



Minutes from the 57th AGM Held Wednesday 12th July 2023 at ETNA Community Centre

1. **Welcome:** Chair of the Trustees John Coombs (JC) welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** Rachel Tranter (Trustee) Catherine Sweet (Visual Arts Chair) Janet Langhorne (Showcoach) Anne Warrington (Literature Committee) Hugh Rogers (Music Committee and Richmond Orchestra) Judith Anderton (Mailing Team) Heather Morgan (Mailing team) Lottie Walker (Blue Fire Theatre Co, TTC & BROS) Clare Norburn (The Telling) Alan Sherriff (RuT Heritage Guides) Penny Westmoreland (Hampton Hill Photographic Soc) Steve Leslie (Dramacube) Paul Velluet (Garricks Temple) Tim Corrum and Fahim Qureshi (Richmond Arts Service) Paul Palmoroozza, Laurie Coombs and Sue Smith (members)

3. **Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the AGM held 26th October 2022. The minutes of the 56th Arts Richmond AGM were made available as part of the AGM pack on the website. JC asked for a Proposer Geoff Acton, Gillian Thorpe seconded. By a show of hands, the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. **Annual Report:** The Annual Report 2022-23 was made available as part of the AGM pack on the website – JC thanked everyone involved in Arts Richmond for all their hard work. JC also thanked the newly formed Trustees committee which were now embedded and is working well. He also thanked all the members of our sub committees who are actively promoting the arts in Richmond Upon Thames. JC also acknowledged and thanked the RuTBC for the continued annual £9K support which helps in part the production of the newsletter. Some of the highlights from the reporting year include the following.
 - a. April 2022 saw Arts Richmond first art Trail Linda White and Catherine Sweet worked hard teaming up local artists with shops along Teddington High Street. This event helped local artists and enhanced the local High Street
 - b. Artist of the Year 2022 was successfully held at WWT Wetland Arts Centre Barnes who let all our entrants' free entry to the centre on the day.
 - c. We held our first Affordable Art tent in St Margaret's since the pandemic in July after an absence of 2 years.
 - d. Catherine Sweet ran an exhibition event at the new Teddington Riverside flats in association with the Teddington Riverside, bringing the work of local artists to have on display in the show houses and flats on the new complex.
 - e. We also ran our annual Diana Armfield Drawing from Observation Competition. Diana was still able to judge and be part of the presentation at the Exchange earlier this year. She is now in her 103rd year

- g. The Literature Committee ran its first independent Literature Festival at the Exchange in November 2022 Calling this the 'Presidents Series' as our then Presidents Sir Vince and Lady Cable took an active part, with very good authors such as Lord Chris Pattern which a lot of the Chinese community attended. Sir Vince and Lady Cable also closed the series by talking about the joint book they had published. This was a very well attended event for Arts Richmond. The Literature Committee also ran the annual Young Writers event with a record amount of entries at 901
- h. The Drama Committee Chaired by Gillian Thorpe for part of the year then handed to Daniel Wain, who is currently in the role. Another SWAN Awards held in September 2022. JC wanted to minute his thanks to the unsung heroes of this event who are the team of judges who give up a lot of time to attend all the productions over the year before they spend many more hours deliberating the results. Pam Frazer asked that it be minuted that these awards were under Gillian Thorpe, Sue Bell and Laurie Coombs and that Sue Bell actually won the accolade.
- i. Showcoach: Under the Chair of Janet Langhorne, are back running monthly outings including a recent residential trip to Liverpool which had been postponed due to the pandemic.
- j. JC asked that we have a proposer and seconder to accept the annual report: Linda White proposed and Pam Frazer seconded.

5. **Accounts:** Simon Bartlett Arts Richmond Treasurer reported as follows: The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, combined with the ongoing economic situation of the last twelve months have continued to prove a difficult background for cultural and charitable organisation. Whilst 2022-23 saw the return of the majority of our activities, the Richmond May Fair for instance did not return until this year. However we are delighted that many events have now resumed allowing Arts Richmond to continue its role and function throughout the year, retaining the membership, and supporting affiliated societies.

Excluding the anonymous donation of £22K our incomes increased by £8K largely due to the events run across the year- notably the literary events last autumn. However countering this in the current inflationary position, all events, and the core running costs are proving costlier. There was also a late invoice of in excess of £1000, with regards to the newsletter in 2021-22 that has therefore been included in this year's spend. We remain grateful to the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames for the annual grant we receive towards the production of the newsletter- but having now remained static for many years, we now have to dip into our reserves to continue to produce this, it doesn't make any contribution to the central costs. We are therefore reliant on generating other funds to support the other activities which we run as well as the core costs, and will continue to review these as we move forwards. Arts Richmond would like to thank all our donors in the year and its normally these funds whether restricted or unrestricted, that enable us to be sitting on total reserves (all in effect in cash) of almost £21,000 at the year end. In closing I would like to thank Linda Hansell for all her hard work in controlling our costs, along with all those involved in our activities. Above all I would like to thank Jean Witt for all the transactional work that she does across the year. Pam Frazer asked what was meant by restricted donation. John C advised that it was restricted to new events which have no funds available. Applications for these funds would be approved by the board of Trustees. A question was also raised about reducing the cost of the

Newsletter production. Linda H advised she had already reduced the weight of the contents pages which had gone some way to reduce the weight for the postage. JC advised that the trustee's still need to do an exercise on the Newsletter costings verse revenue. Amir Tasadikari from new affiliation FAAM Gallery advised that they run a print shop and would be happy to look at the costings and provide a quote. Linda White also advised the AGM that the regular size of the Newsletter has gone from 8 pages to between 12 & 16 pages which is a lot to blame for the higher costs of printing, this is due to the amount of affiliations and events she as the editor has to list. Kitty Wass was surprised at the small amount of reserves we hold. JC explained that we are looking at all forms of funding streams to get these reserves back up to 35K. JC asked for a proposer for the accounts: Sandra Green proposed and Linda White Seconded.

6. **Independent examiner:** To elect Adrian Mumford MA MMUS FCIS ARCH FLCM as the Honorary Examiner of the accounts for the current year JC asked for support for the re-election of Adrian Mumford to act as the Honorary Examiner for 2023-24 Sue Bell proposed and Sue Pandit Seconded. By a show of hands, the Honorary Examiner Adrian Montford was approved unanimously.

7. **Sub Committees:** On behalf of the Trustees, JC thanked the Sub committees including all of the Chairs for their enormous commitment to Arts Richmond Proposer Jill Warner seconder Jeremy Gill.

8. **Trustees:** JC thanks the Trustees for keeping an eye on everything and advised the AGM that the Trustees meet four times a year. JC asked the AGM to agree that those listed will be re-elected as Trustees – Simon Bartlett as Treasurer, Geoff Acton, Peter Cregeen, Hilary Dodman, Sue Pandit, Jean Wit. JC thanked those involved for their contribution –JC asked for a proposer Pam Frazer proposed and Linda White seconded.

9. **Vice Presidents:** To re-elect Vice presidents and thank those involved for their contribution John Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Pam Frazer, Sandra Green, Edie Purdue. Whilst we understand that sadly Edie Purdue was currently in a home suffering dementia, the trustees recognised that in her day she was a powerhouse for the local arts and it was felt that for her family's sake we would not remove her name at this time. Arts Richmond is very fortunate to benefit from the contribution of a number of Vice Presidents and those attending confirmed their agreement to re-electing the following Vice Presidents for a further year thanked them for their contribution John Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Pam Frazer, Sandra Green, Edie Purdue. JC asked for a proposer to re-elect Vice presidents of Arts Richmond, Sue Pandit proposed and Simon Bartlett seconded. By a show of hands, the motion was carried unanimously.

10. **Patrons:** JC thanked Arts Richmond Patrons for their continued support and asked for a proposer: Sue Bell proposed and Jeremy Gill seconded

11. **Presidents:** JC thanked Sir Vince and Lady Rachel Cable, who have been Arts Richmond Presidents for the past three years. Both had attended and supported many of our events over the years. JC advised that the Trustees had purchased a piece of art from our affordable art collection as a gift of acknowledgment and for Sir Vince's 80th birthday. JC advised that Arts Richmond are delighted to announce that Lady Camilla Panufnik, Patron of Arts Richmond and her daughter Roxanna Panufnik will be undertaking the role of Joint Presidents for 2023-24.

12. **AOB:** Nathalie France from Garrick's Temple put out a plea for Garrick's temple who are in need of a treasurer as their existing treasurer is retiring. They are also looking for more volunteers and trustees and that they meet 5 times a year. Pam Frazer also advised that Richmond Performing Arts are also in need of more stewards for their events

13. **Date of next AGM:** The next AGM will take place in July 2024