

Prospero AGM

Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 11am

BBC Club W1 at Wogan House

Minutes for the Prospero 2023 AGM held on 16th May at BBC Club W1

1. Opening remarks and welcome.

Carol Elliott: We have had more than 20 events in the past year, theatre trips, walks, museum visits, concerts, afternoon tea, a fantastic variety. A big thank you to those that have helped with suggestions, coordinating, researching and generally thank you for making new members welcome to the fold. A special big thank you to Rodney Mantle for the work he does contributing suggestions, research on transport and costs etc., we really do appreciate it.

It is difficult if not impossible to get events exactly right to please everyone. Gayner tries to take everything into consideration. We know it is difficult for those who travel a distance to be at the venues before 11am, we also know members don't want to travel after 4pm. We know some members like to have a meal included but some don't. Some have mobility problems so this is taken into consideration when booking theatre trips. We can't please everyone but we try. This coming year we are asked to take a more proactive role in running the section. I am proposing the committee meet every three months and bring suggestion to the table with consideration to cost, venue, transport etc. Remember not all suggestions will be actioned but could be saved for a later date. Anyone who has a suggestions, the committee will be more than happy to follow them through. We are hoping to continue to have some fun outings and lots more adventures.

We currently have 138 members and the current annual fee is £15. Prospero members are given preference and a discount on all events, this is obviously great value for money. I know some non-members have been unlucky on events which have limited numbers so please join.

I cannot thank Gayner enough for all the work she does and the consideration taken to our many and varied needs, she really is amazing. A big thank you to the BBC Club for their continued support.

Gayner: still tickets for Oklahoma, also the 100 years of the BBC book prices £19.22 available, please pay at the bar.

2. Apologies received – Charles Runcie, Beulah East, Alison Gray
3. Submission and acceptance of Minutes of the 2022 AGM (available on the Prospero page of the BBC Club website) Rodney Proposed and Andy Love seconded

Submission of financial report provided by the BBC Club office submitted by Gayner. There are currently 138 Prospero members. Michelle does an excellent job in sales making sure that all new retired members are invited to join Prospero. Sarah Basham, Finance managers' report:

Last year Trial Balance was at £5,886 this year it is at £2,708.20 (I have included future costs if we have accepted payment.) Now the tours are back running and we don't charge the going rate, this is why there is such a big drop in the accounts. I would advise to increase the Prospero membership price to allow for more expenditure.

Therefore a decision is needed as to what to do. There are three options. Increase annual cost, change the subsidy model for trips or do nothing and see where you are next year. Currently a discount is given on the Prospero member rate and the actual price is given for guests and club members.

Discussion in the room, Carol suggested a flat rate discount. Andy clarified that. The members present felt that an increase in the annual rate is also a good idea. The decision was taken to change the annual Prospero fee to £20 from September and have a 15% discount for Prospero members with some discretion on this to avoid awkward amounts.

4. Election of committee for 2023/2024 including Chair. Alison Gray is standing down, Charles Runcie is happy to stand again. So that leaves Carol, Helen Scholfield, Rodica Mager and Charles as committee members. There were no volunteers to join the committee. A vote of thanks was Proposed by Carol to Alison for her enthusiasm and commitment. This was seconded by Andy Love, sending best regards. She will be missed and hopefully she will be able to attend Prospero events in the near future.
5. General forum of members present

Gayner brought up the issue of theatre outings. Traditionally there is a theatre trip arranged every quarter. The uptake of tickets has been very poor despite excellent group rates and

good accessibility. The decision was made to stop theatre trips or reduce to twice a year as they are not popular anymore.

Andy Love suggested putting an article in Prospero magazine. Gayner gave the address for all submissions and explained that as she writes a column it would need to come from someone else.

Future of the club. Gayner said that talks were progressing about relocating the Club to elsewhere in the W1 estate.

Timing of trips – walk in particular. The consensus was that trips are best from 11am in the morning but a mixture of morning and afternoon times should be offered.

Proposal of thanks to Gayner from Carol

Meeting closed.