

# Minutes of the AGM of the Buckinghamshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 via Zoom

## Present:

Committee: Katy-Jayne Lintott (Secretary, Acting Chair), Christina Spencer (Treasurer, Membership Secretary), Heather-Joy Garret (Programme Secretary), Zoë Digby (Communications)

Members: Alison Clayton, Sheila Cruikshank, Fiona Cummings, Hannah Digby, Wendy Fowler, Nancy Freeman, Alison Jolley, Polly Kempson, Caroline Melia, Alyson Perrett, Sarah Rayfield, Jane Townley, Lucy Whittaker.

Apologies: Freya Barcock-Jones, Beverley Thomson, Liz Henley

Minutes: Zoë Digby

## Meeting opened 14:10

### Welcome (KJL)

Thanks to all those joining on Zoom and those who completed the voting survey.

Minutes of the previous meeting approved as a true record. (noted that none of the events planned took place).

### Chair's report and Secretary's report (KJL) – attached

Special thanks to Freya for all her hard work as chair of the past few years.

### Treasurer's report and Membership report (CS) – attached

### Voting for committee positions

Position	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by	Elected
Chair	Polly Kempson	<i>Christina Spencer</i>	<i>Liz Henley</i>	✓
Secretary	Zoë Digby	<i>Heather-Joy Garrett</i>	<i>Polly Kempson</i>	✓
Treasurer / Membership	Christina Spencer	<i>Katy-Jayne Lintott</i>	<i>Zoe Digby</i>	✓
Workshop organiser	Heather-Joy Garrett	<i>Liz Henley</i>	<i>Christina Spencer</i>	✓
General member	Katy-Jayne Lintott	<i>Zoe Digby</i>	<i>Heather-Joy Garrett</i>	✓
General member	Liz Henley	<i>Polly Kempson</i>	<i>Hannah Digby</i>	✓

Votes were collected via an online survey. All committee positions were voted in as follows : 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

## **Thoughts on meetings for the rest of this year**

Results of survey sent to members:

Optimistic - I hope to attend meetings - 61.54%

Not sure at present - 30.77%

I am unlikely to attend meetings this year - 7.69%

*Action – reply to email from Haddenham Village Hall reflecting these opinions (HJG)*

## **KJL handed over to newly elected chair Polly Kempson**

**Thanks, introduction, thoughts on the year ahead (PK) – summary attached**

### **AOB**

- Discussion of the possibility of additional social meet-ups (perhaps including special interest groups eg sock knitting) between monthly meetings. *Action – to be discussed in next committee meeting (all committee)*
- Query about how members can join during covid lockdowns / while we're not meeting in person, and how fees will work.
  - Subsequent suggestion of allowing guests to attend meetings for free, to encourage new members, and then charging a partial year's fees when face-to-face meetings resume*Action – to be discussed in next committee meeting (all committee)*
- Caroline no longer works at Chiltern Open Air Museum, so can't act as a direct liaison. She can provide contact details if anyone needs to get in touch with them, eg regarding wool weekend etc. *Action – anyone wishing to contact COAM ask Caroline for contact details but don't expect her to be able to help further.*

**Meeting Closed 14:31**

## **Reports**

### **Bucks WSD AGM Chair and secretary's report 2021**

What a strange year it's been. From dealing with enhanced cleaning at the Village Hall as we learnt more about COVID to full lockdown 3 times and finding new ways to stay in touch with each other.

We have seen a lot of change and have had to be flexible and somewhat innovative about how we communicate with everyone. It has been to the great credit of the committee that we have been able to have some sort of contact and I would like to thank Freya, Christina, Zoë, Liz and Heather for all their efforts and support over the last 12 months.

I would also like to especially thank Freya Barcock-Jones who had to step down as chair this last year. Freya has been a driving force for the saving of this guild and its success over the last few years. I am grateful also for her continued advice as I stepped in as an interim chair.

So, what lies ahead? It is still a little unclear at present, but I think we all hope to have the opportunity to meet in person again at some point in 2021 especially with so much lockdown creativity being shared on Facebook and at Zoom Guild socials. I can't wait to see some of it in the flesh!

Thank-you to all members for their continued support and 'nattering' albeit online. It's kept me company during a tough year. So onwards! Let's look forward to more in-person contact, drinking, crafting and cake eating!

Katy-Jayne Lintott

### **Buckinghamshire Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers Treasurer's report 2020-21**

As we are all aware any activity in 2020 was severely curtailed by the coronavirus. Our last meeting was in March 2020 and since then we have had no face-to-face activities.

We are fortunate that we have no ongoing expenses whilst we are in hibernation and the result is effectively a break-even on the year.

Since we have been unable to hold meetings the decision was taken by the committee that subscriptions for 2020 would effectively run through the end of 2021. At the present time meetings are on hold until at least Easter 2021 and we hope to resume activities this summer.

We sold the Guild spinning wheel for £200 and this is being replaced by a wheel gifted to the guild for selling on.

Christina Spencer  
Treasurer  
February 2021

## **Remarks from the incoming chair**

I am happy to be elected to be part of the guild committee. The guild performs an important function in keeping the skills of weaving, spinning and dying alive, and providing a safe and inspiring space for people to come together to enjoy their creativity. We know that craft work in all its forms is so important for our mental health, and it is important to recognise that within our group we may do much to support each other in difficult times, as well as in brighter times ahead.

I have always crafted, and working with natural products has always been a particular interest of mine - I really enjoy the transformation of working from fleece to the finished product. What I lack in skill, I make up for in enthusiasm, and I have so loved being part of the guild for the last couple of years, enabling me to meet others similar interests and learn so much from the many very skilled crafts persons who attend our meetings.

I am excited to give of my time to help the guild to continue to run. I'm stepping in to large shoes, but I know that together we can keep the group going and thriving.

Polly.