

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of CREOS held at 8.00pm on 14 May 2015 at Hanley Lawn Tennis Club

[The meeting started 40 minutes late due to clubhouse access problems]

Present: 23 Members of CREOS [it was a very wet evening!]

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Jane Bywaters, Jacky Wedgwood, Bryan Torfeh, Sheila Denby-Wood and Tim Denby-Wood.
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 15 May 2014:** were approved. There were no matters arising.
3. **Chair's Report:** Glenys Law, Chair, presented her report covering her second year in office. Copies of the full written report were circulated. A copy will also be placed on the CREOS website. Glenys outlined highlights of the past year, which included:
 - 30 corporate volunteers from Bank of America in July
 - Commencement of very supportive relationship with Highgate Wood School and with Veolia
 - Gift of two park benches from London Wildlife Trust
 - CREOS 30th Anniversary celebration in The Meadow
 - Maintaining and restoring footpaths, including The Woodland Walk
 - Construction of new path from Greenway to Hanley Car Park

Glenys concluded by thanking volunteers and committee members – with special thanks to Mel Cairns who retired from the Committee after many years of service. Glenys took a number of questions in relation to the Hanley path and the Highgate Wood School connection.

4. **Guest Speaker:** Glenys introduced **David Mooney** of **London Wildlife Trust** who gave an illustrated talk on **Woodberry Wetlands**, an urban wetland reserve opening in Stoke Newington later in 2015. David explained how the Woodberry Wetlands is based on the East Reservoir in Stoke Newington which opened in 1833 and has been closed to the public ever since. The reservoir was part of the New River [‘neither *new* nor a *river*’] waterway, created in the early 17th Century to bring drinking water from Hertfordshire through the Lea Valley and ending at Sadlers Wells – where the wells had run dry. Since 1946, the New River terminated at the East Reservoir. The reservoir is now being developed as a wildlife haven. Already present are frogs, newts, reed buntings, terns and reed warblers. The water level has been temporarily lowered, so that silt rich in invertebrates can be dredged up and used to create reed-bed islands where birds can nest, safe from cats and foxes. There will be boardwalks through the reeds, a hide, education centre and other facilities for local residents and school groups. David ended by saying that he would ensure that CREOS is notified of

the grand opening in the autumn. There were a large number of questions followed by thanks and a small presentation to David as a token of appreciation for his excellent talk.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Julian presented his report which had been previously circulated. The report showed a surplus of £440.01, as compared to a deficit of £2,061.46 in the previous year. The balance of funds at 1 April 2015 was £7,959.53, as compared to £7,519.52 on 1 April 2014. Julian confirmed that he had agreed to remain as Treasurer, provided a member could be appointed to take on his membership secretarial duties. The position was advertised in the recent issue of CREOS News.

6. **Election of CREOS Officers and Committee members:** The election was conducted by David Abram. It was noted that Mel Cairns had resigned from the Committee during the course of the past year. It was agreed that the election would be 'en bloc'. All Committee Members, including the Officers were re-elected, 'nem con'. It was also noted that there is a vacancy on the Committee.

7. **AOB:** No members raised other business.

8. **There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.55pm** and was followed by informal discussion and socialising.