account details below are the final audited and signed year end accounts

Graham Macey & Mark Sweetland. Their full audit report is available on request.

As with 2021 the association made a surplus - £750 in 2022. Turnover for the year was up from £23,700 to almost £30,000. This was mainly as a result of the successful RHS Rosemoor exhibition. This was balanced with increased costs in the year though these were mainly down to £2,200 being spent on upgrading the Website.

In terms of cashflow a minimum of circa £6,000 was always available in the bank and this continues the pattern from 2021. So one question for consideration by the Committee will be do we transfer some of this to our deposit account, now that interest rates are improving – noting that in 2022 we received only £3 interest of a deposit of just over £6,000.

I am happy to take any questions if members want to raise anything

RC presented his report and thanked the auditors for their work. He also stressed the need for volunteers.

The accounts were proposed by Teresa Ashford, seconded by Paul Finlay and approved unanimously.

RC was asked whether there were specific plans for the funds in the deposit account and replied that this was primarily a contingency fund so that we always have a cash reserve for such items as replacement of capital items and increasing costs, although we may look at other possibilities in the future.

6. Committee Reports

A. Membership Secretary – Martin Harbour

Membership numbers continued to grow steadily in 2022 peaking at a total of 547, another all-time high.

We had 15 resignations and a further 16 who failed to renew and were removed from our membership list.

Online applications are by far and away the most common since we made this option available on the website, although special offers at events such as exhibitions and potters' markets still bring us welcome new members.

During the year, Norma Harris stood down after many years of commitment and hard work, ultimately as membership secretary, and was replaced by Miranda Qulatrough. Due to personal circumstances Miranda herself was forced to handover pro-tem to Martin Harbour who closed out the year and drafted this report. Miranda will take over again following this AGM.

In addition to the customary proposal regarding membership fees, this year we are asking attendees to agree to the discontinuation of printed membership cards. Apart from the, admittedly small, cost involved, the logistics of printing and distributing cards to members, particularly as they renew, has become significant with increasing membership.

Our proposal is to provide a digital card, probably a PDF or image file which can either be printed at home or displayed on a device such as a smartphone if ever requested. The vote will take place under agenda item 7.

MH was asked whether applications increased when we had events. He responded that there was some correlation but almost everything was done online and that there were very few postal applications.

B. Magazine & Advertising - Bindy Saywood

There are only a couple of changes to report for the magazine and magazine advertising over the last year. It continues to be a time consuming, but enjoyable and rewarding task, and a small part to play in my role within the wonderful WPA committee and team of volunteers.

At the start of the financial year the circulation had increased from around 400 to 450 per edition, and since then, following the success of WPA events and the new WPA website in recruiting new members, this figure has been increasing with every edition.

In previous years, the magazine varied between 18 and 24 pages, but through 2022, and certainly more recently, it has consistently been 24 pages. This is in part due to that fact that WPA have organised some great events that have needed covering, but also due to that fact that many of you have sent me news, articles, event listings, write ups and images. I'd like to thank all of those who have, and to encourage others to do so. A single image with a caption, an event listing, something for sale, right through to a thousand word article, book review or exhibition write up, all contribute to the variety which helps make the magazine much more than just a potters association newsletter.

The WPA events and activities continued to provide wonderful and varied articles for the magazine, and the activity organisers deserve a huge thank you for all their hard work in ensuring that I have the details, images and write ups to include in each edition. We are reliant on, and need to say a big thank you to the small group of individuals who have agreed to do write ups for the magazine over the last year as well as those who have taken photographs at WPA events for the magazine. We

would welcome new people to help share these loads and to become a regular part of the 'magazine team'.

With this in mind, it would be wonderful to hear about and be able to include more information about activities and events happening right across the Westcountry. If anyone would like to do a roundup of news in their area and send to me before the copy deadline, then this would help ensure there is something of interest for everyone.

In 2022, the committee agreed an increase in the fee payable to Dean, the graphic designer who works with me to get each edition into a format ready for printing. Preparing the magazine is a time-consuming task, and I am thankful that, when I get to the point when I need him, he is often able to reply to my emails, and to work on the magazine outside his office hours. This has ensured we can get the magazine to the printers and out to members on time.

In terms of advertising in the magazine, there have been no major changes over the last year. However, I am pleased to report though that we have received some new smaller scale adverts from across the West Country, with several others in the pipeline. Some are for single events and others are ongoing adverts. All WPA members receive a 15% discount.

The last thing I need to say, as I do each year, is a huge thank you to those behind the scenes who have helped on each edition of our magazine. A special mention must go to proof-readers Karen and Martin, and of course the reliable packing and posting team, Anita and Simon. If you feel that you could help spread the load by proofreading articles or providing information about events in your area or region, then please do get in touch. I will be at the AGM to answer any questions and there will be a volunteer sign up form.

BS mentioned that the circulation had continued to increase and that she did see an increase after events such as the Potters' Markets. She appealed once again for articles, even brief ones, to be included in the magazine, especially from outside Devon where there is less coverage.

BS highlighted the information table with expressions of interest forms which she had set up in the hall. Also on the table were some old copies of our magazines and those from other Associations.

One member suggested that we might consider a differential membership with/without a printed magazine. BS referred this to MH who responded that this would involve more work administratively and preferred not to take this further.

C. Activities – John Watson

It was such a pleasure and relief to return to a more "normal" programme of events and activities in 2022 with the reduction of Covid restrictions allowing us to arrange a mixture of face to face events and demonstrations alongside online demonstrations. This mixture of formats has a number of benefits and we hope and expect to continue with a similar pattern. It was particularly good to get back to actively potting together at the two Social Firing days in September.

Date	Activity
30 th Jan	Online demo by Simon Griffiths
27 th March	AGM and annual demonstration by Roger Cockram. Kenn Centre
8 th May	Demonstration by Russell Kingston. Longdown Village Hall

5 th & 6 th September	Social Firing Days. Tarka Pottery
17 th September	Online demo by Lisa Katzenstein
5 th November	Online demo by Rachel Wood
4 th December	Online demo by Susan O'Byrne

In addition to the above activities members of the committee also organised a number of other successful events. These were:

- Association exhibition at Bovey Craft Fair on 17th – 19th June organised by Anna Hearn.*
- Potters Market in Exeter on 30th July organised by Elaine Hughes.*
- Autumn Gathering at the Kenn Centre on 2nd October, organised by Martin Harbour*
- Association exhibition at RHS Rosemoor from 8th to 23rd October organised by Anna Hearn and Heidi Knight-Tomsett.*
- Potters Market in Butcher's Hall, Tavistock on 15th October organised by Patsy Lang.*

Details of these will be covered in separate reports at the AGM

All events and activities have been described by detailed reports in the association magazine. Many thanks to members who have "volunteered" to do these write ups so well and to those who have contributed photographs.

We have been very well supported by many accomplished potters who have provided such a range of varied and stimulating presentations and demonstrations both face to face and online.

One of the high points of the year was being able to return to events such as the two very popular Social Firing days where members were able to pot together. Jax Williams very generously allowed us to use her Tarka studio and grounds and the support of many members in raku and barrel firing and in providing and transporting equipment was invaluable.

Many committee and other members organised one or more of the events and activities listed above and these could not have happened without them. Particular thanks to Karen Edwards who is unfailingly supportive and who has used her extensive range of pottery contacts to arrange a number of activities and to Martin Harbour as our Chair for his advice, technical expertise and untiring support and encouragement.

Looking ahead to 2023 and beyond. Our major event in celebration of the association's 30th anniversary will be the Clayfest@30 weekend of activities on 30th Sept/1st Oct. Details were in this month's magazine and the website and we hope as many members as possible will come and we can have a great weekend together.

In addition we have a full programme of events and activities, all of which are advertised in the magazine and on the website. We could always do with more help in organising activities and would very much welcome any members who might wish to get involved

JW commented that it was great to see so many people in the hall and how nice it was to get together again. He reflected on the hybrid mix of in-person and online meetings we adopted in 2022 and said that we would carry this approach forward. He too repeated the need for additional help so that we could expand our activities.

Looking forward we have our first studio visit for a number of years but sadly numbers are quite limited.

JW concluded by encouraging members to celebrate our 30th anniversary at Clayfest@30.

MH asked for some guidance on whether members would prefer to continue for us to absorb the fees for online bookings and set our fee appropriately, or to set our fee as the face-value and pay the booking fee as an additional item.

Asked why we use Eventbrite rather than doing it ourselves he responded that this was a way of getting up and running quickly and does ease some of the management functionality, but we may move away from this in the future if possible. The consensus view was to retain the existing system and setting the fee we charge to take account of the fee.

D. Exhibitions – Claire Davey Potts

We held two exhibitions in 2022, our regular stand at the Bovey Craft Fair and a longer WPA exhibition at RHS Rosemoor.

Craft Festival returned to its traditional June slot running from 17-19 June. The number of visitors seemed to be a little lower than in 2021 and they seemed to spend a little less money. We featured a fantastic variety of work from 22 members with total sales of £2,401. Whilst this was down from the record high in 2021 it is broadly in line with sales from previous festivals. We also signed up 23 new members.

From October 8th to 23rd we held our second exhibition at RHS Rosemoor, the first being in 2018. The 28 potters whose work was selected for exhibition represented a wide variety of styles and visitors were very complimentary. In total 83 pieces were sold with total sales value of £5,443 and 7 new members were recruited. The facilities were very good although we might have benefitted from better signage. The staff at Rosemoor were very friendly and helpful and we are very hopeful of being able to return for another exhibition in the future.

As ever we must thank everyone who contributed to making these events such a great success, in particular John Watson and his stand building team and Heidi Knight-Tomsett for her work with the team at Rosemoor.

MH welcomed Claire as our new Exhibitions Organiser. She thanked everyone for their support at CF and Rosemoor in 2022.

E. Potters' Markets – Elaine Hughes / Patsy Lang

Exeter Potters' Market, 30th July 2022

A successful market with 23 potters displaying and selling their work. A great supportive atmosphere for all and a good location. The weather was kind to us so we had a steady stream of visitors. A wonderful variety of ceramics on display and we received positive comments about the quality of the work. Potters advised that they enjoyed the experience and most found the market to be financially worthwhile. A few changes for 2023, a slightly earlier closing time due to activities on the quay. Secondly, due to the popularity of the market and to allocate the tables fairly the booking window will be open for 2 weeks and then we will have a lottery for tables. For those who do not have their own insurance and require insurance cover from WPA an extra £5 to be added to the standard event cost of £35.

Tavistock Potters' Market, 15th October 2022

The Butcher's Hall in Tavistock is a wonderful venue located beside the Saturday Market bringing very good footfall. Last year's market was very successful with better weather than previously. Sales were down a little bit but possibly the cost of living crisis was making people spend less. Still an enjoyable day was had by all, with 25 potters displaying their work.

We have a later date for this year's market, October 28th. This date is closer to the Christmas season so it will be interesting to see if that improves sales. We will follow the same lottery system to draw tables as Elaine has outlined for the Exeter market. We are also planning to charge a little more for tables along the walls which give potters extra display area. As with Exeter, for those who require insurance from us there will be an extra charge.

PL apologised for Elaine's absence as she had contracted Covid whilst on holiday. She highlighted the changes planned for markets this year regarding opening times, additional charging for the locations at the Tavistock market with extra shelving, a small charge for members without their own insurance and also the new application arrangements.

MH read the following letter from Derek Singleton who was unable to attend the meeting.

"Dear Chairman and members,

I was disappointed to see the changes for booking a table at the Potters Markets. I realise there will always be some potters who don't manage to get a table. The notice period for booking is quite generous and enables potters to plan to get their application in by making themselves aware of the date and apply early. We can only assume the potters failing to get a table are different each time, as repeated failure suggests not being totally committed to the application process of the event, for which we are advised to apply early.

There are a number of potters that take the application process seriously and have supported the Potters Markets for some time. With this lottery system, without good luck, a potter could fail to get a table every time; not sure this is any fairer.

Conversely, interfering/adjusting the results of a lottery to avoid the repeated failure doesn't really seem any fairer than taking potluck!

As an option would you consider first come first serve for the first 20 applications and then a lottery for the remainder?

Derek Singleton"

In the following discussion various members expressed their appreciation of the new approach which they felt to be more suitable for those who had limitations on their ability to apply at a specific time & date. It was further suggested that we should consider reserving places for emerging makers but concerns were expressed about adding administrative complexity.

Following discussion, it was agreed that we would continue as planned and review the impact for next year's markets and report at the next AGM.

F. Website – Sonya Wilkins

It's now been a year since I took over the role of website officer from Alison Hannah following the 2022 AGM. I'm please to say that all the hard work Alison and the team had invested into redesigning the website, has continued to grow from strength to

strength. Our main focus in the last 12 months has been implementing the new members area, further optimising usage.

Website Traffic and Engagement Metrics

During the past year, the website has experienced a 28% increase in unique visitors, totalling 10,889 visitors. The average session duration has increased by 27%, with visitors spending an average of nearly 3 minutes browsing the website. Bounce rate has decreased by 4%, indicating that visitors are finding the content more engaging and relevant.

The most visited pages on the website include:

- Homepage: 5,596 total visits (up 14%)
- Members Page: 3,263 total visits
- New Members Area: 3,681 total visits
- Events: 1,934 total visits (up 46%)
- News: 1,256 total visits (up 21%)
- Become a Member: 952 total visits (up 35%)

Website Updates

Website Redesign: Since April 2021, the website underwent a significant redesign to improve user experience, streamline navigation, and better showcase the work of our members. The new design has received positive feedback from both members and visitors, contributing to the increased engagement metrics mentioned earlier.

In Autumn 2022 we then added the members area to further elevate the function of the website for our members. This has also been very well received with positive feedback from many members, who are now empowered to request gallery updates and resize their own images using our tutorial videos.

We currently have 175 galleries published compared to 144 this time last year. An increase of 35 in the last 12 months, that is 25% more, a reflection of our increased membership.

News and Events: The website now includes more diverse content such as interviews with artists, pottery techniques, and highlights from events and exhibitions. The frequency of posts has also increased, with new content being published each month.

Recommendations for Next 12 Months

Forum Utilisation: Our website team member, Neill Hughes, has offered to focus his efforts on our new Members Forum and look into ways of engaging more members and optimising its functionality. This will be one of our goals for the next 12 months.

Team Roles: I will be looking at our roles within the website team so we can spread the workload when making gallery updates and news more efficient. This will also give us more clarity on our responsibilities within the team.

Personalisation: I would like to see more faces on the website...specifically the committee members and some video footage from the chair and committee. This would help members to 'know' the larger team who work so hard behind the scenes.

Further Future Focus

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO): To further increase website traffic and visibility, I would recommend updating the website's metadata, optimising on-page content, and creating an ongoing content marketing plan.

SW introduced her first annual report and expressed her thanks to the website team. She highlighted how website access has increased over the year which was very pleasing, but would like members to get more involved with the website, in particular the forums.

It was highlighted that a post asking whether there were sufficient members interested in booking for ICF to get the group discount received no response which reinforced the need for people to engage more regularly.

It was confirmed that there is an opt-in to be notified when responses were made to forum posts.

G. E-News - Tim Gee

Though changes in social media use and other methods of communication have resulted in fewer E-news items, a range of items of interest continue to appear in the committees' inbox at times that do not necessarily coincide with Magazine deadlines or necessitate a quick turnaround.

It is continued to be hoped that you do not feel inundated with e-mails. Many thanks for continuing to click those links!

H. Social Media – Claire Davey-Potts

Instagram now up to 1400 followers which is pretty impressive from the 3-400 when I took over. Members are posting onto Facebook and messaging me through Instagram. We have promoted members work for both the exhibitions and the markets to ensure the wider audience is made aware of our events and which members are included. Social media and engagement is continuing to grow and work alongside the WPA website and e-news.

MH asked for volunteers to get involved with social media to take over from CDP.

Lorraine Gilroy expressed thanks to the committee for all their work.

7. Membership Fees – Martin Harbour

The proposal that fees remain unchanged for another year and also that we replace printed membership cards with a digital alternative was made by Tina Hill-Art and seconded by Paul Finlay.

All those present were in favour.

8. 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 2023 AGM

Chair	Martin Harbour (2nd term 2022)
Treasurer	Richard Cole (1st term 2022)
Administrator	Jayne Randell-Humphreys* (1st term 2022)
Membership Secretary	Miranda Qualtrough* (1st term 2022)
Activities Co-ordinator	John Watson* (4th term 2023)
Potters' Market Organiser	Elaine Hughes* (3rd term 2023)
Magazine Editor/Advertising	Bindy Saywood (2 nd term 2021)
Exhibition Officer	Claire Davey Potts* (1st term 2023)
Website Officer	Sonya Wilkins* (1st term 2022)
Committee Member/Activities	Karen Edwards (4 th term 2021)
Committee Member/E-News	Tim Gee* (4th term 2023)
Committee Member/Potters' Market	Patsy Lang (1 st term 2022)
Committee Member	Olwyn Keiro-Watson (1 st term 2020)
Social Media	Vacant
Supporting off committee	
Auditors x2	Mark Sweetland + Graham Macey
Magazine packaging/distribution	Anita Gibson/Simon Wright
Event Support	Tony Smither + Bev Rowe
Website	Graham Macey + Neill Hughes

This was proposed by Mark Sweetland and seconded by Pauline Parnell and was unanimously approved en-bloc.

9. Appointment of Auditors

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

This was unanimously approved.

10. Thanks to Retiring Members

MH thanked Norma Harris, Adrian Bates, Stephen Pettet-Smith, Anna Hearn and Graham Macey for their time on committee and invited those present to sign the cards provided. He particularly paid tribute to NH and AB who had been involved for such a long time and who had mentored him when he joined committee.

He made small presentations to NH and GM who were present at the meeting.

11. Open Session

a. We were asked whether we could use our increased membership to obtain cheaper insurance cover for members. MH felt that both A-N and CPA, being much larger would still provide better deals. It might however be worth investigating.

b. We were asked whether we could run some social media training. BS suggested that this request be made in the magazine

c. Jilly Russell invited members to attend her studio opening on 14th April in Moretonhampstead

d. MH mentioned flyers which had been distributed by John Mather for a meeting of the Devonshire Association on Devon's Ceramic Heritage

e. MH asked whether there was sufficient interest to consider a wood-firing event at Kigbeare in their anagama kiln in Spring 2024. There was significant support so this will be pursued further.

f. KE asked for any suggestions for future demonstrators

g. MH asked Tim Andrews to say a few words to close the meeting. He thanked members for attending and for the committee members for all their hard work. He also thanked Patia for her demonstration commenting how nice it was to see her in person rather than on Zoom.

The AGM was formally closed at 12.55pm.