



Guild of Traditional Upholsterers

President – Adrian Smith LVO ACR
Chairman – Gareth Rees
Hon. Secretary – Niqui Little

18th September 2021

at

The White Hart, Nettlebed
Oxon RG9 5DD

Annual General Meeting Minutes

1 – Apologies

Vicky Lane, Max Blackburn, Steve Chivers, Anna Doxey, Sharon Leney, Craig Wienand, Philip Welesley-Davies, Robert Lines, Anthea Laing, Bruce Jack, Armande Verdier, Ian Stevens.

Present: Adrian Smith, Greg Cupitt-Jones, Carole Fowles, Gareth Rees, Niqui Little, Hannah Weston Smith, David James, Aimee Payton, Sue Mayes, Artor Sutor.

2a – Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

Taken as Read

2b – Approval of Minutes

Approved by all present

3 – Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report 2021

It seems strange that it is almost two years ago in Thatcham that we, the Guild, were able to meet, see old friends and celebrate together. The social aspect and camaraderie between our members are, as I see it, one of the Guilds greatest strengths; but it has been far too long now. Soon, at our AGM in September we can talk and laugh without a screen, a passcode, or having to register in advance. Almost a year ago Certificated Members voted me in as Chairman after Philips three-year tenure, I hoped that I could fulfil the role to the high standard that Philip had set in that time. Through distancing and lockdowns, the Committee have been increasingly busy promoting the Guild to a wider audience, which upon appointment as Chair was my main aim for the forthcoming year. I do believe that the committee have been successful in this task. Our Membership has increased to considerably higher numbers than before.

Niqui Little, hon. Secretary
Cottage Upholstery, Unit 6, Manor Farm, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 5DA
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Thanks to the hard work of our Student Representative Aimee Payton, our current student membership sits around 270 members. With the Guilds core tenet of “supporting those entering the trade”, a healthy student membership can only be beneficial to the trade and the Guild alike.

Bruce Jack, ever the backbone of the Guild, has taken the mantle of looking after the Journeyman membership. An inspirational idea formed and instigated by our past Chairman Philip Wellesley-Davies, we now have 9 Journeyman members and at the time of writing a few more in the pipeline. Offering a steppingstone from student membership to the possibility of sitting the test to become a fully Certificated Member. The Guild is here to offer advice and help to those journeyman members as they progress and hone their skills.

For Certificated memberships, we have had a past member, Armand Verdier, re-join us and there are a few applicants in the wings who will hopefully join the ranks of Certificated membership soon.

We also now have in excess of 40 Friends of the Guild, from Europe to North America, a considerable increase.

Much of the new interest and membership for the Guild was a direct result of the series of lectures offered on furniture history that were offered via zoom. The lectures were available to all Guild members and links were regularly sent out to an excess of 350 people. With an average attendance between 100 and 200 people for each lecture. The organisation of these lectures in such a short space of time was an achievement to say the least and I would personally like to thank Hannah Weston Smith, Bruce Jack and Aimee Payton for everything they did to make the lectures possible and thus increasing membership and spreading the word of the Guild worldwide.

Our website has also been updated so we are now able to receive applications for Friends, Student and Journeyman membership through online forms which Aimee has developed. There is also a private members area where lectures and journals will be available. We now can make changes to the website in house, which will also cut costs and speed up any changes if necessary.

Finally for the last twelve months, on behalf of the committee and all members of the Guild, I welcome Anthea Laing and David James as Honorary members. We thank you for all that you have done for the Guild over many years.

So, what is to come? There are plans for more meets and tours now that life is moving towards some form of normality, we will have to see when this will be, hopefully soon. I am also keen that in the near future we may have the possibility of exhibiting and promoting the Guild and its Certificated members even further.

Gareth Rees - Chairman

4 – Treasurer’s Report

FINANCIAL REPORT 14 September 2020 – 13 August 2021

Opening balance **£4,587.10**

Income, £70.00 Anthea Laing memb. Fees and donation

Closing balance **£4,657.10**

14th Oct – 13th Nov

Income, £25.00

Closing Balance **£4,682.10**

14th Nov – 13th Dec

Expenditure, £35.00 Bruce Jack, flowers

Closing Balance **£4,647.10**

14th Dec – 13th Jan 2021

No activity on account

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Closing Balance **£4,647.10**

14th Jan – 13th Feb

No Activity on account

Closing Balance **£4,647.10**

14th Feb – 13th March

Opening Balance **£4,647.10**

Income, £567.65 New Friend fees plus 1 cert memb.

Closing Balance **£5,214.75**

14th March – 13th April

Opening Balance **£5,214.75**

Income £1,221.28 16 Cert. Memb fees, 17 Fr.

Closing Balance **£6,436.03**

14th April -13th May

Opening Balance **£6,436.03**

Income £245.88 2 Cert Memb fees, 5 Fr.

Closing Balance **£6,681.91**

14th May – 13th June

Opening Balance **£6,681.91**

Income £48.97 2 Fr.

Closing Balance **£6,730.88**

14th June – 13th July

Opening Balance **£6,730.88**

Expenditure £199.77 Deposit Knighton Com Cert

Income £414.70 17 Fr

Closing Balance **£6,945.81**

14th July – 13th August

Opening Balance **£6,945.81**

Income £100.00 ! full memb 2Fr

Closing Balance **£7,045.81**

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5 – Membership Secretary's Report

Guild of Traditional Upholsterers Membership Secretary Report 2021

Membership sub committee Hannah Weston Smith, Gareth Rees
Bruce Jack – Journeyman Rep, Aimee Payton – Student Rep, Niqui Little

Certificated Members = 21 (2 pending) Journeyman members = 9 (2 pending) Friend Members = 37
Student Members = 267

Corporate Sponsors = 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP = 336

This year has seen a huge influx in Guild membership. This has come in the main from a push to get more students via training facilities and friend membership from the USA, enhanced by the offer of listening to Gareth's lectures.

We have been able to develop Philip Wellesley- Davies' initial idea for journeyman (replacing non certificated) and thanks to Bruce's hard work have a sound number of members which will in the coming 18 months increase our relatively static certificated membership group.

Although there have been some hiccups along the way, I see these as areas we can build on in 2022. These include;

- Continuing to develop the system for payment – developing a direct link between treasurer and membership secretaries for ease of access to the accounts including PayPal
- Continuing the success of links between training centres and GTU
- Ensuring payment is made before allowing anyone access the site
- Having a timetable for April so that we can ensure fees are paid in good time
- Working with the student rep so that all graduating students are orientated towards journeyman or friend membership to increase income
- Devising a plan for the upcoming year to show what we can offer to all members but specifically what we can do for corporate members and training centres
- Developing relationships with specific companies we would like as corporate sponsors.

The membership committee have worked very hard this year which is evident in the numbers you see and feel that as a team works well together and we can build on this in 2022.

Gareth Proposed that the following become Honorary Members – Philip Wellesley-Davies, Anthea Laing and David James. All present were in full agreement.

6 – Examination Secretary's Report

Hannah Weston Smith and Sue Mayes are both due to take second test, Kidney stool top.

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Artor Sutor is now a full member having passed the test.

7 – Gazette Editor’s Report

The Gazette has been printed and all present received a hard copy. The positions of Gazette Editor, Website and Social Media will be combined. See Discussion on Gazette further down.

8 – Student Representatives Report

We have around 270 Student members

There are now 17 AMUSF training facilities and Aimee discovered that a few of them had not passed on any information that she had sent them.

There has been an enquiry for membership from someone in Australia. It has only just arrived so has not been dealt with at present.

The David James Award is now ready to be rolled out – 2 students from each Training Facility may enter. **We need Judges for this.** A Sub Committee Bruce Jack, Aimee Payton, Michelle Kenyon-Roberts and Gareth Rees will initially get the ball rolling. Gareth stated that due to both him and Greg Cupitt-Jones running AMUSF course that he would have to step away from the Sub Committee once it is up and running.

Aimee and Bruce will work together ensuring that Student members finishing course will move to Journeyman category.

Socials and meetings will also be held for Journeyman

9 – Website & Social Media Report

This is to be combined with the Gazette Editors position and a committee has been chosen to oversee contents and collate copy for the Gazette.

10 – Election of officers and Committee:

	OFFICER	PROPOSER	SECONDED
Chairman	Gareth Rees	Niqui Little	Hannah Weston-Smith
Vice Chairman	Hannah Weston-Smith	Greg Cupitt-Jones	Bruce Jack
Hon. Secretary	Niqui Little	Gareth Rees	Michelle Kenyon-Roberts
Treasurer	Carole Fowles	(over the next year	Hannah will take over to
Membership Secretary	Hannah Weston-Smith	(combine these roles	
Exam Secretary	Bruce Jack	Gareth Rees	Sue Mayes
Gazette Editor	Gareth Rees	Gareth wishes to stand down – See AOB	
Student Representative	Aimee Payton	Gareth Rees	Niqui Little
Journeyman Secretary	Bruce Jack	All in Favour	
Members without portfolio	David James	Gareth Rees	Greg Cupitt-Jones
	Roy Theobald	Niqui Little	Gareth Rees
	Sue Mayes	Gareth Rees	Roy Theobald
	Michelle Kenyon-Roberts	Gareth Rees	Roy Theobald
	Greg Cupitt-Jones	Hannah W Smith	David James

All present were in Favour of all Committee Officers and Representatives

11 – Discission on Gazette

The Idea of no-longer producing a Gazette as a magazine was discussed –

It was felt by all present that it was still wanted and that we should continue to produce 1 a year.

It is always difficult for any Editor to get copy for the Gazette, Website and Social Media so a Sub Committee was chosen to oversee these and collate copy for them. The Sub Committee members are; Bruce Jack, Sue Mayes, Gareth Rees and Michelle Kenyon-Roberts.

It was thought that our student base would be a good source for articles etc.

Full Members, Journeyman, Corporate, Friends (excluding overseas unless they want to pay for postage) and Wendy Shorter will receive a hard copy with everyone else receiving a digital copy only. If anyone would like a hard copy then the cost would be £8 (more if overseas) to cover printing cost and postage.

The initial print run will be kept small as more can be printed if needed.

Roy Theobald suggested having copies to show or hand out when exhibiting/demonstrating at a show

12 – Any Other Business

Knighton – this was cancelled for the AGM due to a lack of accommodation that weekend. We are still worried about this if we re-schedule for next spring. The Committee will discuss this at our next meeting. We have some ideas to make it work i.e.: stay in nearby town and have a minibus to taxi us there and back?

AGM 2022 –

Some ideas as to where to hold it

Scotland

Lady Lever – Port Sunlight – incl. Lucy Wood talk

Cardiff Castle

AGM CLOSED – 12.55