# **Friends of the Victoria Hall: An Introduction**

**Who are the Friends?**

The Friends of the Victoria Hall (FoVH) is a voluntary group originally sponsored by seven local organisations concerned with the protection of the Victoria Hall Trust property and the Objects of the Trust Deed.

The 1893 Victoria Hall Trust was set up to maintain the Hall and its associated spaces “for the purpose of Entertainments, Balls, Bazaars, and other gatherings Social or Political and to Enable and encourage informal and formal activities for those of all ages who live and work in the neighbourhood”. Ealing Council wants to dispose of the Trust property as part of its plan to sell the lease of the Town Hall to Mastcraft, a hotel developer.

FoVH believes there is an alternative, which is to separate and preserve the Trust spaces for their original purpose. It has been set up to work for this solution.

**How is FoVH run?**

FoVH has initially been sponsored and set up by a group of local voluntary (not for profit) community bodies. It is a fully independent, separately managed voluntary Association controlled by its own Officers and Committee, elected each year by the members in an annual general meeting.

FoVH is registered with HRMC as a charitable organisation and may apply in due course for full charitable status when it qualifies (ie has annual revenue of a minimum of £5,000).

FoVH will work in ways compatible with charitable status, and may

• publicise and campaign for its objectives

• enable and encourage informal and formal activities for those of all ages who live and work in the neighbourhood

• raise and spend funds to further its aims

• co-operate with other voluntary bodies, Ealing Council and other organisations or businesses to achieve its aims.

**Original sponsors**

The seven original sponsoring organisations are:

CENF (Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum)

CEPAC (the Campaign for an Ealing Performance & Arts Centre)

CERA (Central Ealing Residents Association)

Ealing Arts & Leisure

Ealing Civic Society

SEC (Save Ealing’s Centre}

West Ealing Neighbours

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