

**The 62 Group Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 5 December 2020 at 11.00am  
Online Zoom**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Received from: Anna Gravelle  
Helen Yardley  
Daisy May Collingridge  
Michelle House  
Tilleke Schwarz  
Gavin Fry

**2. Present**

Debbie Lyddon (Chair)	Isobel Currie
Paddy Killer	Lynn Settrington
Sian Martin	Ann Goddard
Jan Beaney	Jan Miller
Heather Belcher	Catherine Dormer
Caroline Bartlett	Flox Den Hartog Jager-Malten
Elizabeth Tarr	Hannah Lamb
Eszter Bornemisza	James Hunting
Julia Burrowes	Imogen Aust
Marilyn Rathbone	Penny Burnfield
Ealish Wilson	Diana Springall
Caren Garfen	Jeanette Appleton
Vanessa Rolf	Jennifer Smith-Windsor
Jane McKeating	Jean Littlejohn
Sally Spinks	Hazel Bruce
Sue Stone	Jae Maries
Jean Draper	Maggie Henton
Joanna Kinnersly-Taylor	Sumi Perera
Caron Penney	Emily Jo Gibbs
Richard McVetis	

**3. Minutes from last year's AGM 2019**

Approved.

**4. Committee Reports**

**Chair's report – Debbie Lyddon**

We are coming to the end of a year that has affected both the 62 Group and, each of us its members, in many different ways. Covid-19 has stopped us all in our tracks and I believe that it will be some time before the 62 Group will be operating again as it was in 2019. This has been a year of changes. All planned 62 Group events for 2020 were postponed and rearranged and although the committee has continued to meet regularly, it has been from a distance using Zoom. The use of Zoom has been a great positive for the group in this Covid world. We have saved money with no travel expenses; we have

started regular online networking sessions; and International members have been able to take part on these occasions.

The Conversations exhibition that was to be held in Spring 2020 has been rescheduled to Spring 2021. The committee are hoping, and planning on it taking place, and have put out a second call to give members a chance to submit if they didn't last year. However, there are still so many uncertainties with the possibility of future restrictions or lockdowns and there is a chance that it may be postponed for a second time. If this happens, we will, of course keep you informed.

The annual lecture at the Fashion and Textile Museum was also postponed. The museum has now arranged their technology so that lectures can be delivered online and Emily Jo Gibbs and Richard McVetis will now give their lectures remotely in the New Year on the 14 January 2021.

The call for new members went ahead as usual with the first-round selection taking place on Zoom. However, the committee decided that the work of prospective members needed to be seen in person for the 2nd round selection, so the selection has been postponed until we can meet up and do this. It looks as if this may not happen until well into next year, and the new members selection 2020 could well overlap with the 2021 selection. Therefore I am going to suggest that no new calls for members are put out until we have undertaken the present selection.

I mentioned the online networking sessions earlier and these have been a great success with everyone who has taken part so far agreeing that they were useful in getting to know other members of the group and their work. I intend that these will continue on a monthly basis beyond Covid. The next session is next week, and I encourage more of you to join in. There is no need to speak – you can just come along to listen. I hope that in the future we may be able to offer more by inviting people to speak on a variety of interesting and relevant topics. The biggest advantage to these sessions has been that our international members have been able to take part and become more involved with the group getting to know its members and their work.

So, the 62 Group has adapted during Covid-19 and will continue to do so, but there have been changes and I wonder what the impact will be on us and how these changes will manifest themselves in the future? Already it has become clear that galleries are manipulating their schedules so that postponed exhibitions can go ahead. This has already affected us for our 60th anniversary celebrations in 2022 as the Fashion and Textile Museum has indefinitely postponed our proposed installation and exhibition. With the present uncertainties it is becoming obvious that it is hard to plan for the future.

As a group we may well find that we will have to think 'out of the box', or maybe I should say 'off the wall', as exhibiting opportunities could be scarce for the next couple of years. In order to continue to promote and educate textile art for our 60th anniversary in the manner that we would like we may well have to find an alternative approach, An online exhibition, in the form of a video like the Ctrl/shift video? Or an exhibition in the form of a book? Later in the meeting we will be discussing possibility of targeting emerging textile artists for bursaries and if we decide to do this, we could announce them to coincide with our 60th anniversary celebrations. It's possible we may have to call on our own reserves in the next couple of years and we are going to have to think carefully as to how we distribute our current resources.

However, whatever happens in the coming months I am sure we will be able to continue to inspire and educate others and to promote members' work in an innovative and stimulating way.

### **Treasurer's report – Elizabeth Tarr**

The Group currently has a very healthy bank balance of £15,089.53, with £322.28 in our PayPal account. We are now able to do online banking. Accounts were presented for our accounting year (up to 31 August 2020) and Interim accounts (up to 31 October). See end of Minutes.

### **Membership report – Isobel Currie**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, it has not been possible to select new members to join the group this year.

Similarly, we were not able to hold any exhibitions, so no membership was lost by the three-strike rule. Two members of the group almost lost their membership due to non-payment of subs, but this has now been rectified. Please make sure you keep all contact information up-to-date so that you receive newsletters and reminders; and check that your subs payments have been made.

Two members, Dorothy Ann Daly and Nigel Cheney, resigned due to their personal circumstances. Sadly, we have also very recently lost one of our most long-standing honorary exhibiting members, Audrey Walker.

Two members, Sian Martin and Marilyn Rathbone, were granted a sabbatical this year, and the sabbatical of Hilary Bower was extended due to extraordinary circumstances related to the pandemic.

Current number of exhibiting members: 59

Current number of honorary exhibiting members: 5

Current number of honorary non-exhibiting members: 18

Current number of friends: 10

### **New Membership report – Catherine Dormer**

44 applications for membership. The first round was held electronically. 10 applicants were selected for the second round. We had hoped to hold the 2nd round in the Autumn, but have delayed this until we can do it safely in person. We have messaged all Second-Round applicants and they are happy to wait. With the government messaging, it is likely that the 2nd round might not be until late spring/early summer, so we will need to consider the 2021 application process.

It has been agreed by the Committee that there will be no membership applications taken in 2020 in order to clear this round of applications.

### **Education report – Jane McKeating**

Education events took place for the NCCD programme as the final part of CTRL/Shift 20:21, Scunthorpe

- Sue Stone, A focus on Faces, 18th January
- Jane McKeating, Re-use /Reinvent 29th February

Both were full and were well received by the Gallery and participants.

St Barbe Gallery

- Workshops arranged for have been delayed due to COVID. All artists have agreed to reschedule and sent availability. The Gallery will shortly confirm new dates and get them advertised.

Textile Biennial October 2021 Whittaker Gallery

- They are keen to hold a variety of activities including Masterclasses, artist talks and drop-in sessions for families. I am waiting to hear back from the curator at the Whittaker Gallery to firm up how we proceed.

Updated list of those interested in running workshops

- A form has been sent out to review what artists in the group can offer
- The website will be updated to reflect the response and additional changes.
- An image for advertising will be asked for at the point of expression of interest for running a workshop so that Galleries can advertise more quickly, and that the 62 group can also get details out to advertise.
- More clarity on the form about what the gallery will provide and what the artist will provide, and some deadlines would make things run more smoothly.

- Jane has amended the form that goes out to artists and the venue

It was generally agreed that online workshops and studio visits were the way forward. Jane asked for members to write on the form if they were able to give online workshops. Vanessa requested that tips on giving workshops could be shared throughout the membership, at the networking meetings.

### **Publicity report – Hannah Lamb**

- Publicity this year reflects the continued shift to online and social media
- Press coverage (in magazines etc.) now takes a back seat in importance to the faster moving digital methods.
- This is important when there are last minute changes to events, as has been the case this year with Covid 19.
- Online listings and press releases went out for ‘Conversations’, with ‘Embroidery’ supporting us in the March/April issue.
- As the exhibition was postponed and the digital listings had to be amended where possible, while print coverage could not be changed at short notice.
- The call for new members was promoted online via Crafts Council, Arts News and via our social media. Other press & publicity
- An illustrated review of CTRL/Shift by Kate Farley appeared online (not in print) in the academic journal Textile: The Journal of Cloth & Culture. The article includes images of work by Joanna Kinnersley-Taylor, Sue Stone and Hannah Lamb.

Some members requested a copy of the online article in The Journal of Cloth & Culture and our 62 Group Archive needs to hold a copy. There are copyright reasons why the article cannot be disseminated.

### **Social Media report**

Nigel Cheney who was the committee member for Social Media has left the 62 Group. Twitter, Instagram and Facebook posts have been kept going by Emily Jo Gibbs and Hannah Lamb. Anna Gravelle is proposed to be the new Social Media committee member.

### **Website report – David Pitcher**

SSL Certificate The 62group.org.uk website now has a validated SSL certificate. A closed lock symbol now shows in the browser address bar when the site is loaded. An SSL certificate encrypts the data that goes from a user's computer to the target website and back. Every time a user enters information into your site, SSL makes sure it can securely travel from their browser to your web server. Instagram Feed Instagram has recently made updates to its software which allows selected user feeds to be displayed on third party websites. As a consequence, Instagram posts were failing to load new content into both the home and Instagram pages on the 62group.org.uk site. As a precaution, I have temporarily disabled this feature until I can obtain login details for the Group's Instagram account and gain access to the settings panel. Artist Page Updates To help keep the artist pages on the website relevant, can I ask all exhibiting members to review all the content of their page, including their CV, at least once a year.

BIG thanks to Dave for running our website so efficiently. (Sue, please pass on).

### **Public and Members' Newsletter – Emily Jo Gibbs**

The Public Newsletter goes out to over 1,700 people so please contribute! Newsletter goes out 1 December, 1 June, 1 March, 1 September. Members were asked to send Emily contributions at least a week before these deadlines.

## Archives – Louise Baldwin

AGM minutes and newsletter, and the article in The Journal of Cloth and Culture need to be given to Louise for the Archive.

## 5. Exhibition Updates – Richard McVetis

- **Conversations @ St Barbes**
  - Call out for new submissions has been sent out. **Agreed members would need to re-submit work.**
  - New dates for the exhibition are March 20th – May 1st
  - Sending in forms on the member areas of the website – statements to Richard by 1 March 2021 (by email).
  - Members to send images to Hannah Lamb ASAP for Publicity.
- **Textile Biennale**
  - Brief was sent out to members on May 14th 2020
  - Current dates: October 2021 for one month
  - Venue: <https://www.thewhitaker.org/>
  - Selection/ Submission date will be end June 2021
  - This will be the first time we use digital submission
  - Jenny Rutter from The Whitaker will present the brief to the Group – at a networking session.
- **Knitting and Stitching Show 2021**
  - All exhibitors have now been pushed back from 2021 to 2022
  - We planned to exhibit at Alexander Palace and Harrogate
- **Anniversary show 2022**

We applied to the Fashion and Textile Museum with a proposal for our anniversary show, unfortunately Covid has had the final word.

**Message from FT museum:** *‘As you can imagine we have had to make some significant changes to the exhibition programme at the Fashion and Textile Museum in reaction to the consequences of Covid -19. We have pushed back current and future exhibitions by at least 8 months and placing those in the early stages of research on hold while we get to grips with working in these unsettled times. As a consequence, the 2022 programme is hosting those exhibitions we have had to delay and in the new year we will be working on finalising the programme for 2023-2025. We will also need to re-think the dates for the installation for possibly 2023 onwards’*
- **Fashion and Textile Museum Lectures Report – Caron Penney**
  - The 2020 lecture was originally scheduled for the 19th March but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The speakers who were chosen for 2020 were Richard McVetis and Emily Jo Gibbs.
  - The talk will now take place online
  - The new date for the talk is the 14th January 2021 at 6pm - 7.30pm,
  - The cost of a ticket is £5.00 and bookings are still open.
  - Further Notes: There is a possibility of another talk later in 2021.

- **Focus for the coming months**
  - Conversations at St Barbe (installation)
  - Setting up the online digital submissions platform ready for Textile Biennale
  - Organising Textile Biennale exhibition
  - Site visit to Whitaker for Textile Biennale
  - Anniversary show alternatives

## 6. Voting for New Committee Members

The following were voted in:

**Secretary:** Sally Spinks, proposed by Ealish, seconded by Penny

**Social Media:** Anna Gravelle, proposed by Emily, seconded by Joanna

**Membership – Isobel Currie:** to become a full committee member (previously co-opted), proposed by Catherine, seconded by Sue.

Co-opted committee members are Lucy Brown – Handling Collection, and Louise Baldwin, Archive. Daisy Collingridge has left the committee. Thank you Daisy!

## 7. Inclusivity and Diversity

- 62 Group Inclusivity and Diversity Policy

Agreed by AGM as follows:

*“The 62 Group of Textile Artists promotes equality of opportunity. We oppose all forms of discrimination, whether on grounds of disability, gender identity, ethnicity, sexuality, age, religion, belief, or any other condition or requirement which may place a person at a disadvantage.*

*We believe that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.”*

- Inclusivity and Diversity Questionnaire – results (Isobel Currie)

**Tables of results and pie charts sent by email to all members by Debbie Lyddon on 7 December 2020.**

Thank you to everyone who returned their questionnaire: we received 50 back from the 65 that were sent out.

Canvassing the group via a questionnaire was a new thing for all concerned, and some methods of gathering the information may be reconsidered in the future, responding to feedback and observations arising from the process.

Note: the pie chart graphics are to be read clockwise from the top with reference to the key (I couldn't make it do more than 6 colours!)

Responding to some of the points that arose: One member questioned the anonymity of the process, noting the number on the questionnaire. To clarify the process used: it was felt that using posted forms, rather than emails, would help to anonymize the process, however given that the cost in envelopes and stamps came to approximately £140, it was not felt to be financially prudent to have to repeat the exercise every time there are changes in membership, so it was decided that each member would be given a random number, stored on a separate, password-protected list, which would only be seen by the membership secretary, and only referred to in removing a member from the group. In future it may be decided that it is preferable to just take a 'snapshot' of

the group every few years, rather than maintain an up-to-date database, in which case numbers would not be required.

In each question category the offered answers were alphabetized, to avoid any appearance of favouring one answer over another. If people did not choose an answer on their returned form, I registered their response as 'prefer not to say'. If people ticked more than one box in a category, e.g. British and Irish, I registered their response as half in each category.

Inevitably some people did not feel that there was an answer provided which was appropriate for their situation, examples included: living with a long-term partner, widowed, and pansexual. Some international members may have felt that their ethnicity was not adequately represented. However there will always be a danger that including more categories would lead to individual respondents being more easily identifiable.

One respondent made the good point that class and wealth can also be major influencing factors on a person's life and opportunities, however I don't know how the potentially emotive questions addressing socio-economic background could be added to this type of information-gathering exercise.

The results of the survey are will probably not come as a surprise to anyone, but do serve to clearly illustrate people who are under-represented in the 62 Group. For example, the ethnicity results show that only two of the categories listed are represented in the Group, and that one of those is represented" by only one sub-category of Asian and white. It may be instructive to compare these results to national population demographics for each category (although this may only be possible with reference to UK statistics) and it will be interesting to see whether the diversity of the Group changes over time. It will need to be decided whether there is anything that could, or should, be done by the Group to try and influence those changes.

Hannah continued with an analysis of the results, comparing our results against UK Government data. Three areas where the Group does not reflect the UK average are:

Gender, Ethnicity (group is 98% white) and Age (group has 22% over 70 years old and 54% over 60 years old).

## **"Motion for the 2020 AGM (presented by Hannah Lamb)**

### **62 Group inclusion and diversity proposal**

In order to develop the 62 Group as a more inclusive organisation and enable more diverse groups to benefit from experiencing high quality textile art, the Inclusion & Diversity working party proposes a programme of initiatives we would like the group to commit to annually, for the next five years:

#### **62 Group - Emerging Textile Artist Award**

Two bursaries to be awarded annually to emerging textile artists of merit; one award to be exclusively for a BAME artist. Each artist would receive £500 award and 2 years of mentoring with an established 62 Group member. They would also have the option to be included in 62 Group exhibitions for 2 years (subject to the usual exhibition selection). After that time the recipient would have the option to apply for full membership of the group.

Application for the Emerging Textile Artist Award would be through digital submission with selection by a committee of group members and an invited (paid) external panel member. There would be no requirement for the applicant to have completed a graduate level course but the award would be given on merit, based on the applicants

promising work.

Proposed timescale: Promotion; Feb/March 2021, Applications open; May 2021, Applications close; June 2021, Selection; Sept.2021. TBC.

#### 62 Group - Community/Education Grant

An annual programme of bursaries of up to £500 each for 62 Group members to deliver an education event in a community or education setting. The award is for a group/organisation with limited funds or resources, where there is a genuine need. The funds could be used as part of a larger project or towards match funding.

Applications should come from members with a proposal and a specific organisation they wish to work with.

Proposed timescale: suggest this is a rolling award, but limited to 2 bursaries per year.

Your support is needed

It is our belief that the 62 Group has a duty to lead by example, working towards increasing diversity in the textile world and increasing opportunities for less represented groups. The above programme of initiatives will require support from members and we will specifically be looking for people to help with the following:

Help with online selection panels

Admin support

Mentoring for emerging artists

Spreading the word through your networks”

Hannah presented the Motion to the AGM and asked for comments. The Motion is “in principle” document, the wording to change as agreed.

There was unanimous support for the Motion, with many thanks from the membership for bringing it forward. Many suggestions were made which will be passed to Hannah for the next working group to discuss/action.

Suggestions/discussion:

- Promising students at degree shows could be identified. Agreed a pro-active approach was needed to encourage people to apply.
- Target key groups in an area where we are exhibiting.
- Lynn happy to be an advisor re: working with community groups.
- Will it also cover international artists/projects?
- Suggested that the BAME bursary not be limited to one bursary only but to be “**at least** one for BAME artists”.
- It was requested that the Community/Education bursaries include community arts programmes to benefit from the bursary, even if they are not run by a 62 Group member.
- Most of the members present offered their services as mentors (again, in principle – details to be ironed out). Suggested that mentoring training may be appropriate, to ensure we celebrate difference.
- Suggested one/more bursary (perhaps the one for emerging artists) be named as “The Audrey Walker Memorial Bursary/ries”. We would need to check with her family about this. Jan agreed to do this.

- To maintain the bursary fund, we could add an optional supplement to the annual subscription from members. We could also remember to leave a legacy in our wills.  
Supplementary funding from guilds for diversity programmes? James to check out.  
Put the money in an endowment fund?

All suggestions will go forward to the working group.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- Audrey Walker Memorial

Debbie asked for members' ideas for an Audrey Walker memorial. Debbie asked for members to write something about Audrey for inclusion in a newsletter. Send to her before Xmas please.

Suggested our Knit & Stitching show could be named after her. Launching the bursaries also a fitting memorial.

- Future Planning – exhibitions and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Suggested an exhibition/handling collection "in a box" to send around.

Other suggestions: a publication, a series of talks, studio visits (online), webinar to announce the launch of the bursaries. James agreed to find an MA student who could work on a digital timeline of the Group. Our Archive holds images that could be used.

- Future Planning – Zoom Networking meetings

These have been successful. Debbie to send out link for next one, next week.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 4 December 2021 (online was popular – especially so we can include our overseas members again)

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2020****BALANCE AT 31 AUGUST 2019****£17,982.32****INCOME**

Subscriptions (includes overseas members' fees held on account)	£2,871.14
Exhibition Submission and Hanging Fees	£385.00
Commission on sale of work	£70.00
NCCAD exhibition fee (Ctrl/Shift)	£4,000.00
Catalogue Sales	£609.90
<b>Transferred from PayPal (see below)</b>	<b>£3,262.50</b>
Arts Council Grant (balance)	£702.00
Bank Refund	£2.01
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£11,902.55</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

Refund of Membership fees paid in error	£135.00
<b>Exhibition Expenses</b>	
CONSTRUCT expenses	£482.14
Ctrl/Shift storage and transport	£960.00
Ctrl/Shift Catalogue	£4,644.00
Ctrl/Shift Consultant (Liz Cooper)	£3,678.13
Ctrl/Shift Video	£1,200.00
Members' expenses	£188.92
AGM expenses	£707.07
Website maintenance	£2,830.18
Advertising	£440.00
Postage and packing	£934.63
Committee Meetings travel expenses	£631.75
PayPal Fees	£15.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£16,846.82</b>

**BALANCE AT 31 AUGUST 2020****£12,998.05****PayPal account****£3,262.50 transferred June 2020****Income**

New Members Applications	965.05
Catalogue sales (inc P&P)	2,632.87

**Expenditure**

Curatorspace subscription	-40.00
Gift	-100.00
PayPal fees	-195.42

£3,262.50

THE 62 GROUP OF TEXTILE ARTISTS  
Interim balance sheet 1 September 2020 to 31 October 2020

**BALANCE AT 31 AUGUST 2020** **£12,998.05**

**INCOME**

Membership Subscriptions  
(includes overseas members' fees held on account) £2,611.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **£2,611.00**

**EXPENDITURE**

Refund of Membership Subscriptions £150.00  
PayPal Funding £200.00  
Stationery £39.96  
Postage £131.56

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE** **£521.52**

**BALANCE AT 31 OCTOBER 2020** **£15,087.53**

At 31 October 2020  
PayPal account £322.28  
No transfer