CHOIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 20th August 2024, at 10.00.a.m.

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|  | **AGENDA** |
| 1 | Note of members present |
| 2 | Apologies for absence |
| 3 | Minutes of last meeting for approval and matters arising |
| 4 | Chairperson’s report |
| 5 | Treasurer’s report |
| 6 | To discuss and plan events for the coming year |
| 7 | To discuss arrangements for the AGM on Monday November 18th |
| 8 | Badges/Brooches designed by Briony |
| 9 | To receive term dates for the coming choir year |
| 10 | To agree meeting dates for the coming year – suggestions as follows: AGM Monday November 18th; Committee meetings: Thursday February 13th; Tuesday May 20th  |
| **MINUTES** |  |
| 1. **Committee members present were:**

Chris Clarke; Eileen Griffiths; Briony Hancock; Geoff Whitehouse; Kate Attridge; Brendan O’Dwyer; Mark Dunham; Janet Thomson  |  |
| 1. **Apologies:**

Lucy Zirins; Ben Thomas |  |
| 1. **Minutes of the meeting in May and matters arising**:

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record. Unfortunately, the Guildford Pride event seemed to be a non-starter a far as the choir’s involvement is concerned. Also, the proposed Oakleaf concert has been postponed, but Chris has been told that they will keep us in mind for future events. Lucy and Ben had made a good job of promoting the choir through photos on the website and via Facebook. The suggestion of having a choir committee WhatsApp group had been decided against as not all committee members have the ability to use WhatsApp. |  |
| 1. **Chairperson’s report**
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| **Reason for this extraordinary meeting**Before giving her report on past events, Chris explained that she had been in conversation with Anna regarding Choir Blast next year and Anna had said that she was already booked to hold a workshop in the Midlands that day. It became apparent, as has been the case quite frequently recently, that the non-choir aspects of Anna’s career are now taking up a lot of her time and that they provide her with better income than she receives for leading choir performances. Committee members were very understanding that there are two matters of consideration for Anna, in that she has to earn enough to pay her mortgage and that she may gain greater job satisfaction from those other areas. We then considered what this would mean in terms of performance opportunities for the choir. Anna’s suggestion had been that we should perform more frequently with Horsell choir, starting with Choir Blast, as she could then be paid double her normal fee, which would make it more financially viable for her. That would be a change from current practice, as up to now her normal fee has been shared by the two choirs. The committee were concerned about this suggestion on two counts. Firstly, we were not happy about Guildford Vox losing its individual identity and secondly, concerts involving both choirs do not generate sufficient funds to cover double fees plus the hire of the larger venues we would require. Whilst we may feel able to join with Horsell occasionally (if we were to use the same format as at The United Reform Church last October) we would not be happy to endorse this as the main performance format going forward.With regard to arrangements for Choir Blast in 2025, Chris had asked Anna if she would be happy for someone else to lead the choir that day. Dominic Stitchbury had been considered, but he is not available. Anna had also suggested that Lucy Zirins might be willing to do it and as she is a choir leader elsewhere and as a member of Vox she would already be familiar with the arrangements. After some consideration it was decided to approach Lucy. Chris has already applied for a place at Choir Blast in the hope that we can find someone to lead, but if we do not, it will not be a problem to withdraw as there are already 70 choirs registered.Chris then reported on the events of last year. * **Choir Blast -** this event had been very successful, enjoyable and a great way to support worthwhile charities in the locality.
* **Guilfest-**  Free tickets for the weekend for those who wished to use them had been very welcome, but as far as the performance was concerned, starting at midday meant very few audience members and with 90 of us squashed onto a relatively small stage it was rather disappointing. (Committee members agreed). Eileen suggested that it might have been better to place all performing choirs at the entrance to Guilfest so there would at least have been a ‘passing audience’ that might have stayed to listen for a while.
* **Dylan concert at Farnham Maltings –** Rehearsals went on too long and choir members felt under-rehearsed for ‘Boots of Spanish Leather’, but on the whole Chris felt that the choir had acquitted itself well and it had been a worthwhile experience. She and the committee were particularly impressed by Anna teaching ‘Knocking’ on Heaven’s Door’ to all of the attending choirs at such short notice! Eileen commented that several choir members had decided not to attend once they heard how long they would have to spend at The Maltings. The delay in receiving this information was a fault of the organisers and not Anna’s.
 | Chris |
| 1. **Treasurer’s report**
 | **Action** |
| Geoff reported that there had been a loss of around £1,000 in the summer term. Approximately £700 of this was due to the number of performances that had incurred costs but had not generated any income. The other £300 loss was due to there being reduced income from subscriptions, which is typically what happens in the summer term. Briony asked if it was now time to increase subscriptions for choir members, but Geoff reported that as there was still £5000.00 in the bank account, he felt it was not necessary to do so at this stage. The committee agreed unanimously. |  |
| 1. **To discuss and plan events for the coming year**
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| **Sunday 15th December** **Concert with Alder Valley Brass** – This will be at St John’s Church in Farncombe. Guildford Vox will be paying the venue costs on this occasion. They have increased from £250.00 to £350.00. We have access to the church from 1.00 -6.00 p.m. to allow for setting up and clearing away. We will ask for donations of cakes from choir members, and we will serve tea and coffee and hold a raffle in an attempt to off-set costs. Again, we will ask choir members for donations of raffle prizes. Tickets will be sold at £10.00 per adult and accompanied under-16’s will be free of charge. Start time is 3.00.p.m. and finish 5.00.p.m. Our rehearsal with the band will be at St Mary’s on 9th December during normal rehearsal time, with band members arriving at 8.00.**Monday 16th December Carols at The Weyside** – Meet at 7.00.p.m. and sing from 8.00.p.m. Eileen suggested that we check with Anna to see how many Carol Booklets she has in case we need to order more.**Other Performance opportunities** – Given Anna’s reduced availability and the increasing cost of venues, it was felt that we should continue to invite family and friends to the last rehearsal at each end of term when there are no other performances booked. These occasions often generate a good audience, and we add to choir funds by holding the customary raffle and drinks sales. | All committee members on duty for thisChoir members for donationsEileen |
| 1. **AGM arrangements**
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| This will take place on November 18th during rehearsal break time. Eileen will arrange for an extended booking time on that date. She will send out the necessary paperwork. (Geoff and Roy will need to have the accounts ready to submit). | EileenGeoff |
| 1. **Badges/Brooches**
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| Briony had produced some beautiful samples of these. It was decided to offer them for sale to choir members at a cost of £6.00, along with the black folders and printed choir bags. Kate offered to be responsible for ‘merch’ sales at choir rehearsals. | BrionyKate |
| 1. **Term dates**
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| Eileen had set the dates for the coming term after referring to Surrey County Council school term dates. Mark had already added them to the choir website. Eileen will send them out to choir members when she emails them to check on their membership for the coming choir year and will prepare registers accordingly. Briony will send an email to inform members of up-coming performances.  | EileenBriony |
| 1. **Committee meeting dates for the coming year**

These were confirmed as AGM Monday November 18th, Thursday February 13th and Tuesday May 20th. At this stage it was felt that there will be no need for a meeting in October as this August meeting has already covered matters that would be discussed then. |  |