



MINUTES
Wareham Choral
Society
AGM 2017

Monday
11th Dec 2017
7 pm at URC

1) Welcome to:

Eve Baker, Maureen Bayliss, Hazel Carter, Gideon Daly, Peter Davenport, David Edgington, Alan Green, Cathy Green, Nancy Gibson, Jack Haworth, Jennifer Haworth, Marje Heath, Mark Lapper, Melvin Leggott, Marian Leggott, Linda Margetson, Bob Newnham, Mary Norrish, Diana Peel, Judith Price, Elizabeth Read-Wilson, Sarah Welton, Brian Wilkins, Diane Williams

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Kemp, Christine Kemp and Yvonne Hunter

3) Minutes of last year's AGM

These were accepted and agreed

4) Matters Arising

None

5) Chairman's Report

Judith's report is given below:-

Welcome to you all!

The first thing to acknowledge is that we are in breach of our constitution in two respects. Firstly, that the AGM should take place in September each year and secondly that the maximum term of service for Officers is 4 years. I will address the former first and the second when we reach item 8.

I would plead your indulgence on the first count, delivering two concerts in virtually 3 months meant that the AGM was pushed to one side, but September is the set time and for good reason. It is well placed for the members to reflect on the previous year and for the MD to propose the programme for the year to come. I trust that under future circumstances we will abide by that regulation.

This report covers the period from August 2016 – August 2017 and the following events.

The Faure 'Come and Sing'

Christmas concert 2016

Spring concert 2017

Summer concert 2017

We will save the review of the recent Autumn and Christmas concert 2017 for our next AGM in September 2018 quite simply because the pace of events has left me in modern parlance 'bombed out'

The Autumn Term programme varies each year. To add interest and avoid carol singing in September 2016 we hosted a very successful Faure Requiem 'Come and Sing'. 80 people attended, some from as far afield as

Gillingham, and we harvested about 35 new contacts for our list of friends. It was also gratifying to have an audience of some 25 people who occupied the choir stalls. Nigel was pleased to work with Martin Weston, a local baritone, and the soprano Francesca from Beckenham. The afternoon was much enjoyed, and we made a profit of £100.

Christmas Concert

This concert was exceptionally well attended, a record audience of 160, and much enjoyed. We received glowing praise from Nigel. He described it as EXCELLENT, great singing, very tight, well-shaped – Joubert had a lovely feel – Vaughan Williams was lyrical... and members were pleased with the change to red tops and a more polished introduction and end to the concert. You also mentioned the need for better cues for standing and sitting down which improved markedly and especially so on Saturday. You also suggested the use of local soloists.

Spring Concert

Bob had for some time been raising the issue of our 70th anniversary year. We had been discussing with Nigel the possibility of performing a new work by Malcolm Archer for an adult + youth choir entitled 'St George.' Our many attempts at building a link with the Purbeck School had proved almost impossible and as planning time shortened we settled on Malcolm Archer's Requiem, and the Handel Chandos Anthem 'O Praise the Lord with one Intent'.

A Bournemouth man, Nigel suggested asking Natalie Clein if she would be available to accompany us with her quartet because the Hammig quartet which we had used before was one player down. I was unable to contact her direct and the agent was doubtful and the fee prohibitive. However, the Stanford Quartet was available, but their cost exceeded the Hammig Quartet, Nigel's choice, by £400 and they had then found a fourth player.

We had £200 in-hand from singing carols at Bovington. However, all committee members were consulted and by one vote decided to go with the Hammig.

Points to note: The Stanford Quartet may have attracted a larger audience and performed better. Sometimes it is good to speculate judiciously.

The right programme is so important, and I would question the choice of pieces for John to perform. We know that John is a superb organist and that the church organ is magnificent, but the gentle Elegy by Archer did justice to neither.

The Bass, Will Thomas, was under-rehearsed and switched at will between the Tenor and Bass line. London based singers are not always best.

I share this with you because when it comes to appointing a new MD, programme planning experience is so important.

However, the concert was well received and attracted 106 punters at a ticket price of £12.50, despite some people being underwhelmed by chamber music

The Summer concert at Etches

We had enormous help and support from the Etches Museum management team. Ours was the first concert in this iconic building and Richard Bond, Chair of the Trustees attended and was delighted that we had been able to make the facilities work for us.

It was a considerable effort for all members of the committee.- arranging for the over-fill parking in Farmer Verncomb's field, transporting staging, providing refreshments, and contacting local soloists for Nigel to approve. T

The Tenor and Bass soloists, Dan and Ben, were involved with Dorset Opera and a little 'sung out' but Roseanna, recommended by Grace Lovelass, was delightful. I was very grateful to the readers who placed the songs and composers in context – I think it enriches appreciation of words and music.

The concert brought us to the notice of a wider circle of people and, most importantly, was fun!

Now we look forward to next term when we will be conducted by David Fawcett with the support of John. It is important that we throw our weight behind the performance of Gerontius and support the new Chairman and her team. Sarah Welton will keep us informed as she represents us on the committee and has been a life-long supporter of The Guild. We must remember that it provides us with the rare opportunity as a small choir to perform great choral works with an orchestra in a large venue. The guild has appointed the tried, tested and well liked conductor Simon Lole so as well as enjoying rehearsals we must do all we can to publicise the event and sell tickets.

Tonight, we would like you to share your ideas with us regarding your priorities, what you most value in a Musical Director and we will share with you the strategies and advertisements we will use to attract the interest of a conductor who will lead us on from the place that Nigel has brought us.

I am grateful to you all for your support. It is so good to have people like Jennifer and Jack and this year Mark, Margaret and David Harris and Nancy and Graham Baynes, Maureen and Hazel and to all the good ladies who provide refreshments, the gentlemen who construct and dismantle the staging, and especially to the committee.

Each member has a part to play in facilitating the success of the society Eve with publicity, David, and especially Peter who has amazed us all in maintaining our financial health against the most stressful of circumstances.

Finally, there is Bob, truly the most obliging, artistic, clever, and approachable Pooh Bah I have ever had the pleasure to know and work with - Librarian, Secretary, you name it and he will do it better than you ever thought possible.

6) Music Director's Report

Nigel's valedictory message is given below.

Thank you all so much for a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding three and a bit years. If my calculations are correct we have performed ten successful concerts together.

Thank you especially for the warmth you have always shown towards me and for your constant support and encouragement. It has always been refreshing to escape from London on a Monday and work with such a keen group of people who clearly enjoy their singing.

Thank you so much for the extremely generous cheque. I feel very moved by that. It is most thoughtful of you all.

I know that the choir will go from strength to strength. I really do not want to lose touch so do please keep me informed as to what you are doing.

My love to you all. I look forward to supporting as a paying member of the audience.

7) Treasurer's Report - 1st. Sept 2016 to 31st August 2017

Income:		
Subscriptions:	- Autumn	2030
	Come and Sing	655.65
	Spring	2370
	Summer	1650
Donations:	hire of lights to PAW	20
	Carol singing at Lulworth Camp	200
Ticket sales:	Autumn	1600
	Spring	1261.5
	Summer	1579.5
Miscellaneous:		
	Total:	£ 11,366.65
Expenditure:		
General:	Making Music Sub and Insurance	304.68.
	DGoS Sub	585
	Wareham and Purbeck MS Soc.	30. (Hire of boards for signs)
	Sue Booth	20. (photography)
	Cards and flowers for ill members	25
	Selene Alberti	25. (Poster design)
	Printing and publicity	778.45
		Total: 1768.13
Rehearsals:	Venue	520
	MD	2818
	Accompanist	1040
	Music Hire	88
		Total: 4466
Come and Sing:	Venue	125
	MD	225
	Accomp	120
		Total: 470
Concerts:	Christmas (Lady St	

Mary Church)		
Venue	125	
Music Hire	150	
MD	337	
Accomp	180	
Soloists	300	
Refreshments	87.93	
		Total: 1179.93
Spring (Lady St Mary Church)		
Venue	190	
MD	350	
Accomp	255	
Soloists	1200	
Refreshments	47.47	
		Total: 2,042.47
Summer (Kimmeridge)		
Venue	200	
MD	355	
Accomp	140	
Soloists	300	
Refreshments	68.75	
Presents	52.58	
		Total: 1,116.33
	Total:	£11,042.86
	Balance: (surplus)	£ 323.79
Assets:		
	August 31st 2017	August 31st 2016
Cash in Bank	2909.26	3067.41
Deposit account	4012.2	4011.2

Note £1040 paid to Accompanist but not shown in Bank Statement yet.

8) Election of Officers

The current officers are :- Judith Price – Chairman; Peter Davenport – Treasurer; Bob Newnham – Secretary/Librarian.

All officers are prepared to stand again. No new nominations for any position had been received either in advance or from the floor.

The current officers were re-elected unopposed.

9) **Election of Committee Members**

The other committee members are:- Eve Baker – Publicity; David Edgington – choir members' rep; Sarah Welton – Guild rep; Jennifer Haworth..

All these members are prepared to stand again. No new nominations for any position had been received either in advance or from the floor.

The current members were re-elected unopposed.

In addition, Sarah Welton was formally proposed, seconded and elected as our rep on the Guild committee.

10) **Rehearsal Start Time**

Starting at 7pm and singing through without a break had been a temporary measure to alleviate NG's transport problems.

It was proposed that we revert to our previous arrangements ie be ready to start sing at 7:15, finishing at 9:15, with a short break (10 mins or so) for announcements, soft drinks, chat etc..

The meeting agreed, except for Gideon Daly, who preferred the 7pm arrangement (but was happy to accept the majority view).

11) **A.O.B.**

There was some discussion about our unsuccessful attempts to involve Purbeck School in our concerts. Gideon noted that there had been a change in personnel in the music department at the school.

PD and SW updated the meeting about DGoS matters. The guild has a new Chairman, Rhiannon Eland who is go-ahead and positive. She sings with the the Swanage choir (PAC), as do all the other Guild committee members.

The Broadstone Choir have now joined the Guild to participate in the Gerontius concert, which would not have been viable without them. They may elect to become core members of the Guild.

Diana Peel noted that Bournemouth University seemed to have money for local "good causes". We could try to arrange sponsorship from them.

David Edgington, on behalf of all the members, thanked Judith and Bob for all their work during the past year, and presented flowers and wine, which were gratefully received.

Bob Newnham 15/12/2017