

**Minutes from 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
3 October 2023, St Mary's, Perivale**

**1 Attendees and apologies for absence**

Gill Rowley (Chair)

Colin Easton (Hon. Treasurer/Pisces Players)

Dorrie Baker (Hon. Secretary)

Richard Partridge (committee member/Ealing Symphony Orchestra)

Anne Neville (committee member/Questors Theatre)

Dr Hugh Mather (Friends of St Mary's Perivale)

Paul James – Questors Theatre

Christine Pearce, Jenni Tranter - Ealing Flower Club

Gillian Scarborough, Hilary Phillips, Roger S Haines - Friends of Marcq-en-Beroeul

Emma Lucia Hands - Drama Studio London

Rekha Wadhvani, Christine Guest - Ealing Quilters

Don Kennedy - Rainbow Poetry Group

Angela Arratoon, Gina Glienten - Ealing Over-60s Network

Margaret Partridge - HEOS Musical Theatre

Derek Atkinson - University of the Third Age

Teresa Kelly - Ealing Choral Society

**Apologies for absence**

Richard Norris (committee member) (West London Sinfonia)

Sam Home - chair, Ealing Choral Society

Jean Fitzpatrick, Marilyn Daish, Colin Lomas, William Morton - Ealing Over-60s Network

Suzanne Gribble

Viv Karam, Richard Norris - West London Sinfonia

John Hummerston

Lisa Schlotmann - EYMPC

Patricia Burbidge - Patricia Burbidge Watercolour Classes

Greenford and District Caledonian Association

West London Sinfonia

**2 Welcome**

Gill Rowley, EA&L chair, welcomed all attending.

**3 Minutes of previous AGM (21 September 2022)**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed and seconded.

**4 Matters arising**

Covered as necessary during the meeting.

**5 Chairman's report**

Gill said that the main role of Ealing Arts & Leisure today is to help publicise its members'

activities, primarily through the bi-monthly events diary, *What's On*, which we distribute around the borough, and also on the EA&L website.

Distribution remains the same as last year. We pay a distribution company for placing stock in three supermarkets, Morrison's in Acton, Tesco in Ealing Broadway and Sainsbury in West Ealing, and we deliver to outlets all around the borough – health and community centres, libraries, church halls, banks, shops, cafés, theatre etc. We also cover Waitrose, which does not use the commercial distribution service. Gill thanked the committee members and also several EA&L members who help us achieve this wide distribution, always in advance of the two-month period covered by the new issue. We know this is appreciated: if *What's On* isn't there, people ask for it.

She then provided an update on the Victoria Hall situation. This building and its associated space lie within the Town Hall complex but are not owned by the Council. They belong to a charitable trust. However, a few years ago the Council conveniently overlooked this and agreed with a property developer that it could take over the space with the rest of the Town Hall to incorporate into a hotel. When this was discovered, a new charity, the Friends of the Victoria Hall (FoVH), was formed to challenge the takeover of the building, which has for over 125 years hosted community events of every kind - and was used, before the hire rates became unaffordable, by several Ealing Arts members. It is the only public venue that can be accessed easily from all parts of the borough by public transport.

Ealing Arts was a founder member of FoVH. Its aim is to set up a completely new trust board to administer the VH premises, ensuring that it can be used by the community for which it was built - and which paid for it, in the 1890s, by public subscription.

The Victoria Hall has hardly been available to the public for the last five years, and has been closed altogether since July following a Health & Safety report. Not only has the Council failed to maintain the building, but it has ensured that the charitable trust's finances are in severe deficit because its source of income – the hire fees – has been cut off for years.

A tribunal was held in January at which the FoVH, of which EA&L is a founder member, took on both the Charity Commission and Ealing Council to try to stop the disposal of the Victoria Hall premises to a hotel developer. Just a couple of weeks ago we got the court's decision, a 12-page judgment, basically ruling against the sell-off and concluding that the Council's Scheme would be a very poor outcome for the beneficiaries of the Victoria Hall Trust – the people of Ealing.

Our barrister greeted this ruling as a very good outcome, because it directed the Council to engage with the Appellants (representing FoVH) to achieve a better solution for the beneficiaries.

However, Ealing Council has a bad track record where listening to the people it serves is concerned, and we somewhat expect that it will put forward another unacceptable Scheme.

There was one question from the floor regarding the Health & Safety report. Gill had read this and agreed with others that despite the Council's long-term failure to maintain the building there was nothing in the report that could not have been addressed in fairly short order to enable its use by the public to continue.

## **5 Membership report**

Richard Partridge reported that we currently have 58 members: 27 have rejoined already this year, and some of the others will no doubt do so in the near future. Six members are leaving because they are already fully subscribed or are moving away from Ealing. There had been no complaints about the increased membership fees.

## **6 Treasurer's report**

Colin Easton, Hon. Treasurer, had prepared a Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2023, which shows a slight loss of outgoings over receipts of £214. However, this loss would have been far greater without a donation of £1,230, so the financial situation is worrying.

At year-end our bank balance was £5,377.

Acceptance of the Receipts and Payments Account was proposed and seconded.

## **7 Reports: supporters, *What's On* and website**

Richard Partridge said that a dozen supporters so far have paid to have *What's On* posted to them.

From the floor, Dr Hugh Mather proposed a vote of thanks to Richard for all the work he does for EA&L, which effectively justifies the organisation's existence.

## **8 Election of Officers and Executive Committee members**

*Retiring officers:*

Chairman: Gill Rowley

Hon. Treasurer: Colin Easton

Hon. Secretary: Dorrie Baker

were all proposed, seconded, and re-elected.

*Retiring ordinary committee members:*

Richard Norris (absent)

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

Anne Neville

were all proposed, seconded and re-elected.

## **9 AOB**

None.

## **10 Guest speaker**

Gill introduced Robert Seatter, Head of BBC History, who gave a very interesting presentation on '100 Years of the BBC'. Technical support was provided by George Auckland and Simon Shute. The talk was very well received.

**11 Chairman's vote of thanks**

Following some questions from the audience, Gill thanked Robert Seatter for his presentation. She also thanked Dr Mather of The Friends of St Mary's Perivale for letting us use the church for this AGM.

Drinks were then served to conclude the meeting.

EALING ARTS & LEISURE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31.03.23

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership Subscriptions	3,447	3,206
Donation	1,230	-
Extra Lineage - What's On	508	446
Advertising - What's On	670	841
Supporters' Membership	209	130
Bank Interest	5	-
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>6,069</u>	<u>4,623</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
What's On - Printing	4,766	3,635
- Distribution Costs	1,037	518
Postage and Stationery	117	126
Support of the Arts:- Friends of the Victoria Hall	-	1,000
Web Hosting	256	204
A.G.M. Expenses	31	-
Bank Charges	76	23
<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>6,283</u>	<u>5,506</u>
 NET PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	 (214)	 £(883)
 BANK BALANCES AT 1 <sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2022	 <u>5,591</u>	 <u>          </u>
 BANK BALANCES AT 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023	 <u>£5,377</u>	