

**Present:** Gill Rowley (Chair), and committee members representing some of the organisations listed below.

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

The Friends of St Mary's Perivale, Ealing Flower Club, 4020 Art Group, Supporters of Ealing Art & Leisure, Gregorian Chant Ealing, Ealing Quilters, Pisces Players (Popup Theatre), Hanwell & Ealing Heritage Museum, Friends of Marcq en Baroeul, The Arts Society Ealing, CEPAC, Ealing Art Group, Ealing Symphony Orchestra, Ealing Choral Society, Ealing Music & Film Festival Trust, Workers Education Association Ealing, Questors Choir, Ealing Country Dance Club, Borough of Ealing Art Trail, West London Fantastic Film Society, West London Arts Scene

#### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Dorrie Baker (Ealing in Bloom) and members from Ealing Choral Society, Capital Chorus, Holiday and Dance, Beaufort Players, Ealing Youth Orchestra, Red Lion Readers, Greenford & District Caledonian Association, Iyengar Toga, Ealing & Hampshire House Photographic Society, Rainbow Poetry Group, Ealing Country Dance Club, Ramblers Association Ealing, St Andrew's Art, Ealing UEA, HEOS Musical Theatre, Shape & Tone

#### **2 Minutes of previous AGM (20 September 2017)**

The Minutes were approved.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

There were none.

#### **4 Chairman's Report**

Gill Rowley reported that since taking office last Autumn, she had concentrated on the revamp of the EA&L website and diary of events, now retitled 'What's On'. She particularly wished to thank Richard Partridge for his invaluable input towards achieving a successful outcome.

The redesign of the website and 'What's On' had required considerable investment, but small financial awards had been given to West London Arts Scene, Hanwell & Ealing Heritage Museum and Ealing in Bloom.

EA&L had written to Ealing Council regarding its bid in autumn 2017 to become London Borough of Culture, pointing out that it has for some years thwarted cultural endeavour across the borough, not least by withdrawing all financial support and making the Town Hall, a long-time venue for many cultural and leisure activities, completely unaffordable.

She said that EA&L would like to engage with members by launching one or more new projects. She would be sending a short questionnaire to all members to gauge the level of interest in a number of different ideas.

She expressed her warm thanks to Hazel and John Talbot for hosting all the committee meetings during the past year and to John Ross for bringing the wine to this AGM.

## **5 Membership Report**

Richard Partridge reported that there were 77 members at present.

## **6 Hon. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts**

Colin Easton distributed draft accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018. These would be finalised when reviewed by an independent examiner.

The increase in net payments for the year to £4,062 reflected the considerable investment made in the redesign of the website and 'What's On'. The balance of funds held at the year-end was lower than before at £2,945 but he was optimistic it would increase during the current year, provided no further major expenditure was called for.

## **7 Supporters of Ealing Arts**

Hazel Talbot reported that 29 members currently subscribe to have their copies of 'What's On' sent by post soon after they are received from the printer.

### **'What's On' and website**

Richard Partridge reported that the feedback received on the upgraded website and the redesigned 'What's On' had been extremely positive.

The number of 'What's On' booklets distributed had been raised by increasing the number of distribution outlets. Member clubs/societies were encouraged to help increase distribution further and could obtain a list of current outlets from Hazel Talbot.

Consideration would be given to printing additional copies of the Oct/Nov edition of 'What's On'.

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

Gill Rowley (Chair), Colin Easton (Hon. Treasurer) and Diana Braybrook (Hon. Secretary) were confirmed in post for the coming year. John Hummerston, Richard Norris, Richard Partridge, John Ross, Hazel Talbot and Bernice Wolfenden would continue as committee members.

## **9 Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Chair of Pitzhanger Manor Trust**

Sir Sherard gave an informative and engaging talk about the history of John Soane's Pitzhanger Manor, the role it had played as a municipal facility for residents and the major restoration project to return this Grade I listed building to how it looked in 1810. The Manor would be reopening in 2019 and a series of exhibitions was planned for the refurbished main Gallery space. There was additional gallery space on the upper floors in the house. He assured the audience that Ealing residents would be afforded free access at certain times at regular intervals and that facilities would be available to hire for private functions. He was urged to ensure local artists were given the opportunities to exhibit their work at an affordable price.

It was hoped that Pitzhanger Manor Trust would renew its membership of EA&L in 2019.

## **10 Campaign for an Ealing Performance and Arts Centre (CEPAC)**

John Hummerston reported that CEPAC was in discussion with Ealing Council about the Victoria Hall and associated rooms within the Town Hall which were paid for by public subscription and are governed by a trust deed that requires the space to be used for the benefit of the community as an arts centre. This requirement has been ignored for many years and the income raised from the facilities has been retained by the Council. A leading firm of lawyers who specialise in charity law have now raised the issues of mismanagement with the Charity Commission. What happens in the future will depend to a great extent on what the Charity Commission decides should be done.

Our thanks to Hazel and John Talbot for their hospitality.