

Creative Royston

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The Old Bull Inn, Royston
Monday 5th February 2018

Present:

Wendy Watts
Sheila Harding
Terry Hartga
Sue Hartga
Francis Sedgemore
Graham Palmer
Kirsten Grimmer
Carl Filby
Pamela Morton
Angus Batey
Phil Oddy
Susan Maylor
Rolanda Esler
Shaunaid Crosby
Jamie Rowe
Kate Berry
Cath Boughton
Marion Bunting
Liz Harris
John Redfern
Nathan Collins
Huw Jenkins
Joan Germany
Brian Norwood
Sarah Ryan
Cllr F. John Smith
Cllr Vera Swallow

Representing:

CADS (Corvus Amateur Dramatic Society)
CR Volunteer
CR Volunteer – Festival photographer
CR Volunteer – Festival photographer
CR Volunteer
Cracked Voices
CRMC (Creative Royston Management Committee)
CRMC
CRMC
CRMC
CRMC
CRMC
Curwens Solicitors
Greneway Middle School
Library
Listing Magazine
Listing Magazine
Priory Quilters
Priory Quilter
Royston Arts Society
Roysia School
Royston Choral Society
Royston Methodist Church
Royston Methodist Church / Royston Fringe
Royston Photographic Society
Royston Town Councillor
Royston Town Councillor & Mayor

1. Declaration of Any Other Business/Apologies for Absence/ Approval of the minutes of the Creative Royston 2017 AGM (Tuesday 7th February 2017)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Stacey Leigh-Ross	Artist
Emma Daintry	CR Volunteer
Joe Daintry	CR Volunteer
Diane Jackson	CR Volunteer
Claire Somerville	CR Volunteer
Tina Filby	CR Volunteer
Chris Lee	CR Volunteer
Joan Munden	CR Volunteer / Royston Fringe
Naomi Wallen	Dance Matters
Jane Sherwood	Icknield Walk First School
Jenny Warburton	Meridian School
Ashley Hawkins	NHDC Area Committee
Cllr Fiona Hill	Royston District & North Herts County Councillor
Cllr Tony Hunter	Royston District Councillor
Kim Bradfield	Royston Golf Club
Jenny Oxley	Royston Museum Curator
Anna Greetham	Tannery Drift First School

No other business was declared and the minutes of the 2017 Creative Royston AGM were proposed by Angus Batey, seconded by Francis Sedgemore and approved by the meeting.

2. Creative Royston Annual Report 2017

Copies of the 2017 Annual Report had been placed on the website and links circulated to confirmed attendees by email prior to the meeting. The 2017 Chairperson, Kirsten Grimmer, thanked everyone for attending before introducing the report and reviewing the activities and achievements of Creative Royston during the year as follows.

Voluntary Arts Week now known as Voluntary Arts Festival ran from 5-14 May in 2017 and a leaflet was produced to publicise the 5 organisations that participated. Unfortunately, this year the event had become part of the Get Creative Festival taking place in March and owing to the tight deadline and decreasing interest it had been decided not to support the event.

Royston Folk Club Young Artists Competition was supported by Creative Royston putting up the second prize of £250. The competition was won by The Trials of Cato a brilliant young band who performed at Royston Folk Club at the end of January and Creative Royston will be supporting the competition when it starts again in 2018.

A Schools Cover Art Competition attracted over 100 entries which were displayed in Royston Library thanks to Royston Arts Society which gave up their display space during September for that purpose. Around 20 winning entries were chosen by local artist Stacey Leigh-Ross to create a unique cover image that was then be used in promotional activity including the festival programme cover, posters and flyers. The winning piece of artwork was auctioned off for the Home-Start charity during Royston Arts Society's Annual Autumn Exhibition.

The non-fiction entries for the Creative Writing Competition were disappointing but it will be run again and supported by The Rotary Club and the age-range extended to adults.

Kirsten then turned to the festival itself and said that it had attracted nearly 5,000 visits including 1400 to MusicFest which staged 48 mini-concerts on top of which there were an additional 38 events.

The film festival run in conjunction with Royston Picture Palace was a first for the festival and featured three films the most popular of which was "Eye In The Sky' which featured a Q&A session by the RAF's first drone commander Andy Jeffrey. It was hoped to run another film festival in 2018.

The Community Event in Priory Gardens broke new ground with a ceilidh and it was expected that we would continue to stage similar community events in the same location which provided a focal point and helped to draw visitors into the town centre. The evening with author Alison Bruce in conjunction with the Library was also deemed to be a success and it is hoped to stage something similar again this year.

Kirsten then thanked all the committee for their help in staging the festival and all the event organisers and volunteers for their contributions.

3. Treasurer's Report and acceptance of accounts

Kirsten explained that Treasurer at the start of 2017, Thomas Lingard, had resigned for personal reasons as his wife was expecting a baby and he had increased responsibilities at work. It had not been possible to replace him and therefore Kirsten had prepared an Income and Expenditure Account and a supporting statement that could be found at pages 15 to 16 of the Annual Report.

A question from the floor asked why the amount for 'Seed Funding' expenditure in 2017 was reduced to about half that spent in 2016. The Secretary, Carl Filby, said that the usual budget reserved for seed funding was £1,000 and his recollection was that in both years the amounts granted represented the entire amounts applied for.

A further question concerned why the 'Volunteer Costs' had fallen from £680.58 in 2016 to only £45 in 2017. In response, Carl drew attention to Note 6 to the Creative Royston Accounts in the 2016 Annual Report which explained that the costs of the Volunteer Reward evenings were included in the 2016 accounts but the 2017 Volunteer Reward evening had only taken place last week.

The Income and Expenditure Account prepared for the year ending 31st December 2017 was then proposed by Kirsten Grimmer, seconded by Terry Hartga and accepted by the meeting.

4. Election of Officers for 2017

Kirsten again thanked all the retiring members of the festival committee for all their hard work in helping to stage the 2017 festival. She then explained that the constitution requires the Officers of the committee to retire each year and they can either be re-elected or new Officers elected in their place. The Officers for 2018 were then elected in the following order with proposers and seconders being identified from the floor.

Chairperson – Kirsten Grimmer	Proposed: Terry Hartga	Seconded: Graham Palmer
Vice Chairperson – Sarah Dingley	Proposed: Susan Maylor	Seconded: Kirsten Grimmer
Treasurer – Vacancy, no nominations.		
Secretary – Carl Filby	Proposed: Kirsten Grimmer	Seconded: John Redfern

5. Amendment of bank signatories

It was resolved that:

- The Signing Rules in the current Mandate, for the Accounts details in Section 2, be replaced in accordance with section 4; and/or
 - The Authorised Signatories in the current mandate, for the Accounts detailed in Section 2, be changed in accordance with section 5,
- And the current Mandate will continue as amended.

The amendment was proposed by Angus Batey, seconded by Kirsten Grimmer and accepted by the meeting.

6. Outline of plans for the 2018 festival

Kirsten looked forward to the 2018 festival in which the theme would be 'Voyages of Discovery' and then outlined the plans that were taking shape for the festival which would feature a core weekend of activities from 28th to 30th September but other events which take place from the prior weekend will also be included in the programme.

As mentioned earlier the Schools Cover Art Competition would be run again together with the Creative Writing Competition, MusicFest and the Finale Concert.

Amongst the new events planned this year events is a joint one with Royston Museum involving the Yarnsmith of Norwich in a new storytelling show under a new stage name, Tabard, and this would take place during the May half-term.

An 'Arts' Quiz Night was planned for Saturday 5th May and Carl had already approached all those invited to the AGM to gauge the level of interest. By way of an additional incentive he promised to include questions appropriate to each society/group entering a team. Also, the aim was to raise a bit of funding but tickets would be kept to £5 per head and the aim was to make it a bit of fun.

A concert was planned for Sunday 8th July with the working title 'Violins, Strings and Things' which Carl said would involve tickets at £10. In his opinion it would be the best concert in Royston this year and, given the musicians involved, would be brilliant value compared with the folk club end-of-month concerts though Carl also acknowledged the help that folk club organisers were giving to this event.

Kirsten then mentioned the 'Tesco Bags of Help' initiative and urged everyone to vote for the festival which would guarantee us at least £1,000 worth of extra funding, more if we come top of the poll.

A themed Community event, including possibly a story tent and some adult performance workshops, would again be held in Priory Memorial Gardens so that the focus of the festival would remain within the town centre on the Saturday.

7. Any Other Business

There was a request from the floor voiced by Terry Hartga that having a procession for the community event would be a good idea as it worked well with the Carnival event in 2016

Marian Bunting commented that there were a number of events that took place on the festival Friday night and asked whether they could be spread so that people could attend more than one.

Kirsten said that both these points would be considered during the planning stage and then thanked everyone for attending the meeting. All were invited to stay for a chat with members of the committee and perhaps another drink.

The next Creative Royston Management Committee meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 22nd February 2018, at 7.30 pm, in the Town Hall, Room 11 and Kirsten invited anyone who was interested to attend and just asked that they notify Carl if they intend to do so.
