



MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
held on 16 September 2016 at St Stephen's Church, Ealing W13

Present: John Hummerston (Chair)

The Attendance Book was signed by individuals representing the following member clubs/societies: Ealing Flower Club, Pisces Players, Hanwell & Ealing Heritage & Local History Society, Capital Chorus, Ealing Symphony Orchestra, Ealing National Trust Association, West London Ramblers, Ealing Country Dance Society, Ealing Lacemakers, Tim Robinson Photography, BEAT, WEA, WLS

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from committee members Bernice Wolfenden and Diana Braybrook and from these organisations: Ealing Music and Film Festival, Shape & Tone, West London Strings, Ealing Choral Society, Ealing Quilters and HEOS Musical Theatre.

2 Minutes of previous AGM

These were approved.

3 Matters arising

There were none.

4 Chairman's report

John Hummerston read his report, looking back on Ealing Arts' first 50 years (it was founded in 1966) and the continuing publication of the *Ealing Arts Diary*. About 5,000 copies of each issue are published, covering activities in and around the borough. From time to time Ealing Arts (EA+L) has been able to make grants to member organisations to help fund projects that are beyond their normal sphere of activity. For example, it has recently supported Ealing Autumn Festival and its Magna Carta exhibition, joined other sponsors in setting up BEAT (Borough of Ealing Arts Trail, taking place over the weekends of 9/11 and 16/18 September 2016), supported the move to create an affordable performance space in Ealing (led by CEPAC), helped to establish Ealing Music and Film Festival and sponsored prizes for Ealing in Bloom.

He said that EA+L hopes to start a newsletter soon, to which all member organisations are invited to contribute. EA+L wants to encourage networking among its member organisations and John cited the success of BEAT as an outstanding example of what can be achieved when they work together.

He also thanked Gillian Spragg, who recently stood down after two years from her role as treasurer, for her hard work in improving EA+L's documentation and procedures.

John expressed his intention to stand down as chair in a year's time and said that the committee would welcome new blood. EA+L, he said, enriches the lives of all those involved with its member organisations. It invites the ideas and suggestions of members to help it plan for the future.

5 Membership report

Richard Partridge said that at the end of July there were 88 paid-up members. There are now 51, 37 having not yet paid to continue and seven of which are definitely not renewing.

6 Hon. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts

Colin Easton, as acting treasurer, had taken over the finances from Gillian Spragg. He reported that the last year's receipts had been a healthy £2,385, thanks mainly to advertisements placed in the *Diary* and payments for extra lines in organisations' entries. However, this year's final position is better than it should be owing to the fact that payments for printing two editions had taken place respectively before and after the financial year. Meanwhile, the surplus means that EA+L may be able to make further grants to member organisations for projects not forming part of their routine activity.

The accounts were formally accepted and approved.

7 Reports

Friends of Ealing Arts Pauline Craven, who has run the Friends for 16 years, said that owing to lack of support for social activities this group has closed down, but a mailing list is being retained for anyone who wishes to receive the *Diary* on a regular basis by post. The charge for this service is £10.00 per annum and at present about 20 people subscribe to it. A notice about these changes had been published in the October/November *Diary*.

Diary of Events Richard Partridge had nothing to report as such but asked that information for publication in the *Diary* be sent to him preferably before the deadline and ideally electronically. He stressed that the printed *Diary* is a selection of what appears on the website, which unlike the printed version can accommodate late changes and additions. The website therefore has the potential to be more accurate.

The chief problem at the moment is distribution. Although many libraries, doctors' surgeries, some supermarkets etc. are covered at present, this work is done by a very few people. Offers of help would be welcome. For example, if one person from each member organisation were to take responsibility for delivering it to one venue, the situation would be transformed.

Richard also explained that the charges for extra lines in entries are for anything over the six lines allowed as standard (and the date is not counted); charges are averaged over a six-month period. The extra income raised by these 'lineage' charges helps to pay for printing the *Diary*.

Website Although there was again nothing to report, Richard Partridge asked for items for the news section.

8 Revisions to the EA+L constitution

Richard Partridge had emailed to members some minor changes to the 1966 constitution, such as the inclusion of 'Hon.' before committee member titles to clarify that these are not paid appointments; in addition, the change to subscription payment deadline clarifies what has been happening in practice for some time, and there is now a reference to the nominating of committee members.

The changes were formally accepted and approved and the revised constitution will shortly be lodged with the Charity Commission.

9 Election of officers

John Hummerston, Colin Easton and Gill Rowley were prepared to stand as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. There being no other nominations, the appointments were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

10 Confirmation of Executive Committee members

The constitution allows for eight members in addition to the elected officers and it was pointed out that the committee could co-opt members. The executive committee members are Diana Braybrook, Pauline Craven, Richard Norris, Richard Partridge, Hazel Talbot and Bernice Wolfenden. All were proposed and seconded to continue.

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

John Hummerston reminded those present that CEPAC was an EA+L initiative. The objective of creating such a centre is now in the borough's Neighbourhood Plan, shortly to go before the Council for approval, after which it will become policy. Meanwhile, a possible site is behind the old Lamerton's building, within the car park between High Street and Bond Street. This is privately owned and due to be re-developed, mainly for residential purposes. A previous council promise of space within the Town Hall can be disregarded now that the intention to turn much of the latter into a hotel has been announced. Similarly, Land Securities, new owners of the cinema site opposite, included no appropriate space in its plans for a 'Cultural Quarter'.

The closure of the Town Hall will of course displace many organisations for which it has long provided a meeting place. Efforts are being made by John Hummerston to get the building listed as an Asset of Community Value to prevent it from being taken into (mostly) private ownership.

Grants for an arts centre could be forthcoming, but only when a viable project has been set up.

12 AOB

There was some discussion of how to celebrate EA+L's 50th anniversary. Ideas and suggestions should be sent to John Hummerston (john.hummerston@hotmail.co.uk) or Gill Rowley (growley@gmail.com)

One possibility is a party, probably in February/March, for current members and also past members who might wish to rejoin.

From the floor, John Beesley (Capital Chorus) proposed a vote of thanks to the EA+L committee.

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

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.