

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Held on Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 7pm, at the Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL

The AGM was preceded by a tour of the of the theatre buildings and a talk on the theatre's history and its aims to become the world's first Carbon Neutral theatre, which was gratefully received and thoroughly enjoyed. Present: Trustees - Lisa Shell, Laurie Elks, Monica Blake, Margaret Willes, Tony Gillett; Director - Nick Perry; Independent Financial Examiner - Dave Harris; and 11 Members.

Agenda Items	Discussions and Decisions
1. Introduction/ Apologies for Absence.	Those Trustees present introduced themselves and explained the role they played within the Society. Apologies were received from: Rossana Tich, Julia Lafferty, Kevin Moore, Ray Blackburn (all Trustees) and Kathleen Snewin, Mary Cannon, Ann Jameson, Jane and Peter Leaver, Caroline Gregory, Fiona Darbyshire (members).
2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM	The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24 November 2015 were approved - proposed by Nick Perry and seconded by Margaret Willes.
3. Annual Report of the Executive Committee	<p>Nick Perry, Director, presented the report for the year ended 31 March 2016, with contributions from other Trustees on the areas they cover. He emphasised that the Society flourishes thanks to the Trustees who are all volunteers, and paid especial attention to Rossana Tich who is having to stand down as a trustee due to personal circumstances but will continue to publicise our activities and our views via twitter and our facebook page. Social media is the main way that we are able to publicise our work, and it is all down to Rossana.</p> <p>He spoke of the <i>Beating the Bounds</i> a 60 minute podcast, available on our website, and our successful sponsored walk and Quiz Night held to raise funding for our book in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hackney Society in 2017.</p> <p>In response to the request for future events, suggestions from the floor came for visits to an encaustic tile workshop, Isokon gallery and a discussion about the modern phenomenon of publicly owned private spaces (POPS). Contributions for articles for <i>Spaces</i> were also requested.</p> <p>Many of our older publications are now available free to download on our website, and notwithstanding this they still sell well at vintage fairs.</p> <p>We are looking to update our main website when funds allow, and the <i>Love Local Landmarks</i> website - hackneybuildings.org (aka lovelocallandmarks.org) despite a lack of interest from Hackney council is thriving, Nick has recently added 4 new buildings that are on the local list.</p> <p>Lisa Shell reported that the Planning Sub-Group, now with several professional</p>

	<p>members, seems to be gaining more respect from the Planning department.</p> <p>There was a suggestion for a group to be formed to consider the Council's various spatial planning exercises, and 4 people from the floor expressed an interest in getting involved. The trustees will look at how best to take this forward.</p> <p>Finally, Nick spoke about the reciprocal membership exchange with Sustainable Hackney.</p> <p>The report was approved - proposed by Nick Perry and seconded by Margaret Willes.</p>
4. Report of the Independent Financial Examiner for the year 2015/16	<p>Dave Harris, the Independent Financial Examiner and Tony Gillett, the Treasurer spoke to the report.</p> <p>Dave spoke about how he had written to the trustees suggesting that we seek a better return on the £9,000 held in our bank account and that the trustees look at writing down the book value of our stock of publications as at our current rate of sales the current value is unlikely to be realised.</p> <p>The accounts were approved - proposed by Tony Gillett and seconded by Monica Blake.</p>
5. Election of Independent Financial Examiners.	<p>Tony Gillett proposed that David be re-appointed as Independent Financial Examiners to the Society for the following year.</p> <p>Laurie Elks seconded. The proposal was agreed unanimously.</p>
6. Election of Trustees	<p>The nominee statements for all the people proposed for Trustee were available to the meeting.</p> <p>Nick Perry proposed and Tony Gillett seconded that the following were elected: Julia Lafferty, Laurie Elks, Lisa Shell, Margaret Willes, Monica Blake, Ray Blackburn and Tony Gillett.</p> <p>The Trustees thanked the outgoing trustees Kevin Moore and Rossana Tich for their work over the years.</p>

After the formal meeting was finished the volunteers, several of whom were present, who hand deliver *Spaces*, thus saving the Society nearly £100 each issue were thanked and an invitation was extended for more volunteers to help with *Spaces* delivery and staffing stalls. Further, anyone interested in becoming a trustee was invited to attend a future trustee meeting to find out what was involved.

Finally Margaret Willes spoke about our book in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Hackney Society, no title has been decided upon yet but proof copies of the cover were passed round. Publication is due for next September at a likely price of £17 and a second sponsored walk, 12 miles along the Lea Valley, is pencilled in for Saturday April 29 to raise further funds. There will be events around the publication date, and as writers for both the Hackney Gazette and the Hackney Citizen are writing chapters, publicity from their newspapers and possible extracts in them were very likely. Another contributor is Arcola Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen. Laurie Elks then read out extracts from one of the chapters, one dealing with the Four Aces club on Dalston Lane, to the great appreciation of the audience.