

55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARTS SOCIETY HOLLAND AND KESTEVEN

Thursday 13 June 2024

- 1 APOLOGIES Linda Hayes, Pippa Kennedy, Chris Brecken, Audrey Barclay, Margaret Baynes, Chris Jones
- 2 APPROVAL of the Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting held on 8 June 2023 at Great Hale Village Hall.
Proposer Richard Hickling
Secunder Jo Jackson
- 3 APPROVAL of the REPORTS
Proposer Jill Enstone
Secunder Jackie Linning
- 4 APPROVAL of the ACCOUNTS
Proposer Sue Hickling
Secunder Richard Lilley
- 5 VOTE of THANKS to PAULA TUNNARD, given by Sarah Neville

In 2014 Paula Tunnard was invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in recognition of her work as a Heritage Volunteer, I think the invitation says it all.

Thank you Paula from us all, past and present, for your unwavering support both as a member of the Holland and Kesteven Arts Society and as a leader of our outreach Heritage Volunteer Group. Ladies and Gentlemen I give you Paula Tunnard, a very special person.

- 6 Sarah Neville then continued. “My final duty as the outgoing Chairman is to appoint our President, Sonia Playne, but before I ask for a proposer and seconder, I would like to say a few words.

Sonia has served as our President since 1988, what an achievement – she has supported numerous Chairmen through good and difficult times, quietly offering council and support in very many ways.

I have heard through the grapevine that in reality Sonia would like to step down but luckily for us all, that is not about to happen because we have not been able to find a replacement, so once again Sonia has agreed to put herself forward for re-election so please could I have a proposer and seconder and then a big round of applause for Sonia. Thank you so much Sonia.

Proposer Richard Hickling
Secunder Chris Barton

7 APPOINTMENT of Paula Tunnard as Vice President

Paula please could you step forward and join us at the table.

Paula has once again agreed to stand as our Vice President. Thank you, Paula.

I would like to say a few words with regard to Paula and the Heritage Volunteer Group.

Paula has served as head of our Heritage Volunteer Group for 25 years – now that she has reached the grand age of 21+ a few years, she feels that it is time to step down. Over the years Paula has led a team working first at the Wren Library in Lincoln Cathedral, then her team went to work on Church Textiles, doing various renovations and refurbishments in many of our local churches. More recently Paula has successfully led the Heritage Volunteer team to work at the Spalding Gentleman's Society helping to maintain their wonderful collection of books and documents. This is an ongoing project and more volunteers are always needed, so do not be shy to come forward, you will always be made welcome and someone is always available to help you develop new skills in the restoration work.

Proposer Richard Hickling

Seconder Anna Maxey

8 APPOINTMENT of CHAIRMAN Mrs Theresa Hills

Proposer Paula Tunnard

Seconder Sally Harrison

9 APPOINTMENT of the COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman Anna Maxey

Hon Treasurer Diana Cross

Hon Secretary Liz Harris

Membership Sec Pauline Mcilwaine

Lecture Organiser Kate Pike

Outings Organiser Liz Harris

Young Arts Rep Pippa Kennedy

Sarah Neville

Wendy Worricker

Sue Lipscombe

1 To Appoint Mrs Meg Cowap as Auditor for the coming year

0 Proposer Nick Playne

Seconder David Neville

1 New Chairman's Address

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This last week (commemoration of 80 years since D Day) has led us to much reflection on the past. Our Arts Society in no way compares to the events of 80 years ago but reflection on the past can lead us to a greater understanding of the importance of our branch in our community. Some of you may know all this but I would like to highlight events which have led us here today.

First of all, a fairy tale. Once upon a time there was a young princess, (well, maybe not really!) who lived in a great metropolis. She didn't do much spinning, I'm not sure she even had a spinning wheel, but she enjoyed a full and varied cultural life. Then she met her prince and moved with him to a tiny village. She was very happy in her rural surrounding but missed the cultural aspect of her previous life so she thought in 1969 "I think I'll start an Art Society" as you do.

To be serious, in 1968, Polly Proctor read an article in a newspaper and wrote to the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) and the reply was that she should start a branch. And she did. This endeavour involved determination and imagination, and Polly Proctor was our first Chairman.

I wish to say thank you to our current Chairman, Sonia Playne, who with those same qualities and supported and promoted our society since 1998 when she took over from Polly.

Our current Vice-chairman, Paula Tunnard is also long-serving in her role and continues steadfastly to support us. Who make this society the success it is. I am privileged to be part.

There have been 26 Chairmen. I particularly wish to pay tribute to Diana Cross who persevered through Covid to bring us our Zoom lectures and Sarah Neville who has worked so hard to bring us out of the post-Covid slump.

But a chair is nothing without the talented and loyal members of the committees. The current committee has worked hard to introduce changes to improve the life of the meetings. I think we are glad they are good cooks.

But, most of all, I wish to pay tribute to our members who ensure a warm and welcoming atmosphere to our meetings, amaze us with the breadth of their cultural knowledge and provide practical help with teas, Church Recording, the Facebook site, the Heritage Volunteers and Young Arts.

It is each and every one of our members who make this society the success it is and I thank you. I am privileged to be part of that membership.

1 Any Other Business

2 None

The meeting started at 13.42 and closed at 14.02 approximately