

Minutes of the Beshara Trust Annual General Meeting (Public section)

8th August 2015.

Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Trustees present; Gill Williams (Chairman), Elizabeth Roberts, Michael Cohen, Martin Lam, Janet Bowers, Daniel Hirtenstein, John Markson Brown (secretary).

There were about 30 attendees including Trustees at the AGM.

1) Retirements and elections – All the Trustees present agreed to continue in their present role and John Markson Brown agreed to be co-opted as a Trustee, while continuing as secretary. Jenny Martin and Julia Dry have stepped down as Trustees and were thanked for their commitment to the Trust. Michael Cohen resigned and was re-elected as a Trustee. Quintus Farrell has agreed to join the Trust later in the year.

2) Financial report – John Markson Brown gave a presentation for the year ending 31st March 2015. In that year there were over 20 Trust events and grants were awarded to the Discovering Unity course held in Edinburgh and the Angela Culme Seymour Fund for 2014 was awarded to the Beshara Development Office for the development of new study materials. The income for the financial year totalled £9,647, while the expenditure totalled £9,929. The balance at 31/03/15 was recorded as £15,277. Figures showed a small decline in Trust reserves and it was proposed that this would be discussed at the next Trust committee meeting.

3) Events –Seminar groups. Reports were given by Sarah Malone (Bristol seminars), Elizabeth Roberts (Edinburgh) and Michael Cohen (London). All reports will be published in the forthcoming newsletter. The other events, the Beshara Lecture and the film and music event “Looking for Muhyddin” in London, were briefly reported by Gill Williams. It was noted that the programme has developed out of response to requests and was responsive to the attendees in each place. Everyone involved with the programme was thanked for their contribution through the year. There was some discussion as to the location of events and how to broaden these, and Trustees would welcome proposals for this.

4) IT/Communications report – Daniel Hirtenstein gave a brief synopsis on website development over the last few years and a report on the plans for the development of new websites for Chisholme and the Trust. Further development of beshara.org will require more discussion and thought and social media usage needs to be reviewed. The web hosting provider has changed this year and will result in reduced costs and full technical support. There were some questions as to new online activities, such as live streaming of events and webinars. The interconnectedness of the websites was questioned and Daniel agreed to keep in touch with decisions as they are made.

5) Any other business – It was reported that the Trust was undertaking to meet with the Board of Chisholme House, with the new Principal present, at Chisholme house in September. It was felt that improved communications and working together would benefit the Trust and the Board of Chisholme House.

The AGM was then closed and a presentation by Aaron Cass, Director of the six month course at Chisholme and an open meeting followed. The open meeting will be reported separately and an annual newsletter circulated in the autumn.

Gill Williams
Chairman
The Beshara Trust.