**HISTORICAL ASOCIATION – EALING BRANCH**

**Annual General Meeting 12 December 2023**

**Ealing Green Church at 7.30 pm**

1. Apologies from: Liz Wood, Geoffrey Horwood, Ann Scurfield, Bill Marshall, Kate Molloy, Pierre Thomas, Jane Cocking
2. Members present: Rob Jones-Owen, Robert Krasucki, James Gildea, John Scott, Edwin Parsons, Sallie Mercer, Judith Woods, Philip Woods, Pam Armstrong, Peter Crane, Peter Hounsell (Chair), Simon Cockshutt (Secretary), Frances Hounsell, Ann Hehir, Chris Withers, Paul Johnson
3. Minutes of the AGM of 13 December 2022 approved, with no matters arising, save that PH said that book sales continue at two events in the year (Brentford Festival and the annual HA Conference which is held in Birmingham in May this year) and that we will be asking for new stock in the new year. Members were encouraged to attend the annual conference which would have an additional ‘General’ strand and offered guided walks in the area. National members have reduced rates and an early booking offer applies.
4. Treasurers Report: R. J-O reported that he had only recently received invoices from Ealing Green Church and they covered a longer period than our financial year so that he needed to adjust his estimated profit for the year downward. We still broke even over the year and were left with a balance of £4616.

JW said that some national charitable societies put limits on the surpluses that branches could hold. Did this apply to us? PH replied that the Historical Association wanted branches to use surpluses where they could, but there was no rule on this and Ealing was only in the middle range of surpluses held by branches across the country.

**Action:** Branch Committee to consider this issue at their next meeting

1. Membership Report. In Ann Scurfield’s absence her report was approved. The report showed an increase in local membership of 10 to a total of 59. National membership stood stable at 87.
2. Chair’s Report by Peter Hounsell reported on the activities of the national HA as well as our local branch. The HA Strategy 2022-25 included two elements which your committee here in the Ealing Branch would like to work on. The first is to try and attract new members from across the whole range of diverse communities that make a borough like Ealing, particularly younger people. Secondly, we would like to build links between branches and local teachers. This is something that has many challenges, and other members of our committee could tell you about the difficulties we have experienced over the years, but it is something that we need to persevere with.

**Action:** Committee to consider means of fulfilling the above strategies within the Ealing context

Peter referred to the fact that Simon Cockshutt had said that he would not stand again this year as Secretary. Peter thanked him for the work he has done. He was pleased that Philip Woods has indicated his willingness to take on the Secretary’s role in addition to his role as publicity officer for the next year or so, whilst we seek a longer-term replacement. Philip indicated that he would very much like to have someone join the committee and ‘shadow’ the Secretary role so that they could take it over if it proved to their liking. Robert Krasucki indicated that he would consider functioning in that way in the coming year.

Ann Hehir volunteered to join the committee, which was approved.

1. Secretary’s report. Simon’s report listed the attendance at our meetings over the year which averaged 38 in the church, with up to 78 people signing up to talks on Eventbrite and therefore receiving recording of the talks on the day after it was given.
2. Publicity Report: Philip Woods listed the publicity methods used and said that they were successful in achieving good size audiences in the church, whilst attracting a much wider audience through Eventbrite.
3. Election of Officers and Committee: The following were elected. Proposed by Peter Crane, Seconded by Rodney Reid
   1. Chair - Peter Hounsell
   2. Treasurer – Robert Jones-Owen
   3. Secretary – Philip Woods
   4. Membership – Ann Scurfield
   5. Visits co-ordinator – Pierre Thomas
   6. Publicity- Philip Woods

Committee members: Officers plus Jane Cocking, Sallie Mercer, Peter Crane, Rodney Reid and Ann Hehir

1. Visits: suggestions for future meetings. PH said that the visits planned for this year had not attracted enough takers, possibly because the venues chosen were ones that members had already visited and lacked a special guided tour. We were considering a visit to Reading Museum which housed a complete replica of the Bayeux Tapestry, and perhaps we could see if the local HA branch there might provide a guided tour in the town. We welcome ideas for visits.

**Action:** Pierre to report back on the Reading visit proposal

1. Ideas for next season’s talks. We need to start working on this in January. Edwin Parsons suggested that we ought to have a talk on the local history of Ealing. PH said that May 2025 might be a good choice as it was local history month.

**Action:** Philip to circulate committee to set up a sub-group to work on ideas for speakers.

1. Ideas for other member activities. PW said that it would be good to encourage more participation of members outside of the lecture series. PH said that a book group was one idea that had been tried in another branch. PW wondered whether some people would like to meet up after the lecture in a pub to continue discussion of the topic.

**Action:** Committee to give further consideration to this idea and possible venues.

There being no further business the meeting closed and we moved on to a Christmas social event and to a Quiz focused on local history provided by Frances and Peter Hounsell.