

HARROW HILL TRUST AGM

Harrow School Old Speech Room Gallery (by kind permission of the Curator OSRG)

8.00pm on Wednesday 28 November 2018

Present: Debora Catherall, Paul Catherall, Professor Alan Evans, Cate Jaquest,
Robert Lemon, Mark Mills and about 30 members of the Harrow Hill Trust

Guest Speaker: Julia Walton (Curator OSRG)

Apologies: None

1. Chair's Welcome and Report

The Chair thanked the curator for the use of the Old Speech Room Gallery and welcomed members to the meeting.

The Chair reported the highlights of the year and wished to thank all volunteers for their support. She particularly wished to thank the following:

- Professor Alan Evans, who had been involved in the Planning Committee for over 30 years and was stepping down. She stressed that planning was a vital part of caring for our heritage and his input had been invaluable.
- Jayne Radford, who due to health issues had resigned as Hon. Secretary, after making such a valuable contribution.
- Jake Thompson, who had led his first walk on 11th November 2018. This walk had an extremely good attendance of over 60 people. The Chair also thanked Jonathan Edwards for his help in the preparation of the walk. Jake is also editor of the bi-annual newsletter.
- Robert Lemon, who had volunteered after the 2017 AGM and had produced 2019 calendars, helped with the Summer Picnic and hosted the very well attended Quiz evening at the Castle.
- Cate Jaquest, who was now Publicity Officer and had been using Facebook to help advertise our activities. This medium was proving very effective.

Legacy from Robert Green Ingersoll White

- The Chair reported that a generous legacy had been made to the Trust by the late Robert Green Ingersoll White of Leigh Court. Part of this money had been used to fund a party held for all HHT helpers and the remainder would be used to assist with other costs such as distribution of the newsletter.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 27 November 2017 were unfortunately not available but added to the Trust website. They will then be approved.

Action: - Chair

3. Election of Officer and Committee for the Ensuing Year

The following were elected by a show of hands, and there were no comments from those attending in relation to the nominations and roles:

	Name	Proposer	Seconded
Chair	Debora Catherall	Jenny Mills	Denise McDonald
Deputy Chair	<i>Vacant</i>		
Treasurer	Paul Catherall	Mark Ellis	Penny Reed
Planning	Simon Less	Carolyn Leader	Dee Hinton
Hon, Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>		
Communications Lead *	Cate Jaquest	Mark Mills	Robert Lemon
Social Committee Lead	Robert Lemon	Andrew Reed	Paul Catherall
Membership	Mark Mills	Alan Axten	Solveig Wilson

*Cate Jaquest requested help with responding to emails on the HHT inbox and updating of the HHT website.

It was noted that nobody wished to take on the roles of Deputy Chair or Hon. Secretary.

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report – Paul Catherall reported as follows:

Paul Catherall tabled the Trustees Annual Report for the period 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, the Trust's Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2017.

Income had been steady, although membership subscriptions were slightly down (due to there not being a May Day event). The donation of £125 was from the aforementioned Robert White. Planning costs were down due to the barrister costs from 2017. The income from walks and functions was greatly reduced due to the May Day festival not taking place in 2018. Attention was drawn to the Annual Report and the statutory declaration.

Eileen Kinnear had a question in relation to the £125 shown in the 2018 accounts and wished to record her thanks to Robert White, who had been a great caretaker of the Hill, and both he and Christopher English had assisted greatly in preserving the area, especially in relation to the Kings Head development. She added that the will stated that the donation be of (x 5) his last donation to the Trust, which meant his last donation was £25. This had not been shown in the 2017 accounts. Paul Catherall informed Eileen Kinnear this was probably included under membership and was not logged as a separate donation. Paul Catherall also clarified that the donation had not been used to fund the helpers party but had gone directly to the Trust. Eileen Kinnear responded that in the newsletter it stated the donation had been put toward planning matters. Debora Catherall read the newsletter and agreed. Paul Catherall stated the legacy did not give specific instructions as to usage.

Eileen Kinnear then referred to Section G (Declaration of the Annual Report) and wished to know who the Trustees were. Paul Catherall confirmed the Trustees were those that were elected as Committee who were entrusted by the membership to run the Trust. Eileen Kinnear wished to know names of specific people. It was confirmed these Trustees were all those elected to the Committee, and that

prior to 2017 Trustees had been incorrectly appointed and did not follow charity law (reference S.14 of the Trust constitution). The Trust had taken expert advice and a transition to the correct system had been made. Paul Catherall reiterated that although all those voted onto the Committee agreed to be Trustees, a Trustee could also be co-opted eg a Solicitor or Accountant. Eileen Kinnear confirmed she was happy with this clarification and had just wanted to clarify matters.

Simon Less wished to know how many members there currently were. Mark Mills reported there were currently 348 households (which included many households with couples and the Corporate members).

Ted Allett commented there was a different interpretation of the constitution from the following year and given the big change, he felt it appropriate to explain this to the membership. He thought this should be included in the newsletter. Debora Catherall reiterated that she had spoken to the Charity Commission and the C.E.O of a major charity, who had confirmed the correct practice was being adopted. Ted Allett stated he was not questioning the position but wanted an explanation. Debora Catherall confirmed she would be happy to put an explanation in the next newsletter. Solveig Wilson asked for clarity of the old and new interpretations, which was given. Eileen Kinnear commented that if the system had changed there would be minutes of the Executive Committee meeting where this was agreed, and she would like a copy of these. Paul Catherall stated he would be happy to run through with Eileen Kinnear the situation after the AGM.

The Chair thanked Paul Catherall for serving as Treasurer and preparing the Accounts. The accounts were formally approved.

5. Election of Hon. Auditor

Michael Goltz was thanked for his work as Independent Examiner of the Accounts. Members present re-appointed Michael Goltz as Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.

6. Committee Chair Reports

Kids Committee – Herbie Huntington. Debora Catherall introduced the new Chair of the Kids Committee, Herbie Huntington. Herbie reported the success of the face painting stall run at the Summer Picnic, where all proceeds went to MIND. He further reported that a meeting would be held the following week to plan next year's activities and the Kids Committee would be taking an active role in collecting for the Salvation Army at the Carols on the Green.

Communications – Cate Jaquest. Cate reported about the importance of communications and the need for the Trust to be publicised on Facebook. Following the post about the November 11th walk, over 3000 people had viewed this, and the walk was extremely popular. She also reported that 38 people had seen the reminder of the AGM. She stressed the website had not been updated and she would require assistance in improving and updating this. Cate finally reminded those attending that if they did not have Facebook they could Google HHT@facebook to see events.

Social Committee – Robert Lemon. Robert Lemon gave those attending an introduction into his background. He had read in the Autumn 2017 newsletter that volunteers were required and had responded. He had enjoyed working with the Committee and had helped plan the Summer Picnic, where there were steam trains, Beat Percussion and other activities for all. He had planned the 2019 Calendar (which was on sale on the night) and assisted Judith Shepherd with the September walk, which over 70 people had attended. The Quiz at the Castle had sold out, and a further Quiz was planned for January 2019. He was looking forward to 2019 and thanked the Committee, especially the Chair, for allowing him to be involved.

Planning Committee – Professor Alan Evans. Professor Alan Evans reported that as planning applications had fallen there were therefore fewer meetings (in fact only two). Estate Agents had noted that there were fewer applications to alter properties. He was unable to provide the number of applications looked at due to computer issues. There were several major applications, namely the Harrow School Sports Centre, John Lyon School and the Powerhouse in 2018 and Professor Evans had assisted with them. Professor Evans finally commented in relation to enforcement. Harrow had cut their Enforcement Officers from three to two. There was currently a very poor response rate to letters to the Enforcement department. Debora Catherall thanked Professor Evans for all his work over 34 years on the Planning Committee and her thanks to those that will be continuing the good work.

7. Presentation of Garden Prizes and Certificates by Rita Bhatia

Rita Bhatia reported that both she and Denise McDonald had thoroughly enjoyed judging the front gardens in July this year. She announced the winners of the 4 categories as follows: -

Front Garden/Courtyard Garden

Winner: 1 Whitehall Rd – Katinka Royan
Runner up: 3 Pickwick Place – Aruna Bhalla

Pots/Window Baskets/Hanging Baskets

Winner: 9 Waldron Rd – Sarah & Peter Elmey-Walker
Runner up: 1 Nelson Rd – Linda Ward

Corporate & Institutions

Winner: Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury Church – Volunteer Gardeners
Terry and Danuta Wakefield

Rita Bhatia gave a most interesting background as to how the Prayer Garden originated.

Contribution to Greening the Hill

Rita Bhatia stated that many volunteers made an essential contribution to communal spaces on the Hill and Rev James Power had nominated the following: -

Robert Lemon – cutting the grass at St Mary's for 10 years
Giles Quinan – caring for the Church grounds for many years

Rita Bhatia also wished to recognise others for their efforts in maintaining and enhancing the environment of the Hill for others: -

Ann-Marie Brown – keeping Short Hill pleasant
Linda Newton – for bringing a burst of colour to the horse trough of West St she maintains.

New Category 2018 – Junior Contribution to Greening the Hill

Thomas Owen (aged ten), an avid gardener who was nominated by his neighbour Stewart Kelly for a design Thomas had created for his garden. Denise McDonald will put further details of this in the Newsletter.

Overall Winner

The Andrew Bishop Trophy was awarded to Terry and Danuta Wakefield for the Prayer Garden.

Rita Bhatia confirmed that certificates for those unable to attend the AGM would be dropped to them.

8. Any Other Business

Ted Allett informed the meeting that Gordon McLean had died a few weeks ago. He was the partner of Lysiane Bysh (former Membership Secretary) and they had met through the Trust. Gordon McLean had been the Chairman of the Planning Committee for 20 years during the very hectic 1980 – 1990's. Ted Allett had details of the funeral arrangements for all those interested.

Ted Allett further reported that as Chair of the Harrow Hill Forum he had just heard that the 10.00am to 3.00pm parking permit zone over the Hill had been agreed. The Forum had lobbied for much less and were disappointed as this would demolish business on the Hill. The Forum will lobby hard to reverse this and Ted Allett urged members to discuss with neighbours the consequences of such an action. Ted proposed that a 9.00am – 10.00am and 3.00pm – 4.00pm (and not including the High Street) would be more appropriate for local businesses. The Forum had further lobbied for permits for local business and bays around The Green with two hour limits. He was disappointed that officers had not listened to the Forum. The next stage was a formal consultation just on the 10.00am -3.00pm issue, unless Councillors and the portfolio holder were lobbied. Ted Allett requested that any views be addressed to him or our local Councillors. John McDonald questioned whether the Trust should have their own voice on this issue. Paul Catherall stated that Trust members had alternative views on this issue so there was no consensus. Debora Catherall asked Simon Less to look into this matter. Ted Allett suggested that when pros and cons were shared with our members it would be possible to get a consensus.

The meeting concluded with a talk by Julia Walton, Curator of the Old Speech Room Gallery on the current displays. Members were informed of two major exhibitions in 2019; The Horse in the Summer Term and 19th Century Chinese Paintings alongside water colours by artists such as Turner, Cotman, Girtton and de Wint in the Autumn Term. The Chair thanked Mrs Walton for her presentation and hospitality. This was followed by drinks and an opportunity to view the fascinating exhibition of Japanese prints and a tribute to Harry Patch.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm