

## **Bolton Arts Forum**

### **Annual General Meeting 2010**

Minutes of the AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at Bolton Parish Church Hall.

<b>Present:</b>	Moira Hill	Kadenza Women's Choir and Bolton Clarion Choir
	Dorothy Martland	DBBC and Bolton fm
	Laurette Evans	University of Bolton
	Mike Hall	BCMCS
	Elizabeth Tatman	Bolton Little Theatre
	Tracy Fenton	Artfantastic
	Tracy Caron	Stonham Housing
	Rebecca Morey	Stonham Housing
	Gordon Brander	Stonham Housing
	Martin Jennings	Emmanuel Drop – In, BAND
	Delia McGeehan	Emmanuel Drop-In, BAND
	Les Fisher	Bolton Symphony Orchestra

#### **Apologies**

Ros Bell, Jacqui Cook, June Grice, Jason Crompton

#### **Minutes of 2009 AGM**

The death of Mike Rodgers was reported at the last AGM. Mike Hall had very kindly stepped into the post of Treasurer. The minutes of the meeting were signed as a correct record.

#### **Chair's report**

Elizabeth Tatman welcomed everyone to the AGM and said that BAF needed to look to the future. Many changes would come from funding cuts, both to the arts and to local government, which means that BAF needs to be more proactive to help members to search for and apply for grants. This is likely to become very competitive as funding dries up. BAF is grateful for the grant from Manchester Airport that helps community groups in Bolton. The fund has supported small awards of up to £500, and some of the groups who have benefited were present at the AGM.

Groups should ask for help about grants as there is often a problem with terminology on application forms. Because of this, groups are often reluctant to put in larger bids for funding, but BAF can help with putting together a bid.

BAF will also provide information on grant giving bodies, hold meetings on aspects of the arts and encourage groups to share best practice with each other. Through the sharing of expertise, BAF will be able to strengthen the support it gives to voluntary groups, but it can't be done without groups being actively involved. The small committee works hard providing information on the website, and talking on behalf of groups to Bolton Council, but it needs more people to help with this work and be a member of the committee. The committee meets about six times a year, organises social events,

and provides advice to organisations. Representation from creative arts groups and young people's group would be particularly welcome.

Elizabeth thanked the committee for all their hard work, saying that BAF would not exist without them. She also thanked Nat Biney who after many years on the committee had decided to stand down.

### **Treasurer's report**

The current balance of £3885 is for funding until March 2011. In the last year 9 groups have benefitted from the funding. It was explained that Bolton Arts Forum administers the Manchester Airport funding on behalf of Bolton Council. This is a cost effective way of managing the grant as BAF are all volunteers. It was not known if the funding would cease with the current economic problems.

### **Constitution**

Elizabeth Tatman explained that BAF had been set up as a limited company by guarantee as well as a charity. It had been considered by the committee that this was not effective and there was no need to be a limited company. It gave no advantages and a great deal of paperwork. As a result of withdrawing from this BAF needed a new constitution.

The new constitution was circulated to members and discussed. Les Fisher proposed that it should be accepted. This was seconded by Dorothy Martland. It will be sent to the Charities Commission.

### **Election of Officers**

Chair	Elizabeth Tatman
Treasurer	Mike Hall
Secretary	Laurette Evans
Committee members	Dorothy Martland and Ros Bell

Elizabeth Tatman asked if any other members would like to join the committee, and suggested they came to a committee meeting to see what it was like.

### **Presentation of cheques**

Emmanuel Drop-In were presented with a cheque and spoke to the AGM about their arts project.

The AGM concluded at 7.30.

Groups who have had funding over the last year had been invited to talk at the AGM about their project.

**Stonham Housing** had created an arts project at a men's hostel. Based in the kitchen, the men were able to take part in painting, drawing and 3D work over their 12 week stay. The art work helps with motivation, self-respect, and acquiring skills. They have managed to obtain funding through CVS for a computer and printer to work with Photoshop. Tracy had brought a selection of work from the project, and Gordon talked about how much he enjoyed participating in the art group.

**Artfantastic** took part in a larger Bill Naughton celebration day in May. Despite continuous rain, they filmed people in the Town Hall Square talking about Bill Naughton's Bolton. Passers-by were asked to write a leaf for a memory tree, and there was chance to get out of the rain and have a tour around the parts of Bolton associated with Bill Naughton. The film has been deposited in the Library archive, and the tree spent a week in the Octagon foyer.

**Bolton Festival Choir** had a grant for a commissioned work, performed August 2010. The piece called The Mass of the Grove was composed by John Ellis who died soon after he had finished the work. His wife asked if the fee could be sent to the Musicians Benevolent Fund.

**Bolton Symphony Orchestra** performed Walton's Belshazzar's Feast at the Bridgewater Hall with a group of singers drawn from choirs around Bolton. This was a massive commitment from people giving up evenings and weekends for rehearsal. The funding covered hiring the venues and music.

### **Funding applications**

Elizabeth Tatman circulated 'handy hints for grant applications.' She went through some of the common problems , such as not reading the guidelines or keeping a copy of the application.

The evening finished with Tracy Fenton from Artfantastic who persuaded everyone to draw up a list starting 'I am' about themselves, and then to create a visual collage representation of the list.