

ISHVAL
Eugene Halliday Institute for the Study of Hierological Values
Eugene Halliday Society
Minutes
of an Extraordinary General Meeting held on
Date: 2.30pm, Sunday 14th June 2009
Venue: St Luke's Church, Bowdon Vale, Cheshire

Trustees Present: Hephzibah Yohannan, Richard Freeman, Samuel Lelonek

Friends Present: A membership of approximately 40 persons in total

Richard Freeman opened the Meeting by welcoming all present and explained that the Vision Statement circulated prior to the Meeting, encompassing Preservation, Publication, Structure, Activities and Finance would be outlined firstly by the Trustees and then everybody would have the opportunity to speak if they wished.

Richard explained that **The Eugene Halliday Society** was the new working title of **Ishval**. He had known Eugene since childhood as both his parents, Fred and Yvonne, were very active in the setting up of **Ishval**. Richard attended many of the Parklands meetings and after some initial hesitation, formed a warm relationship with Eugene. Richard stressed the importance of placing Eugene's work on the Internet.

Richard took the Chair and told the meeting that he had been Treasurer for about 5 years. He then asked the other Trustees to share with the Friends the Vision Statement. He said that the meeting was an attempt to share the process of evaluation of the **Eugene Halliday Society**.

Samuel Lelonek said although the website was now up and running, it had not been an easy task. Now, however, it is a wonderful facility not only for free access to Eugene's work, but also everybody else's work connected with the charity. He stressed that simplicity was the key to the website's success as positive feedback had shown. The Site map is extremely straightforward and 'user friendly'! Samuel then asked for volunteers to help maintain the website.

Hephzibah Yohannan. - **Structure** – Hephzibah explained that the **Eugene Halliday Society** started with one person – Eugene – a unique man, whom people gathered round, he was their Centre. After his death, he left a considerable body of written and spoken work that today remains the Centre of the Society's work.

The present need is to attract more people. The work will survive on the internet and in book form, but the meetings are not so well attended as formerly, thus new membership is vital to the Society's future well being. Hephzibah remarked that the good work being done was somewhat fragmented, and suggested that it could be more effectively organised. She requested active volunteers to help the Trustees with the work in hand. She reminded the meeting that not only were we here to study Eugene's work, but also to follow his example.

Richard Freeman.- Preservation Richard asked the Friends to consider whether they or their family had any material, recordings, drawings, even personal letters, that should now be preserved for the future. As much of the material will be personal and therefore sensitive, Richard assured everyone present that it would be of infinite value to future generations. As Eugene always illustrated his talks with drawings, these would be particularly valuable. Richard said after much thought, he was asking this question publicly now, so that future generations could gain valuable insights.

Samuel Lelonek. - Finance – Samuel proposed a vote of thanks for all the financial support the Freeman family had provided in the past, and still provides today. He went on to praise the energy that Fred gave to Ishval, and reminded members of the present need for the Society to become self-financing. One way might be a subscription membership, another was through legacies. He requested feedback.

Hephzibah Yohannan.-Preservation & Publication Hephzibah said that David Mahlowe had ensured that Eugene's work was published in hard-back form, the excellent quality ensuring the books' survival for many years to come. The internet is an ephemeral medium, and not practical for downloading an entire book. Hard-back books are essential for the long-term survival of Eugene's work, and also for ease of reading. Hephzibah explained that new developments in publishing mean that books can be prepared in electronic format, then printed on demand, which would keep the costs down and remove the need for storage of large quantities of books. She also mentioned the various other groups and activities, such as Art Groups and Mandala Workshop that are available through **Eugene Halliday Society**.

The Meeting was declared Open to everybody's views and suggestions.

Margaret Littler mentioned the Ladies Yantra Group has been active continually up to today without a break.

Zohar Ford said there were group meetings at her house in Wilmslow and these were very well attended, although not always focussing on Eugene's work.

Hephzibah Yohannan said this was an excellent example that anybody who wished, could work with the concepts that Eugene set down.

Richard Freeman – **Communication** - Richard asked people to decide if they wished to keep in touch by email or magazine. The choice is for the members.

Michael Graham proposed that **Communication** should have been listed as a separate item.

Richard Freeman agreed.

Margaret Littler suggested a newsletter, but acknowledged that contributors would be necessary for success. Although there was some enthusiasm for the idea, **Michael Graham** asked whether the **Halliday Review** fulfilled this function? It was thought that these would be different types of publication.

Alan Roberts mentioned that a magazine with ‘general’ contributions is a great communicator. He suggested email be used, although not everybody agreed.

Nichola Howarth suggested the Society would attract volunteers more easily with smaller tasks. She felt the members were being too ambitious.

Alan Roberts suggested if a magazine be adopted, that the members could distribute by hand to save postage.

Hephzibah Yohannan agreed provided enough people volunteered.

Nichola Howarth proposed people be invited to put their names on a list.

Zohar Ford – **Finance** – proposed raising finance by having a subscription membership. Zohar also reminded the Trustees that Gift aid would be a very good way of getting people to donate, and thus allow the charity to build up much needed funds for the future.

Samuel Lelonek, Hephzibah Yohannan, Richard Freeman and Zohar Ford then briefly discussed the rules concerning Gift aid . Different methods of raising finance were also outlined, including the Covenant scheme that had been used at Parklands. It was agreed the Trustees would look carefully into this subject in case the Society could claim extra revenue on taxpayers’ donations.

Zohar Ford - **Preservation** Zohar confirmed she would be very pleased to leave her tapes, drawings and documents in the Society’s safe hands, and went on to suggest that contributions to the **Eugene Halliday Society** website should be subject to scrutiny in case undesirable elements entered. Zohar also mentioned the many activities available to the EH Society, including different workshops, art and study groups, and went on to offer to be a central point for collecting entries for a dictionary of Eugene Halliday’s unique words and phrases.

Joan Hoverstadt reminded everybody how welcoming Eugene was. He never refused a request, and was a ‘down to earth’ person. Being a trained artist himself, art was very important to him, as were music and poetry. Joan mentioned the desirability of having a dedicated premises for the Society.

Hephzibah Yohannan reminded the group of the high cost of such a venture.

Nichola Howarth suggested that an empty premises might be made available.

Alan Dick stated he was not in favour of a subscription membership, but preferred an optional donation scheme. Alan also said he disagreed with any contributions to the website being scrutinised, and he also wanted instant access to the website, as he disliked on-line identification processes.

Zohar Ford disagreed with Alan on all three points. The members concurred.

Hephzibah Yohannan & Samuel Lelonek explained to Alan that some form of control was necessary as automatic Spam filters did not always remove all undesirable items. Also, in the future, the Society must become self-financing.

Alan Roberts – stressed the importance of the website in attracting new membership, and suggested that people who had known Eugene might submit their reminiscences of how they first met this unique man. Alan recounted how Eugene had helped his own family by writing to his father, Geoff, on the occasion of the loss of their dearly loved dog. The letter is available on Alan Roberts' website.

Alan mentioned his own Yoga group and then asked that the Society consider how to approach the sensitive topic of Eugene's Engram work as this formed a large part of Eugene's whole approach.

Carol Keay read a prepared statement in which she stressed that Eugene was not widely known outside his own circle (text to be made available).

Anastasia Whardell was very concerned about the dwindling attendance numbers at the Society's meetings. Also, she informed the meeting that subscriptions for the Halliday Review had reduced and she stressed the need to attract new members.

Nichola Howarth asked Zero what Eugene's wishes would have been.

Zero Mahlowe replied that Eugene would have left this situation with The Field.

Hephzibah Yohannan & Anastasia Whardell briefly explained the quality and price of the Halliday Review, which was due to maintaining the high standard set by David Mahlowe. The question was posed, whether it was desirable to have a cheaper style of copy to increase circulation or to keep it as it was for the quality.

Zohar Ford said that meetings at her house were usually well attended even when the subject was not Eugene's work. There followed some general discussion about whether the meetings should be solely confined to Eugene's work.

Mark Hunter stated that Eugene often quoted other great men, philosophers and writers and said "Eugene was a man of our time but also will be known in his own time as a Being who was of the Field and from the Field. He was as Christ-like as one could be. His work is saved because it will always stand the test of time."

Andrew Berwitz asked if the word 'Conservation' could be used instead of 'Preservation'. He also asked that grants and study facilities be considered.

The Trustees in a final appeal to the members invited volunteers' views, time, energy and financial proposals in writing to Hephzibah.

The meeting was declared closed.