

Scottish Glass Society AGM (40th Meeting)
Chapter House, St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh
Saturday 9th November 2019, 11am

1. Attendance

Catherine Lowe; Pamela Freedman; Geraldine McSporrán; Tim Kirman; David Williams; Kirsten Gow; Rosheen Young; Catherine Carr; Mary Cook; Elizabeth Cull; Steven Graham; Dave Sutton; Jade Stein; Tanwen Llewelyn; Carole Shoel; Karen Shaw.

2. Apologies:

Ian Pearson; Eilidh MacKenzie; Judith McCrorie; Cara Louise Walker; Brian Waugh; Jeff Zimmer

3. Minutes of previous AGM held 27th October, 2018 for approval

These were proposed by Rosheen Young and seconded by Geraldine McSporrán

A typographical error was noted under AOB: "Flowers were presented to Rosheen on behalf of SGS." This should have been ".. of SGS."

4. Chair's Report

The year was the fortieth anniversary of the Scottish Glass Society.

A project had been funded by Creative Scotland to celebrate both the 40th anniversary with the assistance of Vis-à-Vis and to plan for the Future of SGS with Kirsten Gow. The Chair expressed their gratitude for their work.

Prizes for 2018:

Alison Jardine (CGC)

Pordel Bishman (ECA)

SGS Travel Award 2018: Steven Graham

Hamilton Taylor Award 2018: Felicity Donohoe

Incorporation of Wrights winner: Cara Louise Walker

Exhibition 2018: There was a joint exhibition (Glorious Glass) with CGS who were celebrating their 20th anniversary. This was held in the Trades House in Glasgow and was well attended.

Thanks, were extended to: Karen Phillips and Sara Rothwell; Eilidh MacKenzie; Jessamy Kelly; Stephen Richard.

There had been a submission for £51K of project funding of which an award of £39K was received.

The Chair concluded by thanking Pamela Freedman for her contribution as Treasurer over many years.

5. Treasurer's Report and approval of annual accounts

The SGS financial year ran April 2018 to March 2019. Starting at 89 members this had now risen to 115 members. Exhibition revenue was £1.5K lower than the previous year.

At March 2019 there was £28K of restricted funds from Creative Scotland, and £12,218 as the current bank balance.

Proposed: David Williams

Seconded: Geraldine McSparran

The accounts were accepted and signed for return to the auditors.

6. SGS at 40 Review of Activities

Karen Shaw from Vis-à-Vis presented details of their activities during the year. They had sought to highlight glass to new audiences.

Sara Rothwell of National Museum of Scotland had been approached to curate the "On the Edge" exhibition at Lybster and Glasgow.

The Trades House exhibition was well attended by the press which resulted in extensive coverage including: The Times; i; The Herald; Metro; and the front page of The Scotsman. Coverage included a profile in Glasgow Life of several artist members.

Attendance at Trades House was around double the number of visitors from the previous year at 1100 visitors with considerable sales across a range of price points.

There were posters across Glasgow that tied in with Glasgow Doors Open Day 2019.

There were curator tours of the National Museum of Scotland, and ones to come at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

A learning note from the exhibition for the future was the quality of photography and documentation submitted by artists which requires further development.

Plinths, shelves and a 'wall' were made for the exhibitions. These are now stored by City of Glasgow College offering some legacy for future exhibitions.

Retrospective

There had been a retrospective touring exhibition:

- Dunoon – The opening had 33 visitors with 600 in total
- St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh – In progress
- The Lighthouse, Glasgow – December 2019

Other activities still to happen included a Pecha Kucha (high speed presentations) in Edinburgh in December 2019 and a Masterclass in 2020.

Our thanks were extended to Karen and Tracey at Vis-à-Vis for their tremendous contribution to SGS at 40.

7. SGS – the Future – a discussion led by Kirsten Gow

Our web site has been improved over the last year. Kirsten has been looking at the Future of SGS. She has promoted a number of activities that benefit members including: Member of the Month; Techniques and skills; and there has been good social media feedback.

Development opportunities: Angels' Share held a lamp work tester session and there was an online course run by IndieRetailAcademy on business development, a copy of the online course is also available for sale to members.

Steve Richard was running a "CSI: What went wrong" session; unfortunately take-up was poor and it was cancelled.

There have been a range of surveys and discussions from one to one, to group sessions. The general feedback was that SGS needs funding to run their organisation and events properly. Options include looking at a two-year plan seeking open project funding from Creative Scotland. This could be used to visit schools and provide education on the career opportunities in glass. As well as education, other aspects such as marketing and other tasks could also be supported if additional funding could be leveraged.

Thanks were extended to Kirsten for all her hard work on SGS – The Future.

8. Consideration of a change to the SGS Constitution – discussion

An updated constitution was presented by Kirsten Gow. It was non-gender specific; offered the option for members to resign mid-term; or to be permitted a leave of absence. It also moved from the use of the term "Committee" to "Voluntary Board".

A member (Dave Sutton) raised the question if the OSCR (Scottish Charity Commission) Model Constitution had been consulted, which it had.

An EGM to ratify any changes is planned for 2020, date to be decided by the Board.

9. Election for SGS Board and Office Bearers

The following were elected by members present:

Chair – Catharine Lowe

Treasurer – David Williams

Secretary – Cara Louise Walker

Committee Members: Pamela Freedman; Tim Kirman; Jon Piccolo;

Felicity Donohoe and Geraldine McSparran stood down and were thanked for their contributions.

10. AOB

David Williams gave thanks to Catherine Lowe and Pamela Freedman for their extensive contribution to SGS during this anniversary year which was acknowledged by unanimous applause.

11. Date of next AGM

Date of the next AGM – Saturday 24th October 2020.

12. Presentation

Following the AGM Jessamy Kelly provided a talk on the activities and board members of SGS from its inception to the present day. As well as photographs, she also shared SGS and other publications across the period.