

# Swansea Hackspace Annual General Meeting 2024

**Swansea Hackspace, 21-22 Park Street, Swansea, SA1 3DJ.**

**2024-11-20, 19:00**

**Present:** Alice Mitchell [AM], Thomas Lake [TL], Liz Diffley [LD], Melissa Wheeler [MW], Tim Clark [TC], Paula Foscari-Craggs [PFC], Andy Rush [AR], Neil Jones [NJ], Osian Smith [OS], Peter Barnes [PB], Becca Little [BL], Nader Al Khatib [NAK]  
**By Proxy:** Sophia Komninou [SK]  
**Apologies:** None Received

## 1. Minutes of last AGM and matters arising

Accepted as read – Proposed TC, Seconded NJ

## 2. Financial Summary

Summary and accounts for period 01/12/2022 - 30/11/2023 presented, as the current financial year has not yet finished. Income and expenditure for the period discussed, which included the spending for the previous lottery grant.

£19k lottery grant received for renovation of upstairs, including 1 more year of rent.

We are still running at ~£100/month deficit and are unlikely to be able to apply for another lottery grant this year.

Our lease expires at the end of November 2025, and will need to be renegotiated. AM would prefer not to be the named contact when it is renewed.

Some comparisons made to NottingHack based on city size etc, who have many more members.

Currently 31 members. £22.7k in the bank, of which £19.5k earmarked for the renovation and one years rent.

Our reserves have been worn away by the continued monthly deficit.

Some discussions about membership rates. The current suggestion is £15, with a small number on £5.

## 3. Election of Directors

Two nominations: Peter Barnes, Tim Clark

Both elected unanimously by secret ballot.

## **4 Advertising and Fund Raising**

### **4.1 Grant Applications**

Successfully awarded lottery grant for upstairs refurbishment, which now needs to be spent [TC, LD]

Postcode lottery have grants available, with seemingly fewer conditions than the National Lottery funded grants. The next round opens "early 2025".

Nothing recent seen from the council, but the last Men's shed grant was very oversubscribed and we aren't actually a Men's Shed organisation.

Consider approaching larger (private) organisations for sponsorship/grants. LD has had success with this previously, but no time to explore at present.

Admiral may also be an option. Local branches of Wickes, B&Q, tool manufacturers etc might be worth approaching on a similar basis. PB to coordinate.

### **4.2 Fund raising events**

Some success with the electronics and radio club, with some new members converted. TL raised that they need to be consistently advertised, as changes are not well communicated.

Lightning talks raised as an option for another event.

Project nights/afternoons suggested as a general move to being open and visible more often.

New equipment/advertising existing equipment may help with draw.

Revamping/improving the entry way displays also mentioned.

Suggestion made to put adverts out on noticeboards and involving the community groups (community workshops, EYST etc), potentially looking at running workshops specifically with those groups.

Should also approach Swansea BID and 4theRegion for promotion as well. TL to take a look at options.

## **5 Workshops and Events**

### **5.1 Suggested workshops**

Mostly discussed as part of 4.2 above, but suggestions included cycling/cycle repairs, workshop based workshops, once the space and tools are available. Radio exams/foundation course also mentioned.

It was suggested that the space could try to tie in to Pint of Science/similar events

Group project/cross-promotion with Cardiff Hackspace?

NJ happy to write up press releases etc. if people have projects that could be used for publicity. Should probably announce the lottery grant work.  
PB will coordinate lottery news with NJ.

NAK will look to run Arduino and CAD workshops.

BL offered to run a phone repair workshop

MW reiterated offer to run a clay design workshop

LD can look at doing t-shirt/fabric item heat-pressing workshop

## **6 Refurbishment**

### **6.1 Report on works to date**

Not much to report. Lighting upgrade

### **6.2 Next stages of refurbishment plans**

Upstairs workshop and general tidying

## **7 Longer term plans**

Covered under previous items.

LD happy to discuss renewal with the landlords

An update and request that members consider increasing their membership rates where they can was also discussed.

## **8 Any other business**

Accepting donations - QR code for bank details, paypal etc.

**Meeting closed 20:29**