



# Constitution – October 2023

## TITLE

1.1. The title of the guild shall be 'Farnborough Craft Guild'.

## 2. AIMS

2.1. The aims of the Farnborough Craft Guild (FCG) shall be:

2.2. To promote the skills of crafts people and to keep alive the tradition of craftwork

2.3. To offer encouragement and advice to all members with the purpose of promoting the highest standards of craftsmanship and for the mutual benefit of all

2.4. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, experience and information

2.5. To encourage a greater public awareness and interest in craftwork

2.6. To arrange craft events to further the aforementioned aims

## 3. CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

3.1. There shall be two categories of membership: craft membership and associate membership, both restricted to adults only (18 years and over)

3.2. Craft members

3.2.1. Members shall be elected from applicants on the basis of excellence in their particular craft(s).

3.2.2. Application for membership shall be accompanied by examples of recent work. These shall be judged by the general membership before the application is accepted. Membership can be terminated if original standards fail to be maintained. (see paragraph 7.3)

3.2.3. Membership is on condition that all goods produced and sold are the craft person's own work and of a high standard.

3.3. Associate Members.

3.3.1. Once a person becomes entitled to full membership other members of their family automatically become entitled to associate membership without an additional fee being payable.

3.3.2. This category is open to any person interested in crafts but not practicing craftwork, who wishes to support the Guild and its aims. Associate members shall be entitled to assist at craft



fairs and participate at other functions of the Guild. They possess the same voting rights as Craft Members except in judging the suitability of an application for Craft Membership.

### 3.3.3. Joint Membership

3.3.4. The committee shall have the discretion to allow a 'couple' to constitute a single membership where they clearly work together on a craft(s).

## 4. MANAGEMENT

4.1. The affairs of the Guild shall be managed by a committee, consisting of four key posts: these being Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The remainder of the committee consists of up to five other persons who could take on the roles of Assistant Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Website Administrator or just General Committee members. The management committee shall be elected from members of the Guild.

4.2. The term of office for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary will be restricted to a maximum of three consecutive years. The term of office for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer will be restricted to a maximum of five consecutive years. A member who has already served in any one of the four management roles mentioned in paragraph 4.1 may stand again after a period of at least 12 months has elapsed since their term of office ended. They can, however, stand for election for a different position if they agree to be nominated.

4.3. The committee may co-opt other members as necessary to assist in specific tasks and events.

4.4. Not in use.

## 5. FINANCES

5.1. Membership is granted and then renewed annually on payment of a subscription fee to be determined by members at the AGM.

5.2. The annual subscription fee, inclusive of insurance premium for public and product liability, provides membership from the date of the AGM (in September) until the following AGM (Rule 6.2)

5.3. Members joining between the AGM in September and the end of December pay the full annual subscription. When joining between the beginning of January and the end of June half the annual subscription is required. Members joining in July or August shall pay a full year's subscription, but this covers June and July of the current year and the whole of the following Guild year until the AGM.in September.

5.4. Non-payment of the subscription fee by 30 September shall be regarded as withdrawal of membership except in extreme circumstances and at the managing committee's discretion.

5.5. The funds of the Guild shall be administered by the Committee solely for the benefit of the Guild and its Members, in accordance with the aims in section 2.

5.6. The Treasurer shall produce at each meeting of the committee, for inspection as required, all documents and receipts relating to the business of the Guild.



5.7. The Treasurer shall surrender all books, other documents, moneys, and property of the Guild if required to do so by the committee.

5.8. The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing a Statement of Accounts to be independently audited before submission to the AGM. Auditors shall not be members of the Committee but may be drawn from the wider membership of the Guild.

5.9. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will control finances and will be signatories for the Guild's bank account.

## **6. MEETINGS**

6.1. Subject to the wishes of Members a monthly meeting shall be held to discuss any business referred to it by the committee and to pursue the craft interests of Members.

6.2. Once a year, in September, the meeting shall be conducted as the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

6.3. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held if a submission is made in writing to the Committee bearing the signatures of six Members. Alternatively, the Committee may itself call an EGM if there are reasons warranting it. In both instances the committee must notify the whole membership in writing of the meeting.

## **7. GENERAL RULES**

7.1. Application for membership, shall be judged by all craft members at the first available 'New Members night' following the date of application. The applicant shall not be present while the decision is made, but will be advised of the decision, with advice and guidance if the application should be rejected.

7.2. The Guild reserves the right to refuse admittance to any applicant who does not meet its requirements.

7.3. The Guild will take to task any member whose standards drop. That Member shall be expelled by the Guild on the vote of its Members.

7.4. Each member must attend one evening meeting and one Guild show per year. A member can request in writing to the Committee for this to be waived in exceptional circumstances only. If a Member is felt not to show loyalty to the Guild, that Member shall be refused renewal of their membership."

7.5. Members booking into Guild organized shows will be expected to attend throughout the period of the show, leaving only when it closes.

7.6. At Guild events Crafts Members are expected to demonstrate their craft when required and to abide by the conventional high standards in selling to the public. Each Member should ensure that any electrical equipment used for demonstration or lighting has an up-to-date certificate and be prepared to show this on demand. A neat table covering must reach the floor on all four sides. Members should avoid aggressive selling techniques of any kind; prices should be displayed clearly and the craftsman's name and telephone number or address should appear on display on their stand.



7.7. Members taking up a craft not displayed on their application night must submit examples for judgment, as in 3.2.2. Once they are passed by the membership the craftsman can offer such items for sale at a Guild organized event. Any items not ratified by the Guild will not be covered by the Guild's insurance.

7.8. Irrespective of the insurance cover being taken out for Guild members for public/product liability and for the committee members for public liability, it shall remain each member's responsibility to ensure that he or she has sufficient insurance cover for loss, damage or theft of their property.

7.9. In the event of any person making or exhibiting any copyright craft work during any show organized by the Guild or elsewhere, the exhibitor will indemnify the Guild, its committee, officers and servants from and against any liability in respect of the infringement of copyright, and will repay on demand the amount of any damages or costs which they may incur or be held liable to pay.

7.10. The CONSTITUTION of the Guild may only be amended or changed by 2/3 vote of the quorum of the membership. This quorum shall be 50% of the membership or 16, whichever is the greater present at an AGM or EGM.

7.11. MEMBERS Rules (good practice rules) should be adhered to. These can be subject to change after discussion at evening meetings. The members to be informed of proposed changes in the monthly update, followed by a vote similar to the above (7.10), and the rules to be re-issued if necessary.

## Notes

- a. Jan Strode was elected as a 'Lifetime Honorary Exhibiting Member' at the 17 September 2014 AGM in accordance with paragraph 4.4. Jan was judged to have given exceptional service to the guild having served as its chair for some 30 years.
- b. Constitution amended 16 September 2018 to create a position of Assistant Treasurer and to extend the time limit of the position of Treasury and Assistant Treasury to a 5-year term.
- c. Waived item 4.2 for 1 year due to pandemic agreed at the AGM 2021.
- d. Amended 7.4 to reflect Committee decision on refusal of membership agreed at the AGM 2021.
- e. Removal of item 4.4 of the constitution agreed at AGM 26 September 2022.
- f. Change to para 5.9 to facilitate move of banking to Santander for more modern approach to banking agreed 21 November 2022
- g. Change to para 3.1 to restrict membership to adults only (18 years and over) agreed at AGM 23 September 2023
- h. Change to para 7.6 to have table coverings on all 4 sides agreed at AGM 23 Sept 2023
- i. Change para 4.1 of the constitution agreed at an EGM on 16 October 2023.