

Bingham and District Choral Society

MINUTES OF MEETING 5TH JULY 2017

1 Present: John Bannister (Chair), Huw Cadwallader (Treasurer), Valerie Morgan (Secretary), Janet Chapman (Membership), Barbara Cobb (outgoing Programme Chair), Peter Iley (incoming Programme Chair), Tim Connery (Box Office), Judy Unell (Publicity), Brad Poulson (Website), Beryl Cottrill, Christina Warrington, Janet Iley (Ordinary members).

Apologies: Margot Anderson (Librarian), Alison Marriott, Pam Jones (outgoing ordinary members), Guy Turner (Musical Director).

John welcomed on to the committee Peter, Janet, Beryl and Christina.

Minutes of meeting 8th May 2017

There were no amendments. Proposed Barbara, seconded Brad, accepted by all.

2 Matters Arising

9.2) Re possible refund for a member who was away sick since Christmas: Huw has not yet discussed with the member, but will do so.

ACTION: Huw

9.4) Help for Margot transporting music: John asked if any of new members would be willing to help with this.

ACTION: All

3 Treasurer

Huw: Summer Singing made a slight profit: income was £1020, expenditure £872.50.

May 17th Concert with Newark CS: see attached report. After reconciliation of accounts with Newark CS, we made a slight loss of £254.38.

Thanks to Tim and Newark for a good breakdown of expenses. The audience was 188 people, thanks at least in part to Mike Wilson's report in the Newark Advertiser.

Staging and setting up went all right with the team of removers, supervised by Jeff Crampton. Cost was £400.

4. Forthcoming Concerts

A) Creation: 25th November 2017: Study Day booked at **Queen Elizabeth Academy Mansfield** for **11th November 2017, 10 am – 3 pm.**

A meeting needs to be set up with Mansfield to make arrangements; suggested dates are 25th, 26th, 29th Sept., 9th, 10th October.

Who to co-ordinate this? Guy has offered to host.

See attached report for future concerts.

B) Christmas Concert: 16th December 2017: Bingham Church and Church House booked. Carnarvon School children and Bingham Brass also booked. Programme agreed – see attached sheet for list of carols.

C) Verdi Requiem: 12th May 2018: with Mansfield at the Minster.

Study Days 24th March and 21st April 2018, 10 am – 3 pm at Queen Elizabeth Academy

Nottingham Symphony Orchestra and soloists booked for concert.

D) i) Summer Singing: Saturday 7th July 2018 at Newark Church: This is a Byron Festival Concert, featuring Newstead Abbey Brass Band, Newstead Abbey Singers, the Choir of Sarzana Cathedral, Italy, and BDCS, and probably one other choir. BDCS will perform a short selection of music on their own, and then join with the band and other choirs in the finale – a new Byron setting by Guy.

Rehearsal dates: AGM is 16th May. A 6 - week period of rehearsals after this would be May 23rd, June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th and July 4th (no rehearsal 30th May – half-term). July 4th would be a possible joint rehearsal with the other choirs.

There would be no charge for these rehearsals, and no income from this concert, but no costs except for payment to Guy and Ed.

This was agreed by the committee.

ACTION: Tim to put in Newsletter.

D) ii) Summer Singing – the Future:

Janet C said she felt we should get away from calling it Summer Singing now that it was to become an integral part of the choir year. There followed some discussion of the future structure of the choir year, and whether there would be a need to adhere to a fairly strict timetable of concert dates, rather than have flexibility.

Against this would be the fact that when we share a concert with other choirs (especially if it is their concert), their dates may be fixed; also there could be a problem with booking soloists and orchestra.

Membership would be for X number of weeks, and not, as at present, ending with the AGM and with an additional bit tagged on at the end.

John suggested that perhaps the Society could underwrite the cost of Summer Singing in the short term, but make a nominal charge to members and ‘outsiders’.

E) Autumn Concert: 17th November 2018: Small string orchestra and 4 soloists. *Buxtehude Magnificat* (9mins); *Purcell Welcome to all the Pleasures* (16 mins); *Vivaldi Magnificat* (14 mins); Interval; *Handel O Praise the Lord* (35 mins). There would also be room for a solo item from the Bursary winner (or a small concerto with strings) if the winner is suitable. Otherwise a short string piece (the Bach Air?) after the Purcell.

(But see 8 below).

Huw: projected loss on this concert is £1,700.

ACTION: Valerie to book Radcliffe Church. [Booking requested].

F) Future Planning:

I) Spring Concert 11th May 2019: With Caroline Clemmow, piano and soprano soloist only. *Thiman Psalm 23* (7 mins); *Turner The Ways of Love* (?25 mins) or *Turner Under the Wide Sky* - (see 11 below); Interval; *Rutter Fancies* (16 mins); *Elgar four of From the Bavarian Highlands* (16 mins); piano solo from Caroline.

There is also room for a solo item from the Bursary winner if the winner is suitable; if not, a solo from the soprano.

Huw: This will not be an expensive concert.

ACTION: Valerie to book Radcliffe Church. (It is probably too early to do this at present).

G) Brahms Requiem with Mansfield: April / May 2020: offered by the Minster are April 18th 2020 or May 2nd 2020.

A decision needs to be taken on the date – ACTION: Guy, Peter?

Ticketing:

Tim: 1) Prices for The Creation have been agreed with Mansfield - £15 adult, £7 under 16’s.

He has discussed reserved seating with Erica Leyshon of Mansfield, but after referring it to their committee, they have decided to stay with unreserved seating (their concert). This can be rethought for our concert in May.

2) Christmas Concert: Guy has heard from Becky Cowling at Carnarvon School that they are unhappy at the number of discounted tickets that their choir children receive (60). It was agreed they should be offered 90 – this is one ticket priced at £5 per child singing (usual price £8). Maximum number of children 45.

ACTION: Tim to discuss with Guy and Becky Cowling. [Tim has discussed – they are happy with 40 children and 80 tickets].

5. Publicity

Judy: Updates in local publications continuing, including information about the Bursary and Prize. She has had one expression of interest (as has Valerie). There has been some interest on the Twitter feed to the website as well.

She felt there was a need to commission a new letterhead, as the logo on the existing one is rather faded.

ACTION: Judy?

Website

Brad: Has recorded the lunchtime concert in Newark Church. Would those taking part like a copy for a donation of say £1 for electronic copy, or £2 for a CD, to choir funds? Also to email those members and

'outsiders' who attended Summer Singing and those who have expressed an interest through the website. An extract of the recording to go on the website.

Agreed.

ACTION: Brad to announce at the beginning of term.

Information re Summer Singing recording to go in Newsletter – **Tim**.

An update about soloists we have had (Where are they now?) could be an interesting feature on the website.

Also, we have no recent photographs of only Bingham Choir in concert dress on the website.

We have several different email lists – from the Rutter Day, 'Friends' of the website, Summer Singing, and members. These need to be organised into a database, and furnished with an 'Unsubscribe' facility. They can be sent the Newsletter – this can be done via the website.

ACTION: Brad to co-ordinate these topics. Valerie to hold database, or Brad?

Newsletter

Tim: Expects to get this completed by the end of the month. He would like someone to do a report on the Summer Singing, and thought Paul Skelton might agree to this. Also a mention of the Verdi Requiem trip to Paris and Chartres, undertaken by some members in conjunction with other choirs in the area.

There was discussion about including something about what happens on the first day of term (enrolment procedure), for anyone coming for the first time. The application form will be sent to people together with the Newsletter, and a request to post it in advance to Janet if possible, or to complete it electronically and send it to her.

ACTION: Tim, Valerie

7. Membership

Enrolment – Janet C: See attached schedule for mentors.

Huw thought that not everyone who was eligible was applying for **Gift Aid**, so the form will be recast to make this section more prominent.

A new mentor is required for the basses – Patrick Mountford has been asked and agreed.

Last year there was low representation of mentors at enrolment – only one of them was present.

ACTION: Janet to send reminder email to mentors shortly before start day.

Also to **Valerie to send to members, to remind them to complete the application form in advance.**

Librarian:

No report.

6. Fundraising

A) Marcus Farnsworth Workshop: 5th March 2018: The Minster School has been booked for this event.

B) A suggestion has been made to ask Ed Turner to do an organ recital in Bingham Church.

It was agreed to ask him if he would be interested. Date to suit Ed. T Suggested takings to be split 60-40% to Ed and choir.

ACTION: Peter and Barbara to speak to Ed.

9. Bursary and Prize

See attached Bursary and Prize Terms and Conditions, and flier.

Richard Joyner has finalised the documentation for the Bursary and Prize, and this was accepted by the Committee. Competition to go ahead in Bingham Church with six shortlisted applicants on **Saturday 20th January 2018**, with an audience.

The judging panel will be Guy, Angela Kay, Ed Turner, Peter Iley, and the non-voting chair will be Richard Joyner (Prize Administrator).

To go on the website.

A publicity strategy will be needed.

ACTION: Richard, Brad, Judy. Valerie to write to Richard.

8. Correspondence

John: Groningen. Has had an email from Linda Hunter. She has had an email from her friend Carina, that their committee had not heard back from us about their proposal to come to us at a later date to sing with us. After discussion, the committee decided not to pursue this, as our programme, which involves another choir, is fixed and cannot be changed again.

ACTION: John to write back, explaining our decision; copy to Valerie for records.

Remembrance Weekend November 2018

This will be the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, and **Sally** has had a letter from Robin Aldworth asking if the choir would like to join in with Bingham's marking of the event (see attached).

Our November concert has now been mainly decided, but after discussion it was agreed that we should try to contribute. It was agreed that Guy should be asked to compose a short piece (about 5 minutes) which we could sing at the Remembrance Day service, as well as at our concert on 17th November.

ACTION: Peter to discuss with Guy.

11. Ways of Love

John: Andrew James has written again asking the choir to re-visit their decision on Ways of Love. This is a possible song cycle of about 25 minutes, to be composed by Guy, called The Ways of Love, based on a selection of poems by six women poets.

After discussion, it was agreed that the committee remain by their original decision of September 2016.

ACTION: Peter to discuss with Guy. John to write to Andrew.

10. AOB

1) Huw: thinks we should increase fees for Guy and Ed. Agreed.

2) Valerie: School Door. The school has been in touch to ask that we keep the front door to the school closed at all times, due to insurance issues.

After discussion, it was agreed that a portable flashing device with a detachable bell outside could be bought to be used during rehearsal. We can share the cost with the school – up to £100 maximum.

ACTION: Valerie to contact the school, for this to be installed by September.

12. DONM

Thursday 28th September 2017.

Barbara was thanked for her many years of hard work on behalf of the choir.

Brad was thanked for his hospitality.

The meeting ended at 10.00 pm.