

MINUTES

of the 54th Annual General Meeting

held 10 July 2019, St Stephen's Church, Ealing
W13 8HB

Present: Gill Rowley (Chair), and committee members Colin Easton (Hon. Treasurer), Dorrie Baker (acting Hon. Secretary), Richard Partridge, Richard Norris, plus representatives of member organisations and invited guests (listed below)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from past president John Hummerston, committee member Hazel Talbot and the 13 organisations listed below

2 Minutes of previous AGM

These were approved.

3 Matters arising

There were none.

4 Chairman's report

Gill Rowley spoke of the continuing success of EA&L and the ongoing challenge of distribution.

She also mentioned the possibility of the launch of a local magazine by publisher Andrew Bainbridge, focusing on local activities and news, and an enquiry about future uses for the LBE-owned South Ealing Cemetery chapels, which are about to be re-developed.

Then Gill handed over to Richard Norris who spoke with great appreciation of EA&L past president and committee member John Ross, who started the events diary – and hence, effectively, what became EA&L – in 1966. Richard recalled John's Czech childhood, his arrival in London, his musical and photographic talents, and the moving funeral service which took place earlier this year at Ealing Abbey.

5 Membership report

Membership Secretary Richard Partridge reported that we have 78 members, and thanked those who had recently renewed.

6 Hon. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts

Treasurer Colin Easton issued a Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The account showed net receipts of £954. A comparison with the previous year was not straightforward due to the cost of the redesign of the diary and website, but if this were disregarded, the net receipts would be £738.

Income from membership and extra lineage covered the cost of printing *What's On* and the revenue from advertising covered other expenditure.

There was a balance of £3,899, which should increase this year as long as there is no significant change in printing costs.

The accounts were duly accepted and approved.

7 Reports: Supporters of Ealing Arts, *What's On*/website

In the absence of Hazel Talbot, who manages the Ealing Arts supporters group, Richard Partridge reported that 29 members have signed up as supporters, to receive their copies of *What's On* by mail.

What's On and the website, he reminded everyone, contain the same information. It is however helpful if entries for future events are sent in as early as possible.

Richard also appealed for new committee members to come forward and for help with distribution, which is an increasing challenge for our very small committee.

8 Election of Officers and Executive Committee members

The following retiring officers were re-elected:

Chairman: Gill Rowley

Hon Treasurer: Colin Easton

Dorrie Baker was elected as Hon. Secretary.

The following ordinary committee members were re-elected:

Richard Norris

Richard Partridge (membership, website, *What's On* editor)

Hazel Talbot (diary distribution)

John Ross, as reported above, has died. Bernice Wolfenden has retired from the committee.

9 Speaker: Kitty Hartnell, Chair of Borough of Ealing Art Trail (BEAT)

Kitty gave an informative and enjoyable talk about the launch of BEAT in 2015, and its subsequent progress.

In essence, BEAT promotes individual artists, art (painting, drawing, sculpture, mosaic, textiles, collage, etc) and the borough itself, in homes, studios and public venues.

Nearly 300 artists at 90 venues across the borough took part last year, attracting some 8,000 visitors. Even more are expected this year, the fourth, and the requirement for BEAT brochures and posters has risen sixfold. These will cost up to £10,000 this year, so BEAT is always looking for sponsorship. Copies of the newly printed BEAT booklet for 2019 were made available to the meeting.

10 Campaign for an Ealing Performance and Art Centre (CEPAC): update

Gill spoke of the Council's plans to sell off the publicly funded Victoria Hall as part of a deal to dispose of the entire Town Hall to developers. As the Victoria Hall is subject to the governance of a charitable trust, complaints have been made to the Charity Commission about Ealing Council's proposals. The CC's decision will be published on the CEPAC website and elsewhere in due course.

A new, separately managed body, the Friends of the Victoria Hall, is being formed to further the objectives of the trust, which the Council wishes effectively to dismantle.

Gill proposed that EA&L become a founding member of this new organisation, along with Save Ealing's Centre, Central Ealing Residents' Association, the Civic Society, CEPAC and West Ealing Neighbours. This was passed by a unanimous show of hands.

11 Any other business

Richard responded to a request to explain the timing of *What's On*. The reason for the December/January issue, straddling two years, was to avoid trying to assemble and print a new issue over Christmas/New Year when our members are otherwise engaged and our printer is closed.

The meeting closed at about 9pm, and light refreshments were served.

APOLOGIES from members:

Diana Braybrook – artist

Ealing Readers

Abibiyoga

Ealing Country Dance Club

Shape and Tone/Yoga with Loretta

North Ealing Wine Tasting Society

West London Group of Ramblers Association

Ealing Music and Film Festival

Ealing Choral Society

HEOS Musical Theatre

Julian Light Operatic Society

Questors Choir

St Barnabas Church concerts/Friends of St Mary's Perivale (Hugh Mather)

ATTENDEES who signed the register:

Hilary Phillips – Friends of Marcq-en-Baroeul

Jane Cooling – Friends of Marcq-en-Baroeul

Dan Kennedy – Rainbow Poetry Group

Jenni Tranter – Ealing Flower Club

Christine Pearce – Ealing Flower Club

Janet and Rob MacPhail – Greenford and District Caledonian Society

Colin Ramon – ?

Lisa Schlotmann – The Himalayan Institute of Yoga, Science and Philosophy

Simon Rossi – Gregorian Lay Plainchant Choir

Celia Busby – Ealing Art Group

Jill Collar – Ealing Lacemakers

Darren Parry – FILM

Karen Squire – West London Sinfonia

Penny Duszynski - Ealing Art Group

and Kitty Hartnell of BEAT

Special guests: Nicky and Henry Ross