

Bingham and District Choral Society

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 29TH JANUARY 2019

1. Present: John Bannister (Chair), Sally Ashton (Vice-Chair), Brad Poulson (Treasurer), Valerie Morgan (Secretary), Janet Chapman (Membership Secretary), Peter Iley (Programme Chair), Margot Anderson (Librarian), Tim Connery (Box Office), Judy Unell (Publicity), Beryl Cottrill, Tina Warrington, Janet Iley (Ordinary Members).

Apologies: Juliet Ward

Minutes of meeting 27th November 2018: There were no amendments. Accepted unanimously, proposed Brad, seconded John

2. Matters arising

Page 1, no.4 and 5: There are some issues arising from the November and December concerts for the May concert (also in Radcliffe Church). See also Juliet's email of 5/12/18

ACTION: Tina (concert manager for May concert).

Page 2, no 3: Music for Singing Day to go on website

Page 2, no. 6: Music now all stored in Peter's home.

3. Treasurer

Brad said there was a small profit on the Christmas concert of about £400 (payment still owing to Margot). Suggests ticket prices need to be raised next time.

Huw is storing excess wine from the concert.

We have received a bequest of £2,000 from Jean Appleton, who died recently.

Brad said that our income was not at present covering our expenses for a 42 week year, for basic rehearsal costs, which are about £8,500; membership income is £7,000. So, especially if we decide to go for a 3-concert year, we need to put fees up.

Also, our 50th anniversary year will (rightly) be an expensive one.

Agreed to discuss in detail and decide on motion to bring to AGM at March meeting.

ACTION: Brad to work up a proposal

4. Concerts

1) November and Christmas 2018 concerts: see under **Matters arising**

2) Singing Day with Ellie Martin 16th February 2019 (Judy event manager): 56 participants so far, and probably more next week, as Ellie is taking leaflets to Daytime Singing groups. Judy liaising with Ellie.

Agreed cakes would be sold.

ACTION: Sally, Judy

3) 11th May 2019 Radcliffe Church (Tina Concert manager): Tickets to be priced again at £13 (reserved) and £10 (unreserved)

Has a hire piano been ordered? Brad has made provision for this.

Does Caroline Clemmow need hospitality?

ACTION: Tina to liaise with Guy and Caroline re piano & hospitality

4) 6th July 2019 at Newark Church: Newark organising. John to be concert manager.

ACTION: John

5) Ed and Emily concert 21st September 2019: Bingham Church is booked for this date. Church House not needed.

6) November 16th 2019 at Newark Church: No manager yet. Church booked.

7) Christmas 2019: 14th or 21st December? Dates to be explored with church, Carnarvon School, Guy and Ed.

ACTION: Peter to check with Guy and Ed; Guy to contact Becky re school dates; Valerie to check with church.

There was a discussion of the points raised by Andrew James in his email. It was thought that the fact that Bingham Brass was a part of the community was important, and that the families of Carnarvon children were some of our supporters in any case. A lighter organ solo was implemented last Christmas with the Sleigh Ride.

As the concert was sold out last year, it was felt that the format should continue relatively unchanged.

ACTION: Juliet to contact Colin Smith once date is known.

8) Bursary – January 2020. Beryl organising. She is liaising with Richard. Date to be decided and then Bingham Church booked. Publicity to go out in August. Judges Guy, Ed, Barbara Cobb and Angela Kay if she is agreeable.

9) Brahms Requiem 2nd May 2020 in the Minster. Mansfield's concert. What does their sponsorship include?

2 joint rehearsal dates now provisionally arranged on 21st March and 25th April 2020

ACTION: Brad to liaise with Mansfield on what sponsorship covers

10) Future Planning: Richard Joyner's proposal of a strategic review

There is a feeling in the choir that the rehearsal period from January to May is a lengthy one to be doing the same music, and that it would be better to have an earlier spring concert (perhaps in April) and then a 'proper' concert in July. There are equally many people opposed to such changes. There would also be financial implications and librarian issues to this, as well as stage management costs.

There are also issues around the composition of the Programme Committee and choice of music – many of its members have only belonged for a short period of time, and a few members have expressed unhappiness with the choice of music. Where and how we obtain our soloists is also sometimes questioned.

The main committee can often undergo an almost complete renewal, with many experienced members stepping down at once. This can initially cause difficulties in effectiveness.

The committee agreed that Richard's suggestion of a review group be set up, to ask choir members' views, and discuss with all concerned parties. The group should also be free to add further issues if necessary, with Minutes taken and circulated to the main committee. Volunteers for the Review Group are Brad, Sally, John, Valerie, and Richard will also be asked. An initial meeting has been arranged for Monday 4th February to discuss parameters.

ACTION: John, Sally, Brad, Valerie, Richard

8. Publicity

Judy: Sylvia and Robin Aldworth are leaving the area soon. Sylvia has contributed greatly in the past as Publicity Officer, and Robin (though not a choir member) has designed posters, programmes and flyers for all our concerts and events. He has also taken photos at concerts.

He will not be able to do so for this concert. Judy does not wish to take this on.

It was suggested that the choir should be asked if anyone (or their partner) would like to take this on. Judy will make enquiries with the printers about their capabilities and costs.

It was agreed that the choir be asked at a later date to contribute to a gift for Robin, and that a letter of thanks should be sent to him prior to their departure.

ACTION: John to announce to choir re Robin's and Sylvia's departure, and ask if anyone is interested in taking on the design task.

Judy to contact printers

Website: Judy is now maintaining this.

9. Fundraising /Social

It was felt that time was now too short to arrange anything for this term.

10. Librarian

Margot is now unable to lift large boxes of music, and has decided after 8 years to step down as Librarian at the AGM.

After discussion, it was agreed the post could be done as a 'jobshare', or that Margot could continue to do part of the job with a helper.

ACTION: John to announce Margot's departure and ask for volunteers to take over.

Peter now has all the choir's music at his house.

Membership

Janet C. There are 87 members so far this term, with a possible new person starting tomorrow. A meeting of mentors is needed, as some are not able to continue doing it.

11. Rehearsal logistics

Janet I. is co-ordinating the list of people coming to set up the rehearsal room – this is going OK.

Janet C. is doing coffee rota.

12. A request came through the website from the Bach Choir for us to advertise their Bursary competition for young musicians for this year – brought to committee in view of its similarity to our own. However, theirs will be alternate years to ours, and closing date is 31st January (now!). Agreed a letter should be sent explaining the situation, and that we would be happy to advertise theirs in future if they would reciprocate.

ACTION: Valerie

Ways of Love: After discussion it was felt that using Jean's bequest to fund Ways of Love would not perhaps have been what she might have wanted. The proposal by Andrew James and Guy to fund it has twice been decided against in the past by the committee.

As well as Jean Appleton, Audrey Bell also died recently. It was felt that the best way to honour Jean's bequest was to acknowledge it with an insertion in the concert programme, rather than dedicate a concert item to her.

ACTION: John to write to Guy

13. AOB

1) Richard Joyner, who is on the Programme Committee, has asked if he could receive the main committee's Minutes. This was agreed.

2) Accounts Examiner: Valerie's husband, David Morgan, has agreed to be one of the auditors following Hugh Holbrook's resignation. Does the membership have to agree this?

ACTION: Valerie to check Constitution (Yes, AGM (or EGM) has to agree this)

3) Piano tuning: Valerie has arranged for the piano tuner, Alan Davies, to come on February 15th, when the school was closed (and quiet!) on an inset day.

4) Concert management: It was suggested that in future, this should be done in pairs, as it involves a lot of work.

14. DONM

Monday 4th March