



Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of The Quilter's Guild of the British Isles held at the Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter University, Streatham Campus, The Queen's Drive, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4QJ, on Saturday 9th April 2011 commencing at 9.25am

Present:	Mrs Marilyn Lovett	(President/Director)	(ML)
	Mrs Jane Steward	(Director/Trustee)	(JS)
	Mrs Jan Rae	(Director/Trustee)	(JR)
	Mrs Kathleen Fisher	(Director/Trustee)	(KF)

In attendance:	Mrs Liz Whitehouse	(Chief Executive Officer)	(LH)
	Mr Michael Greensmith	(Company Secretary)	(MG)
	Dr Anne Hardcastle	(Trustee)	(AH)
	Mrs Margaret Boe	(Trustee)	(MB)
	Mrs Vivien Finch	(Trustee)	(VF)
	Mrs Jacqui Veazey	(Trustee)	(JV)
	Mrs Fiona Diaper	(Museum Director)	(FD)
	Mrs Wendy Greensmith	(Director – Festival of Quilts Ltd)	(WG)

1. President's Welcome

At the invitation of those present the President took the chair at the meeting and welcomed all those attending the 32nd Annual General Meeting. The directors, officers, trustees and others in attendance at the meeting were introduced.

2. Apologies

The Chairman reported that apologies had been received from Jannice Gunner, Margaret Hughes, Chris Bryce, Gilly Rose, Evelyn Arber, Mo Smith, Sheena Wurthmann, Kate Smith, Margaret MacIntosh, Andrea Lee, Pauline Adams, Anne Bartlett, Mary Ramby, and Debbie Renton.

3. Quorum

The Secretary confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

4. Minutes of the 31st AGM held on 27th March 2010

The minutes of the meeting were formally tabled and taken as read. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. President's Report

ML then presented her report to the meeting, a copy of which is annexed. There were no matters which required consideration arising therefrom.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1 LW presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of John Webster, the Co-opted Treasurer, not present due to illness.

6.2 Having presented the Treasurer's Report by way of Powerpoint presentation, LW took questions.

6.3 The questions concerned the contribution of specialist groups to The Guild's funds, the allocation of income derived from the Festival of Quilts show at the Birmingham NEC each

year and the extent to which there would be a return of contributions made by the Regions to The Guild Funding.

FORMAL BUSINESS

Tellers were formally appointed.

7. Report of Council Management and Presentation of Accounts

7.1 LW presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial period ending 31st December 2010. It was noted that a summary of the Annual Report for the period ending 31st December 2010 had been provided to all attendees and that the full report had been available on The Guild website. LW outlined the basis for the application of the restricted funds, the designated and unrestricted funds, and the application of legacy funds. LW took the opportunity to thank donors to The Guild in 2010 and briefly reported on forthcoming initiatives.

7.2 Adoption of Accounts

LW on behalf of the Board of Trustees proposed "THAT the accounts for the financial period ending 31st December 2010 tabled before the meeting be adopted". The resolution was seconded by Jenny Rutherford and carried unanimously, with one abstention.

8. Election of Members of the Council

8.1 The following persons were individually proposed for election to the Council, respectively: Sheena Wurthmann (General Trustee); Rosalind Orłowska (General Trustee); Christina McEwen (General Trustee); Jacqui Veazey (General Trustee) (currently co-opted); and to co-opt as a Trustee – Andrea Lee.

8.2 Sheena Wurthmann was proposed by ML and seconded by JR.

8.3 Rosalind Orłowska was proposed by ML and seconded by JS.

8.4 Christina McEwen was proposed by ML and seconded by Jacqui Pugh.

8.5 Jacqui Veazey was proposed by ML and seconded by Judith Dursley.

8.6 Andrea Lee's co-option was proposed by ML and seconded by **Catherine Waterson..**

8.7 Each of these appointments was carried unanimously, with no abstentions. The request was made that in future biographies of persons being proposed for office as Trustees be made available with the AGM Notice, so that members had the opportunity to consider in more detail the appointees.

9. Appointment of Auditor and Authorise Council to Determine Auditor's Remuneration

LW on behalf of the Board of Trustees proposed "THAT HPH Chartered Accountants who had previously indicated their willingness to be appointed as auditor for the year 2011 be so appointed and that the Council be authorised to approve their remuneration". The resolution was seconded by C. McGee and was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

10. Appointment and Election of Treasurer

10.1 The meeting was advised that John Webster, who had been co-opted by the Trustees to the position of Treasurer to The Guild, and whom had been proposed for election as Treasurer to The Guild at this meeting in accordance with the Notice, was unable to put himself forward for election due to ill health. The Council of the Trustees had sought other applicants and Christina McEwen had responded. The Council, having considered her curriculum vitae and conducted interviews with her, had considered that Christina McEwen

was eminently well qualified to assume the post as Treasurer. At the invitation of the Chair, Christina McEwen made a short presentation to the meeting.

10.2 It was then proposed to the meeting "That Christina McEwen be and is hereby appointed Treasurer to The Guild notwithstanding that proper notice of proposed appointment had been given". The proposal was made by ML on behalf of the Trustees and seconded by WG. The resolution was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

11. Adoption of New Rules

ML proposed the resolution "THAT the New Rules for The Guild approved by Council be and are hereby adopted". This was seconded by Jan Williams and carried unanimously with one abstention, Jacqui Webster.

THIS COMPLETED THE FORMAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

12. Museum Director's Report

FD presented her report to the meeting, a copy of which is annexed hereto.

13. Chief Executive's Report

LW gave her report to the meeting in the form of the Powerpoint presentation annexed hereto and took the opportunity to bring members up to date with the activities of The Guild and issues related thereto.

14. Presentations

Presentations were made by ML to the following retiring Trustees and officers: Margaret Boe, Gilly Rose (in her absence), and to Guild Officers retiring, respectively Fiona Brockie, Miriam Butler, Wendy Greensmith, Amanda Wright, Heather Edwards, Gillian Harrison. The following were awarded honorary membership: Sarah Impey, , Wendy Greensmith and Hillary Kennerley. The Membership Award for 2010 went to Region 2 for gaining most members and to Region 16 for retaining most members. The Sue Belton Award was made to Kimberley Jones.

15. Conclusion

18.1 ML closed the formal business of the AGM, reminding members present that the open quorum would follow.

18.2 There being no further business for the AGM the meeting concluded at 10.53am.

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CHAIRMAN

President's Report to the AGM 2011

We have had another very busy year.

On the marketing front, the Festival of Quilts attracted over 33,000 visitors and we enrolled 182 new members. The amazing amount of £7,000 was raised by the miniature group with the pennants tombola. This year it is the Traditional Group with "put-em-ins", which we hope you will support with equal enthusiasm. Sheena Norquay represented us in Diversity in Europe and in 2011 the UK will be represented by Pauline Ineson. Thank you to Helen Thomas for her time as organiser of stewarding at FOQ.

It was decided to move National Guild Exhibitions round the country, instead of holding them just in York. A very successful exhibition was held in 2010 at Rufford Craft Centre in Nottinghamshire, with 16 of the quilts then selected by ICHF to travel to a range of **their** shows. There are further venues for exhibitions in the pipeline.

As a result of this change, the job description for Exhibition Officer was rewritten and the post of Guild Exhibition Officer (York) was abolished. Thank you to Miriam Butler for her time as Exhibition Officer. We are still looking for a new Exhibition Officer and would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested.

In addition, Guild stands were present at many of the shows held by Trident Exhibitions and Creative Exhibitions.

The Guild's trading company has had a good year with a 30% increase in turnover. The on-lineshop, quiltmuseumshop.org.uk experienced steady growth over the year and the Wonderfil Range of Speciality threads has recently been added to its stock. Wendy Greensmith retires as Finance Director and Amanda Wright as Sales Director of the Trading Company, and we thank them for their diligence and financial acumen throughout the years.

This year has been a challenge for Denise Davies, our new Conference Officer and the regional conference team. Exeter University had forgotten that we had booked and the area we had originally been assigned was closed for the year. We are very grateful for the conference team member who spotted the news in the local paper! By this time it was too late to change the venue. So, if you are feeling a "little cosy", please bear with us. We have plenty of room at Dundee. Again feedback from the questionnaire is being taken into account for Dundee 23rd – 25th March 2012 and Nottingham in 2013.

Many thanks to Hilary Kennerley for her stamina as Conference Officer over so many conferences.

The two Inspire projects for the Cultural Olympiad continue apace. A Gift of Quilts now have the 500 quilts registered and Quilts4London have received over 4,000 A3 pennants, but we still need another 10,000 to be completed. With your help, we will achieve this. These two activities have involved lots of groups and individuals who may never have been involved in sewing and patchwork before. A great credit to Jenny Rundle, Sharon Garrick, Irene Heathcote and Catherine Hill.

The Quilt Museum and Gallery continues to develop and become an important fixture in York's list of tourist attractions. Our visitor numbers were up in 2010. The audience review carried out by DBA Consulting, showed that almost one-fifth of visitors sampled came from overseas; the majority from America, Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore, the majority of UK visitors live more than two hours away from York, which is very much against the national norm for Museum visits. Nevertheless, we need more visitors and, on the advice of DBA, we are making a special marketing effort to increase audiences from the local area.

Staff are also implementing other suggestions in the DBA report, though some of the major recommendations would involve expenditure and more fund raising.

Museum publicity continues to be shared between the Museum Director and Jan Rae, working on a very small budget. We receive regular publicity from the major textile magazines in the UK for which we are grateful. We are also making inroads into other areas including the tourism sector

The Museum Director will be referring to the amazing goals achieved by Museum staff, not only in obtaining grants but also in gaining awards. There are now over 6,500 people in total who have taken advantage of our educational facilities since we first opened in 2008 and they include people of all ages and abilities. This is an incredible statistic.

Unfortunately, the Heritage Lottery funding for the full time post of Education Officer and part time post of Volunteer Organiser finishes at the end of this year.

The role of Guild Heritage Officer was re-established and the job description rewritten in such a way that the post now includes membership of the Collections Management Committee. Joan Fisher took up the post in 2010 and set a new programme in motion. This includes training in quilt documentation techniques for those regions who are interested; improving our knowledge of quilt collections in other UK museums; and implementing special heritage events. We must thank Joan for getting heritage activities, outside the Museum, off to such an enthusiastic start. Unfortunately, Joan has to stand down for family reasons, so we are looking for a replacement.

From May 2010 the work of the Operations and the Membership Divisions have been run by one Head of Division, Kathleen Fisher.

Our very small administration team at St Anthony's work hard to generally try and keep us all happy. This entails quite a bit of multi tasking. Thank you to each and every one, especially Carol Bowden, the voice on the phone.

Last August we moved the management of our office IT systems to Blue Logic from BT. This is a great improvement.

Katy Holmes, our Membership Officer, who started in August, soon got to grips with the move of Membership back in house. We believe that this move is a significant contributory factor in the rising number of members.

We are in the process of installing a much needed new server and upgrading our Membership system, which we hope will be complete by the end of April, especially as this is when we renew two thirds of our memberships.

During 2010 we launched the Affiliated Groups scheme at the Festival of Quilts. At the end of the year we had 61 Affiliated Groups. We now have 141.

The Guild library is now fully up and running thanks to Kate Smith and her team and we encourage you to use this facility. The list of books is on the Guild website and also includes many out of print books, all of which are available to borrow. There has been an increase in the number of visitors to the site.

With the resignation of Textile Perspective editors June Freeman and Sara Impey, The Quilter magazine has undergone major changes in the last year. The Quilter editorial team have been asked to include some similar articles to those included in Textile Perspectives and some items for new quilters in every edition, in order to try and keep the balance between members' interests. YQs will now have their own YQ magazine twice a year.

The Web Site needs updating when funds allow. However, it would be great to see more information being placed on the regional pages to encourage both existing members and the

general public to use them as a regular source of information. The National Web Site Officer, Maureen Cunningham, is available to help with this. Please go home and have a look at **your** regional pages. Maybe your regional team could do with your help on this!

Quilt Judging is an area of The Guild's work which probably does not receive the credit it is due. Brenda Wroe is Chair of the Quilt Judging committee and it is through them that judges are provided for the Festival of Quilts. They also organise courses for aspiring Quilt Judges, with the next one hopefully starting later this year. Please contact Brenda Wroe for more information. Becoming a Quilt Judge is both a personal and a professional development. Unfortunately a planned refresher course for current Quilt Judges had to be cancelled this year due to insufficient numbers. I do hope that the course for new judges will not suffer the same fate.

For the last four years Fiona Brockie has covered the International post very ably by promoting the Guild abroad and providing information for members wherever they are going. During her time, Fiona has developed a quite encyclopaedic knowledge of quilt matters worldwide and has forged excellent links with her counterparts in other quilting organisations, particularly in Europe. As Fiona steps down I express my gratitude to her for this work.

Bursaries and awards -

The founder Members' Bursary has been awarded to Clare Claridge. The BA Bursary was awarded to Nina Davis and the City and Guilds Bursary was awarded to Sue Dawson.

The new Travel and Education Bursary has been awarded jointly to Hazel Ryder and Terry Donaldson.

We have the final displays for the Sue Belton award from Jackie Newey and Anna Jenkins. Sadly Anna lost her battle with cancer earlier in the year, but her family have kindly let us have her work to show here.

There were no applicants this year for the Amy Emms Bursary.

We are very grateful to those people who have donated money for these bursaries and awards to be issued.

The valuable work with Young Quilters, taking place in most of our regions, is a very important part of the charitable remit of The Quilters' Guild. Many regions now run their events for YQs separately from their Regional Days, as this enables the volunteers to still attend regional events. This may involve working with local museums where space is often provided free of charge; or attending craft events to demonstrate small projects. If you are in a region where currently there is no YQ work happening, maybe you could organise one or two simple activities each year, which would introduce quilting to a new generation of young people.

The Regions and Specialist Groups have been very busy this year with over 160 separate events attended by nearly 6,000 people across the UK. We would like to thank those Co-ordinators who are retiring at this AGM or who have finished their terms of office during the year.

We are very fortunate in that our small number of paid staff, together with our many volunteers are **all** so dedicated to the Guild and able to work as a team.

Volunteers may be involved in the museum in folding quilts in the curator's room, greeting visitors, or making small pieces of patchwork for handling. 'Inspirational'; 'Excellent'; 'Fantastic'; 'Wonderful surprise'. These are not Jan Rae's words but those of museum visitors who took part in the audience review questionnaire. To this must be added the accolades to volunteers on site: 'couldn't have been more helpful'; 'Nice to be made so welcome'; 'Helpful, informative staff (volunteers)' etc.

Volunteers may be out in the regions arranging area days, editing the magazine or helping with refreshments at Guild events or helping at the Festival of Quilts.

Being a Regional or Specialist Group Co-ordinator is a key post involving as many members in events as possible and promoting the guild to the wider community.

Without each of you, the Guild could not operate. Thank you to each and every one of you. And thank you all for being members – without members, there would be no Guild.

I shall repeat the African saying my daughter told me – If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together. We do want to go far, so let us see what **we** can achieve together.

Marilyn Lovett
April 2011