

# The 62 group of textile artists Committee meeting minutes Sat 3 Dec 2021 Zoom

## 1 Attendance

*Who was there:*

Debbie Lyddon, Richard McVetis, Catherine Dormor, Isobel Currie, Vanessa Rolf, Hannah Lamb, Emily Jo Gibbs, Anna Gravelle, Sally Spinks

*Who sent apologies:*

Jane McKeating, Caron Penney

## 2 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved

## 3 Treasurers Report

Accounts will be presented at the AGM

*Account signatories* - Christina is in the process of becoming a signatory with the bank and Paypal. Once Christina is confirmed, Debbie will hand over her signatory to Catherine.

It was resolved that the mandate for the 62group's bank account at NatWest be altered in accordance with the account signing rules. The former Treasurer Elizabeth Tarr to be replaced by the new Treasurer Christina Hesford and the current mandate will continue as amended.

*Expenses* – it was agreed that a member of the committee or other member who is **explicitly asked to attend** installation or taking down, will receive compensation in line with rules in place for Chair and Exhibition representative.

## 4 Membership

There are currently 57 exhibiting members, 5 Honorary exhibiting members, 18 Honorary non-exhibiting members, and 11 Friends.

After a long delay owing to the pandemic, three new members have now been selected to join the Group and we welcome Christina Hesford, Marie José Gustave and Claire Barber.

Two members, Penny Burnfield and Jean Draper, were granted a sabbatical this year.

Three members, Elizabeth Tarr, Rachel Gornall, and Hilary Bower have resigned as exhibiting members due to their personal circumstances. Hilary Bower has become a friend of the Group.

Two people have unfortunately lost their membership by the three-strike rule this year (Claire Johnson and Michelle Stephens).

Isobel had been contacted by several members asking what their status is, and how many exhibiting lives they have left. This is made more complicated this year by having two exhibition selections which count as one life. Members may not be aware that they will be contacted and warned if they are down to their last life, so if they don't hear from Isobel after second selection for 'Conversations' has taken place in January, they have at least two lives left. Isobel however is always happy to clarify your position if anyone is in doubt.

As always, please make sure everyone keeps all contact information up-to-date so that they receive newsletters and reminders about exhibition deadlines; also check that subs payments have been made, so that they don't risk losing their membership by default.

**Action:** Following discussion around Michelle who had appealed against losing membership of the group as she was on adoption leave, the committee decided that she should lose her membership as she had been given the option to apply for a sabbatical but had failed to do so. Catherine to write to Michelle to confirm.

Also noted that Caron had applied for a sabbatical too which has been granted.

## 5 New Members

Given the resignations and two members losing membership this past year, it was decided to go ahead with a New Members selection in 2022 – to open in Feb.

**Action:** Catherine to work with Ealish to advise her of the process

## 6 Exhibition Updates

*British Textile Biennial:*

- The exhibition ended last weekend
- Thank you to everyone who took part and helped promote the exhibition. We had a great response
- The showreel is a legacy of the work submitted and has also been well received

*St Barbe/Conversations 2022:*

- 14th January – 26th February 2022
- 24 artist / 33 works
- PV 13th January 2022 – 6 to 8 pm
- Work should arrive on the 11th
- A selection and install team still needs to be organised
- PV invite and flyer will be sent out soon - Please advertise

*60th Anniversary year 2022:*

- Richard will re-connect with Jo Hall in November about K&S space; she said she would be in touch
- Potentially looking for another venue as well, Morley Gallery in London. A new space which Richard thinks would be a great space and step up for the group. Richard is waiting to hear back.

- Catherine and Richard have visited the archive. I need to compile the info and send it to Jessica. It's a bigger job than we expected
- We are still hoping that Jessica will write a piece based on the information from the archive. We will use this text along with a timeline of the group logos. Richard will work with a graphic designer to design a poster/ leaflet launched at the anniversary show. Perhaps with an exhibition of items from the archive.
- Anniversary brief has been set and written by Debbie – Essence

The Brief:

Essence: the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something

62 Group members should submit work that conveys what it is that motivates and drives their practice - its 'essence'. This could be anything and could include concept, process, materials etc.

Members can respond to the brief in any way they want, but the connection to the brief should be made clear in their statement.

Restrictions: With 65+ artists exhibiting, we need to restrict the size.

2-D work should be no bigger than 30 x 30 cm. 3-D work should be no bigger than 30 x 30 x 30 cm.

*Sunny Bank Mills 2023:*

- Met with Jane Kay about the potential exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills
- She wants to include it in a funding application for Leeds 2023
- Brief to group by March 2022, selection March 2023 with an exhibition from July to September
- I will be back in touch with Jane in January

62 Group at 62 2024:

- Richard was thinking about approaching the Fashion and Textile Museum again

Whilst Richard has enjoyed the exhibition role, he would like to step back. It would be beneficial if he had someone to assist with the 60th-anniversary show and then take over afterwards. This would allow for a smooth transition.

**Action:** Catherine to write to members to ask for a new Exhibition committee member who can work alongside Richard.

## 7 Education Update

### **St Barbes**

Monday 17 January, 10-4, Hand stitch workshop with Jane Mckeating

Saturday 29 January, 10-4, Silk organza workshop with Emily Jo Gibbs

Saturday 5 February, 10-12am and 2-4pm, Drop-in workshop. Make a map textile workshop for families/young people with Vanessa Rolf

Tuesday 8 February, 10am-4pm, Common Ground Stitch Workshop with Vanessa Rolf

### **Textile Biennial October – November 2021 Whittaker Gallery**

A very good response from members offering a range of online and in person talks and workshops. These were all sent to Jane Williams the Education officer for the Gallery who selected what she felt would work. There was some reluctance to commit to workshops as the gallery wanted to use more local artists who charged a smaller fee, but this may have been due to inexperience of a new team. A proposed 'In conversation' event was not accepted which is disappointing. 2 of the events had to be cancelled in the main due to very late advertising and difficult booking systems at the Gallery, which was a shame as members had responded so well to the early call out.

The workshops and talks that did take place were very well received and well attended.

Lynn Settrington's events to make elements of a community piece using donated fabrics have been very successful in involving local groups and the wider community. The result was a very successful part of the exhibition.

#### **Workshops**

Vanessa Rolf -Making common Ground (online)

Jane Mckeating -Hand Stitched stories

Lynn Settrington -Kantha Quilts

#### **Talks**

Hannah Lamb (online) – Unravelling Archives

#### **Films**

The films were submitted, and we had 16 artist films. Richard put a lot of work into making these successful and Lucy Forester was employed to edit and compile into 1 showreel. The result was shown in a separate space which had large screens but was not well signposted by the gallery. In future it would be good to have the films alongside the work. However, they did receive a lot of views online and we got very good feedback.

We are awaiting quotes for holding a workshop for members who would like some help in gaining some expertise in making a short film.

Films could be a good way of having a useful education resource for the future.

## **8 Publicity**

It's been a mixed year for publicity. On the one hand the uncertainties of Covid have meant the usual listings etc have been tricky due to cancelled events. On the other hand we have had some great opportunities to piggyback on the high profile British Textile Biennial. While we did experience some difficulties getting reciprocal coverage from BTB, it certainly helped that our exhibition at the Whittaker was part of something bigger.

Online listings were placed with the Crafts Council and Art Rabbit.

The main press coverage achieved was in Embroidery magazine, with a mention in a 'Preview' piece about the British Textile Biennial in the Sept/Oct issue (p.13) accompanied by an image of work by Emily Jo Gibbs and Hazel Bruce. The exhibition was also mentioned in a review of the Biennial by Jo Hall in Nov/Dec issue (p.56):

*"Textile works by 23 members of the 62 Group in 'Connected Cloth' make for a concise, well curated show at the Whitaker: Richard McVetis' installation A Portrait of Coal addresses complex narratives around coal as both driver of the industrial revolution and current climate change. Whilst Emily Jo Gibbs' Textile Worker - China is a subtle portrait of an anonymous factory worker."*

The piece was accompanied by an installation shot of the exhibition at the Whitaker. Both issues also included the Connected Cloth exhibition on the listings page. Including an image of Sue Stone's work in the Nov/Dec issue.

We also achieved a write-up on the Hole & Corner blog as part of Rue Pigalle's tour of the British Textile Biennial. The blog discusses the work of Isobel Currie, Hannah Lamb, Emily Jo Gibbs, Richard McVetis and Sally Spinks, who gave an artists tour of the exhibition for Rue Pigalle's members.

<https://www.holeandcorner.com/craft-collaboration/british-textiles-biennial-a-tour-with-rue-pigalle>

Having a bank of (mainly) high quality imagery prepared in advance of the show is making it easier to promote our work to press. It is useful to have these as soon as possible to allow us to use for promotion.

Jo Hall (Embroidery editor) continues to be a great supporter of the group. Hannah wondered if we could try to develop stronger relationships with other media organisations by inviting them to events. We have discussed a mailing list for press and galleries and she thinks this is important in developing our professional profile.

The main source of publicity for our events is via our existing mailing list and crucially through members own followers/audiences (i.e. social media). The education events that were most successful seemed to be those heavily promoted by members themselves. The delay in the Whitaker putting the education events on their website and listings was a huge issue in us being able to promote them, and is something we should emphasise with galleries and venues in the future.

## 9 Social Media

Headline:

The Connected Cloth exhibition as well as the talk at the Fashion and Textile Museum has brought a lot of focus to the 62 Group and has contributed to a surge in followers and engagement.

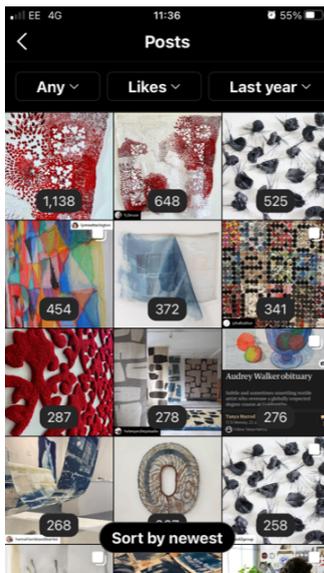
**5,025** Followers [1,177 new followers since March 2021] In the last **90** Days:

We gained **476** more followers [compared to 4 Jun – 1 Sep] Accounts reached: **19.1k**

Accounts engaged: **1,882** [rise of 292%]

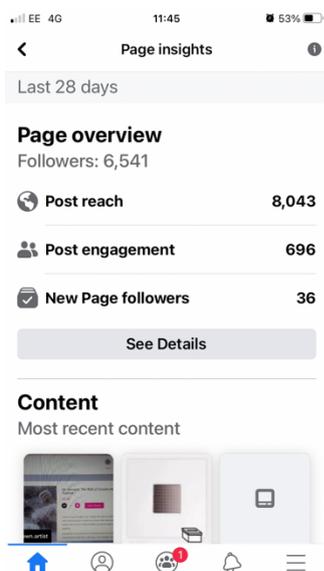
First and second prize for most post likes goes to Hazel Bruce and her work feature for the Connected Cloth exhibition as well as a repost about her work. In third place is the post relating to the talk at the Fashion & Textile Museum.

Instagram Profile visits were **2,162** [compares with 386 in March] Website taps came to **220** [compares with 24 in March]



## Facebook Insights

Followers: 6541 [compares with 5853 in March 2021] Post Reach: 8,043  
Post engagement" 696



## Twitter

1,960 a gain of 58 new followers since March.

Please do keep tagging the 62group in posts and use hashtags which really help with engagement and saves Anna having to re-add them ☺

## 10 Website

**62 Group Website Maintenance** Some members may have noticed that in some browsers the homepage is loading quite a bit slower. Dave intends to address this issue in the new year. This work may take sometime but will not incur any financial cost to The Group.

**Membership Site Logins** When changing logins for the membership site, please ensure to choose a strong password. This will help to keep the site secure against attack.

The National Cyber Security Centre website has some good advice on the use of strong passwords and how to save them. Please email davidpitcher@me.com if anybody would like the link.

**Artist Page Updates** To help keep the artist pages on the website relevant, can all exhibiting members review all the content of their page, including their CV, at least once a year.

## 11 Newsletters

Noted that the public newsletter had been circulated by Emily on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. Sally will be co-ordinating the production of the members newsletter to go out by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec.

## 12 Archives

Noted that professional photos, publicity material and minutes should be printed and sent to Louise Baldwin to go to the archives.

## 13 Inclusivity & Diversity

Proposal put together by Debbie and Vanessa was to be discussed at the AGM where members would be asked to vote to accept the proposed way forward.

## 14 AOB

No AOB

Catherine and Sally to meet after AGM and put together dates for committee meetings in 2022.