



## Valley Arts and Crafts

Minutes of the AGM  
held at the Methodist Hall, Welshpool  
on Tuesday 25th March 2014



### **Members Present:**

Pam and Stu Parnell, Hilda Fix, Bronwyn Strugnell, Marie Ashton, Parveen Nazar, Shirley Morris, Margery Youden, Penny Vingoe, Richard and Janet Baddiley, Ian and Annie Smith, Tony Caplin, Abi Crutcher, Pauline Lympany, Lin and Joe Isherwood, Elaine and Philip Tulley, Angela and Ivor Hawkins, Ted and Diana Rogers, Clive Potter

### **Apologies:**

Deb English, Beth McPhee, Stella Gratrix, Dot Weston, Pam Rundle, Jean and Tony Maitland, Becca Tansley, Daphne Bursell, Mike Browning

**Minutes of the last AGM:** Approved

### **Chairman's Report:**

Hilda opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for making up a quorum in order to vote on a committee. She thanked Angela, Pam, Richard, Ivor and Penny for all their hard work last year along with all who volunteered to work in the shop. She also reminded the group that we held two of our own events in the past VAC year, one at Llanymynech and one at Llanyblodwell, neither of which were particularly successful as there seems to be a downfall at a lot of the shows due to the recession. She thanked Richard for continuing his sterling work, working out the commissions for us, a job which he is willing to continue even though they will only be associate members now that they have moved to Stoke. Talks that were held throughout the year included Ted with his boxes, David with his calligraphy, Penny with her kumhimo braid worked on a Marudai and her clay and Hilda thanked them all. The group also continued the idea of having a show and tell table where people could bring in items to shows others, either something they had just finished, a piece of work they were particularly proud of, an item quite different to what they normally are known for or a special award or prize they have just received. The members present really enjoyed this and it led to lots of discussions over a cup of tea or coffee after each meeting. She told the group that we now have a Facebook page which is brilliant for networking. In order to access the page which is entitled Valley Arts and crafts you need to have a Facebook membership which simply entails adding your name and date of birth

only. You can then add pictures of your work along with any information about the work or what you are up to. So far it has attracted a fair few of our members and also people who are crafters but not actually members either because they don't live in the area or who don't wish to join us. It is a case of use it or lose it like everything else so please keep it alive with news, pictures and information. You can add your own website address to it which is another good way of people finding you. Likewise the website that Penny has made for Valley Arts and Crafts is doing well. This also needs feeding with information regularly to keep it up in the ratings. Members are welcome to have their own page on the website so if you haven't already done so please visit it at [www.valleyartsandcrafts.co.uk](http://www.valleyartsandcrafts.co.uk) and add a page. As a reminder, the password for the members section is 'Llanfair'. If you aren't sure how to upload pictures etc, Penny is quite happy to do this for you if you contact her. Penny also has Badges which she made for VAC members which should be worn at all events in order to advertise who we are. If you haven't already got yours then please contact Penny. There is a small charge for these.

### Treasurer's Report:

Angela went through the accounts below which show a loss on the income side of things but less paid out in expenditure compared to the previous year. Considering we lost the whole of Easter due to the snow the shop is managing to hold its own thanks to the volunteers who are running it.

#### Valley Arts & Crafts Annual Accounts from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

Income			Expenditure		
	Dec 2012	Dec 2013		Dec 2012	Dec 2013
Subscriptions	£1,280.00	£1,280.00	RoomHire	£198.00	£156.00
Insurance	841.70	£1,018.00	Insurance	1,047.71	1,181.15
Craft Sales	240.00	131.01	Craft Sales	105.00	42.00
Other	208.87	152.51	Card Machine	473.00	516.57
Credit Card Sales	5,192.45	4,483.34	Payments to Mbs	8,477.36	10,054.07
Cash Sales	7,459.48	6,311.83	Rates	nil	nil
Interest	2.17	1.82	Water	102.10	106.54
	<u>£15,224.67</u>	<u>£13,378.51</u>	Rent	787.50	945.00
			Telephone	230.38	254.87
			Electric	139.00	234.00
			Craft Supplies	300.94	115.37
			Adverts & Stationery	596.25	224.14
			Web Site	40.07	nil
			Other	50.00	418.26
				<u>£14,569.05</u>	<u>£14,247.97</u>
<b>Bank Balance 31/12/12</b>			<b>Bank Balance 31/12/13</b>		
Community A/C	1,086.59		Community A/C	603.41	
Money Manager	<u>3,517.48</u>		Money Manager	<u>2,950.33</u>	
	4,604.07			3,553.74	
Income	<u>13,378.51</u>		Expenditure	<u>14,247.97</u>	
	17,982.58			17,801.71	
plus uncl. chqs	<u>28.00</u>		plus prev uncl chqs	<u>208.87</u>	
	<u>18,010.58</u>			<u>18,010.58</u>	

Checked & found correct

Signed *A. Jones*  
 Address *Glasfryn, Pont Robert*  
 Date *3-3-14*

## **Appointment of officers:**

Pam thanked two of our members, Marge Youden and Shirley Morris for actually filling in their forms, the only ones to do so! Pam had about 16 replies to her last email asking for responses, the vast majority of whom basically said ‘if it aint broke, don’t fix it’, ie the committee should continue in their posts. Hilda felt that this should be discussed at a later date. The results of the polling were as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	Hilda Fix	Marge Youden	Ian Smith
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Shirley Morris	Pam Parnell	Bronwyn Strugnell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Angela Hawkins	Beth McPhee	Shirley Morris
<b>Secretary</b>	Pam Parnell	Angela Hawkins	Marge Youden
<b>Press Officer</b>	Ivor Hawkins	Shirley Morris	Hilda Fix
<b>Webmaster</b>	Penny Vingoe	Hilda Fix	Parveen Nazar

## **Honorarium:**

The question of how much people felt should be awarded to Angela and Pam in order to cover the cost of phonecalls, paper, printing ink, postage, laminating etc was brought up and discussed. Last year they received £20 each but it seemed to group felt it should be increased. Ian Smith and Tony Caplin both said they felt a figure of £50 was much more appropriate and the group agreed. They also agreed to give the auditor of our accounts a cheque for £25 as a thank you as she doesn’t charge us.

## **Any other business:**

Angela noticed that the 1<sup>st</sup> July was not covered in the shop and Tony Caplin agreed to fill in for the day. She also noted that the accounts for last month were static as the shop wasn’t yet open.

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## **Ordinary Meeting**

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved

## **Upcoming events:**

Elaine Tulley mentioned about the craft fair at Guilsfield show in August and that anyone interested should contact Sue Southam on 01938590269.

Angela mentioned that the date of the Llanfair show this year is 30<sup>th</sup> August. The entry forms will be available from Angela at a later date.

Penny also mentioned a possible show at Wem, further details will be available later.

Pammy Jones and Brooks Community Centre in Berriew are having work displayed as part of an Arts and Crafts circuit.

### **Shop cleaning and restocking:**

Shop cleaning and restocking will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 11am onwards. Members are asked that they either bring their stock back on that day or get it to either Angela or Pam before the day. Other than that if it could be dropped off at Heather's next door to the shop but please ring her first to confirm that this is ok. Her number is 01691870346. There will be a press release announcing the opening of the shop on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Workshops and Tutorials:**

Becca and Penny went to a Taster Day in Oswestry Library where there were 13 demonstrators and Hilda went to visit to see what was happening and discovered that it was very well attended and that we could do the same thing here in the hall. VAC would pay for the hire of the room and we could have members demonstrating and members of the public having a go. The cost of material if needed would be paid for by the public if they want to have a go. It was suggested that we could do this on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 10 – 4 if the room is free. Angela will confirm. So far, Ted, Stu, Pam, Pauline, Annie, Abi, Angela, Penny and Tony have come forward. Anyone else interested let Pam know. The idea would be to promote VAC and attempt to get more members. We would have brochures and enrolment forms out on a table. We would also have a display of shop goods out for members of the public to see and purchase if they want. We also want to get more people to visit the shop, so by showing ourselves and what we do in an informal and proactive manner could boost membership and sales. Bronwyn came up with the title 'Craft in Action'. Pam will design a poster to be put on the internet and posted around Welshpool and the area. It might even be possible to have tea, coffee and cake for sale if anyone would like to volunteer.

Angela has suggested that Nicola Knapton who does felt pictures would be an interesting talk and as such she is going to approach her to see if she would come to one of our meetings to give an hour talk or demonstration. It was suggested that we have our meeting in the back room at 7.30 as usual and have a speaker in the big room at 8pm for an hour. It could also be opened up to the public for a small fee. All to be confirmed at a later date. Penny also knows a potter who may be interested and she is going to approach him .

Tony Caplin has offered to give a talk entitled 'Photographing your craft' after the April meeting, Pam Parnell will give a talk and demonstration on 'Making hand made paper' after the May meeting and Pauline Lympany will give a talk on her Indian Crafts after the June meeting. Anyone else interested in giving a talk or doing a demonstration, please contact Pam. Please put these dates in your diaries.

The show and tell table will also continue so please bring work to show other members over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

### **Any other business:**

Ian Smith has something called a 'Craft Crusader' on their website which is proving to be very popular. Basically they are highlighting another artist or crafter from a different field to their own and obviously this means lots more networking which can only be a good thing. All they would need is a small biography and a few pictures to go with it. When they are ready for more 'Crusaders' they will let me know and I in turn will let you know.

### **Email responses to Pam's last email:**

After Pam emailed the group last time she had 16 responses which is not wonderful considering the size of the group but nevertheless was better than nothing which she had encountered up until then. Hilda read out the following two email which seemed to reflect what other people were saying and raised several topics which need to be discussed but as there is a lot to deal with here at the AGM Hilda will raise the issues at a later meeting but you should be able to get the gist of it from the emails.

*Hi Pam,*

*I can't say I'm surprised you feel this way, but I'm sorry that you do. it doesn't really seem fair for such a small number of people to have to carry on providing a service for others that won't/can't commit to taking part in this simple way.*

*I wonder if the group should stipulate attendance at a set number of meetings per year as part of the conditions of membership? We may never get reasonable responses to emails, but people do offer opinions if they turn up. I know in the past that we have had members who have joined solely for the insurance, that has always struck me as the group allowing itself to be taken advantage of.*

*I feel especially rotten now as I won't be able to attend the AGM this year and I'm really sorry about that.*

*I would like to nominate Hilda to continue as Chair, you to continue as Secretary and Angela as Treasurer. I am aware that none of you are keen to continue this long-term and can't really blame you. My nominations are based on the brilliant job you guys have been doing.*

*Maybe it's time for the group to look into how long any one person keeps such a post as it does seem more and more like the majority are not taking part in this and that leaves the same small core making a hurried decision on the night of the AGM and that leaves the same dedicated few to shoulder the main responsibilities for running the group.*

*That's not a lot of help I know.*

*See you soon,*

*Becca*

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*Hello Pam,*

*I did e-mail you after I received the last minutes to say that I did not know people to nominate. Probably because as you say not everyone attends the meetings. If you need me to nominate or second Penny I will do so as I know she is willing to stand again.*

*I really do appreciate all the hard work you put in and also the other committee members. I have not been a member for very long but I can see what a great job has been done.*

*There was so much enthusiasm and hard work from the beginning and it cannot be sustained by the same people year after year.*

*I belong to several groups where the same thing is happening and I am not putting myself forward to even the local ones.*

*I know that I do not have the ability or the necessary skills to commit to playing a key part. Also it is difficult on my own without support.*

*My only contribution will be to attend the meetings as often as I can and do my stint on the rota. It will be very sad if no-one steps forward but I appreciate that you cannot go on without the support of the members.*

*I don't know what else to say really except I will see you at the AGM. I have already given my apologies to the history class I attend.*

*Love,*

*Bronwyn*

### **Newsletter:**

The newsletter is a new idea and will be written by Hilda. This is the first issue to introduce people to it. It will be uploaded to Facebook and the website. Hopefully Hilda will do one after each meeting and the next one will be around the 10<sup>th</sup> April and around that date each month to reflect what happened at the previous meeting. The next one will include details of the elected officers and each newsletter will include what is planned and which craft fairs members will be attending and things of that sort. So please let Hilda know what you would like to see in it. If you have any special news of your own you would like including please let her know. Four members have so far volunteered to talk or demonstrate after a meeting and Hilda would like to have a full diary of events for the year so if you would like to do something after one of the meetings please let her know.

### **Membership renewal:**

This is due on 1<sup>st</sup> of April and it was agreed at the meeting that people will only be given 14 days grace. Without renewing within that time, goods will NOT be displayed in the shop until it is paid. If you fail to renew within that time ie by 14<sup>th</sup> April at the latest then it will be assumed that you no longer wish to be a member and your details will be removed. Please also note that although the insurance is not due until July 26<sup>th</sup> it is only valid based on you being a member of the group ie: None payment of membership makes your insurance null and void. A payment of £20 made out to Valley Arts and Crafts and posted to Angela Hawkins, Ceunant, Pont Robert, Meifod, Powys SY22 6JN. This must include a stamped, addressed envelope so that your receipt and membership card can be posted out to you. Failing this, membership cards and receipts will be available from the shop.

## Contact details to be retained:

Position	Name	Address	Phone No	email
Chairman	Hilda Fix	Bron Haul Bwlchyddar Llangedwyn SY10 9LN	01691 648763	<a href="mailto:hilda.fix@sky.com">hilda.fix@sky.com</a>
Vice-Chair	Shirley Morris	Lindow House, Llanymynech SY22 6EN	01691 831552	Buddy Pam
Treasurer	Angela Hawkins	Ceunant Pontrobert Meifod SY22 6JN	01938 500483	<a href="mailto:hawkinsceunant@gmail.com">hawkinsceunant@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:hawkinsceunant@aol.com">hawkinsceunant@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Pam Parnell	1, Glen Pennant, Llangynog Powys SY10 0EP	01691860188	<a href="mailto:Sparnell115@aol.com">Sparnell115@aol.com</a>
Press Officer	Ivor Hawkins	Ceunant Pontrobert Meifod SY22 6JN	01938 500483	<a href="mailto:hawkinsceunant@gmail.com">hawkinsceunant@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:hawkinsceunant@aol.com">hawkinsceunant@aol.com</a>
Webmaster	Penny Vingoe	Larkrise Garthmyl Montgomery SY15 6SB	01686 640745	<a href="mailto:Pam@clayaround.com">Pam@clayaround.com</a>
VAC Shop		Unit 3, Vyrnwy Craft Centre, Llanwddyn, SY10 0LZ	01691870386	WEB ADDRESS: <a href="http://www.valleyartsandcrafts.co.uk">www.valleyartsandcrafts.co.uk</a>  FACEBOOK PAGE: Valley Arts and Crafts

Dates of upcoming meetings for your diaries and/or calendars
April 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Tuesday
May 29 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday
July 31 <sup>st</sup> , Thursday
August 26 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday
September 30 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday
October 30 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday
November, NO MEETING
December 4 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday
January 29 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday
February 14 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday
March 24 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING