

Notes of the 68th meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Chairs Meeting held at the Gurkha Museum on 47th October 2024

Present:

Charles Harris	Area Chair (CAST)
Gei Parlby	Trustee
Charles Holden	Guest Speaker
Pat Hindley	Hon. Treasurer
Diana Heatly	Secretary
Simon Reynier	Website Manager
Lucy Tew	H&IOW Spring Series Organiser
Pam Meir	Consultant
Carol-Anne Harrison	Facebook
Jane Hutchence	Liaison

plus 30 Chairs and representatives from 17 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Societies

Apologies:

Ali Green (Committee member) and Richard Elphick (Basingstoke)

NOTE OF THE MEETING

1. Welcome

- All
- Guest: Charles Holden, Speaker
- Guest: Geri Parlby, AS Trustee

2. Minutes of the 67th Area Meeting held on 4th March 2024.

Agreed. Matters arising: None.

3. CASTS update:

Chairman: Since my last report there have been challenges, rewards and questions about the future. The only society Charles hasn't visited is the Isle of Wight, he had to cancel because of illness. Two societies are operating without chairmen, Southampton for two years, their good health is a result of team work. Two new members on the committee, Pam Meir and Carol-Anne Harrison. Today's theme is 'Trust'. This was formulated before the elections at the Art Society over the summer. **'Fairness and respect are the cornerstones, but respect is not an entitlement. It has to be earned.'**

Introduction to Charles Holden our first speaker and then Geri Parlby, recently Co-opted Trustee to the Arts Society.

Treasurer: Current balance = £21,400 built up from successful Autumn and Spring Study Days. Grant applications this year for £600.

Diana Heatly: Trafalgar Day: Past chairs lecture and lunch on Trafalgar day (October 21st) with Helen Doe lecturing on Lord Nelson : *England expects...* and Visits Networking Day: November 4th

Jean Bolton Study Days: The series '**The Art of Textiles**' organised by Ali Green.

Spring Study Days: 'Ancient Art: New Horizons' organised by Lucy Tew.

Carol-Anne Harrisson: Facebook update plus Away Day: next Spring. Destination to be decided using ballot papers, with result after lunch.

4. **Presentations:**

- a) Charles Holden. His talk was entitled 'Trust'. He was in the army, then in procurement and supply. He was a Director at Barnardo's and sailed across the Atlantic.

Charles gave us *his* perspective of Trust – he provided a definition of it and spoke about it as a concept. He gave an example of loss of trust citing Huw Edwards.

He put up a photo of a group of scruffy native soldiers in Oman, asking "Would you trust these men?" Many responded no. Most people's perception of military command is that Seniors 'bark' and Juniors 'comply'. He assured us it was far more complex than that - he had trusted these men with his life.

Trust is enhanced by training and knowledge; the approach he used in Northern Ireland. If there is a loss of trust, mayhem follows.

How about trust in the civilian environment, how crucial it was in the global supply chain. He gave the example of Toyota. Teams were flown in to build trust with the indigenous teams, where they used strategies, such as acknowledging local culture, or shared problem solving to achieve success. In contrast, he referred to the British Government's system, which was both clunky and costly.

Charles was part of the IFPSM team (the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management), who visited Russia to promote the concept of Trust into Soviet thinking. They persevered for three days and failed.

He spoke about the relationship of Trust vs Safety, quoting the problem VW had installing unlawful software into their diesel vehicles. Trust is essential in stressful environments in the NHS, such as A&E.

Then how about trusting the text messages on your mobile phone, are they genuine or not? What about your interpretation of a photograph of a policeman kicking someone in the airport. It transpired that he was one of three policeman being violently assaulted by five men, at the time.

He warned how Trust gained through effort can be destroyed in an instant.

He concluded that Trust was a risk worth taking, it is enriching and enhancing.

- b) Geri Parlby. Geri is a journalist, lecturer for the Arts Society, MA History of Art (Courtauld), 'Wellbeing through Arts' and has done fundraising for the Tavistock.

Geri has been a lecturer for AS for 18 years and decided that she wanted to put something back. She has been co-opted onto the Arts Society (AS) Board. She said the 'Norfolk Group' does not exist per se but is a collection of people passionate about disenfranchising the members.

The former Board were trying to refocus the AS outwards, providing an avenue for younger people to join. There was a lack of transparency and communication which resulted in the AS Board resigning en masse, joined by Florian and Tim. 'Cultur.Art' would have been the main focus leaving Track 1 to fend for themselves. This was why there was a plan to change the constitution. They could have co-opted members with the necessary skills onto the Board, without doing that.

The new Board are working hard looking at a new strategy INVOLVING the societies. Once that has been agreed a new CEO /CFO will be appointed. The staff at Head Office are carrying on with business as usual. There is an opportunity now for societies to contribute to the Strategy and how it should evolve.

The new Treasurer is doing a deep dive into the finances. Money from the sale of Guilford Street was being put into the development of Cultur.Art with 5 dedicated employees. The office at Holborn is running efficiently.

The question remains on how to recruit new members? The AS profile needs to be raised. No mention of AS on Cultur.Art website. How to enrol the newly retired?

The magazine is award winning but members aren't reading it and it needs a wider audience. For example, interviews from the magazine could be put into Hampshire Life, or museums. We need to widen the fellowship. Consider promoting health and wellbeing through art, for example with people with dementia – social prescribing.

Q&A:

- Off-putting to new members: Stuffy phraseology and elitism.
- Geri says website is being updated moving away from 'storage'.
- Changing name from NADFAS to Arts Society lost the association and all that went with it. The current logo is great.
Art society as a name is misleading – we don't draw/paint!
- What has happened to all the marketing material supplied by Head Office? Geri replied it has all gone. Past magazines are available, a

useful tool. Head Office have a template for a programme leaflet which includes a free visit. It can be used to reflect *your* programme and be updated every year. Geri will email one to us.

- Facebook is a great way of communicating with your community , raising the profile of your society.
- Financial situation: Geri broke down the £120k costs: £21k drafting articles, defamation claim £47k, Advice termination £23k for legal fees. They will all be in the Accounts.
- Patricia Faye monies for grants are ringfenced.
- Discussion about Geri's request for ideas from the societies, would it be worth AS providing a question framework as a prompt.
- To a question about whether governance required updating, Geri reassured us that no, the AS Governance is 'fine'.
- Need to "Broaden Appeal" . Geri has been co-opted from the Art World, option for two more to be co-opted. AS identity needs to be established before then.
- Recruitment to committees is difficult. It doesn't help that retirement age is up to 68 years (not NHS or Police). Consider targeting preretirement planning groups.
- Support in art doesn't have to be focussed just on schools, consider graduates for example. An opportunity to raise awareness of AS. Some graduates have difficulty finding work in their first year, use them to help with social media for example.

6. Society chairs 3 minutes Update:

Charles introduced this session by encouraging chairs to visit neighbouring societies, to share ideas. 'Take the First Step'.

The Area H&IOW 'Awayday' will be next May/June. It will provide a networking opportunity and a lecture will be provided, (consider David Wright, Alton). The majority voted for Hambledon Vineyard. More information will be available about costs, etc, latest January 2025.

There have been three society anniversaries celebrated: 40th Portsdown – members have been invited to make a commemorative tile. 45th Meon Valley and Winchester. Many congratulations to them all.

There were thanks for Area grants, from Alton for their Coral Reef project and from Petersfield for the training of stewards for the Peggy Guggenheim exhibition. Societies provided grants for a ballet dancer (shoes each pair), a Christmas lantern making session with the Brownies, a £50 voucher for the winner of a GCSE painting competition (with Members being the judges), subsidising schoolchildren participating in 'Art-Bytes', a national project for Year 6 and GCSE pupils and a budding writers competition. Ideas of registering

with Cook as a charitable organisation and heating up their food products for a SID. Catering colleges provide inexpensive lunches. Beware copyrights, one society charged for not having a licensed photo on their website. Incentive to watch Facebook? Video members reaction to a lecture and post online. How about a matinee visit to Glyndebourne or a visit to a secret garden courtesy of James Boulton? Two societies were represented in the Arts tent at the New Forest Show, this year. Finally, societies celebrate their new members but how about acknowledging their longer-standing ones? Can you provide a one-off evening lecture for grandparents who look after grandchildren to attend.

7. Any Other Business. Don't forget the £250 grant from head Office. What have used your one for, this year?
8. Date of next meeting : March 3rd, 2025, at the Gurkha Museum (*please add to your diary*).