

When I made my Future Activities speech at last years AGM at the Water Tower, I like the rest of the world had no idea what was around the corner in the shape of a global pandemic, so all those planned activities bar a few didn't happen. However, before lock-down we *were* able to deliver the Youth Art Exhibition – albeit on-line, our annual Twelfth Night networking evening and the Corner Gallery pop-up event. We were planning on supporting various arts events in the borough such as CAOS, the Wallington Music Festival and the Sutton Summer of Culture as well venues such as Cryer Arts and The Sound Lounge. We were also going to be organising a music panel seminar, diversity training and workshops for members - and of course give grants to deserving arts organisations. Unfortunately, everything had to be postponed although we recently re-started the grants programme with a specific round to focus on activity that can take place under the current restrictions.

As the Mayor said in her speech, the future plans for the arts in the borough encompasses the Cultural Impact Award and although ANS wasn't directly involved in the bid for The London Borough of Culture, I hope the council will take advantage of the tremendous creative talent in the borough and reach out to that community when they implement their plans for using the award money.

One of things I said in my speech last year that *is* happening, is that I'm standing down as Chair of ANS after three years in the role and over five on the committee. It's been quite a journey, but now it's coming to an end. Before I go, I'd like to thank some people who were with me all the way, giving me great support and without whom I probably – no definitely - couldn't have done it. Caterina Loriggio, Jasmine Wilson, James Davies and Richard Moore deserve special praise especially as they were on the committee for all of my time and are all stepping down tonight too. There were others who were with me part of the time such as Adrienne Roberts, Brendan Murphy, Neal Vaughan and one or two others who also spent time as committee members. I'd also like to thank the two Steve's, Councillors Penneck and Cook who gave me excellent advice and guidance along the way.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank Brian Turner our superb Treasurer who guided me through the minefield that is charity finances and was incredibly helpful – even when I asked him some dumb questions. He too is standing down tonight after giving so much of his time and expertise and he'll be a tough act to follow. The good news is that with us both leaving the committee, the average age will drop by about thirty years!

On the whole, I've really enjoyed the past three years even though at times it was like herding cats. I wish the new committee all the best as they take over. I know that when we come out of the current situation, they'll take ANS onwards and upwards towards a really bright future for the arts in Sutton.

Thank you.

Brian – you're up for the last time.