

EALING ARTS + LEISURE

MINUTES OF THE 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2014 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 4, EALING TOWN HALL, W.5.

Present: John Hummerston (in the Chair).

21 people signed the Attendance Book representing the following member clubs/societies:- Diana Braybrook, Dinesh Studio London, CLAN Social Club, Classic Cinema Club, Ealing Art Group, Ealing Lacemakers, Ealing National Trust Association, Ealing Symphony Orchestra, The Gardening Club, Hanwell Heritage & Local History Society, Historical Association – Ealing Branch, Northolt & District Camera Club, Pisces Players, West London Arts Scene, Workers' Educational Association – Ealing Branch. Susi Kirkwood attended on behalf of the Friends of Ealing Arts.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mary Agnew, Mary Hummerston, and the following member societies:- Beaufort Players, Ealing Country Dance Club, Ealing Guitar Classes, Ealing Music & Film Festival, Friends of St. Mary's Perivale, Grassroots Arts Festival Support Group, Greenford & District Caledonian Association, HEOS Musical Theatre, West London Ramblers.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

These were approved.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that Mark Colgan was now fully occupied with a company he had set up and was not in a position to assist in connection with publicity.

4. Chairman's Report

John Hummerston read his report highlighting the various activities that had taken place during the year. He said that there remained a cool relationship with the Council over the promotion of arts and culture in the borough. Ealing Arts + Leisure is represented on the committee of the Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum.

In October we supported some of the Autumn Festival activities and also continued to support the schools' section of Ealing in Bloom.

In April, West London Opera ceased activity due to falling membership. It was the wish of its committee that the balance of its funds be made over to Ealing Arts + Leisure and the sum of £904 was duly received. This will be partly used to help musical theatre students with their study costs and partly go towards obtaining advice from a professional arts consultant in preparing a feasibility study for a performing arts facility in Ealing.

Also in April, the "Iron Duke" sculpture was finally installed close to the new bridges on the North Circular Road. The finished art work was dedicated by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and Ealing Arts + Leisure's involvement is recorded on a stainless steel plaque.

5. Membership Report

Richard Partridge reported that he is sending out membership renewal forms. The forms now require more contact details. Membership runs from 31st July. Although a few members have not renewed their membership we have gained a few. Total membership is around 80.

6. Treasurer's Report

In Mary Hummerston's absence, Colin Easton presented a Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2014. He said that owing to the delay in sending out renewal forms for 2013/14 the total membership subscriptions actually received in the year was significantly lower than for 2012/13. Subscriptions received after the end of the year relating to 2013/14 amounted to £2,623. The sponsorship from the University of West London in 2012/13 will not be repeated in the current year. New sources of sponsorship need to be found. Formal acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by John Talbot, seconded by Barbara Day and unanimously approved.

7. Reports

(a) Friends of Ealing Arts

Pauline Craven reported that membership stood at 45. No fund raising activities had been arranged due to falling interest. A play-reading group had been suggested which had attracted interest. The Chairman suggested that the play-reading group could become a member society, publicising its activities in the Diary of Events and on the website and thereby attracting new members.

(b) Diary of Events/Website

Richard Partridge explained that the website entry is the feeder for the Diary. The system appears to be

working well. He would be pleased to hear from anyone who could offer their services in redesigning the website.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his efficiency.

8. Election of Officers

John Hummerston and Colin Easton were both prepared to stand for a further year as Chairman and Secretary respectively. Mary Hummerston is standing down and Gillian Spragg was willing to stand for the post of Treasurer. There being no other nominations, the appointment of the three officers was proposed by John Talbot, seconded by Celia Busby and unanimously approved.

9. Confirmation of Executive Committee members

In addition to the current committee, Diana Braybrook and Gill Rowley were willing to join the committee. There were no other nominees.

10. New Membership Annual Subscription Fees

The Chairman explained that the rates had remained unchanged for a number of years. It was proposed that for those societies with up to 10 members the subscription should remain at £25. Other rates will be increased as follows: 11-25 members from £32 to £37, 26-50 members from £43 to £50, 51-100 members from £55 to £65 and over 100 members from £90 to £105.

Richard Partridge raised the question of the number of members that societies claim to have. He suggested that even single member societies have many "subscribers". The new rates were accepted.

11. Arts Newsletter

This had been proposed at last year's A.G.M. Although the website and Diary shows what is going on in the borough it would be interesting for societies to have other news about what is going on. The newsletter would only be successful if sufficient news items were submitted.

12. Autumn Festival

Gillian Spragg spoke about the plans for this year's Festival which has the title, "Stars in the Family". Fuller details are outlined on the inside back page of the August/September Diary.

13. Campaign for an Ealing Performance and Arts Centre (CEPAC) - update

The Chairman reported that a decision over the cinema site had been taken. The Council will continue to be lobbied over better facilities for the arts. A feasibility study will be carried out to confirm the need for and Arts Centre.

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Meeting ended at 8.45 pm.