**Historical Association- Ealing Branch**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting for Year ending 30 June 2021 –with Branch agreement held on 25th January 2022 at 2.30pm.**

The meeting was held on-line via Zoom, of which the host was Philip Woods. 16 members attended and participated and were welcomed by the Chair Peter Hounsell.

1. **Apologies**: Roger Nellist; Ian Rogers; Pierre Thomas
2. **Present:** Peter Crane (Treasurer) ; Judith Bone; Ann Scurfield; Elizabeth Sunley; Richard Morse; Rodney Reid (Secretary); Jane Cocking; Peter Hounsell (Chair); Sallie Mercer; Humaira Sanders; Alexandra Cenic; Liz Wood; Simon Cockshutt; Norah Moss; Russell Davies; Philip Woods
3. **Minutes of the AGM of the 15th December 2020** were circulated and approved.
4. **The Treasurer’s Report** was presented by the Treasurer, Peter Crane. The current bank balance was just below £4000.00p by year end, up from £3517.26p as at 20th August 2021. With such a boost to Branch funds, the Treasurer was willing to consider spending up to a quarter of current funds on projects that furthered the work of the Association. One possibility was spending some money in connection with celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth, who is Patron of the Historical Association.
5. The **Chair presented his report** which had already been circulated to the membership. From his position as Chair of the Branches and Membership Committee at the HA, it was clear to him that while some branches were not well funded, others were extremely well funded. In his view, the Ealing Branch was in the ‘comfortable’ bracket.
6. The **Secretary presented his report**. He thanked Peter Hounsell, Philip Woods and Pierre Thomas jointly for the remarkable joint effort that they all made to ensure that the Speaker Programme was kept on track during the Secretary’s period of recuperation. He also wished to thank both Peter and Philip for dealing with the EGC communications, that once or twice had proved ‘tricky’.
7. The **Membership Secretary** agreed with the accuracy of the membership figures reported by the Secretary earlier on in the meeting. The main concern going forward that Ann Scurfield had was that so far this year, members have not been returning according to historic pattern, as they have in the past. Zoom has been very useful during the Pandemic for obvious reasons, but had it set a behavioural precedent to some degree?
8. The **Publicity and Information officer’s report** emphasised that Zoom had proved to be a lifeline for the membership throughout the pandemic. Other methods of advertising were Email flyers to local and national members as well as schools. Using Ealing Arts Diary-printed and on-line. Facebook/Twitter sometimes.
9. For obvious reasons, Liz Wood had to report that there had been no **book sales** at all in the period. Liz and the Chair appealed to all members to supply any history books that were in members’ ownership, in good condition, and they had no use for anymore. It was hoped that book sales would restart at the HA Conference in Bristol in May this year, but it was thought that the ability to take electronic card payments would be useful going forward. This could be also used to take membership subscriptions as well.
10. The chairman invited debate and comment on the **use of Zoom for the future**- or blended meetings? His view and shared by most who cared to comment was that if there was not a good reason not to meet in person at the Church, then that’s what we should do. Somehow a live meeting brings a lot more spirit and dynamism to any meeting. Speakers also naturally favoured a live meeting. That’s a fact. If the branch does not hold live meetings-unless in extremis- there is a danger that the Branch itself is undermined.
11. **Branch meetings and trips:** Elizabeth Sunley was asked by the chairman what progress had been made in this area. The answer at this stage was that contact had been made with a river walking tour guide to include the Thames Bank, Eel Pie Island museum and a twelve month membership as well. On the 25th January Elizabeth had not heard again from her contact and would try again. The other suggestion-the Thames Police Museum- seemed a non-runner. There had been no response at all.
12. Finally, the chair mentioned that the HA was keen that all branches celebrated the **Queen’s Jubilee**. Peter Hounsell had emailed the committee about this recently. He made mention of an initiative from the HA called the Great Debate. The branch is invited considering running a local heat for the 2023 event.
13. As a way of marking the Jubilee, the chair suggested that a social gathering, for example a garden party, might be organised for June/July. It was mooted that this might take the form of an event at Pitzhanger Manor.

Meeting ended at 4.30pm.