The Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No.: 1096873

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23 October 2010
Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road, London E2

Present: Jill Barton, Dorothy Davie, Graham Davie, Patric Dickinson (Vice President), Lucy Hayward, Dr Michael Helm, Stephen Holden (Trustee), Dr George Lilley, Dr David Lowis, Dr Keith Marshall (Hon. Secretary), Noreen Marshall, Dr Derek Miles (Hon Treasurer), Pat Miles, Paul Nutley (Trustee), Prue Raper, Regina Rehbinder, Tony Robinson (Trustee), Jean Rollason, Caroline Shaw, Elwin Taylor (Trustee), Robert Welham.

Apologies: Julian Allason (Vice President), Dr Christine Berberich (Chairman), Dr Nicholas Birns (Trustee), David Butler, Jill Chalmers, Annabel Davis-Goff, Ann Dix, Dr Derek Hawes, Dr Michael Henle, Dr Catherine Hoffmann, Phillip Holm, Karina Huhtala, Dr Cheryl Hurley, Hans Johansson, Neville Keery, James MacKay, Jeff Manley (Trustee), Sandy Morrison, Steve Olle, Glynis Paxton, Jeanne Reed, John Rollason, Elizabeth Savidge, Colonel Peter Taylor, Susan Taylor, John Trotter, Tom Wallace, Nick Weller, Sir Robin Williams, Lady Wendy Williams.

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

1. In the unavoidable absence of Society Chairman, Christine Berberich, the meeting was chaired by Trustee Tony Robinson, who welcomed everyone to the meeting and formally thanked the Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum for the use of the venue.
2. Keith Marshall, Hon Secretary, indicated that he had received 14 proxy votes.

2. Minutes of 2009 AGM

1. Minutes of the 2009 AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
2. Patric Dickinson asked that the title of his talk at last year's AGM be corrected to 'The Quest for Varda'.
3. The corrected 2009 minutes were accepted unanimously and signed by the chairman of the meeting.

3. Receive the 2010 Annual Report

1. The Hon. Secretary presented the *2010 Annual Report* for the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.
2. As always there had been some membership losses during the year, but fewer than in other years. Membership demographics are holding up and the Society still has a good geographic spread; new members continue to join, particularly via the

Annual Lecture and conferences. There is however no room for complacency and membership still needs to be increased.

3. The 2009 Lecture 'Anthony Powell's *Dance*: One Historian's Inspiration, Exasperation, Consolation' was given by David Kynaston, and was much enjoyed, as was Patric Dickinson's 'The Quest for Varda' at the 2009 AGM.
4. The Society's 2009 Conference at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, was a huge success and very well received, although attendance was lower than had been expected. This resulted in some financial loss, largely due to the need to pay travel expenses for some guest speakers. The loss was foreseen by the Trustees and was underwritten from the conference reserve funds.
5. On 1 June 2010 the Society celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its founding with a meal at the Phoenix Palace Chinese Restaurant in London, in tune with the concurrent 50th anniversary of the publication of *Casanova's Chinese Restaurant*.
6. Other Society events during the year included a collage making event; visits to the Bodleian Library and the Whitechapel Bell Foundry; and the annual Birthday lunches.
7. Sadly October 2010 saw the death of William (Bill) Warren of New York, a big loss for the NE USA Group in particular, but also for the Society as a whole.
8. The *Newsletter* continues to prosper under the Editorship of Stephen Holden, and will be expanded if necessary.
9. Published this year was *Dance Class*, a selection of the work on Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time* produced by John Gould's students at Phillips Academy, Andover (USA).
10. The APLIST (email discussion list) continues delving steadily into various aspects of Powell's work; hits on the Society's web pages are trickling down, with a number of webpages in need of a refresh. Work is also in hand to develop an online shop, including membership transactions.
11. The Society has submitted application to London Borough of Westminster for a 'green plaque' to be erected on Anthony Powell's birthplace at 44 Ashley Gardens, London SW1. This is in a queue of applications and is unlikely to be completed for several years, despite the Society having committed to fund the plaque.
12. Looking forward, the Society's 6th Biennial Conference, Anthony Powell's Literary London, is scheduled to take place at the Naval & Military Club in London from 2-4 September 2011. A first call for papers has already gone out.
13. 2010 events will include the annual Anthony Powell Lecture at the Wallace Collection, the Birthday lunches, *etc*.
14. *Dance Music: A Guide to Musical References in Anthony Powell's A Dance to the Music of Time* by Jeff Manley *et al*. will be published on the same day as the Annual Lecture, and launched at that event.
15. There is also a backlog of conference papers *etc*. to be published in the journal *Secret Harmonies.*
16. The Annual Report 2010 was accepted unanimously.

4. Accounts Year Ending 31 March 2010

1. The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts which were available in the Annual Report.
2. The Society's costs had been kept down over the year by careful management all round.
3. In consequence there is no immediate need for a further rise in subscriptions rates, which the Trustees believe remain good value.
4. The Society's banking arrangements are in the process of revision to find the best return on the Society's money.
5. The commission on sales on Amazon generated via the Society's website remains a useful addition to the funds and in broad terms pays the cost of running the website.
6. The 2009 Conference had been justified despite making a loss (see Annual Report, above) as the Trustees saw it as important to take the conference to NE USA which is the Society's largest concentration of members outside London and SE England.
7. Tax reclaimed via the Gift Aid scheme was less than in the previous year which had contained the anomaly of three years' worth being included at once.
8. Although the Society had made a loss on the year this was essentially all due to the anticipated loss on the 2009 Conference and had been underwritten from the reserve funds.
9. Prue Raper suggested that we might have a bowl for contributions at events. This will be considered. **Action: Treasurer & Secretary**
10. The Accounts for the year 2009-10 were accepted unanimously.

5. Society Vice-President

1. Under the Society's Constitution, the appointment of Vice Presidents has to be confirmed at the AGM, and then re-confirmed every five years.
2. Accordingly the meeting was asked to confirm Julian Allason as a Vice-President for a further term of five years.
3. This was unanimously approved.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Questions from the Floor & AOB

1. Thanks were expressed for the work of all the Trustees and volunteers throughout the year.
2. The Hon. Secretary reminded everyone of the AP Birthday Lunch on Saturday 4 December.
3. Tickets for the Annual Lecture to be given by Lord Gowrie on 17 November 2010 were available from the Hon. Secretary at the close of the meeting.
4. The 2011 AGM will be on the afternoon of Saturday 22 October 2011 at a venue (probably in central London) to be arranged.

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The formal AGM business was followed by a talk
Anthony Powell's Edwardian Childhood by Noreen Marshall
It is hoped to publish Noreen's talk in a future issue of *Secret Harmonies*.