

Minutes to the AGM of the Royal Society of Sculptors

Wednesday 6 May 2026, 3.00pm
via ZOOM

Present: Laura Ford (LF) President

Also: Alex Carr MRSS, Almuth Tebbenhoff VPRSS, Amy Stephens FRSS, Antony Clarkson MRSS, Barbara Beyer FRSS, Claire Morgan FRSS, Diane Maclean FRSS, Eugene Mackie MRSS, Eve Shepherd MRSS, Glynis Owen FRSS, Helaine Blumenfeld OBE FRSS, Jennie Speirs Grant MRSS, Johannes von Stumm PPRSS, Libby Brooks MRSS, Liz Clifford MRSS, Tere Chadwick MRSS, Mark Richards FRSS, Martin Cody MRSS, Nik Ramage MRSS, Okay Ikenegbu FRSS, Penghang Liu MRSS, Richard Mackness MRSS, Ros Burgin MRSS, Sato Sugamoto MRSS, Sharon Haward MRSS, Simon Hitchens FRSS, Susan Stockwell FRSS, Andrea Geile FRSS, Isabel Young MRSS, Andrew Stonyer FRSS, Sheena Devitt MRSS and Nick Hornby FRSS.

Society staff: Caroline Worthington, Director (CW)

Also attending: Mark Burch (Treasurer), Gordon Watson (Trustee), Katherine Ashton and Gareth Hughes (Garside & Co. LLP Chartered Accountants).

The President extended a warm welcome to members, noting that a quorum was present and the meeting proceeded to business. With the consent of the members present, the notice of the meeting was taken as read.

1. Apologies and Proxy Votes

1.1 Apologies were received from seven members:

Clare Burnett PPRSS, Julie Brixey Williams MRSS, Maureen Jordan MRSS, Professor Brian Falconbridge PPRSS, Rosamund de Tracy Kelly MRSS, Sadie Brockbank MRSS and Susan Williams MRSS

1.2 Apologies were also received from Nick Rockett (accountant).

1.3 There were no valid proxy votes registered.

2. Announcements

The President paid tribute to eleven colleagues who had died in the past year.

ANTHONY HAWKEN FRSS

Anthony joined the Society in 1977. He was primarily a figurative sculptor with work in collections at the British Museum, V&A, Citibank and Charlton Athletic football club. He sculpted portraits of Melvyn Bragg, Nicholas Partsons, Norman Lamont and Patrick Stewart among others.

CHRIS McCAMMON MRSS

Chris's daughter said: My dad was almost 83 and continued to sculpt prolifically until the last few months of his life. Although he was not a very active member of the Society, he was very proud of the accolade and sculpting remained central to his life.

JANET SCRYMGEOUR-WEDDERSON FRSS

Janet studied with the sculptor Alastair Ross FRSS in the early 1970s and was known for her portrait commissions. She joined the Society in 1975 and was elected a Fellow in 1980.

JONATHAN BLAKELY MRSS

Clive Duncan FRSS has shared this personal tribute: Jonathon was a very quiet and thoughtful sculptor who was able to find his forms in stone with a complete understanding of the totality of three dimensions.

His clay modelling was equally assured without being anatomically overworked. During my time as head of sculpture at the Sir John Cass he was invited to teach making a vital contribution to the figurative work in the school.

An amusing memory of Jonathon was that he owned an old VW Post Office van parked in Clever Square outside the City & Guilds Art School in which he would spend the occasional night. One of his great friends was Mr Pound who was the Blacksmith/tool maker at the Oval who made the finest stone carving chisels.

MICHAEL PEGLER MRSS

Michael's practice focused on the carved form and his sculptures incorporated an implied interior logic with full volumes that feature chiselled textures or highly polished surfaces. In 2021 he was commissioned by Derby Museum to make a work inspired by the Derby Ram Trail.

NADIN SENFT MRSS

Nadin received a diploma in Fine Art from City & Guilds of London Art School and joined the Society in 1980 before retiring in 2008.

OLIVE WOOTTON MRSS

Olive studied at Goldsmiths College of Art and in 1955 was represented in the Young Contemporaries show in London. She returned to sculpture with renewed energy following the untimely death of her husband, Gordon and was a life member.

TIM HARRISON MRSS

Tim joined the Society in 2002 working from his studio in a disused barn in Tisbury. His many public commissions can be found at Southampton Airport, the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery in Bournemouth, Epsom College and Chatsworth House.

BARRY MARTIN MRSS

Barry studied at Goldsmith's College of Art and later taught in many colleges including the RCS, The Slade, the RA schools and St Martin's. His kinetic sculptures often combined steel, motors, light and rhythm invited viewers to experience form as something alive and continuously evolving.

BRYAN KNEALE MBE RA FRSS

Bryan Kneale originally studied painting at Douglas School of Art followed by the Royal Academy schools. In 1960 he moved from painting to sculpture and by 1963 he was teaching at the Royal College of Art. He was also Professor of Sculpture at the RA Schools from 1980-1987.

Bryan curated and exhibited in many shows. For his sculpture, Captain Quilliam, he received the 2007 Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture. He was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2029 for services to British Art.

DEREK MORRIS PPRSS

Derek Morris joined the Society in 1994 and was its President from 1998 to 2004. Under his presidency, the Society grew substantially, became much more internationally focused and the Board ensured important repairs were made to Dora House.

In his obituary for the Guardian, Martin Holman wrote:

Derek grew up in the atmosphere of making; he was six when he mixed his first bowl of plaster. His mother was an accomplished weaver and embroiderer and father, was a draughtsman. His elder sister, Jean, was the first female student of jewellery at the Royal College of Art.

Derek studied Fine Art at Newcastle University and Chelsea School of Art and was the Head of Sculpture at Norwich School of Art 1971-1990. His career as a sculptor was marked by different phases largely due to changes in his choice of materials. He wrote, "if I cannot enter my studio on a regular basis, my life becomes disjointed and lacking in serious purpose".

Members took a moment to quietly remember Anthony, Chris, Janet, Jonathan, Michael, Nadin, Olive, Tim, Barry, Bryan and Derek..

3. Presentation

David Liddiment was in conversation with Javier Pes about his approach to collecting sculpture.

The President thanked David and Javier who subsequently left the meeting.

4. Minutes of the 2025 AGM held on 20 May 2025

The President presented the minutes for adoption and asked if they were accurate.

RESOLVED That the minutes were an accurate record and be signed by the President

5. Matters Arising

There were none.

6. Election to the Board

The President paid tribute to Almuth Tebbenhoff who completes seven years as Vice President today. She congratulated Nick Hornby on his election.

RESOLVED To appoint Nick Hornby FRSS as Vice President

On behalf of the Board and Society's members, the President thanked Andrew Stonyer FRSS and Andrea Geile FRSS for their contributions as Trustees.

The President was delighted that two candidates had been nominated and thanked them for coming forward. She announced that Barbara Beyer FRSS and Andrea Geile FRSS had been re-elected.

RESOLVED To appoint Barbara Beyer FRSS and Andrea Geile FRSS to the Board

RESOLVED To extend the term of Gordon Watson for three years

RESOLVED To appoint Katherine Ashton to the Board

7. Treasurer's Report, Audited Accounts & Appointment of Auditors

The Treasurer noted that the fact that the apparently healthy accounts reflect the fundraising ahead of the basement project and are therefore unusual with next year being a return to the normal pattern as the project funds will have been expended by year end 2026. He added that the Society is managing to fund its increased services for members within its resources.

Gareth Hughes (Garside & Co. LLP Chartered Accountants) agreed with these statements and thanked the Director and Head of Finance, Andrea Arnold, for their help during the audit.

RESOLVED To unanimously receive the audited accounts of the Society and the Board's report for the year ended 31st December 2025 and the auditor's report thereon

RESOLVED To unanimously appoint Garside & Co LLP Chartered Accountants as auditors of the Society for the period commencing upon the conclusion of the meeting until conclusion of the next general meeting at which the accounts of the Society are laid and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.

8. Vice President's statement

The new Vice President addressed members.

9. Director's report

The Director gave her report for the year.

10. President's address

The President then addressed members.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close.