



MINUTES OF RVPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **Held on Thursday 7th March 2013** **at Bromley Court Hotel**

Members present: Jenny & David Ash, Brian Atkinson, Keith Barrett, Christina Brown, Geoff & Theresa Colton, Carol Davidson, Rosalind Deaton, Heather & Ron Dovey, Tony Ferrison, Tony Guyver, Gail & Dick Hamblin, Iris Holley, Kathleen Hlland, Tony Illingworth, Christina & Trevor Jarvis, Daphne Johnson, Maureen Johnson, Clive Lees, Olivia Livesey, Richard Thomas, Gillian McIntosh, Elizabeth McJade, Mike Mielniczek, Pat & Tony Morton, Beatrice Osborn, David Page, Margaret Payne, Barbara Price, Brian Sanders, Val & Bob Skinner, Cllr Michael Tickner, Pat & Leslie Tucker, Leslie & Wendy Watmore, David & Susan (92 Coniston Road)
Apologies: Ann Rowswell

- 1 Chairman's opening remarks:** Leslie Watmore welcomed and introduced the Speaker, Mrs Pat Jones, by saying that she had worked in Bromley Library for many years specialising in children's literature. She has also had a long association with Bromley Little Theatre, the topic of her talk tonight.
- 2 Guest Speaker:** Mrs Pat Jones, Director and Stage Manager, Bromley Little Theatre spoke on the subject "Life filled with drama".
Mrs Jones started by describing her early connection with theatre, being taken by her mother to see performances in Birmingham. Then she told us about the early history of Bromley Little Theatre. Originally the building was a bakery in North Street and was converted to a theatre in 1935 by H Wilson Pook. It also incorporates former storage rooms of the nearby Railway Hotel. The running of the theatre was then taken over by Col John Leather and his wife Betty. With a break for World War II the Theatre put on many plays, profits being shared amongst the various people involved on a points basis. The stage and number of seats were extended in 1956 but the Theatre remains a small, intimate environment. A number of famous actors have performed there over the years, including Michael York who appeared in My Three Angels in 1960 and is now President. Recent productions have included Calendar Girls and Brassed Off. They run their own version of the Oscars, awarding a replica BLT sandwich. The speaker entertained us with many stories of sourcing props and things that didn't go quite right on the night.
In closing Mrs Jones explained that for licensing and insurance reasons, the Theatre is run as a club so only members can buy tickets for the 113 seats. There are many roles for volunteers and we were encouraged to join and get involved. The building is leasehold and the lease comes up for renewal at the end of 2013, but it is hoped that this special Theatre, after 75 successful years, has many more performances ahead of it.
- 3 Minutes of last meeting:** Approval of the minutes of the 2012 AGM was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
- 4 Chairman's report:** Leslie Watmore recounted a busy year. He noted that assistance by Councillor Diana McMull had ceased after her move away from Bromley on the occasion of her marriage. She was a hard act to follow but we have been ably assisted by Councillors Nicola Dyke and Will Harmer. He also welcomed Councillor Michael Tickner to the meeting. He then explained that sadly Peter Pain's recent ill health has resulted in the burden of his work falling upon Leslie Tucker who has in addition composed and produced our 25 year review.
- 5 Treasurer's Report:** Brian Sanders reported that for the year ending 31st Dec 2012 income was £2,632 giving a surplus of £113. Total assets stand at £9,670. The small increase in receipts was mainly owing to late collection of subscriptions from 2011. He noted interest of £1 from Santander deposit account. The National Savings Account, where the majority of our funds are held, have changed the procedure for informing us of interest, and the amount of £42 will be included in the 2013 final account. Expenditure included Community projects (£700), the cost of the 25 year review booklet and a donation of £250 to BHF in memory of Wally Carloss, previously our auditor. Brian concluded by recommending that the present subscription remains at £5 per household. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Pat Tucker, seconded by Clive Lees and unanimously accepted.

6 Planning Officers' Reports: a. East: Clive Lees' written report was supplied at the meeting. He gave brief updates on recent activity: Farnaby Road application for a triple garage facing onto Madeira Avenue has been refused. On the revised application to demolish Billingford and build flats there is no decision yet. The appeal for development of the Italian Villa to include office accommodation should be determined by the end of March. Clive also reported briefly on some projects outside our area.

b. West: Mike Mielniczek's written report was supplied at the meeting. The application to demolish the pair of houses at 44 & 46 Bromley Hill to build a block of flats was refused by Lewisham. A revised application has been refused.

7 Roads & Traffic Brian Atkinson's written report was supplied at the meeting. He recounted the long saga of issues for traffic turning right out of Ravensbourne Avenue into Beckenham Lane caused by cars red light jumping from Station Road. Many suggestions were submitted but not even tried out so that's it for now. The bush in the central reservation at junction of Warren Avenue and Bromley Avenue can obscure the sight lines for approaching traffic but having agreed to remove the bush, Bromley have now decided to slow the traffic instead with a variety of measures.

8 Community Projects : Leslie Tucker reported on a less typical year. The previous Deputy Head of Valley School has moved on and the present Head has not yet approached us concerning possible projects. We had already mentioned the RVPS 25 Year Review. Next year we need ideas to contribute to the local environment and Leslie said that suggestions are welcome for consideration at future meetings.

9 Beckenham Place Park Representative's Report: Leslie Tucker said that finding a long term solution to maintaining the park as a public space and the listed manor house and associated buildings has still not been possible. Consultants have been appointed but tenderers for these schemes have not yet been able to square viability with planning laws governing metropolitan open space. Decisions on recent proposals for the way forward are awaited from Lewisham.

10 Membership Secretary's Report: Unavailable. Linda Muller is to present her report at the next meeting. Meanwhile total membership is estimated to be about 500 households.

11 Determination of subscriptions for 2013-14: Brian Sanders had recommended that we maintain the £5 subscription with Senior Citizens and those on reduced income to contribute as appropriate. Proposed by Brian Sanders, carried unanimously.

12 Election of Officers:

The Chairman, Leslie Watmore, Treasurer, Brian Sanders and Auditor, Pura Atkinson, all being willing to continue, were re-elected unanimously.

The Secretary, Tony Morton, had previously notified his decision to stand down. Fortunately Beatrice Osborn had agreed to stand for election to this post. She was proposed by Leslie Tucker, seconded by Brian Atkinson and duly elected by the members present.

Our constitution does not require the Vice Chairman to be elected. However Clive Lees has volunteered to take this role and he was therefore duly appointed.

13 Chairman's Closing Remarks:

Leslie Watmore remarked on the good attendance and an enjoyable talk.

He asked that it be recorded that we are most appreciative of the Bromley Court Hotel providing us with rooms for our meetings.

Pat Tucker thanked the Chairman and committee for all the work they do.

The next bi-monthly meeting will be on Thursday 2nd May 2013 – members are welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm