

EALING ARTS + LEISURE

MINUTES OF THE 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2015 IN THE WALPOLE ROOM, EALING TOWN HALL, W.5.

Present: John Hummerston (in the Chair).

15 people signed the Attendance Book representing the following member clubs/societies:-
Diana Braybrook, Dinesh Studio London, Ealing Lacemakers, Ealing National Trust Association, Ealing Symphony Orchestra, Friends of Marcq-en-Baroeul, Friends of St. Mary's Perivale, Hanwell Heritage & Local History Society, Pisces Players (Popup Theatre), West London Arts Scene, West London Ramblers, West London Sinfonia.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mary Agnew and the following member societies:-
Capital Chorus, Ealing Art Group, Ealing Choral Society, Ealing Country Dance Club, Ealing Quilters, Grassroots Arts Festival Support Group, Himalayan Institute of Yoga Science & Philosophy, St. Barnabas Church Concerts.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

These were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

John Hummerston read his report highlighting the various activities that had taken place during the year and began by thanking Gillian Spragg and Richard Partridge for taking on the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively. He also thanked Diana Braybrook and Gill Rowley who had joined the Committee last year.

Ealing Arts + Leisure continues to be represented on the committee of the Ealing Music & Film Festival and has financially assisted the Autumn Festival. The sponsorship of the Schools' Section of Ealing in Bloom has also been maintained.

He had continued as representative on the management committee of the Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum. The need for a performance and arts centre is stressed in its draft recommendations which after due scrutiny process and a community referendum will, under the Localism Act, become Council policy.

Neither of the schemes for the cinema site includes any serious community or cultural use, although the Empire scheme owners have agreed to discuss this with CEPAC.. The result of the hearing of the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order is awaited.

Finally, he mentioned that he had now served 14 years as Chairman and felt it was time to hand over the reins to a younger person. In the meantime he was happy to serve as Chairman for one further year.

5. Membership Report

Richard Partridge reported that he is sending out membership renewal forms for the forthcoming year. Membership runs from 31st July. A few members did not renew their membership last year but we have gained a few and total membership remains at around 80.

6. Treasurer's Report

Gillian Spragg began her report by asking the meeting to remember the service that Mary Hummerston had given to Ealing Arts + Leisure both as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Although appointed Treasurer at last year's A.G.M. it had taken time to sort out formalities with the bank which meant that she had only effectively started in January by which time things were seriously in arrears in collecting revenue from members for advertisements, extra lineage in the Diary of Events and, in some cases, membership. She thanked Gill Rowley who, supported by Richard Partridge, had sorted out the un-invoiced adverts before continuing to count thousands of extra lineage and invoicing those as well. This vast undertaking had made a big difference to the Accounts and produced a healthy balance at the end of the year.

Arrangements for online banking are now in place and all members are welcome to use this facility.

She anticipated that by the end of the current year we would have a balance of around £7,000 and that we could use some of that to improve the quality of what members are able to do. The offer of funding for well thought out projects would bring more genuine attention to what we could do for members.

Formal acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Richard Partridge, seconded by John Ross and unanimously approved.

7. Reports

(a) Friends of Ealing Arts

Pauline Craven reported that membership remained at 45. She commented that as recently as 2008 membership had been in excess of 60 but had declined since 2012. The play-reading group has continued. The only other event had been a tea party which had only attracted 3 members.

(b) Diary of Events

Richard Partridge said that he will continue to deal with display adverts and Gill Rowley would continue to monitor the extra lineage.

The Chairman asked about the design of the Diary and whether we should consider changing the layout slightly. The consensus was that the present format worked well.

John Talbot, who helps with the distribution of the Diary, said he would be interested to know if there are enough Diaries at each outlet and how this could be monitored.

(c) Website

Richard said that the website continues to be the feeder for the Diary. He also said that the News Page on the website should be used more.

8. Election of Officers

John Hummerston, Colin Easton and Gillian Spragg were all prepared to stand as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. There being no other nominations, the appointment of the three officers was proposed by Richard Partridge, seconded by John Talbot and unanimously approved.

9. Confirmation of Executive Committee members

In addition to the current committee, who were all willing to continue, other nominations were considered:-
Bernice Wolfenden, proposed by Hazel Talbot and seconded by Colin Easton

Irie Levy, proposed by Vince Hines and seconded by Keisha Bembridge.

The meeting confirmed the election of Bernice Wolfenden and suggested that Irie Levy, who was not able to be present, be invited to the next Executive Committee meeting before being elected.

10. Ealing Autumn Festival

Gillian Spragg reported on this year's Festival which had already started with the Magna Carta exhibition which is touring the libraries. She thanked Diana Braybrook for her work in getting this up and running.

Plans are in place for a performance from a Russian chamber choir in October as well as a poetry competition. She also commented on the need for funding and grants in order to put on productions.

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

John Hummerston reiterated the position of the cinema site.

He mentioned that the development of the Arcadia site would include the Red Room and the car park site between the High Street and Bond Street was also being looked into.

He said that if the plan to develop a large part of the Town Hall into a hotel goes ahead there would be a loss of performance space and venues for many groups.

12. Any Other Business

Bernice Wolfenden suggested that the Ealing Festival could be considered for some financial support.

Richard Partridge proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for all his work over the years.

The Chairman thanked the Talbots for their hospitality over the past year and for providing refreshments..

The Meeting ended at 8.55 pm.