



**Minutes of the Ipswich Arts Association General Meeting held on
Thursday 15th June 2017
at Ipswich Tourist Information Centre**

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| Present: | Professor Chris Green | (Chair) |
| | Ivan Gilson | (Treasurer) |
| | Mary Odam | (Secretary) |
| | Jonathon Armitage | Wolsey Orchestra |
| | Stephen Cassidy | IAA (Visual Arts) & Ipswich Art Society |
| | Glen Chisholm | Ipswich Borough Council |
| | Matthew Clarke | Ipswich and District Photographic Society |
| | Terry Cloke | IAA Publicity & Ipswich Film Society |
| | Edward Colthorpe | IAA & 4 Seasons Theatre Group |
| | Ruth Dugdall | IAA Literature |
| | Peggy King | Appeal Theatre Group |
| | Wendy Missons | IAA Open House |
| | Christine Pearce | IAA Music (Vocal) & Ipswich Choral Society |
| | Roy Preston | Editor IAA Newsletter |
| | Sue Preston | Public |
| | DP | Public |
| | Beverley Ruddock | Trianon Music Group |
| | David Ruddock | Trianon Music Group |
| | Gordon Scopes | Community Light Orchestra, Suffolk Concert Band |
| | Simon Snowden | Ipswich Choral Society |

1. Apologies for absence and welcome to visitors

Apologies for absence were received from:

Andrew Leach (Suffolk Festival of Performing arts); Ann Cloke (Ipswich Children's Book Group); Beverley Vankoningsveld (Suffolk Singers); Carol Scotland (Ipswich Chamber Concerts); Caroline Fish (IAA Applied Arts & Suffolk Craft Society); Chandra Grover (Felixstowe Harmonies); Diane Ingledew (Ipswich Hospital Choir); Emma Seggar (Ipswich Suzuki); Ian Fisher (Ipswich Borough Council); Jean Shaw (Dorian Singers); John Treadway (Woodbridge Chamber Concerts); Libby Cotton (Ipswich Chamber Music Society); Mark Whiting (Ipswich Borough Council); Mary Payne (Stowmarket Chorale); Natasha Free (Felixstowe Music Theatre); Pat Grimwade (IAA Music – Orchestral & Ipswich Symphony Orchestra); Pat Lakey (Ipswich Theatre Organ Club); Pat Peddie (Orwell Singers); Robin Self (Elgar Society); Shirley Smith (Seraphim); Sion Parry (Ipswich School); Stephen Harding (Shingle Street Folk Band); Sylvia Annis (Co-op Ladies' Choir); Vera Rogers (IAA Town lectures); Vetta Wise (Seraphim); Yvonne Graham (Stour Choral Society)

2. To approve the minutes of the General Meeting held on 20 February 2017

The minutes were adopted; proposed Christine Pearce, seconded Ivan Gilson.

3. Chair's Report

See attached.

Questions were raised regarding the Strategic Plan for 2017/18.

Ivan Gilson asked about the Bursary Award. Where was the money to come from? Christine Pearce explained that it would come from the Association funds, and that it was to support an initiative.

Simon Snowden wanted to know the cost of the Corn Exchange organ restoration. Chris Green said that a humidifier would be needed at a cost of £4,000 - £5,000. The first three stages would require organ builders, which would cost in the region of £14,000. The final stage involved removal of the Great pipes, which could potentially be done by volunteers. He issued a plea to music groups to make use of the organ in concerts at the Corn Exchange, even if just for one piece.

Roy Preston asked when Paul Smith would be leaving. Chris Green replied that he would be continuing until the AGM in October. The Association would need to find ways of covering all his current rôles.

The Chair then asked whether members were content with the Strategic Plan, or whether the meeting felt that there was anything missing from it.

Terry Cloke highlighted the possibility of a Publicity Workshop, and asked how many people would be interested in attending such a workshop. A show of hands suggested that about 12 people would like to attend.

Ruth Dugdall questioned the location of the Charter Hangings. She felt that St Peter's was not the best location because of accessibility. Chris Green explained that the Hangings had previously been displayed at the John Russell Gallery and then at a gallery at Electric House. In the past attempts had been made to have them displayed at either the High Street Gallery or Christchurch Mansion, but the Association was keen to retain ownership of them. The Charter Hanging Committee has discussed this matter, but somewhere would have to be found where the Hangings could be on permanent display.

Christine Pearce pointed out that there was no stated plan to increase membership of the Association. This will be added.

It was agreed to adopt the Strategic Plan as a working document: proposed Roy Preston, seconded Peggy King.

Open House

Wendy Missons told the Meeting that there were twelve groups exhibiting. The turnout for the lunchtime talks so far had been 15, 12 and 17. Footfall otherwise had been between 21 and 39 for each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

She hoped that people would provide feedback for any future events.

4. Setting of subscription rates: to discuss a proposal from IAA Executive

A proposal was made to set the subscription rates for two years at the AGM so that, in future, the rate will have been agreed prior to the respective AGM. It is hoped that this will make it easier to collect subscriptions for each year, as requests can be sent out prior to the AGM.

Chris Green asked how the Association could make it easier for people to pay their subscriptions. BACS is already an option.

It was felt that changing officers within societies sometimes caused problems. Beverley Ruddock asked whether requests for payment were sent through the contact person or the treasurer.

The meeting expressed itself content that the AGM should confirm subscription rates for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

5. All About Ipswich: the benefits of membership

Terry Cloke and Chris Green had a meeting with Archant in April. They subsequently sent a report of the points discussed to Terry Hunt, the editor of EADT and Ipswich Star, but had no response for weeks. Eventually Terry Hunt agreed the report.

Terry Cloke sent out guidelines to all member societies suggesting that anything sent for publication should be sent also to Terry Hunt, who promised to look at the copy with a view to helping to improve the layout. As regards the reduction in the size of the "Arts Scene" column he had said, "It seems fair to me."

There has been some recent success with getting information into the papers. Open House has had good coverage, but it seems that in general there will be less coverage of the local arts scene.

It has been suggested that social media is the way forward, to which end Terry Cloke is looking into Twitter and Facebook within his remit as Publicity Officer.

The Ipswich Arts Association is now a member of *All About Ipswich*, which means that any member society can put events onto the All About Ipswich website. At present it is necessary to go through Jack Cripps, but Terry will be sending out a 6-point guidance document explaining how to enter events.

Terry Cloke reminded members that the Corn Exchange window is available for any Ipswich Arts Association events. There is a new person to contact at the Regent regarding this.

Ruth Dugdall asked about the Twitter and Facebook accounts. Terry replied that Twitter is set up and that he is working on it.

Terry informed the meeting that, of the pages which appear in the EADT, the content of four pages is determined in Ipswich. The rest is decided in Norwich.

6. Topics for future General Meetings: to consider suggestions

The Chair asked for suggestions for topics or speakers.

Christine Pearce suggested that perhaps someone from the Charity Commission could speak about current changes and how they affect charities. She also said that the Making Music website has a section on Charity Commission updates.

Ruth Dugdall asked that Isabel Clover might speak about the Charter Hangings.

7. To confirm the date of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 23rd October at 7:30pm at Co-op Education Centre.

8. Any other business

Wendy Missons was thanked for her hard work with regard to Open House and was welcomed to the area. She replied with thanks to everyone who had helped with the event.

After a break for refreshments Ruth Dugdall, local author and IAA Trustee, talked about her latest novel, *My Sister and Other Liars*.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.