

## **Bolton Arts Forum**

### **Annual General Meeting 2011**

**Present:** Laurette Evans, University of Bolton & BAF  
Mike Hall, BCMCS & BAF  
Elizabeth Tatman, Bolton Little Theatre & BAF  
Tracy Fenton, Artfantastic & BAF  
Ros Bell, Phoenix Theatre & BAF  
Moira Hill, Bolton Clarion Choir, Kadenza & BAF  
Karen Hulme, Farnworth Parents' Group  
Margaret Kay, Farnworth Parents' Group  
Michelle Armoss, Farnworth Parents' Group  
Sandra Simpson, Bolton Little Theatre  
Stephen Tonge, Kearsley Youth Brass Band  
Tracy Caren, Stonham Housing  
Helen Prescott, Creative Mind  
Margaret Wilkinson, BACM  
Michael Haslam, Opera 74  
Margaret Shaw, Bolton Arts Circle  
Les Fisher, Bolton Symphony Orchestra  
Kathryn Wilkinson, BCMCS  
Martin Rimmington, Bolton Clarion Choir  
Yvette Wright, Forward Centre  
Liz Edge, Forward Centre  
Ian Smith, Write Out Loud  
Jean Spencer, Blackrod Arts Group  
Gordon Finnerty, Blackrod Arts group  
David Morlidge, Phoenix Theatre

**Apologies** Nigel Artingstall,  
Barbara Melbourne, Bolton Choral Union  
Jean Gilles, Melody Pop Tuition  
June Grice, Bolton Little Theatre  
Margaret Ranyard, Leap to Your Feet  
Dorothy Martland, DBBC & BAF

### **Minutes of the 2010 AGM**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **Chair's Report**

Elizabeth's report is below:

*It always interesting to look back over the last year but this year I am going to look back over a number of years of Bolton Arts Forum as it will be my last report as chair before I hand over to Dorothy Martland, who, in the absence of any volunteers, has agreed to take over as Chair.*

*Some of you here will remember the heady days when the Arts Department had a team of nine, yes nine people, with whom we build up a good working relationships with Mick Smith serving on our committee and Tony Hughes there to encourage us to take steps that would enhance the role of the non statutory sector of the arts in Bolton. Much of our paper work was done by the department and all the printing and mails shots were handled by it. How things have changed over the years – slowly and steadily the cuts have affected the support that we have had from BMBC. Now we have only direct support of Mindy Hutchinson, the sole person left in that department.*

*Over the years we have had some grants from Awards for All but these were for one off projects. So BAF runs on a shoe string. We thank the University of Bolton for the opportunity to meet at the university. The Manchester Airport Grant has enabled us to give support to a wide variety of organisations as you will see from the Treasurer's report. We would encourage groups to come to the sessions that we do on How to Get a Grant as these can give suggestions about many other grant giving bodies.*

*One of the functions of BAF is to bring groups together - which has led to some disappointing attendances. Those select few who attended the evening when Anthony Roocroft from the University talked about publicity and Sandra Simpson about the background to the BLT production of Grapes of Wrath, enjoyed the contrast between the content and the speakers. Several groups have taken up Anthony's offer for assistance with publicity.*

*At last year's AGM we appealed for new members and welcomed Tracy Fenton and Moira Hill to the committee. Moira has updated our contact list so if you know of anyone who has not received information about tonight and any other events, then get in touch with us. No chairman can work without a committee – so my thanks go to Moira and Tracy, and especially to Laurette Evans who (despite a very heavy schedule of work) continues to carry out the job of secretary, to Mike Hall for taking over the role of treasurer and tackling a steep learning curve, to Ros Bell and Dorothy Martland for their continued support for more years than either they or I care to remember.*

*I wish Dorothy a long and successful role as Chairman of BAF - and I will still be there to give her support.*

*Elizabeth Tatman  
September 28<sup>th</sup> 2011*

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mike Hall explained the accounts and gave a list of all the groups who have had grants over the past year.

### **Election of Committee**

The Secretary had not received any nominations for the committee and the Chair urged members to consider joining the committee, especially if anyone would like to help out with the administration.

The committee is:

Dorothy Martland: Chair

Mike Hall: Treasurer

Laurette Evans: Secretary

Elizabeth Tatman

Ros Bell

Moira Hill

Tracy Fenton

### **Presentation of cheques to groups**

Elizabeth gave the successful groups their cheques: Farnworth Parents' Group, the Forward Centre, BCMCS, Creative Mind, Bolton Little Theatre, and a training grant to Ian Smith of Write Out Loud. The groups explained their projects.

### **Evaluations of previously funded projects**

Groups who had been recently funded were given the opportunity to talk about their projects. Kearsley Youth Brass Band explained what they had done with the funding, a member of Bolton Clarion Choir talked about their project and Moira had everyone singing an Arabic song, BACM explained their work, and the project worker from Stonham Housing brought photographs and art work to show what they had done.

### **Arts festival**

Laurette outlined ideas for an Arts Festival in June 2012. Margaret Wilkinson suggested that there should be smaller interest groups that would feed back to BAF, and agreed to organise visual art. Elizabeth suggested that groups might write letters of support for the project.

### **AOB**

Les Fisher asked whether the Manchester Airport funding would continue. Laurette said that it was not certain, but Bolton has a unique way of distributing the funding through a voluntary group rather than the council. As soon as it was known the information would go on the website.