



2nd June 2021

Cllr Judy Anscombe  
Mayor of Swaffham (by email)

Dear Councillor Anscombe,

### **APPLICATION FOR GRANT**

The Rotary Club of Swaffham hereby submits a request for a grant of £500 towards the cost of staging our Annual Art Exhibition. The Exhibition has now been going and growing for 25 years. After an enforced absence in 2020, it will be back on 29th – 31st October 2021 at The Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Swaffham.

We aim to become the Art Exhibition of choice, and an inspiration, for all the artists in Norfolk. This is a bold statement. We base it on the continued success of our Annual Art Exhibition and Sale of Works which is now well known and attracts new and old exhibitors year on year.

This year we are intending to showcase the work of local schoolchildren. We already have the enthusiastic support of a secondary school and two junior schools and we hope ongoing discussion with others will lead to at least two more schools becoming involved.

We believe the Exhibition not only benefits people living in Swaffham but brings visitors to the town over the weekend.

Over the past years we have been successful in attracting sponsorship to meet the cost of staging the exhibition. In the recent past we have benefited from both financial and professional support from Abel Homes but we knew that 2019 was the last year of their support.

The main cost of staging the event are hirings of the Assembly Rooms and transport £850 and advertising £250. There are many other costs which we will be managing even more carefully than before and which we anticipate we can make "self financing" for example catalogue printing met from advertising fees, postage met from hanging fees for works of art.

The Covid 19 pandemic has heavily impacted on a wide range of businesses which in other circumstances could have supported us. We are hopeful of support from a local farming company, but it will not meet our staging costs.

We are aware of the Council's Terms and Conditions of Grant which at first reading would appear to preclude consideration of a grant. However, the Council should be aware that the Club has in place a Trust Deed made on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1996 and registered with the Charity Commission. All proceeds from any fund-raising event are paid into a separate bank account and every payment is reported to the Charity Commission with the usual return. Income and expenditure associated with the administration of the Club is managed through a separate bank account.

Therefore, we are hoping the Council would be disposed to give a one-off donation towards a cause that benefits the wider community of Swaffham.

We would be happy to provide any further information which may be required including details of organisations within the local community which have benefited from our Trust Fund in the recent past.

Yours sincerely,

*John Wallace*