

# Chairman's Report April 2020 to March 2021

## AGM 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021



Welcome to our Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31 March 2021. This year we are once again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, holding the meeting online, as for our regular campaign meetings.

I have tried to pull together here the key points for the year April 2020 to March 2021, and a few weeks more to bring us up to date. I'm sure I've missed a few things out; it has been an eventual period!

We completed crowd funding for the Viability Study and Economic Impact Assessment, with contributions totalling £46.5k, from over 400 individuals and businesses, plus GLA/Mayor of London, Lambeth and Theatres Trust.

This enabled us to put the study out to tender, receiving several good bids. We ultimately selected a consortium led by FEI (with Aedas, Nordicity and Pulse). The study team worked with us, the various funders and stakeholders, and consulted with potential users and operators then identified and modelled a number of potential options for a sustainable future for SHT. We then workshopped those options to come up with a proposal for a phased programme to regenerate the theatre. The summary report and a statement of heritage significance were published via our website.

We also published an architectural vision, put together by our lead architect and a small team of helpers, plus a creative overview presentation/video from our creatives team. These are also on the website, which has been rebuilt during the year so that it is the gateway to everything about the theatre and the campaign. We are adding more to the [website](#), including memories of people who used the theatre – we are seeking your contributions here.

These publications are all well worth a look!

We have also announced 10 high profile Patrons from the creative world to help promote the campaign, and signed up nearly 170 creatives as supporters, to join the 1200 supporters on our mailing list, plus 1300 Twitter and 1000 Facebook followers.

Looking forward, and following on from the study (Phase 1), we are now working on the strategy to deliver, with a key element of Phase 2 being fund-raising for which we have been seeking help. In addition, we continue working with Lambeth to move things forward, especially with trying to bring the owners on board, and getting more commitment to delivering the future for SHT. We are talking with potential partners, funders etc who might help deliver that future. The theatre remains on the Theatres Trust at risk register and they continue to support us with advice.

We also continue to work closely with inStreatham, our local business improvement district (BID) – your Chairman is a volunteer director there – who would like to see the theatre rejuvenated and who support our campaign. We are working with them to bid for government funding aimed at regenerating high streets.

We are planning a community engagement event for this year’s Streatham Festival, with an “Imaginarium” to let people develop ideas for the building, and a “treasure hunt” around the area (with prizes). We have some sponsors who have agreed to contribute to these events, but we still seek others to join them.

This is the last AGM of the Friends as an unincorporated association, as last year the AGM resolved to turn the Friends into a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), and empowered the Committee to carry out the necessary work. A new constitution based on the Charity Commission template was required. You saw a draft last year which has subsequently had some amendments to satisfy the Commission, so we have a resolution for this meeting to formally adopt it.

Our Committee have become the charity Trustees for the coming year, and we will have elections at next year’s AGM. Our day-to-day campaign continues to be run by a separate but overlapping Steering Group. You can think of the Trustees as the board of directors, and the Steering Group as the management team. A number of dedicated teams are focussed on specific areas of the campaign, such as digital comms, fund-raising, creative supporters etc. All our people are volunteers giving their time and experience for free – I would like to thank them all – and appeal for others to join them in helping with the campaign.

Remember we have regular campaign meetings, currently being held online, where you can get frequent updates on the campaign, and contribute to planning. These have been fortnightly, but as we slowly emerge from lockdown, and summer approaches we will switch to every 4 weeks. The next one is in 4 weeks’ time. Please register at the website!

Finally, can I say a big thank you to everyone who has helped with the campaign, giving time, pledging money and spreading the word! Give yourselves a big round of applause...

*David Harvey*

*Chairman*