

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Crediton Arts Centre
Wednesday 6th April 2011 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Paul Cartwright, Daphne Cartwright, Peter Hamilton, Naomi Wright, Geoff Fox, Pam Barnard, Cleo Heard (Chair), Pat Barker, Victoria Crossley, Rosemary Stephenson, Julian Wild, Valerie O'Connell, John Downes, Stu Wight, Jack Robson, Gillie Stoneham, Alan Murray, Hilary Hamilton, Yvonne Crone, Mr P Chave, Richard Teasdale, Tim Harris

Apologies: Eddie Sinclair, Kathleen Hughes, Sian Beeson, Ronald and Mary-Rose Somerville, Paul Tucker, Robin Phillips, Christine Duff, Margaret Chave, Majorie Wild, Jenny Start, David and Rebecca Jaques.

1. Welcome

Cleo Heard welcomed everyone warmly to the AGM.

2. Minutes of AGM, 27th April 2010

Agreed as a correct record

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Report from Chair

Cleo Heard (Acting Chair) thanked Geoff Fox for writing her report, which she then read to the meeting. Copy attached to these Minutes.

5. Report from Treasurer

Paul Cartwright (Treasurer) circulated copies of 'Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2010' and spoke to this paper, which is attached to these minutes. He highlighted in particular the success of our bids for grants and our Business Partnership Scheme. He also spoke of the Centre's ambitious plans to undertake a refurbishment of the Drama Studio, including improved seating, possible alternatives to the Q Build rake and improved equipment for showing films.

A copy of our accounts which had been agreed by our Independent Examiners, Messrs Apsleys, is available for inspection by any member of the Friends' organisation on request at the Centre. It will also be posted on the Centre's entry on the Charity Commission website.

www.charity-commission.gov.uk

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Treasurer recommended that we remained with Messrs Apsleys and the meeting agreed unanimously.

7. Amendment of the Constitution

The Treasurer pointed to an anomaly in the Constitution concerning those committee members entitled to sign cheques. Due notice of the change having been given, the wording was duly amended with the approval of the entire meeting. The Constitution can always be inspected, on request to the Centre, by any member of the Friends Organisation.

8. Friends Organisation

Naomi Wright spoke of recently developed plans to improve the numbers of Friends (currently c.150 people, holding individual or family memberships). The small committee team responsible for the Friends (herself, Rosemary Stephenson and John Downes) was exploring ways of attracting a greater diversity of Friends. The team thought that the following might be of use: membership card; loyalty scheme; outings; improved newsletters; improved communication by Facebook; and a Young Friends group. She hoped that the Summer in the Square activities might provide opportunities for increasing membership and launching some new features of the organisation. She hoped that next year, whoever reported on the Friends might be talking of maybe 40 more members, a YF group etc.

9. Business Sponsorship Group

Geoff Fox noted that Item 9 in last year's Minutes outlined the founding of our Business Sponsorship Group. Our major sponsors then had been Wortham Jaques (accountants), Peck & Strong (Brilliant Baking), Veitch Penny (solicitors) and Ashgrove Kitchens.

During the year we had ensured repeated mention of our sponsors in the press, banners in the square, brochures, website etc. We had provided an evening for sponsors and Friends in the Autumn called 'It's What We Do' which had attracted a full house – we needed to try harder to attract all our sponsors in future to such an event. Our local councillors, including the mayor, had been very well represented, and Geoff noted how fortunate we were in having their support, including that of John Downes, who also served on our management committee.

The BSG team (Paul Cartwright, Peter Hamilton, Rosemary Stephenson and Geoff Fox) had just completed this year's round and to our pleasure we have retained all of our major sponsors and added The Green House to the list. In addition the Town Council had given us £1000, double the grant of last year. He noted that much of this success so far depended on our continued very visible presence in promoting activities in the Town Square; and he urged Friends, if at all possible, to use our business partners if appropriate need arose and to let them know they were from the Arts Centre.

10. Fundraising Events 2010/2011

Peter Hamilton ingeniously stirred the memories of those present by recalling just four of the fundraising events which the Arts Centre had promoted during the last twelve months. Our two 'I Like This Stuff' events – we must be up to 20 in the series now – had featured David Green on his lifetime love of Kayaking and Gretchen Oldland talking about her varied life which had taken her from the Mid Western States to her Woolsgrove Cookery School by way of being a barrister in London. Then Charlie Werner and Di Martin had told us about their journey to India in a moving and successful search for the grave of Charlie's father. The evening had been magically enhanced by the serving of a home-cooked curry. Food had also played a big part in the murder mystery event performed for us by Playing Dead Theatre Company, staged in a wartime village hall – another stunningly good evening.

Peter celebrated all of these events, their diversity and their sheer fun. And the fact that together they had raised some £2200. Not bad for an Arts Centre of modest size. And essential if we are to continue.

11. Appointment of Committee

Cleo Heard had thanked David Treadaway and Rebecca Megson for their work during the previous year on the committee – both had felt that the time had come to resign from the regular commitment to the management group. She herself was reluctantly resigning since she expected to relocate shortly. The Management Team has 11 elected places and can co-opt up to five more members. The remaining members were all willing to stand (Daphne Cartwright, Paul Cartwright, Yvonne Crone, Naomi Wright, Gillie Stoneham, Richard Teasdale, John Downes, Peter Hamilton, Geoff Fox and Tim Harris – ten in all). Victoria Crossley and Jack Robson were willing to join the committee and were strongly welcomed. This leaves the option of co-opting a further four members if need arises.

12. AOB

- a. Pam Barnard noted that the Centre might look to recruit more people in the Just Over 60 bracket who might now have time and sufficient faculties

to make a valuable contribution. Yvonne Crone wondered ‘Where do they hang out?’

- b. Paul Cartwright noted that our new Business Partners, The Green House, had provided leaflets for inclusion with the Summer brochure about the Greek property owned by the proprietors of the shop – they were offering a handsome discount to Friends.
- c. Paul Cartwright noted that our website was now fully operational and that its attractive appearance owed much to the free service provided by Natalie Barnard, a professional designer in Cheltenham and one of our further flung Friends. He also expressed gratitude to Nick Peed for all the work he had done in the past and would continue to do in maintaining the website (Richard Teasdale will be the new liaison person). He also mentioned, supported by Cleo Heard, that he hoped for heavier use of our Facebook site in the coming year.
Since Natalie and Tom Barnard had just been joined by Eleanor Elizabeth, a present had been bought and was passed over to Granny Barnard to be taken to Cheltenham at an early date.
- d. Peter Hamilton brought the meeting to a close by thanking Cleo Heard for taking on the Chair’s role over the last 8 months or so, freeing Paul Cartwright to sort out the Treasury. All the meeting joined in thanking Cleo for all that she had done.

Geoff Fox, 11th April, 2011