



Minutes of the 58th AGM Held Wednesday 17th July 2024 at ETNA Community Centre

1. **Welcome:** Chair of the Trustees John Coombs (JC) welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Ian & Tina Bruce, Pam Frazer, Simon Bartlett and Roxanna and Lady Camilla Panufnik
3. **Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the AGM held 12th July 2023. The minutes of the 57th Arts Richmond AGM were made available as part of the AGM pack on the website. JC asked for approval by a show of hands, the minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Annual Report:** The Annual Report 2023-24 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 didn't see the need to go through all the parts of the annual report, but wanted to comment on the increase in our social media coverage indicating our reach across the borough is increasing. JC also acknowledged and thanked the RuT Borough Council for the continued annual £9K support which helps in part the production of the newsletter. JC asked that we have a proposer and seconder to accept the annual report: Jeremy Gill proposed and Hilary Dodman seconded.
5. **Accounts:** Report from Simon Bartlett read out by Jean Wit in Simon's absence: *Please accept my apologies for being unable to be at the meeting tonight. This clashes with the RSS outdoor production of Cyrano de Bergerac this week which I have directed so I'm busy in the Fountain Gardens on Twickenham Embankment!*

In line with many charities Arts Richmond is still in something of a transition post the pandemic which has so impacted on how we all use our time and money. We are in the ongoing process of re-focussing our cycle of activities across the year. This always involves risks and in 2023-24 these are apparent in the deficit for the year of £6,600 compared to a surplus of £16,600 in the previous year, although 2022-23 was heavily weighted by substantial one-off donation received.

However, this meant that we were comfortably able to cover this year's shortfall in reserves, which remain at over £14,000 at year end. This is far from unusual at present, and the Charities Commission have noted the considerable proportion of charities currently having to utilise reserves in recent years to cover day to day activities.

Whilst our expenditure remained broadly constant year on year given inflation etc, our income was subject to more variance, not so much in totality at around £30,000 (if last year's one-off substantial donation is taken aside) as in source.

The Borough support remained constant and that of the member's subscriptions grew. But there was a marked flex in the levels of income received from our events across the two years. With this year

the Arts events capturing the imagination and generating funds, and the literary events much less so compared to the previous year.

At the year end, as noted earlier, we remain in the comfortable position of holding reserves all in easy access accounts of some £14,000 - a little lower than our aim of seeking to hold reserves equivalent to six months core spend (which would be c£18,000). Actual cash and investments was around £25,000

The trustees and all involved are continuously seeking to maximise our income and conserve our resources where we can, with some marked success in the new financial year since April.

We remain immensely grateful to the Borough of Richmond for their ongoing support, along with all those who have made generous donations, or re-renewed their membership for the year.

As ever many thanks re due to the Board and all those who work so hard on Arts Richmond activities and in particular to Jean who does so much of the day-to-day work on the finances.

Should you have any queries on these accounts I will get back to you in the coming days

Sue Bell asked if Kay Williams donation had been included as she could not see it in the accounts. Jean W advised she would take that up with Simon. Rachel Tranter asked if we had better news for 2024/25. Jean was able to inform the AGM that we had in fact received a lump sum from the David King Trust who have been paying £750.00 per annum only. Due to the charity winding up we received a final amount of £9K. John C asked the AGM to approve the accounts Sandra Green proposed and Rachel Tranter seconded them.

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 Hilary Dodman seconded. The Honorary Examiner Adrian Montford was approved unanimously.

7. **Committees:** On behalf of the Trustees, JC thanked the art form committees and volunteers as without them Arts Richmond could not exist also included all of the Chairs for their enormous commitment to Arts Richmond. John asked if we could have a few words from each committee on one of their major events. Jeremy Gill spoke for the Drama Committee advising that the revamp of the SWAN Awards had been a great success and also about the reinstatement the Nominations evening which was well received. Sue Pandit spoke on behalf of the Literature committee about the popular Young Writers Festival which last year was supported by new patron Anthony Horowitz. Hilary Dodman spoke about the newly reformed Music Committee and the very successful Choral Workshop held back in September which had 75 attendees singing songs from West Side Story. Janet Langhorne spoke for Showcoach and the very successful trip to Glasgow. They were currently working on another residential trip and have reached out to membership to vote on of three possibilities. Janet told the AGM that it is always a challenge to find new and exciting places to visit. David Upton: Our relatively new Visual Arts Chair spoke of the event he has covered in this calendar year which was the Diana Armfield Drawing from Observation Competition which was very successful and although this was outside this AGM calendar year we completed our second very popular Open Studio.

John asked that the AGM to acknowledge all the hard work that been done by a round of applause.

8. **Trustees:** John C advised that he would be stepping down after this meeting as Chair of Trustees and that Hilary Dodman had agreed to step in a Chair for a year or two allowing us time to find the next chair. Gillian Thorpe proposed and Janet Langhorne seconded. A full show of hands from the attendees of this meeting therefore Hilary was invited to take over the meeting. Sue Bell asked that we thanked John C for his long service.. Hilary presented John with a gift and thanked him for all his support steering us through some difficult waters and restructuring. Hilary stated she would miss his wise counsel and total calm.

9. **Vice Presidents:** Hilary proposed that the current four people be re-elected as Vice presidents and thank those involved for their contribution John Coombs, Hilary Dodman, Pam Frazer, Sandra Green. Heather Morgan proposed and Jill Warner seconded.

10. **Patrons:** Hilary advised that we had completed an exercise earlier this year in contacting all the current patrons to see if they were still on board. She thanked those who remained as Arts Richmond Patrons for their continued support and asked for a proposer: Sue Bell proposed and Jeremy Gill seconded. Hilary advised that just recently we had added to our patronage Prof Ian and Tina Bruce & Professor Ian Bruce had been very helpful at the 2023 November talks interviewing our patron Michael Frayn. He and his wife came to find us at the Kew Fete and presented us with a very generous donation of £250., Anthony Horowitz who came on board as a result of supporting the 2024 Young Writers Competition; Mark Vellecote , Mark is the son of a well-known sculptor who was responsible for the Noel Coward sculpture sitting in Richmond Library. Nuala Rowland Nuala has also become a patron she used to be on the executive committee many years ago and was keen to reengage. She also painted a portrait of our new President Clive Bradley.

11. **Presidents:** HD thanked Roxanna and Lady Camilla Panufnik for being our presidents 2023/2024. Both had attended our Members day earlier this year at the Exchange. Hilary also advised she was delighted to introduce Clive Bradley who had agreed to become our President for 2024/2025, a tenure which coincides with his significant birthday his 90th year. Clive addressed the meeting stating he values the work that Arts Richmond does and hopes to be of use over the coming year. He asked that Linda H provide him with copies of all the meeting minutes going forward. Clive proposed a toast to Arts Richmond and its continued success.

12. **AOB:** No written AOBs had been received. Hilary asked to have the following items noted:
A) Thanks to Sandra Green at the last trustees meeting she presented a lot of work on legacies which is now uploaded to the website. We still want to put together a leaflet and will use TTCs current leaflet as a guide. B) Hilary wanted to thank the Stuffers who come along every month to help with the mailing C) Thanks also to the SWAN Judges who give up a huge amount of time going to over 40 productions a year.

Hilary advised that 2026 would be Arts Richmond's 60th Anniversary which she feels needs to be celebrated in a similar way to our 50th Anniversary Sian Morgan was the driving force behind those celebrations. Any ideas would be welcome.

Rachel thanked Linda H for all her hard work and she was presented with flowers.

Jean Wit who will be standing down later this year was thanked and presented with flowers.

13. **Date of next AGM:** The next AGM will take place in July 2025