

Minutes of TAS Sussex Area Team meeting on Friday 8 March 2019 at The Henfield Hall

Present: David Bignell, Lois Cope, Alan Bowden, Angela Magness, Gillian Baker, Sheila Ryan, Richard Beale (proposed new ACE for Special Interest Days), Diane Fuell

Apologies: None

David welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked Diane for arranging the venue

Minutes of the September meeting: These were accepted and signed

Matters arising: The agenda covered any matters arising

Reports and Updates: Most committee members had pre-circulated reports for the AGM/Area Forum Friday 5 April 2019 and focussed on the key issues at the meeting

Chairman's Report:

Personal and team matters: David had identified 25 items of interest and had summarised these in 18 points. He stressed that the main issue was committee renewal as 3 of the 7 members need to be replaced. Penny Hill resigned last year as Heritage Trail Representative and has not yet been replaced. Angela Magness has resigned as ACE for Special Interest Days after many years arranging successful study days that have enabled us to provide a high-level support to West Dean Students. David welcomed Richard Beale who is prepared to take on the role. Sheila Ryan has also indicated her desire to resign as Church Recording representative. Alan has just one year left as Treasurer so a replacement needs to be identified. A Vice Chairman appointment has been frozen for the time being but a successor for Chairman will be required. These vacancies will be raised at the AGM. It was agreed that, with the training available from headquarters, the Area Trainer was no longer necessary. David has had a busy year. He has attended 3 training sessions at Headquarters and visited 14 of the 23 local branches. He hopes to visit them all during his 3 year tenure.

Area Forum 2018: The last Area Forum was held at Boxgrove Village Hall. Trustee Jaqui Varley presented the results of the SWOT analysis conducted by Headquarters. The biggest issue is the declining and aging membership. The membership in Sussex has declined by 5% since 2012. Spain is the area where the membership is increasing rapidly hence the decision to hold the 2012 AGM in Malaga.

West Dean: The Team has agreed the Scholarship should be raised to £4000. The roof of the West Dean building is being replaced and many artefacts in their Collection are in store so volunteering activities have been suspended for 2 months. David has been reassured that the volunteers will be welcomed back when the work is completed. Samuel Matthews, our current scholar, is a wood carver and is 2/3 of the way through his course. Samuel cannot come to the April meeting but will be asked to come in September with some of his work.

David has contacted East Sussex Music to get information on sponsorship of their concerts by local branches of the Arts Society. He is awaiting their response. [Note added in editing: A meeting with Simon Lock, Senior Manager has been arranged for 3 April.]

TAS support team: No failing societies have been identified in Sussex.

ADCO meetings: The November meeting focussed on declining membership. Remedial measures and other information can be found on the website. It was reported that TAS finances are improving.

Governance Review: A review of the TAS Hierarchy, including the role of Trustees is under way. During this period Trustees will not be able to attend local meetings. Tim Nicholls the national Finance and Resources Director will attend the AGM. We will arrange at least two break-out groups over lunch, including local Chairs and local Treasurers. We will ask if West Dean can provide a speaker for the AGM **Action:** David [Note added in editing: West Dean are trying to find a student who can give a short address. In default of this the Chair will make a substitute presentation.]

Training dates: A list of training dates has been distributed

Trails of discovery: New information has been distributed

Volunteer impact review: TAS are assessing the 'impact and outcome' of volunteers across the spectrum. Church recording will be assessed differently.

National Vice-Chair: Hillary Alcock has resigned and will be replaced by Roger Duckworth.

Trustees Annual Report: Julia Goldsmith is looking for examples of projects that demonstrate the value of Arts to the public. If available in time, the report from the Petworth Festival Children's Art Exhibition could be submitted as a case study. [Note added during editing: a report has been submitted.]

A case study: The Feb TAS bulletin contains an interesting article about identifying potential committee members from volunteering websites.

Chichester Evening Society: Following the May test meeting a formal application for membership has been submitted to TAS. Meetings are expected to take place in Chichester College and inauguration is planned for the autumn. It is not known if the number of prospective members and membership fees meet the TAS requirement. Area has no role in the negotiations. Pamela Kemp and 2 Colleagues were invited to the SIDs day and Pamela is also invited to the AGM.

South of England Show: It has been agreed to increase the contribution to the sponsorship of Young Artisan of **the Year Competition** from £500 to £600.

Church recording in Chichester: Pam Hilton has retired after 14 years as leader of this group. This will be recognised at the Forum in April.

Area Information Day: Informal notes have been sent to Local Chairmen.

Kirdford 2019: An informal meeting and lunch will be held on 31 May or 7 June

Autumn Area Forum: Lavant Valley are listed as the host for this event. [Note added in editing: Lavant Valley have requested that they defer to the autumn of 2020, on account of Committee issues. No intervention is needed from Area or TAS House.]

Midhurst is next on the List to Host a Forum and Boxgrove Village Hall, which is relatively near to them, proved to be an ideal venue and could be used again. The 18 October was identified as being a suitable date for the autumn event. Midhurst will be contacted and the availability of Boxgrove will be checked. **Action David**

ACE (Information Day) Report:

Lois reported that the organisation into various breakout groups made for a very successful day.

Website Manager's Report:

David said that the website was gradually improving although there was not much input from local groups other than information on trips and holidays that required more people. HQ estimate that 12% of the national membership are not on-line

Hon Treasurer's Report:

Alan did not go through the report in detail but commented that the reported surplus £3.6K was largely due to an increased profit on SIDs and the way the extra jubilee grant was accounted for. This will be reversed next year. There was no need to increase the capitation fee from 21p.

There is an increase in Area reserves to above £13K. Alan feels we should have a policy on the level and use of reserves. We need to get the opinion of the membership about profits made from SIDs and how that profit should be used to support local Arts or how much should be put into the Patricia Faye fund. There had been much discussion at Kidford but no consensus. Alan would like to have this as a separate item on the Agenda for the AGM so decisions can be made and a policy formulated

Secretary (Admin) Report:

Lois reported issues with some e-mail addresses when circulating material

Secretary (Minutes) Report:

Nothing to say

ACE (Special Interest Days) Report

Angela reported a good attendance for the first SID of 2019 and 83 were currently booked for the second.

She felt that it was appropriate to make a profit on these days. The Turners Hill venue is very reasonable and, despite the current parking difficulties, there is no problem selling the tickets. Richard will continue to use it for at least the next year.

Church Recording Rep Report:

Sheila has been the co-ordinator for 9 years and would like to step down but does not want to leave groups in the lurch. The number of recording groups has reduced from 8 to 7. Jennifer and Keith Cross have had to come in to complete the work in some churches. Henfield are having difficulties completing the work at Ditchling so the Crosses will finish that record. The group in Eastbourne will not continue. Pam Hilton will retire from Chichester after 14 years. Two people will share the job. Having done the survey work, people do not want to complete the reports to the required standard.

Young Arts Rep Report:

Gill reported that she is still having difficulties getting information from local groups on donations to Young Arts. They do not see it as part of their responsibilities. All societies in West Sussex have contributed to West Dean. There are some inconsistencies with in the figures but around £21K has been donated to Young Arts. There are 14 projects in addition to West Dean. Young Arts in Sussex is in good health. Gill is publishing a Newsletter once a term (the next is due shortly) and keeps updating the website. Three Chichester Groups will sponsor a concert by West Sussex Music which is a very good group to support. Support for similar group in East Sussex is being investigated. Gill was thanked for all the work she is doing to continue to support Young Arts, the future of the society.

Area Forum and AGM:

The David and Lois will prepare the Agenda and this together with the reports will be circulated shortly. The officers are not expected to be opposed and should be confirmed. Alan was initially elected for three years but is prepared to extend it for a further year. It is hoped that the business of the meeting, a talk by Tim Nicholls the TAS Finance and Resources Director, and breakout groups can be completed by the end of lunchtime, leaving time in the early afternoon for a short plenary.

AOB:

None

Date of next meeting:

27th September 2019 at The Henfield Hall