

**Minutes of the Ipswich Arts Association General Meeting held on  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm  
Ipswich Town Hall**

<b>Present:</b>	Professor Chris Green	(Chair)
	Ivan Gilson	(Treasurer)
	Christine Pearce	(Acting Secretary/IAA Music (Vocal))
	Mary Odam	(Secretary)
	Be Bird	Birkbeck Singers & Ipswich Institute
	Stephen Cassidy	IAA & Ipswich Art Society
	Terry Cloke	IAA Publicity & Ipswich Film Society
	Edward Colthorpe	IAA & 4 Seasons Theatre Group
	Joan Colthorpe	4 Seasons Theatre Group
	Caroline Fish	Suffolk Craft Society
	Simon Fisher	Trianon Music Group
	Councillor Mandy Gaylard	SCC
	Yvonne Graham	Stour Choral Society
	Pat Grimwade	IAA & Ipswich Symphony Orchestra
	Chandra Grover	Felixstowe Harmonies
	Nigel King	Trianon Music Group
	Peggy King	Appeal Theatre Group
	Alan Loader	Music at Rushmere/Dorian Singers
	Pat Peddie	Orwell Singers
	Roger Pulham	Suffolk Organists Association
	Cllr Bill Quinton	SCC
	Beverley Ruddock	Trianon Music Group
	Maureen Shelton	Appeal Theatre Group
	Paul Smith	IAA & Ipswich Recorded Music Society
	Simon Snowdon	Ipswich Choral Society

**1. Apologies for absence and welcome to visitors:**

Apologies for absence were received from: Ruth Dugdall (IAA Literature), Roy Preston (IAA Newsletter) and Cllr Robin Vickery (IBC).

Mary Odam was welcomed as the new Secretary.

## **2. Chair's Report: As Attached**

Questions from the floor were as follows:

Roger Pulham (Suffolk Organists Association) asked whether the Charity Commission reporting applied only to those charities with a turnover of more than £10,000 a year. The Chairman replied that the £10,000 limit applies to the need for audits or inspections.

Bev Ruddock (Trianon Music Group) commented on the changes to the way Archant responds to press releases. Trianon having been affected by this, they are now taking steps to find new opportunities for publicity, and she wondered whether other groups have experienced similar problems.

Cllr Mandy Gaylard (SCC) suggested that Terry Hunt, the editor of the EADT be invited to talk to a meeting, as happened last time there was a problem of this sort. She is experiencing good feedback with press coverage of Ipswich stories.

Christine Pearce (IAA) said that the Ipswich Choral Society had had a small press release published in the past week, so as yet they had not experienced any problems.

The Chairman told the meeting that the Arts column had been a feature of the newspapers since 1970, but had recently moved from the Arts and Culture section to the Local Events. He suspected that we were currently in a settling down period with the changes.

Chandra Grover (Felixstowe Harmonies) asked whether the EADT website coverage was also affected.

Be Bird (Ipswich Institute and Birkbeck Singers) commented that the new font, format and print quality made it difficult to navigate and read the newspaper.

Terry Cloke (IAA publicity/Ipswich Film Society) said that he had sent three press releases to the EADT in the past couple of weeks and that they all seem to have disappeared into a black hole. He asked Christine Pearce what route they used for sending press releases. Christine Pearce will ask Fenella Andrews, the Ipswich Choral Society publicity officer.

Alan Loader (Music at Rushmere and Dorian Singers) has tried to send details via the website. Over a week later only one event has appeared in the paper.

The Chairman reported that there have been previous IT problems at Archant, but these have now apparently been resolved. Now the problem seems to be that the geographic area covered by the paper is so large that the print has to be tiny. In his Arts Scene column there is now only space for one event from each locality.

Terry Cloke reported on "All About Ipswich". This is a new website which opened in September last year. He has had a discussion with them about having a bigger profile for arts events, as they are keen to have a dedicated section. Ipswich Arts Association is being enrolled as a member so that any member society will be able to put in information – the more the better. There will also be a monthly blog to showcase individual events. This is all at no cost to individual members as the subscription is covered by IAA.

It was felt that, although people are increasingly going online to find up to date information, there is still a place for publicity in the press.

Paul Smith told the meeting about the Ipswich Arts Association window at the Ipswich Corn Exchange. There are frames for 4 x A3 posters, with the option to have a large frame for 8 x A4

posters. Posters need to be sent to Mike Ferrell c/o The Regent Theatre, 3 St Helen's St., Ipswich, IP4 1HE.

#### **4. Strategic Plan for 2017 (attached)**

Chandra Grover asked whether the directory would be available on line. The list of member societies is already on the website.

Simon Fisher (Trianon Music Group) asked about subscribing to Ipswich Central and how this related to All About Ipswich. All About Ipswich is run by Ipswich Central.

Mark Whiting (Operations Manager for Ipswich Borough Council) explained that the Town Hall, Corn Exchange, Regent Theatre, Outside events, Market and general Visitor Experience were now all in his remit.

The Chairman queried the Corn Exchange experience since the loss of the Robert Cross Hall.

Simon Fisher felt that the experience was diminished as there was now no meeting place and thus no incentive for audience members to come early for a drink. Whilst he appreciated that the sacrifice had been necessary to ensure the longevity of the hall, anything that could be done to improve matters would be welcome.

Mark Whiting explained that it is possible to turn other areas into a bar: for instance the capacity in the hall could be reduced and include a bar, although this would probably only be welcomed as an option for groups who don't seek to "sell out".

Simon Fisher said that it is helpful to have access from the Town Hall entrance. Mark Whiting replied that, unless it is all hired out and paid for by the society, it could be hired out to someone else.

#### **5. Topics for future General Meeting**

The next General Meeting will be in June. The Chairman invited members to make suggestions for future guest speakers.

Pat Grimwade (IAA/Ipswich Symphony Orchestra) suggested a talk from Archant. The Chairman explained that this would not help with the current publicity problems as they need to be resolved sooner than June.

Alan Loader suggested a representative from the Tourist Information Centre. Steve Allman is the new manager, with a remit for general town centre tourism. He has expressed himself very happy to give a presentation.

#### **6. To confirm date of Annual General Meeting:**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at the Co-Op Education Centre, Waterworks Street.

## 7. AOB

There was no other business.

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The meeting adjourned in order to break for refreshments. This was followed by the following guest speakers:

**Talk by Roger Pulham – Suffolk Organists Association**

**Talk by Chandra Grover – Felixstowe Harmonies**

In closing the Chairman thanked the speakers and reminded the meeting of a number of issues and events:

- The Open House event in June needs someone to lead if it is to happen.
- Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments on 9<sup>th</sup> March for the launch of the Friends of Ipswich Corn Exchange Organ.
- Members were asked to think about experiences with the local press following the reorganisation at Archant.
- There was a recent Music Forum meeting in which a start was made on a directory of venues.
- Collaborations between different groups are welcomed. This year Ipswich Choral Society has formed links with Halifax Choral Society and Ipswich and District Photographic Society, and Trianon Music Group is linking with the Elgar Chorale in Worcester.
- A Rogers and Hammerstein Come and Sing event is being held in June at Museum Street Methodist Church. Further details are on the Trianon Music Group website.
- The closing date for applications to perform at Ipswich Music Day is 28<sup>th</sup> February.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm