

St Ives Arts Club
Committee Meeting 13th May 2025

10-12 Arts Club Theatre

Minutes

Present: Chris O'Reilly (COR) Chair, Suzanne Ellacott (SE), Steve Litherland (SL), Wendy Litherland (WL), Jo Grant (JG), Will Sleath (WS)

1. **Apologies for absence** - from John Kness (JK) plus, sent notes for discussion purposes.

2. **Minutes of meeting 4th February 2025**

2.1 Approval

Approved unanimously as a complete and accurate reflection of the previous meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

JK noted a number of actions have been ongoing for some while and asked to understand the issues behind delays and to set a deadline. Discussions held were that many items are being worked through, but as all were volunteers offering their time as trustees or committee members, it simply does take time.

No deadlines will be set.

Trustees and volunteers will work through necessary work in their own time.

Committee members, as always will do their best to take on works themselves. Gift aid will be parked for now as too much work for, relatively, small return'

3. **Reports**

3.1 President (COR) reviewed the last three months since last meeting,

Retrospective Exhibition ended - Success? Annual Event?

Members Exhibitions started - going fairly well

Events - Ukraine Evening and World Classics

Arts & Wine Event - Alan Holmes 15th March - more are lined up.

Arts Club Cards restocked.

Entrance Hall cleaned up - Hall Gallery started - 3 months now

Arts Club calendar is full - we are very busy.

It was agreed that the Retrospective Exhibition will be an annual event. A time to restore our stored paintings. Plan ahead better and have other events around the display, such as talks, by Janet Axten or David Tovey. Be good to find a way we can monetise some events, to raise money for the Arts Club. Plenty of time to plan ahead now

3.2 Member Services

Membership

2024/2025 Year - 153 members for £6230 in subscriptions

Last Year 2023/2024 - 153 members for £6130 subs

Last increase in members subscriptions from £30 to £40 was in 2019

Inflation since 2019 would take £40 close to £50

Can we discuss potential increase in annual fees ?

Gift Aid: not yet pursued - it is on the agenda, but can be backdated 4 years.

It was agreed unanimously that Membership Subscription would increase to £50 per member per annum - from 1st October. We will make members aware in advance.

As above we will not pursue gift aid right now. Perhaps in the future

Bookings - Exhibition Room

Fully Booked all year

Changes for 2026 bookings are necessary

TR postcode members only?

Others afterwards if any weeks left over

No one member can have more than 2 weeks (excluding group/members exhibitions)

Only Hanging Artists can book

As highlighted at the last committee meeting (and agreed by JK in his notes) It was agreed that we will look into introducing a rule whereby TR

and PL postcodes (ie Cornwall) only residents can book the exhibition room in the future. However, SL needs to check the constitution regarding excluding members from further afield – so TBA.

We will only allow each individual member two weeks maximum per annum. IE one week on their own or two weeks joined with one other (no more than ‘one’ other).

Only hanging artists can book a week – not partners of members etc. IE although all members have the right to book, if they themselves are not the artist, who will hang their own work, then they cannot – this is to discourage non artist members booking for their partners. New Terms and Conditions will be drawn up.

Treasurer

Started year with £37301 in bank

Building works - £18727

Buildings Insurance - £4282

PRS Licence - £714

Accounts sign off - £660

Total expenditure - £51637

Total Income - £39500

End of April £25164 - minus £12136

Still to pay

Trustee Indemnity - £300

Ringfenced - £4530

Grant for film project £3100, Stage Grant £650, Picture Fund £280, Legal Fee Provision £500

Free Funds - £20634

Need to slow down on the spending

(No savings account will be considered at present – we need higher funds to diversify savings)

It was agreed the ringfenced amounts can be altered as follows

Remove Legal Fee Provision

Picture Fund – keep at £280

Stage Grant - £650

File Project – leave amount as £3100, but highly unlikely this amount will be used for a film project.

3.3 World Classics

Will was not as enthused by the last World Classics (Portugal/Fado) as many of the attendees! but pleased it was a successful event. Nothing planned at present but hoping very much to have a new World Classics in the Autumn

3.4 Entertainment Officer/ September Festival

Steve and Jo updated the committee regarding the September Festival – 120+ tickets sold already for £1700+. This year's Festival will be different with new acts. New groups/ Touring theatre (possibly) different to previous years.

We will use our own Festival Helpers this year, no 'September Festival' helpers. Already we have enough helpers to cover the acts.

Steve needs to purchase DI boxes, but not expensive.

3.5 House Manager

We will be sorting out the cupboards in the theatre on 16th May, so hope to throw out some old stored materials, and clean up any rat problems.

The 6pm earliest arrival rule for incoming exhibitors is working, where it is followed. Many members do not read the rules, or abide by changes made and assume they can turn up willy nilly. We will keep reminding them , and excluding early arrivals.

3.6 Social Committee

Art and Wine going well, four more booked for this year, 24th May – Clare Hughes, 5th July – Chris Dawe, 16th August Michael, 13th December – Leana.

Steve and Jo to purchase a camera for better display of artists demonstrations.

4. The Crypt Exhibition

Why?

New experience for many members

Raise Arts Club profile across the town

Build links with the Society of Artists (STISA)

Another 'benefit' of membership

Arts Club earning potential

A bit of fun -

Question - could we hold a music event, in the Crypt or nearby. Evening shoppers /

Evening opening / PV for all members - really make a big song and dance.

Cost £450

41 members are now on the list - potential for 3/4 hanging artworks each plus pots/cards etc.

Question? Fee or Commission

Fixed Fee

£20 each, £820 - £450 = £370 profit

£25 each, £1025 - £440 = £575 profit

£30 each, £1230 - £450 = £780 profit

Or Fixed Fee plus commission? (not 30%)

(Do we need a sumup solo machine - £70?)

With 41 members involved, it was agreed that we will charge £20 per member plus 10% commission on sales. We will also encourage late openings and have some music event/s and flyers to draw in tourists. SL and JG to plan the music.

We will also purchase a new Sumup Solo for use at this event and back up for the Arts Club.

5.Repairs, Improvements and Maintenance

COR read out JK's note to committee and also highlighted an email sent in from Brian Selman regarding improvements. Discussions were held

It was agreed that we will not employ an external professional to paint the windows. We will keep the costs down and use our own resources. The Arts Club entrance from Westcotts Quay will be improved, as previously planned, in the better weather.

The upper wooden boards were painted in an expensive, salt water resistant paint when the scaffolding was up in December. So we will not be repainting it for some years.

The high up, 'St Ives Arts Club' sign was given planning permission in the 60's and is positioned high enough to see from further afield. Most agree it is well positioned and will not be moved

We are restricted in what can be done to a listed building in a conservation area, but all agree more work needs to be carried out to the lower Westcotts Quay, entrance, signs, walls and doorway to improve appearance.

The door signs will be replaced and a further poster notice for exhibitors will be made available.

5. AOB

It was agreed COR could offer a prize of £100 for the competition to paint the Arts Club – not many have entered yet, so an incentive is needed!

It was agreed we will not keep/store/display, cards and posters from non-arts Club members. We simply do not have the room. We will only display Arts Club materials

Hall Review.

This was requested by JK who sent in notes and COR read them out to the committee.

In short, the existing terms are £10 per painting per month – to be paid again if the work sells and is replaced, with no commission payable.

Every member can display their work, by rotation from when they have applied online. There is no discrimination against any member. There is no priority system, it is very simple, open to every single member, on a rotating basis.

This has raised £590 for the club over 3 months.

COR read out the proposition, put forward by JK, who suggested;

The incumbent exhibitor in the main gallery, could have sole use of the hall.

This was discussed but rejected. Many exhibitors could not fill the hall as well as the main gallery, also many would not want to use the hall – leaving the hall empty for their week. The eclectic mix of works in the hall offer the visitor an alternative to the main exhibitors work.

Terms – fixed fee versus commission .

This was discussed at length and it was decided to stick with the current terms.

The reasons being;

To date, a fixed fee has been shown to be far better for the club than commission.

It provides a guaranteed monthly income

It has also been a bonus for those members who have sold.

So a total win-win for the club and the members who have sold. No member is excluded or discriminated against.

This ‘two tier’ system is the same for every single member – there is no ‘unfairness’ Everyone can and should take advantage of the favourable terms – and support their club.

It was unanimously agreed to keep the terms as they are until at least the end of this year.

SL

Steve highlighted the trustees were working through many Health and Safety/Fire Safety/compliance issues which we do need to address

An Accident Book has been made available and must be used for more serious accidents.

A handrail should be put up the stairs on the left hand side, due to the width of the stairs. But no stairflit at present.

COR suggested we set up a webpage, where many of these issues could be covered, We can refer all members, exhibitors and other theatre bookers to this page. We can inform everyone who uses the club, where these documents are held, and that they need to read these before exhibitions etc.