**CHOIR COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday May 18th at 7.30.P.M.**

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| **MINUTES** |
| 1. **Committee members present were:**

Chris Clarke; Eileen Griffiths; Kate Attridge; Briony Hancock; Mark Dunham; Janet Thomson |
| 1. **Apologies:**

Brendan O’Dwyer; Ben Thomas; Geoff Whitehouse |
| 1. **Minutes of the meeting in February and matters arising**:

These were agreed as a true record. Matters arising were:* Publicity Banner – Anna had sent a link to a company that would produce a portable banner for just over £50. It would cost a further £50 if they were to produce the artwork.
* Mark had updated the website and adjusted the list of Covid measures in accordance with our current practice.
* Kate had ensured that there were notices about choir in all local free magazines. It was suggested that Libraries and the two Guildford record shops may also be good places to display posters as well as the ‘Zero Shop’.
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| 1. **Chairperson’s report**
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| Chris reported that choir attendance numbers had been maintained. There had been an excellent response to our concert with Ben and Dom and audience numbers were very high. The May Day sing at St Martha’s had been well supported and The Snooty Fox had provided a very welcome breakfast afterwards. Unfortunately, the concert at The Electric Theatre with Dan Whitehouse had not produced a large audience but had been an enjoyable experience. Dan Whitehouse has since posted his reflections on the gig together with a photo. There is a link to both on the choir’s website.  |
| Following Chris’s report, Eileen provided accurate figures from the registers, which showed that average attendance figures for the autumn term were 44 but had increased to 49 in the Spring. Unfortunately, there have only been 36 and 34 members at the last two rehearsals out of the 77 choir members on our current list. |
| 1. **Treasurer’s report**
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| The spring term profit was over £800. With the loss of over £300 in the autumn term, the profit thus far from subscriptions alone is around £500. There will be a profit from the concert with Ben and Dom, but final figures are not available as yet, because we await charges from the Performing Rights Society. The current term is likely to produce a sizeable loss, however, so we may have to consider increasing subs in the autumn term.  |
| 1. **Plans and events for the coming year**
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| **Saturday June 24th Choir Blast** – Our slots for this outdoor event are 11.30 a.m. and 3.00.p.m. So far 35 choir members have said they will attend. Choir members can attend free of charge but the organisers are suggesting a donation of £5.00 per head, which will go to the worthy charities that Choir Blast is supporting. **Sunday July 16th Singing at The Weyside -** This event replaces the last rehearsal of the term, which would have been the following day. The timing has now been changed from 2.00.p.m. to 4.00.p.m. Only 19 people had responded with a ‘Yes’ to this event but we hope that the change of time will result in more members attending. **Autumn Term 2023 –** We hope – finally - to have our ‘Four Seasons Concert’ with Horsell Choir, on Friday October 20th, The venue will be the United Reform Church in Guildford. **Christmas Concert** – It was suggested that we invite an audience to our last rehearsal of the autumn term on December 18th as that has proved very successful as a Christmas Carol concert in the past. Whilst most audience would be family and friends of choir members; we could issue tickets to encourage sales to a wider audience. |
| 1. **Covid Measures Review**
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| After some discussion, it was decided that we would continue with the current situation, as there is adequate floor space and ceiling height in the church and choir members have the opportunity to go outside at break time. Also, hospitals and doctors’ surgeries have now removed the requirement to wear masks. |
| 1. **Muzodo Review**
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| The Muzodo system has the potential to be excellent, but there are still some issues in the way choir members are engaging with it. Whilst more people are responding to events invitations when they are first sent out, they are not changing their responses when they have changed their minds. This was particularly noticeable regarding the concert with Dan Whitehouse when there were worrying consequences. There should have been 42 participating choir members and only 32 attended. Two members did send their apologies for unavoidable absence on the day – both of which were because of illness, but two of the members who did come had responded ‘No’ on Muzodo. That means that 10 people failed to make their commitment to this event. This could have had serious repercussions for the choir, particularly as that concert was a professional gig. Whilst the choir members who did attend rose to the occasion, several felt quite exposed at points when their choir section was singing a verse on its own or when trying to hold their harmony when numbers for their part were so diminished. Choir members should know that signing up to an event is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. For example: it may be advisable to cancel a performance should there be insufficient choir members available. If the attendance number we have is far from accurate, we could be in a situation where the choir is unable to give a good account of itself and that would be very bad for its reputation. We urge choir members to make sure they update their responses on Muzodo when circumstances change and whenever possible to do so with sufficient notice for us to decide whether an event remains viable. To aid this process, the committee will send a reminder event message to choir members nearer the date of each event.  |
| 1. **AOB -**
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| **Recruitment –** The committee is aware that we are currently failing in our attempts to recruit and retain choir members from the younger age groups. Suggestions on how we might achieve this would be very welcome.  |
| **Animation during performances** – It is evident from the photograph provided by Dan Whitehouse and from an audience member’s comments that although our performance on Saturday had been good musically, we lacked animation and a sense of enjoyment. The committee were grateful for that independent review. ‘What can we do to make our performances more animated?’ was the next question, but it was agreed we would need to pass that to Anna, as choir leader. |
| 1. **Dates of next committee meetings**
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| Thursday October 19th – Committee Meeting 7.30 hosted by BrionyMonday November 20th - AGM (during choir rehearsal) |