

## HARROW HILL TRUST AGM

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

8.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

Present: Debora Catherall, Paul Catherall, Simon Less, Cate Jaquest,  
Robert Lemon, Mark Mills and about 25 members of the Harrow Hill Trust

Guest Speaker: Julia Walton (Curator OSRG)

Apologies: Eileen Kinnear

### 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 wished to raise two important issues: -

- **HHT Newsletter** – currently there are two printed newsletters produced and distributed each year. It was questioned whether members were happy with this current situation or would prefer an electronic newsletter. The Chair asked for member feedback and it was unanimously decided to stay with the current printed format.
- **Joint Planning Meeting** – this takes place in January of each year, currently with Friends of Harrow School and St Mary's to ensure that events do not clash. The Chair asked if any other groups should be approached? Members suggested that sporting clubs on the Hill (e.g. Tennis Club, Golf Club and Harrow School Sports Club) should also be contacted. It was also noted that the Trust should be mindful of other major sporting events which should be avoided.

### 2. Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM's held on 27 November 2017 and 28 November 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair. Two incorrect spellings of names were noted. There was also a query regarding what Rule 6 Status was and Paul Catherall informed the meeting it was a hearing where other parties could present evidence, cross examine and also be cross examined (so the hearing was not just limited to the Council and the Applicant).

The Chair confirmed that all minutes would be published on the website so members could review them at leisure prior to the next AGM.

### 3. Committee Chair Reports

**Kids Committee** – they were in the process of deciding what events would run and details would follow.

**Social Committee – Robert Lemon.** Robert Lemon summarised the numerous events that had taken place this year, namely: -

- **Three quizzes at the Castle** – these had been packed each time and it was stressed they were fun quizzes for everyone, they were always buzzing and there was a fantastic Quiz Master.
- **Three guided walks** – Jonathan Edwards had conducted one in July, Judith Shepherd in September and Jake Thomson in October. All had been well attended.
- **Summer Picnic** – this took place in July and although unfortunately clashing with several major sporting events was thoroughly enjoyed by all those that attended. Thanks were given to Cate for arranging the story teller/musician and the Secret Garden venue courtesy of Harrow School.
- **Carols on the Green** – this year will take place on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and will again be led by the Salvation Army.

Robert then summarised future events which will include 3 more quizzes (the first on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020), 3 more walks and an additional exercise walk on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 after the over indulgence of the season, ending in a local pub (more details to follow). Jake Thomson had a good idea for a walk to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day which would be followed by a mini fete in May 2020. Judith Shepherd wished to lead a Hidden Nature on the Hill walk and asked for contributors who know anything about this subject to contact her. Finally, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 there will be a Doodle Art for mental health well-being class with a maximum of 15 people. If successful this will continue for the rest of the year with further sessions, again full details to follow.

Robert thanked all those who organised and supported the events and the Chair thanked Cate for publicising these events on Facebook. She also thanked Jonathan Edwards for his continued support

John McDonald added on behalf of Mark Ellis that the Christmas Tree would be erected on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 9am and any additional help would be much appreciated.

**Planning Committee – Simon Less.** Simon Less informed the meeting he had been Chair of this Committee for one year and there had been 11 meetings and 31 letters written regarding planning proposals. Approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of these letters had some success (although it was noted this may not be solely down to HHT involvement). The remaining 1/3<sup>rd</sup> were grants without conditions. Simon therefore confirmed that the Committee will carry on doing this.

There were 3 major planning applications that were of interest:

- **Mission Hall, West St** – this was considered a welcome development.
- **John Lyon School rebuilding of Oldfield House** - The proposal had been revised to reduce the height by 2.5 meters but did not address all areas of concern.
- **Old Cricketers Pub, West St** – a big expansion into flats was proposed which was not welcome and has currently been withdrawn.

In order to provide better communication for members as to what the Planning Committee do, the objectives are now on the HHT website and copies of all letters written to the Council are also featured. Cate Jaquest commented that it was extremely helpful to be able to see letters of rejection on the website.

Thanks were given to all members of the Committee, especially Andrew Reed (Architectural Advisor) and Paul Catherall who had been majorly involved in the Harrow School Sport's Centre enquiry, which despite much time and effort did not get the outcome that we wished for.

There had been involvement with the CPZ parking scheme, linking with the Harrow Hill Forum (and Ted Allett). There had been no consensus amongst Trust members in relation to this issue of the CPZ. Simon had been involved in this delicate issue and had some success with the requirement for additional pay and display spaces along the “spine” of the hill for the Hill’s business customers. Additionally he had asked for pay & display machines to be reduced and sited away from listed buildings.

A question was raised by a member regarding the Old Power Station, and Simon confirmed that there had been no new developments this year, but the position could be checked. It was known that HHT had supported West St residents in their case to improve the architectural features as the Developer had a track record.

Simon concluded by stating the Planning Committee were always looking for additional volunteers and to contact him if anyone is interested.

#### **4. 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 early July this year, after a wet spring. They noted numerous properties that were on the market, sold or under offer this year. She wished it noted that Denise had done much of the work this year. She announced the winners of the 4 categories as follows: -

##### **Front Garden/Courtyard Garden**

Winner: Jenny Ward

##### **Pots/Window Baskets/Hanging Baskets**

Winner: Deidre Donleavy

##### **Contribution to “Greening” the Hill**

Winner: Ann-Marie Brown (maintaining Short Hill for over 10 years)

##### **Corporate & Institutions**

Winner: Orley Farm School

##### **Overall Winner**

The Andrew Bishop Trophy was awarded to Deidre Donleavy.

Rita Bhatia suggested that it would be a good idea to look not just at gardens in summer but nature more broadly, e.g. trees throughout the seasons.

The Chair thanked Rita, who was sadly stepping down, for her contribution and Rita noted that Denise would like some help next year with the judging. Anyone interested should please contact The Chair.

Cate Jaquest commented that volunteers Linda Newton and Jenny Ward were still maintaining the granite trough at the bottom of West St.

## 5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Paul Catherall noted that the main activities and performance details were all in the financial review which had been distributed to those attending.

Income was up from 2018 although membership subscriptions were slightly down. This downward trend on membership was due to the lack of large-scale events e.g. May Day where many members were recruited, and it was noted we must continually hand out membership forms at every opportunity and encourage payment by Direct Debit wherever possible.

There had been an increase in income due to walks, quizzes and other functions and the 2019 calendar. The money collected at the quizzes and the calendar sales went directly to the Trust.

One member raised a query as to whether payments from organisations who advertised on the back of the newsletter (Corporate members) were treated as donations. Paul confirmed this was not the case.

Cate stated that Corporate members generously donated to the Trust, indeed the band and Morris Men at May Day were paid for by their generous sponsorship.

One member asked if the Trust raised money for other charities. It was noted that the Kids Committee had always done this, and Judith Shepherd's walk was for Spirewatch. Cate commented that at the Carols on the Green the collection money went to the Salvation Army, and Paul clarified that this therefore did not appear in our Accounts.

Cate wished to also thank Corporate member Stephen Woodward who kindly provided his electricity, together with mince pies and hot chocolate at the Carols.

## 6. Election of Officers 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:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Chair	Debora Catherall	Penny Reed	Denise Robertson
Deputy Chair	<i>Vacant</i>		
Treasurer	Paul Catherall	Mark Ellis	Tony Violaris
Planning	Simon Less	Carolyn Leder	Eileen Kinnear
Hon, Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>		
Communications Lead	<i>Vacant</i>		
Social Committee Lead	Robert Lemon	Mark Mills	Judith Shepherd
Membership	Mark Mills	Solveig Wilson	Alan Axten

It was noted that nobody wished to take on the roles of Deputy Chair or Hon. Secretary and that Cate Jaquest has kindly taken on Facebook publicity activities in the absence of a Communications Lead.

## **7. Election of Hon. Auditor**

Paul Catherall informed the meeting that he had received the extremely sad news this week that Michael Golz the Independent examiner of accounts had passed away on Tuesday. Paul suggested that we re-appoint the firm with the expectation that the alternate partner would step in. He informed the meeting that the alternate would be under lots of pressure due to increased workload and was not sure if this would be achievable. He asked the members present if they would allow the Executive Committee to appoint an auditor once the situation was clarified. This was unanimously agreed by the members. The Chair stated that condolences would be sent to Michael's family, friends and business associates.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Stephen Woodward wished to thank all the HHT committee and members for all that they do for The Hill.

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm**

*After refreshments Julia Walton, Curator of the Old Speech Room Gallery, gave a talk on the current displays. Members were informed of an upcoming event "Women on the Hill" to coincide with International Women's Day. Julia Walton informed us that all displayed items, except one, were gifted to the School and the names of all benefactors can be seen. The School undertakes to never sell any of these gifts and work by Turner, Constable and John Ruskin were highlighted.*

*The Chair thanked Mrs Walton for her presentation and hospitality.*