

MEETING OF THE ART COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 10am
Godwin Room, Clare College**

Present: Prof Bill Harris, Dr John Guy, Mrs King, Dr Paul Edwards, Dr Patricia Fara, Dr Douglas Hedley, Dr Helena Sanson, Ms Lydia Allain-Chapman (UCS), Mr Peter Asimov (MCR)

1. Declarations of Interest

Dr Guy declared his interest in Item 5. He is a client of The Brick House.

2. Minutes of 22 November 2018

Approved.

3. Photographs of Clare Fellows – Progress Report

Professor Harris reported that just over £5k had been raised from the Fellowship so far, £10K short of the £15k we'd hoped to raise for the photographs and the oil painting. Ms Allain-Chapman reported that the undergraduate students were on course to raise at least £1k from several events in support of this project, including a Women in STEM dinner. An email would be sent to the Fellowship to encourage those who have not yet contributed to do so, and Mr Asimov agreed to approach the MCR to see if they would be willing to at least part-match the UCS funding.

After considering several options for the photographs, and different photographers, in February Professor Harris and Mrs King met with the photographer, Julia Hedgcoe (see <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp11899/julia-hedgecoe>), who has agreed to take on the work of photographing 30 Fellows for the sum of £5k. This would not include the cost of framing. The Committee was in agreement that Ms Hedgcoe would do a good job, and endorsed Prof Harris's suggestion for a sub-committee to identify possible sitters, with the proviso that about 20 of them would be women, and they could be both active and retired Fellows. The sub-committee would be made up of Prof Harris, Mrs King, Ms Allain-Chapman and Mr Asimov. Prof Harris agreed to let Ms Hedgcoe know that the Committee would like

to proceed with the project and in due course a report of the Art Committee's activities would be made to Council.

4. **Hanging of photos of Professor Lord Baker and Professor Gates**

The Committee agreed that the photo of Professor Lord Baker should hang in the Godwin Room.

They also agreed that the photo of James Watson and Francis Crick could be removed from the MCR and replaced with the photo of Professor Gates. Mr Asimov offered the MCR's thanks for the Committee's decision on this matter. We agreed that as the Watson-Crick photo was iconic in the history of science, and that the photo should be relocated to the Medical fellows' supervision rooms.

5. **Removal and Storage of pictures in Hall, H Staircase and the SCR during Old Court renovation**

Mrs King reported that owing to pressure on Fellows' rooms during the Old Court renovation, the offer of D1 as an art store has been withdrawn. However, another space has been identified in the basement of the Gillespie Centre which should prove suitable for the larger pictures, as long as the temperature of the storage space does not fluctuate too much. She has asked the Building Dept to monitor the temperature over the next few months. Smaller pictures will have to be hung elsewhere or stored in T basement.

The Brick House has been approached to re-activate the estimate they provided last year for helping with the wrapping and storage of the paintings. A response is awaited and Mrs King will chase for this.

Mrs King also raised the issue of the chapel altarpiece, which needs to be covered during the roofing works. She will seek advice on this from the Brick House and/or the Hamilton Kerr Institute.

6. **Art Committee Representative on Conservation Committee**

The Committee noted that Mrs King has been asked to sit on the Conservation Committee.

7. **Master's Portrait**

Mrs King reported that the Master's portrait was going to the Trumpington Gallery to be framed. When completed, it will be on show temporarily in College before returning to storage until the Master is about to step down.

8, **Student Photography Competition**

Ms Allain-Chapman and Mr Asimov agreed to send an email to students asking them to submit new photos to hang in the Buttery. The Committee owns the existing frames, so this will not incur extra expense. The Committee will review the submitted photos in the Michaelmas Term.

The Committee also agreed to provide support for a student art exhibition. Ms Allain-Chapman agreed to write a news item on the subject for Clare News.

9. **Any Other Business**

There was a renewed vigorous discussion, in which all were in strong agreement that it was essential for the college to embrace the women's portraits issue as a matter of urgency. That the undergraduates have themselves raised a substantial sum for this indicates how strongly the student community feels. The consequences of not taking a lead on this and doing a good job of it by the 50th anniversary of female entry to the College, could be negative re attraction of students and in benefactions to Clare, etc. The committee agreed to try to keep the pressure up and send this message to the Council for their consideration and support.