

Waterside Art Group

Constitution and Rules

1. Name

The name of the group shall be **The Waterside Art Group**.

2. Rationale

The group exists for the benefit of all members in order to:

- a) Bring together artists of all ages and abilities on a regular basis and in a social environment.
- b) Organise various activities of interest, both social and technical, for the mutual benefit and artistic development of all members through demonstrations, workshops, appraisals and social events etc.
- c) Promote public awareness and group and individual member's aspirations through regular exhibitions and other appropriate events.

3. Membership

The group shall have members and may have honorary members if the committee decides that the conditions are appropriate.

The committee shall decide on the number and admission of members. A waiting list shall be maintained when membership is oversubscribed. Persons on the waiting list will be admitted in order of application.

In signing the Membership Application Form members agree to abide by the spirit and ethos of the Waterside Art Group. They also accept that the Committee reserves the right to rescind an individual's membership at any time if their behaviour is detrimental to the well-being of the group and contrary to its ethos and spirit. In the case of such behaviour the Committee will endeavour to resolve the situation by informal dialogue with the member. During this dialogue the member may be accompanied by a friend who must be a current member of the Waterside Art Group. A written summary of this dialogue will be produced by the Committee. In the case of the failure to resolve the situation the committee will advise the member in writing of its intention to rescind their membership. At this stage the decision of the committee is final. In the event of rescindment the group will refund the member with the appropriate proportion of the annual membership fee.

4. Officers

The officers of the group shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Programme Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected annually. Election/Re-election of officers will take place at the AGM by the members attending.

The Chairman will only have a casting vote at committee meetings and AGMs.

5. Committee

- a) The committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the general and financial affairs of the group in the best interests of the whole membership.
- b) The committee shall consist of not more than 10 members including officers.
- c) The committee will be elected at the AGM. Any member of the group may propose or second members for election to the committee not less than 14 days before the AGM. Committee members shall retire each year but be eligible for re-election.
- d) The committee shall be able to co-opt a group member onto the committee if a vacancy occurs during the year. Persons so appointed will assume all the normal responsibilities of a committee member until the next AGM.
- e) The committee shall meet as required but not less than four times per year. A quorum shall consist of over one half of the elected members of the committee, of whom at least two shall be officers.

6. Finance and subscription

Waterside Art Group's financial year will begin at the AGM. The subscription for all members (except honorary members) shall be reviewed and determined by the committee from time to time. Subscriptions are due to be paid annually at or within two months after the AGM. New members joining during the year will pay a proportionate subscription.

7. The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the committee. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be called the Agenda as set out below:

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Agreement to the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Chairman's report of the year's activities.
4. Secretary's report of the year's activities.
5. Treasurer's statement of accounts and financial report.
6. Matters arising.
7. Election of:
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Vice-Chairman
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Programme Secretary
 - e) Treasurer
 - f) Ordinary committee members
8. Any other business.

The election of officers and committee members shall be by a show of hands and a simple majority of the members present at the AGM.

8. Winding up of The Waterside Art Group

If a decision is made by two thirds of the membership (both meeting and postal vote) to close the group, the assets remaining after paying all debts shall be made over to another similar group or to a registered charity as decided by the committee.

9. Exhibitions

The committee shall be responsible for the organisation of The Waterside Art Group's exhibitions as and where appropriate.

In any exhibition a picture hanging fee will be charged and the group will retain a commission on the price of any picture sold.

Members who wish to participate in the group's exhibitions will be expected to have attended some of the group's weekly meetings. Members unable to do so may, at the discretion of the committee, exhibit their work but a higher commission may be charged.

10. Constitution change

Any proposed change or addition to the constitution shall be approved by a simple majority vote on a show of hands of those attending the AGM or a Special General Meeting called with at least 14 days notice.