



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WPA Sunday 17th March 2024 at the Kenn Centre

There were over 80 members present, including 12 committee members.

1. Apologies for absence

Penny O'Brien, Claire Davey Potts, Jayne Randell-Humphreys, Jax Williams, Miranda Qualtrough, Judy Harrington, Jeremy Crockett, Laura Grainger, Pearl Taylor, Chris and Suzanne Bradley, Dawn Brigham-Curtis, Anne Smith, Barry Levy, Elizabeth Merrysmith, Teresa Ashford.

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were proposed by Graham Macey and seconded by Pauline Parnell 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

It feels somewhat strange to be writing my final AGM report as Chair, but I am comforted to reflect that our 30th anniversary proved to be another successful year in the life of the Association.

It transpired that Clayfest@30 was everything I had hoped for, but so much more besides. It very much lifted my spirits to see so many members getting together to enjoy themselves. As ever with such events, success is only possible because a team of dedicated volunteers were working so hard behind the scenes. The planning team organised by John Watson functioned very efficiently and must surely be a useful template for organising similar events in the future. I'm sure you would all like to join me in thanking the team, and the many more helpers over the weekend who made it such a success.

Another highlight was the continued increase in membership, breaking the 600 figure for the first time in December. Of course, with increasing membership come new pressures and challenges which will require careful stewardship to navigate. The key will undoubtedly for an increasing number of these new members to volunteer to work in the various teams who keep over events and activities functioning.

One of my final concerns was to try and ensure that we had a strong and developing committee to take our work forward.

I am disappointed that Miranda found herself unable to continue and I would like to thank her for the time and effort she put into the membership. Other than Miranda there are no further committee departures to report.

On a very positive note, subject to your approval at this AGM I am delighted to be handing over the Chair to Rebecca (Bec) who will be supported by an increased team of committee

members. I will introduce the individuals concerned at the appropriate point in the agenda, but I'm sure you will take every opportunity to get to know them better.

For my part, I am looking forward to providing all the support I can to our continued development. I am delighted to have had the privilege of chairing such a wonderful association and would like to pay tribute and offer my thanks to everyone who has supported and assisted me along the way. I hope to continue to see as many of you as possible at our various events, and wish you all success and enjoyment in your continuing ceramic endeavours.

Martin introduced his report by commenting that 2023 marked the 30th anniversary of the Westcountry Potters Association and we should all be very proud of that milestone. Our Clayfest was a great success and thanks to all who contributed.

He was pleased that the drive to greater engagement from members is starting to bear fruit with lots of activity and engagement behind the scenes especially at Clayfest – without which it would not have been the success it was.

Now that we have a few more members getting involved with the wider organisation he believed this is a positive step and this helps fill any gaps and will feed through to future committee members in due course.

He rounded off by saying how pleased he was to see a couple of WPA members taking part in the last series of the Great Pottery Throw Down, whilst they didn't make the final, they had a great time, so taking part and getting involved is important. So, if you want to have a go then applications are open for the next series and it would be great to see more WPA members on screen.

5. Treasurer's Report - Richard Cole

Highlights

- *A record for WPA with Turnover increasing by 50% since 2019 to £33k*
- *The annual surplus up by about 80% in the same period to over £4k in 2023*
- *Cash in the bank at year end is also at a record at just over £10k with the historical figure at around £6k.*
- *These numbers are driven by an increase in membership of about 50% over the same period. Now over 600*
- *The cost per member also remains below the average for the past 13 years at £18.39.*

Set out below is the Final audited position at the end of 2023.

| Running Total | income | expenses | total |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 31/12/2023 | | | |
| bank balance end 2022 | | | £6,188.76 |
| advance subscriptions | | | -£439.00 |
| advance activities | | | £150.00 |
| Magazine Adverts | | | £482.00 |
| Magazine M180 design | | | -£375.00 |
| true balance | | | £6,006.76 |
| Membership | £13,222.69 | £285.25 | £12,937.44 |
| Magazine | £1,840.00 | £10,980.75 | -£9,140.75 |
| Activities | £9,848.21 | £7,621.11 | £2,227.10 |
| Donations | £0.00 | | £0.00 |
| Potters' Market | £3,067.56 | £2,926.87 | £140.69 |
| Exhibitions | £5,216.10 | £5,157.66 | £58.44 |
| Assets | £0.00 | | £0.00 |
| Committee travel & rooms | £0.00 | | £0.00 |
| other costs | £0.00 | £69.34 | -£69.34 |
| Association General | £17.00 | £1,542.82 | -£1,525.82 |
| Annual Member Events | £35.24 | £606.65 | -£571.41 |
| Deposit interest | £53.04 | | £53.04 |
| Annual credit/deficit | £33,299.84 | £29,190.45 | £4,109.39 |
| current account | | | £10,063.11 |
| Deposit account 1st Jan | | | £6,028.62 |
| deposit interest | | | £53.04 |
| Deposit total | | | £6,081.66 |
| total assets | | | £16,144.77 |

Note: The accounts do not include accruals for the 4 unpaid 2023 Magazine adverts totalling over £650, though only one of which was overdue on 31st December 2023.

Going Forward

2024 is already looking good with a significant number of renewals received coupled with healthy bookings for the first online demo of the year and assuming we all continue to deliver the usual range of events etc then a surplus in 2024 is also likely.

Two areas for me to address are:

- 1 - to look for a better rate of interest for the WPA Savings account and to increase the amount held to £10,000 – though to be careful to make sure it remains reasonably accessible*
- 2 – improve the level of budgeting so that more informed decisions can be made about such items as the cost of memberships, the magazine and future event planning.*

I am happy to take any questions.

The accounts presented in the pack are the final audited and signed year end accounts Graham Macey & Mark Sweetland undertake the audit and their full report is available on request.

Couple of highlights; the overall cash surplus is growing and in 2023 was over £4k it is mainly driven by larger major events – 2023 was Clayfest and 2022 was RHS Rosemoor.

The WPA running costs are also well under control with the average cost per member well below the membership fee. Therefore, from a financial point of view he would not be proposing any increase in the Membership fee.

Going forward he felt there are two areas to look at – better budget planning and what should the WPA do with the surplus now that it has grown quite a bit over the past 2 years meaning that cash in the bank is well above historical levels.

A comment was made about the surplus and the Chair explained that budgeting for events does need to be looked at as the budget for Clayfest assumed a £500 deficit but in fact made a £2,000 surplus. In previous years the concern was about covering all costs but now we need to reflect the increased membership levels in our budget setting considerations.

The accounts were proposed by Heidi Knight, seconded Debbie Stewart and approved unanimously.

6. Reports from committee:

a. Membership Secretary - Martin Harbour

Membership numbers continued to grow steadily in 2023 reaching a year-end total of 615. This is an increase of 68 over 2022.

We had 2 resignations and a further 67 who failed to renew and were removed from our membership list.

Online applications remain by far and away the most common although special offers at events such as exhibitions and potters' markets still bring us welcome new members.

As agreed last year we are not issuing membership cards from 2024 onwards.

Unfortunately, later in the year Miranda Qualtrough found it increasingly difficult to continue as Membership Secretary and passed this to Martin Harbour, who has offered to remain in this role when he stands down as Chair at this AGM.

As reported Miranda stood down at the end of 2023 and Martin thanked her for her work during 2023.

Overall membership is a very good news story and the WPA continues to grow with a net increase of 68 in 2023 leading to a year-end total 615. The level of churn is not great with new memberships above those not renewing. Martin chases up all non-renewals and there are no real trends to report.

Membership today (March 2024) is around 540 with new memberships and some late renewals and when the latest magazine doesn't land those who have missed the email reminders will realise and renew!

Questions from the floor – Is there a concern about the demographics of the WPA and should this lead to further discounted membership for students, apprenticeship etc? Martin commented that the demographic has improved and putting a "join now" button on the website has had a positive impact and, whilst it is a cliché, younger people are more used to technology. The other driver will be to continue to provide activities.

Martin was asked if there was a poster available to promote membership and he explained that in the past there was a generic flyer, an update of which was currently being prepared, but we could also consider producing a poster for display. Lorraine Gilroy commented that at Plymouth Arts University the WPA literature is available to all new students.

Another question from the floor specifically asked if free memberships for students could be considered as she had a real live example of one student having to think twice about the current £15 fee. Martin responded that the Committee will consider this request.

b. Magazine and Advertising - Bindy Saywood

Magazine

During 2023, editing the WPA magazine has been a very time consuming but, on the whole, rewarding task. It involves working to tight deadlines, and during 2023 it become increasingly clear how dependent the production of this bi-monthly magazine is on a very small number of volunteers. Some of those volunteers, like me, are on committee and a couple are part of the off-committee support.

During 2023, several editions went out to over 600 members. This is a huge increase from the 300 – 350 copies published when I took the role on. The number of pages per edition generally fluctuated between 18 and 24. This is totally dependent on what I am sent and what I source to include in each edition. I have been able to include a wide variety of interesting and informative content from the members themselves, alongside the information relating to the promotion and write ups of the many great WPA activities and events which took place in 2023. This, of course, included the amazing Clayfest@30 weekend, right from the early planning stages, right through to the write up and gallery of photographs from the weekend.

The WPA activity and event 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, and a big thank you to those who agreed to do those write ups and to take photographs.

I need to say a huge thank you to those behind the scenes who have helped on each edition of our magazine. This included John for keeping the WPA Activities Calendar updated, Martin for writing 'Thoughts from the Chair' for each edition, Karen and Martin, my reliable proofreaders, Martin again for compiling the address sheets, and as ever, a final huge thank you must go to the reliable packing and posting team, WPA members Anita Gibson and Simon Wright. With the size of the membership, this is now a huge task which, for them, takes over the first weekend of publication date.

We are always looking for more people to join the team and help spread the load. If you are interested in finding out about the sort of tasks and small ways that you could contribute, then please do get in touch. If there is anyone wishing to share the role of editing, or in working alongside me on occasions then this would be very welcome. Please keep sending us your news and interesting articles. The feedback I get is that it is the variety of content included, alongside all the WPA news, which makes the magazine a popular aspect of WPA membership and makes it more than just a potters' association newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has helped me make that happen.

Advertising

Alongside my role as editor, I am currently also overseeing the advertising in the magazine. I am pleased to say that the amount of advertising per edition has remained fairly consistent across 2023. Generally, this is 8 A5/half page advert, and 4 or 5 A6 adverts. Last year we secured 3 new A6 adverts, 2 Advertisers didn't renew in 2023, and we have 4 single edition advertisers. Of all the advertisers, 6 are WPA members. This is a good opportunity to remind members that they receive a 15% discount, whether for a single edition or full 12 months/6 edition.

I am always happy to give guidance about advertising content, and I think that members who have placed adverts have found this a successful way of promoting activities, events, workshops, and their studios themselves. If you'd like to find out more about advertising, please get in touch.

Bindy outlined that the magazine production is a major task and would like to specifically thank her band of helpers and supporters especially Martin as over the past 2 years there has been some tough times. Getting a meaningful magazine produced for over 600 members every 2 months is a significant task and she always welcomes content from the membership – reviews, trips courses etc and this will drive the size and numbers of pages.

Getting a review/notification of the events is key so thanks to John and colleagues and keep sending me materials.

Advertising is as per the report and no major changes during the year and if any members want to place an advert for any courses/events/workshops etc these are welcomed and a WPA discount is available.

c. Activities - John Watson

Our programme of activities for 2023 was:

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| 28 th January | Online demonstration by Ellen Rijsdorp [Holland] |
| 25 th February | Online demonstration by Mark Dally |
| 26 th March | AGM and Annual Demonstration by Patia Davis. Kenn Centre |
| 26 th April | Studio Visit to Nick Mackman. |
| 14 th May | Symposium on surface treatments by Tim Gee. The White Room, Crediton |
| 30 th September to 1 st October | Clayfest@30 celebrating the association's 30 th anniversary. Teign Valley Community Hall Christow |
| 2 nd November | Demonstration by Tim Andrews. Woodbury Village Hall |

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 9th to 11th June organised by Tam Holman
- Potters' Market in Exeter on 29th July organised by Elaine Hughes.
- Potters' Market in Butchers' Hall, Tavistock on 28th October organised by Patsy Lang.

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

The celebration of our association's 30th anniversary at the Clayfest@30 weekend in Teign Valley Community Hall was the outstanding event of the year and was a great success. It was a truly participative, action-packed weekend with a very wide range of activities. In typical Westcountry Potters' spirit everyone threw themselves into taking part, enjoying the activities

and having lots of fun together. Huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a success – the planning committee, the numerous and often sweaty “volunteers” who ran all the events and to everyone who came for taking part with such enthusiasm.

There were a number of other notable events and activities. Each of us will have particular favourites but some which stand out in my mind include the Tim Andrews sell-out presentation and demonstration in November, the wonderful demo by Nick Mackman in her studio and the pottery surfaces symposium led by Tim Gee which was something of a new format for us.

As ever, all the events and activities were reported in some excellent articles and photos in the magazine. Many thanks to more “volunteers” who wrote these or took photos and especially to all the potters who very willingly gave us demonstrations or helped in other ways.

I would like to thank all the members who have helped organise or run activities and especially Karen Edwards whose wide knowledge of the pottery world and capability and willingness is absolutely crucial and also thank Martin for his constant and unstinting support and wisdom not to mention his tech guru prowess.

With an ever-increasing membership we would love to run more activities but, as ever, the limiting factor is person power so we would welcome any members who might like to join the team and help organise more events.

John outlined the 2023 Activities and the detail is in his report. He made the point that Clayfest@30 was a great success and was made possible by a lot of hard work by the planning committee. Great thanks to everyone who helped over the weekend and to everyone who came and joined in all the activities with such enthusiasm.

A number of other activities stood out, in particular our first studio visit since before Covid [to Nick Mackman], the glaze symposium led by Tim Gee and Tim Andrews' sell out demonstration at the end of the year.

Looking to the future we have a lot planned for 2024 including the social firing in the second half of the year as well as the Anagama firing in July which we hope to repeat in 2025. As ever, details of all activities and events can be found in the magazine and on the website.

With the increase in membership the challenge of putting on a full programme with a varied breadth of activities remains. It is very positive that the activities organising team has recently expanded with Tina Hill-Art and Mark Sweetland joining Karen and me and that a healthy association budget allows us to be creative.

I have two specific thanks Karen and Martin whose constant help and support have, once again, proved invaluable.

d. Exhibitions - Claire Davey Potts

There were two main opportunities this year, Craft Festival (June 2023) which was expertly led by Tam Holman and the Clayfest Exhibition (September 2023) on the theme of Elements of Nature.

Craft Festival (June 2023) was a success with 39 applications for this year from whom 25 were selected. Members enter through an online application form and ensuring their gallery is up to date with their most recent work. Attendance at the show was good this year and our total sales were £4,177 which is a record total although 5 members did not sell any work. The festival was promoted via the WPA magazine showing the selected members and

through our social media accounts. The stand was well presented with a good mix of work and visitors were complimentary. The stands worked well although it was noted that the bottom shelves were not used which we may need to address going forward. There were several members recruited as well. Many thanks to the selection and curating panel, the display team and the stewards.

The Clayfest exhibition (September 2023) was open to all those who came to the weekend celebrating 30 years of WPA. The theme was Elements of Nature and prizes were awarded to the best examples judged by Lucinda Lovesey of Pottery Throwdown fame. Given that the exhibition was open to everyone, it showed an impressive range of talent and interpretations which made it difficult for any decisions to be made. We had over 60 pieces of work. Many thanks to the curation team who helped get everything up and running first thing Saturday morning.

Future exhibitions are now being considered in a range of locations throughout the South West. We are located throughout the South West and it would be great to display our members work throughout the area beyond Devon.

Claire can't join us today as she is away on holiday all the relevant details are in her report.

e. Potters' Markets - Elaine Hughes/Patsy Lang

Exeter Market 2023

A successful pottery market was held at the quay in Exeter with 22 potters displaying and selling their work. Due to the event's increased popularity we had a booking window open for 2 weeks and then had a lottery for places which appeared to work well and seemed the fairest way of organising the event. 30 applied for a place and most did receive a place after a few cancellations and an offer of a table share.

As is the case with a market it can be tiring but the friendly and supportive companionship and the opportunity to meet visitors and sell some work make it a good experience.

Tavistock Market 2023

We have had another successful Tavistock Market with the same number of visitors as last year, just over 1300, with a good variety of pottery styles on display. A total of 25 potters participated with a number who were new to the market. We used the same 2 week lottery draw for places, though the Tavistock Market has a 2-tier price system now as the outside tables get extra space with the wide butcher's shelf to use behind the table. The weather was fine with a bit of a downpour mid-day, but it brought people into the hall! Visitors commented on the variety and quality of the pottery, asked when our next one would be, and chatted a great deal with potters about their work. Potters commented on how nice it was to be with so many potters.

Sales were likely about the same from what people were telling me. People may not have been selling a lot of items but they were selling larger items, which financially works out the same. This year's market will be on 26th October and I plan to do a little pre-Christmas advertising, 'Get your Christmas shopping done early!'

Looking Forward

We always get requests from visitors for more pottery markets. We have discussed this in committee and feel it would be nice to add one in the spring. It would be good for this to be in another region to allow different potters the opportunity to attend without extensive travel.

If any members have thoughts on venues north or east of Devon, please let Patsy or Elaine know. We would also be looking for someone to take on organising it with support from us.

Exeter – Elaine explained that the level of interest/popularity in exhibiting continues to grow so we have moved to a lottery selection process as opposed to first come first served.

Tavistock – Patsy outlined that whilst we seek a date closer to Christmas the hall is fully booked – so maybe the solution is to try and do a 3rd event somewhere else in the South West so all thoughts/ideas are welcome.

f. Website - Sonya Wilkins

The last year has allowed us to watch how members use our website and in particular the members' area. We have encouraged members to submit galleries and follow our guidelines for image editing and uploads and also start using the forum chat facility.

It's now time for us to assess this usage and see how we can increase the traffic to the site further. The figures below help us to understand where there may be some gaps and potential for improvement. Overall however, the website is performing very well.

Website Traffic and Engagement Metrics

During 2023, the website has experienced an increase of over 1,000 unique visitors, compared to the previous year, now totalling 11,985 visitors. As regular visitors have become more familiar with the website, the average visit length has dropped, to just over 2.5 minutes browsing the website.

Members are making a lot more use of the members' area of the website with a big jump in visits this year. We have also seen a very positive increase in the number of visitors to the members' pages, which are up to nearly 5,000 visits in total, giving the members great exposure of their work.

| | Total 2022 | Total 2023 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total Visitors | 10.9k | 11.9k |
| Home Page Views | 5.6k | 7.5k |
| Members' Area Views | 3.7k | 5.2k |
| Members' Pages Views | 3.2k | 4.9k |
| Events Page Views | 1.9k | 2.5k |
| News and For Sale Views | 1.2k | 1.2k |

Members' Galleries:

*As of 25th February 2024, 193 Galleries were published with a handful awaiting information or images. This compares to 168 galleries published same time in 2023, so an increase of 25 in 12 months. **Note to members: if we are waiting for your images or details please do forward them so we can make these galleries live.***

Website Team Updates & Recommendations for Next 12 Months

Organic Reach: *The website team are in the process of working out a strategy for increasing organic reach (this is how many times people have been presented with content and given the option to read it). The method for delivery will be utilising out social media (Facebook) and linking back to our website. Hence, we will be working with the fellow committee members (responsible for the magazine and social media), to make use of existing articles and identifying topics that will encourage engagement with the outer pottery world.*

In addition to her report Sonya outlined that the usage continues to grow and that the development of members' galleries is encouraged and welcomed and support is available both online and from the team; currently over 160 are live. Sonya expressed her thanks in particular to Graham for his prompt attention getting the gallery pages updated.

One request to members is to make use of the "forum" which was originally requested by members.

During 2024 we are keen to see some organic growth and will try and link articles etc via Facebook and social media.

Questions from the floor related to this topic included having the magazine available on the website – whilst this may not always be possible there will be a review to see what specific current and archived articles might be published. It is a big task and a number of items in the magazine might need to be redacted.

A question was raised about a "sort" function, but Sonya made the point that the "tags" function covers this. But if something is missing then please let us know and it can perhaps be added.

g. E-News - Tim Gee

Our electronic newsletters(e-news) have continued this year on an ad hoc basis with their frequency and size being dependent on whatever happens to be current at the time. This system seems to work well most of the time and will continue.

Tim outlined that his report contained all relevant details.

h. Social Media - Charline Marzin

Charline took on the role in September and gave a verbal report for 2023.

Activity is increasing and it is important to tag in the WPA when posting in Facebook or Instagram – we have some regular taggers but would always welcome more.

"I am keen to make more use of the "story" function as well as running a learning and teaching event so if you have any ideas or want to contribute then please let me know."

7. Membership Fees - Martin Harbour

The Membership Secretary proposed that the 2025 rates remain unchanged and in addition the committee will review the point about students.

The proposal was seconded by Barry Boffy and all those present were in favour.

8. Election of Officers

Members have been circulated a proposed list of Committee members – it is a mix of old and new along with endorsement of two new members co-opted onto Committee. Martin outlined the changes and introduced those new members present and would like a single vote to cover all the changes.

| | |
|--|---|
| Chair | Rebecca Davies (1st term 2024) |
| Treasurer | Richard Cole (1st term 2022) |
| Administrator | Jayne Randell-Humphreys (1st term 2022) |
| Membership Secretary | Martin Harbour (1st term 2024) |
| Activities Co-ordinator | John Watson (4th term 2023) |
| Potters' Market Organiser | Elaine Hughes (3rd term 2023) |
| Magazine Editor/Advertising | Bindy Saywood (4th term 2024) |
| Exhibition Officer | Claire Davey Potts (1st term 2023) |
| Website Officer | Sonya Wilkins (1st term 2022) |
| Committee Member/Activities | Karen Edwards (5th term 2024) |
| Committee Member/E-News | Tim Gee (4th term 2023) |
| Committee Member/Potters' Market | Patsy Lang (1st term 2022) |
| Committee Member | Olwyn Keiro-Watson (2nd term 2024) |
| Committee Member | Anna Hearn* (1st term 2023) |
| Committee Member/Activities | Tina Hill-Art* (1st term 2023) |
| Committee Member/Activities/Auditor | Mark Sweetland (1st term 2024) |
| Committee Member | Penny O'Brien (1st term 2024) |
| Social Media | Charline Marzin (1st term 2024) |

New members – Charline Marzin, Penny O'Brien and Mark Sweetland (to work with John on Activities) and Bec Davies – our new Chair. Martin introduced the new members and said that he was very pleased that Bec came forward to take on the role of Chair and that she has already met many of the Committee.

Formally this Committee was proposed by Jilly Russell and seconded by Loraine Gilroy. All those present were in favour of the changes.

9. Appointment of Auditors

Mark and Graham have undertaken the audit role for the past 4 years and Martin proposed that they undertake the role for the 2024 accounts. This was seconded by Pauline Parnell and all those present were in favour.

10. Thanks to Retiring Members - Martin Harbour

Martin thanked Miranda for her time as Membership Secretary and wished her well for the future. Martin advised members present that there is a card available at the back of the hall for members to sign.

At this point Karen made a statement on behalf of the committee thanking Martin for his time as Chairman. She thanked Lorraine, his predecessor, for her perception and perseverance in getting him to take on the role of Chair. Right from his first committee role, he has always been positive, patient, approachable and extremely helpful.

He has worn many hats, sometimes simultaneously, and has greatly advanced the Association's use of technology. We now take it for granted that we can offer online Zoom demonstrations and thereby reach a wider audience of members as well as demonstrators in distant locations. He also introduced us to online ticketing and I-Zettle payments, which removed the need for a huge amount of paperwork.

Apart from those innovations, Martin has been responsible for leading the update of our website, improving the accounting spreadsheet, helping with organising our presence at Craft Festival Bovey and our Potters' Markets, as well as initiating the Autumn Gathering get-together which has been such an enjoyable and useful social occasion. He played a huge part in organising the successful [Clayfest@30](#) celebration in September 2023 and the Anagama firing at Kigbeare is set to be another of his noteworthy events for WPA.

He's been involved in every aspect of the running of this association and under his tenure WPA membership has almost doubled.

On a personal note, I must thank him for all the computer advice and help he's given me, as well as for his friendship. Although he is stepping down as Chair, I'm sure we are all very glad that he is staying on as a much-valued member of committee, and I know he will help Bec as she settles into her new role. Thank you, Martin.

Tim Andrews the Honorary Chair of WPA then added his thoughts and thanks. "If Martin was a pot, what kind would he be? 45 years ago I made some cider tankards and I thought this was appropriate for Martin as they have particular qualities: -

Strong and stable – stability is important for the role, not easily knocked over!

No chips – especially on your shoulders!

Generous and with a generosity of spirit – Martin has this in abundance

Of course, it's all about what it contains – wisdom and good council. I think that would be lovely to take away and I am sure Bec will fill those shoes as well.

The last thing is that it is salt glazed and when I opened the kiln one of the shelves had broken and this one tankard was holding up the entire load and that is very true of the WPA that your support has been wonderful holding up the WPA and the Committee".

As a token of thanks Martin was presented with a gift voucher for a piece of ceramic.

Martin responded by saying thanks for all the kind words and that he will still be around to support the team and its membership and that my time has been great fun. So, thanks once again and I wish Bec all the best.

11. Open Session

Open Forum discussion – Lorraine Gilroy thanked Martin and the wider Committee.

Feedback forms are available at the rear of the room for comments/offers of help etc

The meeting closed at 13.00