The Heritage Crafts Association

(operating as 'Heritage Crafts')

Annual General Meeting

Held via Zoom video conferencing platform

6.30pm Wednesday 10 December 2025

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting

Present: 82 people, 75 of whom were Heritage Crafts members

1. Welcome by the Chair, David Clarke (DCl).

2. Apologies for absence were received from:

- Sandrine Bramley
- Samantha Boot
- Bec Briar
- Nicola Cox
- Emma Hogbin
- Carole Milner
- Rachel O'Connell
- Tina Pringle
- Anna Rennie
- Kate Robertson
- Sam Self
- David Viner
- Nadya Webster
- Samantha Yates
- Anastasia Young

3. The minutes of the 16th AGM held on 11 December 2024

- Proposed: Anna Crutchley
- Seconded: Shalani Austin
- Approved (46 in favour, none against, 7 indicated abstentions)

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2024

Robert Murray (RM, Treasurer) presented the Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2025.

He reported that total income was up 107 percent and total expenditure had increased by 57 percent, resulting in a surplus of £160,000 for the year. He noted that nearly

£40,000 of this is restricted funding that was required to be used on projects in the upcoming year.

RM stated that the intention was to maintain the reserves policy of holding approximately 12 months' running costs to pay staff and wind up the organisation should the need arise. With staff levels increasing to eight, the reserve requirement was now around £227,000 to ensure stability.

RM presented a breakdown of the sources of income, split by income type (restricted and unrestricted).

Grant income had increased by 142 percent on the previous year. Restricted grants included those from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Pilgrim Trust, the City and Guilds Foundation, the William Grant Foundation, the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation, the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion and the Ashley Family Foundation, mostly in support of grants, awards and bursary schemes. Unrestricted grants included the second year of a three-year grant of £35,000 from the Swire Charitable Trust.

Membership numbers dropped during the period (ending the year at 964 members compared to 1,493 at the start) due to a requirement for members to re-register on a new payment platform. However, membership income remained largely in line with the previous year due to a fee increase implemented in May.

Donations were the biggest growth area, up 635 percent due to a £74,000 bequest and a restricted donation of £50,000 for the Maker Relief Fund.

Sponsorship income remained similar to the previous year, thanks to ongoing relationships with the Royal Mint, Soane Britain, Rose Uniacke, Silver Lining Furniture and House of Sonnaz.

Project management income remained steady at around £27,000, thanks to restricted grant funding from the Capri Holdings Foundation, Costume Society, City and Guilds Foundation, Leathersellers' Foundation and the Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation.

In terms of expenditure, salaries formed the major part of core outgoings and had increased 5 percent from the previous year. This increase was kept minimal despite the team expanding to eight members, thanks to a £51,000 contribution to salaries from projects funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Pilgrim Trust. The two-year Lottery project allowed for the recruitment of a Volunteer Coordination Officer (Finn Arschavir) and a Project and Policy Officer (Zarka Iqbal) on part-time fixed-term contracts until March 2026. A Grants and Membership Administrator (Rae Weaver) was also recruited in May.

RM thanked all funders, sponsors, donors, benefactors and the membership whose support makes this possible.

DCl thanked RM for his report and for overseeing financial stability, and also thanked Finance Officer Ailsa Patterson and Hannah Lamare who covered Ailsa's maternity leave.

DCl invited members to formally approve the financial report and accounts.

- Proposed: Max Coates
- Seconded: Ally Matthews
- Approved (57 in favour, none against, 1 indicated abstention)

6. Election of Trustees

DCl presented six newly co-opted Trustees standing for election for a three-year term: Nicola Duncan-Finn, Emma Jhita, Dr Catherine Lillie, Daahir Mohamed, Michael Osbaldeston and Dr Simon Sadinsky.

- Proposed: Janine Rees
- Seconded: James Allen
- Approved (52 in favour, none against, no indicated abstentions)

DCl presented Robert Murray and Jo Sealy as standing for re-election for their second and final three-year terms.

- Proposed: Daahir Mohamed
- Seconded: Michael Osbaldeston
- Approved (53 in favour, none against, no indicated abstentions)

7. Election of Officers

Jo Sealy (JS) was presented for election as Vice Chair for a three-year term.

- Proposed: Emma Jhita
- Seconded: James Allen
- Approved (54 in favour, none against, no indicated abstentions)

JS took over the chairing of the meeting and presented Rob Murray and David Clarke as standing for re-election as Treasurer and Chair respectively. DCl will serve one further year as Chair while the Board explores options to recruit for the role from December 2026.

- Proposed: Daahir Mohamed
- Seconded: Louise Brown
- Approved (56 in favour, none against, no indicated abstentions)

DCl resumed chairing the meeting.

8. Any other business

The formal business of the meeting concluded, and DCl handed over to the staff team to present highlights of the past year.