



### MINUTES OF THE 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

held on 20 September 2017 at St Stephen's Church, Ealing W13

**Present:** The Mayor of Ealing Cllr Simon Woodroofe (President), John Hummerston (Chair)

The Attendance Book was signed by John Ross (Hon. Vice-President) and individuals representing the following member clubs/societies:

The Friends of St Mary's Perivale, Ealing Symphony Orchestra, Friends of Ealing Arts + Leisure, Pisces Players, Beaufort Players, Ealing Art Group, 4020 Art Group, West London Arts Scene, Ealing Youth Orchestra, Ealing Lacemakers, WEA Ealing, BEAT (Borough of Ealing Arts Trail)

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies were received from members of Ealing Flower Club, Ealing Red Lion Readers, Ealing Quilters, Hanwell & Ealing Heritage Museum, Greenford & District Caledonian Association, Ealing Abbey Lay Plainchant Choir, Ealing Choral Society, Love2Sing Choirs, Ealing Music and Film Festival, HEOS Musical Theatre.

#### 2 Minutes of previous AGM (16 September 2016)

These were approved.

#### 3 Matters arising

There were none.

#### 4 Chairman's report

John Hummerston read his report, looking back on his latest, 13-year, stint as chairman of Ealing Arts. The key activity of EA+L has been to publish, six times a year, the *Ealing Arts Diary*, the entire content of which is also on the EA+L website. In addition, during the 2016–17 financial year, we were able to offer small grants in support of BEAT, Arts Award Training and Ealing in Bloom. As in previous years, 5,000 printed copies of each issue of the Diary had been published, covering activities in and around the borough. Once again, an appeal for members' help in distributing the Diary was made.

John reported that the '50 Years and Beyond' anniversary party on 3 March had been successful and much enjoyed by all who attended. Sadly, many who had said they would come failed to do so.

John thanked the EA+L committee for the year's service, and John and Hazel Talbot for hosting all the committee meetings at their home.

#### 5 President's response

The Mayor of Ealing Cllr Simon Woodroofe, the current EA+L President, reflected on the Council's previous involvement in what was then Ealing Arts. In former times it had nominated three Council members to attend EA+L committee meetings and had also provided financial support. In today's difficult economic climate the council has been unable to support EA+L's endeavours but is aware of its continued activity, especially the publication of the Diary.

#### 6 Membership report

Richard Partridge said that membership was holding steady, with 50 paid-up members plus another 26 renewals due.

He said that although EA+L is able to allow some delay in payment of the subscription this can never go beyond three months.

#### 7 Hon. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts

Colin Easton distributed draft accounts to year ending 31 March 2017. These will be finalised when we have appointed a new auditor. Meanwhile, he reported that the reason for higher outgoings in the 2016–17 financial year was that owing to the timing of the printer's invoices we had paid for only four Diary printings in the previous year (£3,400) but seven in the current year (£5,950). An additional cost this year had been that of catering for the '50 Years and Beyond' event. From the floor, Leslie Porter of WEA asked why the cost was so high for so few people: it was pointed out that we had catered for the number who said they would be attending, many of whom then had not come.

EA+L had also made £770 worth of grants, to the societies listed under 4, above.

From the floor, John Talbot asked if the print run for the Diary should be cut, as many copies of each edition were wasted. In response, the Chairman reiterated the necessity for our member organisations to each take copies to distribute to all their members. By doing this they would be helping themselves to increase the reach of the publicity. Comparatively little money would be saved by reducing the print run in any case.

Gill Rowley commented that when the revamped Diary and website became available early in the New Year the opportunity would be taken to capitalise on the new look by bringing the new look to as many people's attention as possible.

The Chairman reflected that distribution of the printed Diary was very much better than it used to be: at one time organisations had to collect them from Ealing Central Library.

With the proviso that the accounts are interim until audited, they were adopted.

## 8 Reports

**Friends of Ealing Arts** This group, which was run by Pauline Craven for over 16 years, has been discontinued due to lack of support and replaced by 'Supporters', who pay a subscription of £10 per household per year to have the Diary posted to them. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Pauline for running the Friends for so many years.

**Diary of Events and website** Richard Partridge pointed out that these are really one and the same in different media, in that once the information is on the website the content of the printed Diary is extracted directly from it.

However, even if they have no events during the period covered by a particular edition of the Diary, member organisations still have their details on the website. Richard asked if there was any support for the suggestion made from time to time that details of all member organisations should be included in the printed Diary. This would make it very much longer and require a significant increase in subscriptions. There was no support for this proposal.

He also mentioned that EA+L, as part of its revamp, will soon have a Facebook presence, which will be another platform for publicity and able to link directly to member organisations' websites. However, we need someone to run it.

Richard reported that Ealing Choral Society had recently undertaken to distribute the printed Diary to all its members – which is exactly what all organisations need to do in order to maximise their own impact.

Leslie Porter suggested that the Diary be publicised in *Around Ealing*. This is not possible, at any price, because the publication promotes only what the Council initiates. (The Chairman reminded the meeting that when the Council stopped providing EA+L with a grant, £2,500 a year at the time, it was intending to put all the Diary content into *Around Ealing*; however, it decided not to when it realised how much content there was.)

## 9 Election of officers

John Hummerston had announced in 2016 that he would be standing down as Chairman at this AGM. Gill Rowley had been asked to stand as Chairman in his stead. She would therefore stand down as Hon. Secretary, a role which Diana Braybrook was prepared to take on. Colin Easton was prepared to continue as Hon. Treasurer.

These three officer appointments were proposed, seconded and confirmed.

Gill Rowley paid tribute to John Hummerston, who was presented with a print depicting an Ealing scene, and briefly outlined her credentials for taking on the role of Chair. She hoped that the imminent redesign of the Diary and website would greatly benefit our members and help us to attract new ones.

## 10 Confirmation of Executive Committee members

The constitution allows for eight members in addition to the elected officers and the committee may co-opt members. Pauline Craven having retired at this AGM, the remaining executive committee members (John Ross, Richard Norris, Richard Partridge, Hazel Talbot and Bernice Wolfenden) were proposed and seconded and will therefore continue.

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

John Hummerston listed the various sites that had been identified and later rejected for a central Ealing arts centre, the campaign for which is an EA+L initiative led by John Ross, Peter Leighton and himself. The objective of creating such a centre is now in the borough's Neighbourhood Plan, which on 12 October will go to a referendum. The Plan's main objective is to set up a central Ealing cultural centre, which the Council, under the Localism Act, will be obliged to support if the Referendum accepts the recommendation. The centre would be paid for by a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which has replaced the old Section 106 requirement.

John showed a sketch suggesting how the centre, which would incorporate a 300-seat performance space and a gallery area, could fit into the triangular area in the car park between High Street and Bond Street. It would be underground, which would provide good noise insulation. A great advantage of this proposal is that the site's owner wants the arts centre to be built on the site.

As EA+L members will be aware, Ealing is in desperate need of affordable exhibition/performance/meeting space, with Town Hall room hire pricing most organisations out of the market and the imminent removal of even this facility when the building is converted into a hotel. Even so, the attitude of LBE officers with regard to the CEPAC has thus far been very negative.

## 12 AOB

Nicky Ross congratulated BEAT on its second successful year.

The Talbots were thanked for providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.