

AVONCROFT ARTS SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORTS

For the

73rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at

AVONCROFT ARTS CENTRE

IN THE FORGE

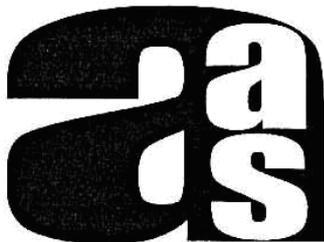
On

MONDAY 24th JUNE 2019

7 p.m. for 7.30pm

PRESIDENT

Mr R Cadbury M.A.



**avoncroft arts
society**

Avoncroft Arts Society
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Tel: 01527 833829 (Answerphone)
Email: avoncroftarts@btconnect.com.
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AVONCROFT ARTS SOCIETY - Registered Charity No: 235231

LIST OF OFFICERS 2017/2018

PRESIDENT

Mr R Cadbury M.A.

VICE PRESIDENTS:

OFFICERS:

Chairman	Mr A Turpin
Vice-Chairman	Mr P Baker
Treasurer	Mr R M Norton
Secretary	(Vacant)

TRUSTEES/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Mr A Turpin, Mr M. Norton, Mr P Baker, Mrs V Rees, Mr B Stanton, Mr G Crooks.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Chairman, Treasurer and Vice Chairman.

SITE FACILITIES MANAGER

Mr T Day

ADMINISTRATOR/ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Mrs J Crabtree

ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR

Mr M Scrimshaw

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MEMBER GROUP CONTACTS (or telephone the office on 01527 833829)

Painting Section - Painting Tutors

Mr R Crabtree

Mrs L Blakeway

Mrs P McGregor

Mr T Clarke

Ms J Selcuk

Pottery Group/Clay Modelling/Raku - Tutors

Mrs J McMillan and Mrs J Millward

Art Textiles – Group Rep

Cathy Hunt, Mrs V Richardson

Adventures in Embroidery – Group Rep

Mrs S Russell

Folk Dance Group

Chairman Mrs Jean Sillitoe

Treasurer Mr P Lines

Secretary Mrs E Stanton

Leisure Painting

Contact office

Sugarcraft

Pat Williams

**AVONCROFT ARTS SOCIETY IS A Registered Charity – No. 235231
and an associate member of Bromsgrove Arts Alive**

Avoncroft Arts Society – Chairman’s Report 2019

It has been another busy and successful year at the Avoncroft Arts Society for all involved, be they members, tutors, office staff or Trustees.

Last year in my report I announced that we would be saying goodbye to 3 tutors – Margaret Clarke, Jo Pardoe and Neil Spalding at the end of the summer term. I would like to thank them again for their contributions to Avoncroft over the years they taught here. It was arranged that Neil’s pottery class would be taken over by Janet Millward who had been a member of the Monday pottery class for a number of years. The class has been moved from Wednesday morning to Tuesday morning. We set about finding replacement art tutors in the summer. After passing the word around and advertising locally, we received about a dozen expressions of interest. Four candidates were invited to interviews which led to 2 offers, both of which were accepted. Thanks to Richard Crabtree and Pam McGregor for attending the interviews and giving their professional opinions. As a result, I would like to welcome Judith Selcuk and Lou Blakeway to Avoncroft as our 2 new art tutors. Judith has taken over from Jo Pardoe on Tuesday and Friday and Lou from Margaret on Wednesday. Unfortunately, the Thursday evening class has had to be discontinued.

Annette Stanley, who had worked at Avoncroft for over 30 years announced that she would like to retire from her bookkeeping role at the end of the year. We have enjoyed her friendship and appreciated her dedication to the society over the years and she will be very much missed by all. We wish her a very happy retirement.

We also have to say our goodbyes to Sarah Hatfield, who sadly passed away recently. Sarah was a long standing and very enthusiastic friend of the society who contributed much over the years as an artist and committee member. Sarah’s family arranged to raise money for the Worcester Snoezelen charity by holding a sale of Sarah’s art materials. Thanks go to Rose Danes, Pat Havard and all Sarah’s friends who were involved in this event which raised over £500 from members who were invited to the Garden Room one Saturday morning to make donations for the materials they wanted. Some of this was donated to the Society to help with the garden project and a rose was planted in Sarah’s memory.

Alyson Jewson resigned as a Trustee in March. Alyson became a Trustee primarily to raise money for the society from any grants which might be available. In this she was very successful and the garden and Main Hall kitchen refurbishment projects both benefitted from her efforts. We would like to thank her for her time and effort and wish her all the best for the future.

I would like to welcome Brian Stanton and Gary Crookes who were both elected as Trustees at last year’s AGM. Val Rees has attended committee meetings as a representative of the dance group for some time and was also elected as a full Trustee last year.

A welcome also goes to Martin Scrimshaw who joined the office team in January to replace Annette in the role of bookkeeper. Martin joins us at a time when we have just changed our bank from Natwest to HSBC and he is in the process of moving us more towards on-line banking. This has gone smoothly so far with on-line payments in and out generally becoming the norm, although subscriptions and class fees payments will still be by cash/cheque for some time.

In last year's report I mentioned that the lead had been stolen from the Main Hall roof. This led to a major problem with water entering the building. We had suspected for a while that the roof would need replacing at some point in the future and had set money aside for this eventuality. The decision was taken to completely replace the Main Hall roof and this work was undertaken during the summer and autumn months. The hall had to be shut for a period which led to the cancellation of many bookings and consequent loss of income. I would like to thank Tim for his efforts in organising this major piece of work and managing it through to completion with as little disruption as was possible to the society. While the Main Hall was closed, we took the opportunity to update the kitchen, using a grant that Alyson had obtained from Bromsgrove District Council. Roger Cadbury also donated money to the kitchen refurbishment, specifically for the purchase of new crockery, cutlery etc.

Another large project which has been completed this year is the creation of a sensory garden inside the walled garden behind the Garden Room. This has been largely paid for by grants from Bromsgrove District Council and the Brandsford Trust arranged by Alyson. Other funds came from the sale of Sarah's art materials, the Ukulele group and Amateur Radio Club who have both sometimes hired the Garden Room, the Xmas raffle and Ecclesiastical Insurance who sponsored a volunteer to spend a day tidying the garden generally (thanks to Derek Stancombe). Many thanks go to everyone who helped build the garden, especially to Joyce, Richard and Tim who put in the hard work. I'm sure that the members will greatly enjoy this new facility.

The grounds and buildings are looking better than ever. For this, I would like to thank Tim for his efforts over the year. Also, thanks to the cleaners and our new gardener (from Wisteria Cleaning and Garden Services) for keeping the rooms clean and improving the tidiness of the grounds generally.

This year saw the annual exhibition move from its usual June date. The exhibition we held in March was one of the best and most successful ever in terms of both the number and standard of exhibits and the number of people who attended over the weekend. The Friday night opening for members was once again very well attended. Thanks to everyone who helped to put this exhibition on and to everyone who volunteered to steward, serve refreshments and bake cakes. Another highly enjoyable Quiz Night was held in March.

Thanks go to all who ensure the smooth running of the society - Tim, Joyce and Martin in the office and to all our painting tutors – Richard, Pam, Judith, Lou and Terry, pottery tutors Jane and Janet. Also, to those who organise the self-help groups – Pat Williams - Sugarcraft, Marion Whitehouse - Leisure Painters, Sue Russell - Embroidery and Cathy Hunt - Art Textiles.

Finally, I would like to thank the other members of the Committee for their continued work - Mike Norton our Treasurer and Peter Baker our Vice Chairman and Brian Stanton, Gary Crookes and Val Rees our Trustees. As ever, we are indebted to Roger Cadbury our President and to Bournville Village Trust for their continued support.

Art Tutors/Group Reports 2019

AAS Administrator – The Society has 174 members attending our 16 art classes, with 6 tutors who each offer diverse teaching methods and learning/social experiences within their classes. We generally do not need to advertise and have always been able to fill a vacant space. Whether members are working, self-employed, unemployed or retired, we try to find a place for everyone, by providing evening and daytime classes and weekend workshops.

Art Richard Crabtree – Another year of learning and creativity slips by and we turn our attention to the future. I would like to thank all of you who have attended classes this year for continuing to support Avoncroft Arts Society, I hope you have enjoyed your painting and possibly learned something new.

For the 70 members attending my six classes, I have endeavoured to suggest a variety of themes this year and demonstrated techniques and methods of painting and drawing in a variety of mediums. As we head towards summer my subject is "the attempt to portray movement" in painting. I will be demonstrating this in watercolour and acrylic.

For the watercolour classes I am planning to introduce paper stretching and techniques with brushwork. Thank you to the trustees and office workers who work so hard to ensure we all still have an art society to come to.

I look forward to continuing next term and wish a happy summer to one and all.

Richard

Art Pam McGregor - There have been 12 members attending the Tuesday morning group and 11 for the Tuesday afternoon. We have had 3 new members joining the groups this year, and all have settled in well, 2 of which exhibited paintings at this year's exhibition.

Term 1 - We began the term improving drawing skills, using pencil and coloured pencils, creating some lovely pieces of work. The class revisited methods using the grid system to draw, before completing a painting.

Term 2 - We decided to venture into abstract work, which surprisingly people really took on board and produced some fabulous paintings. The remainder of the term was spent working on a theme of the 'four elements' which gave people an opportunity to choose their own images and medium to create as many paintings as they wanted.

Term 3 - Palette knife work was the technique we chose to try, and again the members really did well to create some lovely paintings. To end the term, we are going to give printing a try, using mono printing technique. The members will be given an option to try more printing or to work on individual paintings of their own choice

Art Judith Selcuk - This academic year has been very busy at Avoncroft Arts Society in both the Tuesday morning and Friday morning groups and I feel both have had a very successful year too.

Tuesday Morning group. Autumn – Winter Term 2018 - During this term we took the time to get to know each other and explore new ideas and materials. Students created winter and seasonal themed artwork and I had them professionally printed into Christmas cards for most group members which looked absolutely fantastic and I hope that we do it again this coming year.

Spring Term 2019 - The group explored still life/autumn leaves in pastels using soft pastels as well as pastel pencils on coloured paper. They have painted in acrylics depicting lighthouses in sunset. Experimented in pen and ink with watercolour. Took part in a group project recreating a Cotswold street scene with watercolour or oils. Some group members preferred to work on their own artwork which is perfectly acceptable too and encouraged within the group as much as group project work.

Summer Term 2019 - This term the group is exploring the theme of gardens and working on pen and ink sketches with watercolour and being encouraged to build up a sketchbook instead of creating finished pieces constantly. Group members are exploring alternative art materials whilst still being supported to continue with their own projects if preferred. The group has a lovely friendly atmosphere and is very supportive of each other, they are very open to exploring new ideas and techniques as well as developing their current ones and I do feel has really grown in confidence. They have been a pleasure to teach this year!

Friday Morning group - Autumn – Winter Term 2018 - As with the Tuesday group we spent this term getting to know each other, discovering new techniques and exploring new media that they hadn't used before or in different ways than previously used. This group also created Christmas cards if they wished which I had printed for them into cards which I hope they do again or create a calendar in which they could gift to family and friends.

Spring Term 2019 - During the Spring term the group was divided into some students that preferred to work on their own artwork which is encouraged and the remainder which had a theme of floral art. We focussed on floral art rather than botanical as we did not want to follow the strict rules but wished to be freer and creative. Some used watercolour or acrylics and some inks and all were very successful! The second half of the term the group studied Urban Sketching looking at the work of Ian Fleming as an example and choosing places that had meaning to them. Using Ink-tense paint or watercolour and simplified pen and ink without the use of rulers and drawing aids the group really embraced this project and some have continued this into the Summer term as they have enjoyed it so much. Smaller groups have worked on graphite sketching, still life in pastels, oils and acrylics.

Summer Term - Students are currently working on their own projects at present and some will be focussing on gouache on their return. Acrylics are very popular with half of the class currently choosing to paint with them, one student is exploring Brusho which is a totally new media to them and thoroughly enjoying the experimentation. Two students are concentrating on coloured pencils and two further are continuing with urban sketching were possible as they enjoyed it so much and really excelled at it. They are a very busy group with a great camaraderie and atmosphere that are a pleasure to teach!

Both Tuesday and Friday groups entered the members exhibition with only a couple of exceptions which I think is incredible participation. I am really proud of them and their level of commitment and wish to personally thank them for their support this year, I was a very proud tutor indeed!

Art Lou Blakeway - Avoncroft AGM Tutor Statement, for the Wednesday am and pm classes. My first-year teaching at Avoncroft has been a pleasurable one both for me and hopefully for the groups. We have explored a range of themes and mediums including drawing, painting and printmaking.

Art Terry Clarke – It's been a busy year with the group. At the heart of the class is the enjoyment of creative activity and the friendly atmosphere and communication between the members. We have tackled various small projects including Process to abstraction Landscape and colour Working like Bonnard. This has been alongside each member of the class developing their own ideas and creative approach. A good deal of learning takes place through discussion of each other's work and with my historical contextualising at the start of projects.

Everybody is keen to learn new ways of working and are ready to challenge themselves with ambitious subjects. Mary Grizzell won the best painting award at the annual exhibition and other members have sold and exhibited work throughout the year. The group continues to improve, and we look forward to meeting up each term to explore painting technique and ideas together. Another very successful year to date.

The Pottery – Jane McMillan & Janet Millward

It has been another successful year for all those who are members of the pottery classes. At the Annual Exhibition this year the pottery groups put on an impressive display of work which showed the range of ideas and techniques that everyone has worked on.

Janet Millward has taken over running the Tuesday class which she is enjoying very much, there are some spaces available and new members would be very welcome. All classes are suitable for beginners and those with experience of clay working and you can choose which methods and projects you want to work on. At the moment the Monday class is full so anyone interested in the session can put their name on the waiting list.

Neil Spalding, previously a tutor, is now giving support to the pottery by organising kiln firings as well as ordering and fetching materials, this is much appreciated.

Lectures in the History of Art, Design & Architecture - Jane McMillan –

The Group has been well attended over the last year and there are now up to 12 members. We have been studying a wide variety of art, design and architecture from several different countries and centuries. In the autumn term the topic was the work of Picasso considering the range of media he used – paint, print, drawing, sculpture, collage, as well as designs for stage sets and costumes. From January to Easter we went back a few centuries to study the work of Pieter Bruegel the Elder and his sons. Currently we are studying the changes in art, design and architecture in Britain during the Edwardian Era.

There are five or six lectures per term, on Thursday afternoons from 2 – 4pm with a break for refreshments. You do not need to have studied Art History before, just come with an interest in the subject; there is plenty of time for questions and discussion. If you would like to join, please enquire at the office.

Self-Help Group Reports 2018

Sugarcraft Group – Pat Williams –

The start of the term was delayed due to work being carried out on the roof to the Main Hall and the Kitchen refurbishment but despite this the Sugarcraft Group continued and is still a vibrant enthusiastic Group albeit a small one, we now total five members on a regular basis.

The Sugarcraft Group again entered the Quiz this year and improved their final place by one but an enjoyable evening all the same and we look forward to a further improvement next year.

We have worked on a number of individual projects throughout and had a lovely varied display in the Main Hall for the Annual Art Exhibition held at the end of March and was well attended and hopefully sparked some interest in our Group.

I hope that the interest and enthusiasm for the Sugarcraft Group continues to grow and that we gain a few more members when we

Adventures in Embroidery – Sue Russell

Our self-help embroidery group continues to thrive, and as some members have had to leave, they have quickly been replaced so numbers remain constant.

We are an eclectic mix, with varied creative styles, but we continue to support each other, offering advice, instruction or just admiration. We decided on the topic of Leaves for the Autumn term, and worked on a group piece as well as individual printing, dying and embroidery.

Nearer Christmas we focussed on a Winter wall hanging, and then in the New Year we discovered elephants in all their forms, exploring Kantha work, alongside Indian embroidery, trying to master the technique of Shisha mirrors.

We felt the display at the exhibition reflected the wide range of interests and abilities of our members, but an important part of the group is the support and friendship we all have for each other.

Art Textile Group – Kathy Hunt

Art Textiles is a lively self-help group which meets between 10:00 and 16:00 on Thursdays twice monthly throughout the year.

Members have a broad range of skills and interests including embroidery, felt-making, mixed media, patchwork, quilting, drawing and design all of which is broadly textile based. We aim to share our ideas and interests within the group throughout the year.

We regularly schedule 'in house' workshops which occur roughly termly. This year we have explored various ways of finding new inspiration and developing designs and recording ideas in sketchbooks. Although members generally work on their own individual projects, we also generously share our skills and give each other advice and encouragement

Avoncroft Folk Dance Group Report 2019

Average attendance is currently 29. Last year it was 26, and the year before 20.5, so a healthy situation. In addition to our regular Thursday evening meetings, there were several events throughout 2018 to date, which are now written regularly into the club's calendar.

May 12th a Saturday evening dance with Caller Bernie Caulkin and music from Maggie and David – MaD.

June 30th a Regency Ball at St Martin's Church in Worcester where dancers wore Regency costume or smart attire, with Caller Brian Stanton, and music from Cat's Whiskers.

July 23rd A Skittles evening at Archdales, where we also enjoyed a fish and chip supper.

July 30th A social gathering at the home of Liz and Brian Stanton, where once again the weather was kind, allowing us to dance on the lawn, before sharing a magnificent supper. We are very grateful to Liz and Brian for their hospitality.

November 3rd an afternoon workshop, American Supper and an evening Ball where folk changed into Regency or Georgian costume or smart attire. Caller Hilary Herbert, with music from Patchwork.

November 30th we again went to the Eagle and Sun for a pre-Christmas meal.

December 20th Worcester Players filled the stage to play for the last club night of 2018.

December 31st New Year's Eve Party, where we enjoyed a candlelit bring and share supper, dancing, quiz, entertainment from some of the members, and fizz to welcome in the New Year.

January 5th A challenging afternoon workshop led by Sue Horsham, a jacket potato supper with a variety of puddings to follow, all provided by some of the group members, and co-ordinated by Liz. This was followed by an evening of dancing, where we persuaded ourselves that we were working off the calories!

March 2nd an evening dance with Caller Maggie Hoskin and music from Double Trouble. Maggie and the musicians were booked for the March dance in 2018, but it had to be cancelled due to snow. We booked them for 2019 and kept our fingers crossed and had a super evening.

May 11th an evening dance with caller Frances Richardson with music from Maggie and David – MaD. All the events have been very successful, and all have been fully booked. We have had to warn people not to leave booking too late as they may be disappointed. Liz will remind us of forthcoming events in her report.

We once again remained open in July and for 3 evenings in August, where many folks joined us as their clubs were closed for the summer. Homemade cakes were an added attraction. This now seems to be a permanent fixture in our programme.

The Georgian display team have not been so busy this last year. Unfortunately, when bookings have been offered, not enough members have been available to make up a team. We all lead quite busy lives, and have other interests and commitments, so to get us all together at the same time is becoming a problem.

I should like to thank all the members of the committee who work so hard on behalf of the group. Peter, our Treasurer, has been a reliable custodian of our funds for many years, guiding and advising expenditure. Recently, the committee decided, with the blessing of the Treasurer, to install a new sound system. This has transformed the setting up of the equipment, and the quality of sound. Visiting callers may still prefer to bring their own equipment.

Liz, as secretary, does a sterling job. Having been secretary in a former group, I'm only too aware of the time spent on email and phone calls, ensuring that we can just turn up each week in the knowledge that caller and music will be in place for us to have an enjoyable evening. Bookings for the Saturday events have to be made a long way ahead to ensure that the callers and musicians we

should like are available. Liz achieves this Herculean task with efficiency and good humour. As a committee we only meet about 3 times a year, but a quick, informal chat achieves a great deal as members just jump into action when required. They have a particularly important role at the Saturday dances, and they all work really hard on these occasions. In addition, all the committee members are on a rota for opening and closing the hall, again ensuring that we can just turn up and get on with the evening.

As well as the committee, our thanks also go out to all our members who take it in turns to be on the refreshment rota. Many of you also assist us at the Saturday events, by just seeing that something needs to be done and getting on with it.

We are very lucky to have so many callers within our own club – Mu, Laura, Trish, Brian and Annie. In addition, we have several visiting callers. All have different styles, and we all have our favourites. It's impossible to please everyone all the time, but it's good to have variety. We try to have a high standard of dancing, but we also have fun.

There is a really friendly atmosphere in the group. It's so good to see how many of you mix on the dance floor, not waiting to be asked, but taking the initiative, and asking someone to dance. At some clubs, people only dance with the partner they came with, and this can be very off – putting to those who come alone. At Avoncroft we want to welcome and encourage newcomers. Our callers are very good at walking through dances to ensure that we all have a chance to succeed, and this sometimes means a longer walkthrough for someone who is new, and I commend your patience when this happens. We have to remember that new dancers have to learn a new language, and in the heat of the dance, process the call and transform it into a movement in the blink of an eye. This is where the more experienced dancers have to assist, without, of course, pushing and pulling, as this can really upset the newcomer. We have to learn to use gestures, rather like a "traffic cop", indicating where the dancer should be going.

Dancing is high on the list of activities to contribute to mental and physical well-being. We want everyone to enjoy their dancing, go home with a smile on their face, looking forward to the next week.

Avoncroft Folk Dance Group Chair.

SITE FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT. – TIM DAY
24.06.2019

- Main Hall roof replaced and insulated using Art Society funds.

- Main Hall kitchen replaced using funding from Bromsgrove District Council's New Homes Bonus scheme.

- Kitchen crockery and equipment replaced using a £500 grant from Arts Society President Roger Cadbury.

- Main Hall fire escape doors replaced using Arts Society funds.

- New member's garden area created using grant funding from various sources.

- Annual PAT testing has been carried out.

- Nursery Service Level Agreement renewal currently being negotiated.

- Workshop 2 has a new tenant.