



Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21st July 2011

The White Room, Queens Hall, Hexham

7.30 pm

Chair's Report covering the year 1st Jan to 31st Dec 2010 Network's fourth year of trading as a company limited by guarantee

Listings

January 2010 saw the continuation of our popular email listings, bringing members news and opportunities every Monday throughout the year.

Administration

Kim Pearson left us in the Autumn and Jenny Stewart was contracted to take her place in september 2010.

Membership

Membership was 178 in 2010 (185 members the previous year).

WEB site

The Network web site has remained very popular. David Taylor continued as our website liaison person. He is our link with designers Lazy Grace and he has been helping artists with any problems they have updating their page on the Web site. Some members fail to put information on their page which reflects badly on our organisation so if there are any problems David is there to help. He also added news items on the home page and reporting glitches to Lazy Grace.

Members' Bulletin

Three Bulletins were produced with Pam Malkin, Sara Jane Palmer and Mandy Patullo writing and researching and Mike McFarlane continuing to edit and design and print. Mike Drage was the chief proof reader. Mike resigned from this role at the end of the year and new members were added to the team for 2011 including Mike Jarvis, with Jean Lamb as team leader and David Taylor producing the design and print.

Training Sessions

The training sub group included Mary Ann Rogers, Sue Malkin and Carol White. The following sessions were well attended and well received: March 31st 2010 Photoshop workshop, Wyn Barnes. Wylam, April 13th 2010, Photoshop workshop, Wyn Barnes Alnwick, April 15th 2010 'Marketing using Social Media' workshop, Lazygrace, Loraine Room, Kirkharle, Paypal workshop, Tues 11th May 2010.

The Art Tour 2010

This was our fifteenth Art Tour. 88 artists participated in 57 venues close to the 2005 record (90/58 respectively). This was the first time that the dates were changed from dates in June & July to four weekends in June. The Art Tour Evaluation Report 2010 is available for anyone who hasn't seen it if you will let me have your email address. As usual the Art Tour Steering

Group, Tony Claydon, Harry Hall, Mary Hayward and Paul Mingard put in a huge amount of voluntary work, assisted by our paid administrator, Kim Pearson.

The Art Tour 2010 was again part funded by The Arts Council Lottery Fund and Northumberland County. This was the third year that Lazy Grace designers in Rothbury sponsored the Art Tour by designing the Art Tour Brochure free of charge. We are delighted and very grateful for the high professional quality which they bring to our image.

Guidelines for sub-committees document

In the Autumn of 2009 the Board started to create a document which would set out the relationship between board members and sub-committees to make it easier for volunteers to be clear about where their responsibilities lay. The document is finished now and has been issued to the various committees.

Project: creative industries development (rural northumberland)

On 21 January a meeting was held at Kirkharle to bring together committee members of the two artist network's, Crossing Borders and Network Artists in Northumberland, to share experiences and to explore common ground and potential opportunities for joint working and training. Louise Butler took forward these ideas within her remit to support and 'stimulate' development of creative industries activity within Northumberland.

A full day 'creative thinking' and discussion event was held at Kirkharle on Friday 30th July, led by Claire Maxwell – an experienced facilitator of the 'Open Space' method. At the second 'Open Space' on 10th September, the list of discussion topics was reviewed and refined and two themes were explored further: overcoming geographical isolation, meeting together, sharing and improving skills and opportunities for collaborative exhibitions.

In the Autumn the training course 'Introducing Video / Sound into Creative Practice'. The course was led by artist Alan Smith, Director of Allenheads Contemporary Arts. This event attracted only two members to participate but both agreed that it was a 'fantastic course'.

Talks by well known Contemporary artists were held in Autumn / Winter 2010-11. These were a series of four sessions at venues across the rural parts of the county, from Hexham up to Berwick entitled 'An Audience with...'. However, unfortunately the talks were very poorly attended by Network and Crossing Borders members.

Much discussion was had about a joint exhibition for members of both organisations. Money has been set aside for this but plans have been deferred for the time being.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to say that we had a very strong Management Committee (Board of Directors) in 2010 and it was a great pleasure to chair the meetings. It has also been good to have so many other members working with us on the various projects and I am sorry that I cannot mention them all.

However, special thanks go to the following who have resigned from their various roles: Renira Barnes, Minutes Secretary; Mike McFarlane, Network Bulletin; Mike Drage, Bulletin proofreading; Tony Claydon, leadership of the Art Tour Steering Group; Harry Hall, Mary Hayward, Paul Mingard and Cat Moore, Mandy Pattullo, Art Tour Steering Group.

2010 was another busy year and we should be very proud of Network's achievements.