

Minutes from Friends of St James Square AGM - Tuesday 20th March 6.30pm

Location: Everyman Cinema, Muswell Hill

Attendees: Peter Thompson (Chair & board member), Mel Pretorius (minutes & board member), Jacqueline Goldenstein (board member), Deanna Duda Bogdanovic (board member), Nicky Grace, Hannah Whitehead, Marina Dunderdale, Monique Stone, Zuzanna Kunikova, Gillian White (board member).

Apologies: Lindsay Miller (board member) and Brian Bogdanovic (board member) plus others who sent apologies by email

- Peter showed the incorporation certificate of Friends of St James Square Ltd which was launched on 2nd Feb 2016. We are a not-for-profit organisation, limited by guarantee
- Friends of St James Square costs £25 per year to be a member, and Peter will be collecting subs shortly
- Peter discussed the background for setting up Friends of St James Square
 - A group were putting on community events for Muswell Hill, starting with Geisterfest (Halloween event) of which the second was in the square
 - We are just about to embark on our 3rd MidSummer Muswell
 - The Christmas tree was the catalyst for forming Friends of St James Square
- Haringey council offered local groups to submit bids for awards of up to £10k - Friends of St James Square (and also the Soup Kitchen) were both awarded the full £10k
- We formed Friends of St James Square in order to submit the bid, and the result was A Very Merry Muswell
 - the Christmas tree
 - star
 - music and market
 - neighbourly effort
- Peter handed around the accounts - a big thank you to Gillian White who found us a pro bono accountant
- We looked at the P&L - our turnover for 2016 was £13k of which the £10k played a very prominent part (£8.5k on the tree works and the rest on associated costs).
- We have a profit of £79 for the year which means we avoid incurring corporation tax
- We then didn't have to pay VAT on any of the tree costs, and also gathered up the money raised by having the market so we now have £2167 in the bank
- Jacqui talked through how we raise the funds to put these events on - sponsorship, advertising in our brochure, market, tombola. After expenses we had £1k left
- Gillian White proposed to approve the accounts and Jacqui seconded
- The board of directors (Peter, Deanna, Jacqui, Mel, Lindsay, Gillian and Brian) are all appointed and approved until the next AGM - Peter proposed and Monique seconded
- We also discussed briefly when A Very Merry Muswell might happen - Hannah to check with Ashley the dates of the church's Christmas experience
- In terms of MidSummer Muswell - the church will be organising it's own stage entertainment, with Mel coordinating sideshows (guess the weight of the cake comp, mosaics etc). Nicky Grace interested in have a crafty stall/activity
- Deanna spoke about the need for a stage at MidSummer Muswell - it is costly but without it the equipment may get damaged in the rain - if we got rid of the stage then it would be less of an event and perhaps more difficult to find sponsors
- Gillian to contact the press this year as we struggled to engage the press last year which may explain why sponsors are not as forthcoming
- We could approach Greene & Co for the Christmas event as a sponsor
- Jacqui also asked for help to find us a graphic designer - Nicky to maybe approach secondary schools to see if they can help (although we should explore other avenues first)
- Hannah suggested we contact Santa Maria Media based in Southwood Lane as they help the church out
- We should contact our main sponsor CH Peppiatt to see if they want extra presence at MidSummer Muswell in the form of estate agent boards - Mel and Jacqui to ask them for another £1k