The Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No.: 1096873

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Saturday 24 October 2009
The Wheatsheaf, 25 Rathbone Place, London W1

Present: Dr Christine Berberich (Chairman), David Butler, Dorothy Davie, Graham Davie, DeAnn DeLuna, Patric Dickinson (Vice President), Lucy Hayward, Dr Michael Helm, Stephen Holden (Trustee), Ellen Jordan, Dr George Lilley, Dr David Lowis, Dr Keith Marshall (Hon. Secretary), Noreen Marshall (Hon. Archivist), Dr Derek Miles (Hon. Treasurer), Julian Miller, Sandy Morrison, Paul Nutley, Tony Robinson (Trustee), Jean Rollason, John Rollason, Derek Simpson, Victor Spouge, Elwin Taylor (Trustee), Jeremy Warren, Sir Robin Williams, Wendy Williams

Apologies: Julian Allason (Vice President), Julian Block, Jill Chalmers, Ann Dix, Dr Joanne Edmonds, Terence Empson, Eddie Hathaway, Philip Holm, Kaarina Huhtala, Philip Ivory, Charles Jenkins, Hans Johansson, Neville Keery, Jeffrey Manley (Trustee), Pat Miles, Roger Mitchell, Stephen Olle, Prof. John Potter, Prudence Raper, Jeanne Reed, Regina Rehbinder, Gerald Ruderman, Elizabeth Savidge, Susan Taylor, Chloe Teacher, James Tucker.

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

1. The Chairman, Christine Berberich, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. The Hon. Secretary had received apologies for absence from the members listed above together with 22 proxy votes to be cast in favour of all the motions.

2. Minutes of 2008 AGM

1. Minutes of the 2008 AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
2. There were no matters arising and the minutes were approved unanimously and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Receive the 2009 Annual Report

1. *Annual Report 2009* had been circulated to members in advance and was presented by the Hon. Secretary, who summarised the key points:
   - Small decrease in membership
   - First ever increase in subscriptions
   - Almost 40% take-up of "5 years for 4" subscription offer
   - Handover of membership and merchandise to Graham & Dorothy Davie
   - A year of too few events
   - Second Anthony Powell Lecture
   - Major website redesign
   - Strength of *Newsletter* but delay to *Secret Harmonies* issue 3
   - Continuing strength of website and APLIST
2. Looking forward at the end of the reporting year (31 March 2009) there were a number of events on the horizon:
   - 5th Biennial Conference in Washington, DC
   - Publications in the pipeline: *Music Guide*; papers from the Bath conference and the 2006 '*Dance* for Readers' sessions scheduled to appear in *Secret Harmonies* issue 4
   - Third Anthony Powell Lecture
   - Visits to Bodleian Library and Whitechapel Bell Foundry
   - Collage event
   - Publication of John Gould's *Dance Class*
   - Development of an online shop
   - Society's 10th anniversary in June 2010
   - 6th Biennial Conference, London, 2011
   - and oher events being planned for 2010.
3. The Annual Report 2009 was accepted unanimously.

4. Accounts Year Ending 31 March 2009

1. The Hon. Treasurer summarised the Society's accounts which were contained in the *Annual Report 2009*:
   - Excess income of £546 largely thanks to donations received, mostly as part of the sales of CDs
   - Cost of postage, printing & stationery continues to escalate
   - Small loss (about £50) on Bath conference
   - Reserves, which generate useful additional income are required to cover:
     - Underwriting risks of events, *eg*. Washington Conference
     - Forward liabilities, *eg*. subscriptions paid in advance
     - Capital to fund new publications and merchandise
   - Subscriptions needed to rise by 10% from January 2009
2. It was suggested from the floor that the Trustees look at acquiring a US dollar account to help with finances for the 2009 conference; alternatively perhaps everyone should pay in dollars. The Hon. Secretary responded that dollar payments would be expensive to process in the UK and that we have a contractual obligation to process credit card payments in Sterling. However the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer agreed to look again at the available options.
   Action: Secretary/Treasurer
3. A question was raised about the effect of the subscriptions increase on those with existing "5 years for cost of 4" memberships. These members would not be surcharged, hence would be affected by the new rates only when renewing their membership.
4. In view of printing costs the question was again raised about making the *Newsletter* downloadable from the website or distributable by email. The Hon.

Secretary pointed out that while this is a good idea and is regularly reviewed there are problems with it:

- Roughly 50% of members do not (appear to) have internet or email access
- Making both electronic and printed versions available would reduce the print run and because of price breaks probably therefore increase costs
- A printed *Newsletter* arriving by mail is valued and gives members perceived value for money; something with which those present agreed.
- Making the *Newsletter* downloadable from the website would mean making (an area of) the website restricted to members only otherwise we would be giving away any reason for having membership. This would also impose a significant administrative overhead when we already do not have sufficient manpower.

5. There being no further questions the accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Election of Executive Officers

1. The following were nominated as Officers:
   Chairman: Dr Christine Berberich
   Hon. Secretary: Dr Keith C Marshall
   Hon. Treasurer: Dr Derek Miles
2. There being no other nominations these candidates were elected unopposed.

6. Election of Executive Committee Members

1. The following were nominated as Executive Committee Members: Dr Nicholas Birns, Stephen Holden, Jeffrey Manley, Paul Nutley, Antony Robinson and Elwin Taylor.
2. There being no other nominations these candidates were elected unopposed.

7. Questions from the Floor & AOB

1. The Hon. Secretary reminded everyone of the AP Birthday Lunch on Saturday 5 December.
2. The 2010 AGM will be on the afternoon of Saturday 23 October 2010; the venue will be V&A Museum of Childhood, London, E2. The AGM will be followed by a talk on Powell's Edwardian Childhood from Noreen Marshall (Society Hon. Archivist and Senior Curator at V&A Museum of Childhood).

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The formal AGM business was followed by a talk **The Search for Varda** by Patric Dickinson. It is hoped to publish the text of Patric's talk in a future issue of *Secret Harmonies*.

Christmas 2009 Quiz Supplement Answers

Anagrammatic Acrostic #1

1. Roosevelt
3. Elsinore
4. Nutcracker and Mouse King
5. Othello
6. Turkey
7. Squeers
8. Nemesis
9. Audubon
10. Neapolitan
11. Ariosto
12. Amber
13. Umfraville
14. Trollope
15. Rubicon
16. Ingoldsby Legends
17. Serpent
18. Ambrosia
19. Ergot
20. Aida
21. Vivaldi
22. Cinnamon
23. Hobbes
24. Suva
25. Sequoia
26. Cassis
27. Elizabeth

Which when rearranged give: *Casanova's Chinese Restaurant*

Anagrammatic Acrostic #2

1. Nantucket
2. Noddy
3. Omega
4. Einstein
5. Ampersand
6. Madeleine
7. Orfeo ed Euridice
8. Napoleon
9. Rebecca / Rebekah
10. Tiepolo or Tokenhouse
11. Elephant
12. From a View to a Death

Which when rearranged give: *Afternoon Men*

Pubs and Drinking Places in English Literature

1. The Tabard
2. *London Fields*, Martin Amis.
3. *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, Thomas Hardy
4. The Anchor, Southwark
5. The Midnight Bell (*Twenty Thousand Streets Under the Sky*, Patrick Hamilton)
6. The Bible & Crown (*The Old Devils*, Kingsley Amis)
7. *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*, George Orwell
8. Pickwick Club
9. *Saturday Night & Sunday Morning*, Allan Sillitoe.
10. Shepheard's Hotel (*Vile Bodies*, Evelyn Waugh)
11. The Cavendish Hotel
12. Mr Mulliner / Upton upon Severn
13. Rumpole of the Bailey
14. John Keats
15. The Wheatsheaf
16. *Last Orders*, Graham Swift
17. Three Jolly Pigeons
18. *Wild Oats*, John O'Keeffe
19. Rebus
20. *Jamaica Inn*, Daphne du Maurier

Christmas Crossword Solution

