

7 May 2024

**THIS COMMUNICATION IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – for members of the Dulwich Society only**

Dear Dulwich Society member,

This letter is to notify you of important details of the Special and Annual General Meetings on Monday 20 May:

- a change in the **venue of the SGM/AGM to Alleyn's School**
- procedures to smooth your entry into the meetings, **registration from 7:00 pm**
- procedures to maintain respectful behaviour during the meetings
- the members who have put themselves forward to be trustees of the charity

Over the past year, the Trustees have consulted with all members on a set of new rules. These rules are based closely on the Charity Commission's model constitution. Thirty four of the Society's members have requested a SGM proposing motions some of which, if passed, will prevent the members voting on the adoption of the proposed new rules. The Trustees have arranged for the SGM and AGM to be held back-to-back to ensure the widest democratic mandate for the decisions and the convenience for members of attending just one event.

Recently, the Society has had a surprising increase in the number of new members. We welcome them and are sure they will enjoy all the benefits of membership. The Trustees anticipate that many new and existing members will wish to attend the SGM and AGM. Consequently we have booked a larger room as close to the old venue as possible.

The new rules proposed for adoption at the AGM are closely based on the Charity Commission model constitution. We believe that for the Dulwich Society to flourish, the new rules must be passed. The Society will be well placed to serve the community, inform our members and hold the Dulwich Estate to account. Benefits of membership include the quarterly Journal, our flagship printed magazine, monthly eNews, walks, talks, events and all the other activities we undertake to fulfil the Society's objects. You can learn more about the activities of the Society in our [annual report](#) which is now available on our website.

These meetings are important for the future direction of the Dulwich Society. We strongly encourage you to attend and vote. **The following pages contain important information.**

Yours sincerely,

James Thompson
Chair
For and on behalf of the Trustees, The Dulwich Society

Important details regarding the meetings

Change of SGM/AGM venue

Due to the number of members expected to attend the SGM/AGM, the room previously used at the Crown & Greyhound is unlikely to be big enough. Accordingly, we have changed the venue to Alleyn's School, Townley Road, London SE22 8SU. The new venue is close by. Please update your diary now. Refreshments afterwards will be served at the Crown & Greyhound from 10 pm.

As well as this announcement, the venue change is detailed on our noticeboard, and any members not aware will be notified at the Crown & Greyhound on the evening.

You should enter Alleyn's School by the main pedestrian gate on Townley Road and there will be signs directing you to the room.

Due to the potential need to register so many members, we have decided to move Dr Spence's talk on "Shackleton and School Leadership" to another day. This will be offered as a free lecture to all our members. More information on this will be given in due course.

Please note that the general meeting times do not change - 7:30 pm for the SGM and 8:30 pm for the AGM.

Procedures for a smooth entry to the meeting venue

Because of the large number of attendees anticipated and the need to issue voting papers and check membership, we are providing voting members an opportunity to pre-register for the meetings via Eventbrite. Our rules allow only one vote per household at general meetings. You can pre-register at anytime up to and including Sunday 19 May. Please show your ticket (either on your smart phone or printed ticket) at the fast track desk on arrival. If you have problems with Eventbrite pre-registration, please contact secretary@dulwichsociety.com.

For voting members who do not pre-register, we encourage you to arrive in good time to register on the evening at the venue. Registration will comprise the membership check and voting paper issuance.

Other adults in your household who wish to attend may do so. They will not be able to vote and do not need to pre-register nor do they need to register on the evening at the venue.

Voting papers will be issued to you on arrival. Please bring a pen with you.

Please contact us at secretary@dulwichsociety.com if you require details of disabled access to the venue.

Respectful behaviour at the meeting please

In order to ensure a fair hearing for all arguments whilst maintaining a cordial discourse, we have published on our website a set of [meeting procedures](#) that will apply to the meetings. All participants at the meetings are expected to behave in a respectful manner.

The meetings are covered by the Society's [policies](#), in particular those relating to behaviour and discipline: [code of conduct](#) and [complaints](#).

Candidates to be trustees of the charity

The Dulwich Society is a charitable body registered with the Charity Commission. The trustees are responsible for achieving the objects of the charity and for its management, and are personally liable. Collectively, the Trustees are known as the Executive Committee.

Of the current 14 Trustees, 12 were elected by the members at the AGM in May 2023 to serve until the forthcoming AGM. The other 2 were co-opted by the Trustees in the interim.

Of the current 14 Trustees, 2 are not seeking re-election at the AGM: David Beamish has served as chair of our trees committee and Diana McInnes has served as our membership secretary. The Trustees have appointed Christine Brandon as our new membership secretary and the Trustees propose both her and Sharon O'Connor, already our media and communication lead and our eNews editor, to be appointed as trustees at the AGM.

The roles of these current and prospective trustees noted above are shown in appendix 1 to this letter.

The names of all the candidates' proposers and seconders are shown in appendix 2 to this letter.

The candidates listed in appendix 1 have expressed their willingness to serve as trustees and volunteers. The Trustees believe that we/they have the experience and expertise to fulfil the fiduciary duties that charity law imposes on trustees and to fulfil the Society's objects.

Trustees' recommendations to members on voting

In our letter of 4 April, 2024, we gave the detailed reasons why we recommend members to vote as follows:

Motion	Subject	Level	Recommendation
SGM 1	Clarity of representation	Recommendation	Vote against
SGM 2	Any constitution put to the members must ... direct election to sub-committees at AGM	Strong recommendation	Vote against
SGM 3	Any constitution put to the members must ... maximum number to call a SGM	Strong recommendation	Vote against
SGM 4	Any constitution put to the members must ... not allow trustee discretion not to publish minutes of sub-committee meetings	Strong recommendation	Vote against
AGM 6	Adoption of the new rules based on the Charity Commission model constitution	Strong recommendation	Vote in favour

All of the Trustees, subject to their ability to attend the SGM, will be voting in accordance with these recommendations.

Role	Current/ prospective	Name	Role description
Officer	Current	James Thompson	Chair
Officer	Current	Sue Badman	Vice-chair
Officer	Current	Heather Stubbs	Secretary
Officer	Current	Russell Lloyd	Treasurer
Trustee	Current	Claire Richards	Editor of the quarterly printed Journal
Trustee	Current	Richard Wingfield	Development lead
Trustee	Current	Ian McInnes	Chair, local history
Trustee	Current	Jeremy Prescott	Chair, gardens
Trustee	Current	Penelope Stern	Chair, planning and architecture
Trustee	Current	Patricia Bramble	Chair, licencing
Trustee	Current	Laurie Johnston	Chair, environment
Trustee	Current	Peter Roseveare	Chair, wildlife
Trustee	Prospective	Sharon O'Connor	Editor of eNews Media and communications lead
Trustee	Prospective	Christine Brandon	Membership secretary

Candidates to be trustees and officers of the Society AGM 2024

Role	Candidate name	Proposer	Secunder
Chair	James Thompson	Thomas Scott	Louise Fincham
Vice Chair	Susan Badman	Patricia Bramble	David Beamish
Secretary	Heather Stubbs	David Beamish	Susan Badman
Treasurer	Russell Lloyd	Andrew Gould	Jackie Mountain
Trustee	Claire Richards	Peter Roseveare	Penelope Stern
Trustee	Richard Wingfield	Sharon O'Connor	Claire Richards
Trustee	Ian McInnes	Judith Nurse	Ian Rankine
Trustee	Jeremy Prescott	Katharine St. John- Brooks	Carol Britton
Trustee	Penelope Stern	Oliver Probyn	Jeremy Prescott
Trustee	Patricia Bramble	Susan Badman	Penelope Stern
Trustee	Laurie Johnston	Catherine Holmes	Iolanthe Lonergan
Trustee	Peter Roseveare	Glynis Williams	David Clark
Trustee	Sharon O'Connor	Richard Wingfield	Peter Roseveare
Trustee	Christine Brandon	Penelope Stern	Susan Badman