**Minutes of Choir Committee Meeting**

**Date**

13th May 2025 @ 7:30 pm

**Committee members present**

Kate Attridge Chris Clarke

Mark Dunham Briony Hancock

Ben Thomas Janet Tompson

Geoff Whitehouse Lucy Zirims

**Apologies**

Eileen Griffiths Brenden O’Dwyer

**Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising:

* The access link for rehearsals on Zoom has been sent out via Muzodo and via an email from Anna.
* After much work by Chris, online banking is in place with Geoff, Eileen and Chris being signatories.
* Anna is pleased with the result of the Annual Review. Geoff is still working on her payments being made online.

**Chairman’s report**

* Continuing from last term the choir is still very well attended and new members have settled in.
* The Easter Family and Friends Concert was very enjoyable and successful.
* The beautiful May Day morning at St Martha’s was well attended, with much praise for the breakfast.
* Discussion around how we persuade choir members to confirm that they are going to attend events, and where necessary, will bring family or friends to events. Lucy suggested we use a Google form for people to confirm attendance numbers. All agreed, and this will be trialled at the July End of Term Event. Lucy will help to set this up.
* Seating and chair layout was discussed, and it was agreed to ask everyone to fill up seats from the front.
* Janet thanked Lucy for her very enjoyable guest conducting and the super song that she had composed for Guildford Vox. All agreed that it had gone down extremely well with the choir and will work very well in the coming rehearsals and at Choir Blast.

**Treasurer’s report**

* Geoff explained that he had another very positive report, as the Choir has a £1,200 surplus, with the Easter gig making over a £300 surplus.
* Geoff flagged that the Summer Term usually makes a loss due to Choir members being on holiday and us having several gigs that don’t make us money. Geoff advised this is not a concern due to the surplus.
* The Easter gig’s raffle was extremely successful, so much so we discussed how to rearrange the organization so as not to disturb the audience when prize winning numbers were being allocated.

**Forthcoming events**

* **Choir Blast:**
* Please see the Choir Blast website and Guildford Vox committee emails for timings and venues.
* Choir members will be asked to get to the rehearsal space 15 minutes early. An online donation link to Choir Blast will be put on Muzodo and flagged up to members at rehearsals.
* Currently 33 Choir members have said they are attending with an additional 24 possibles.
* As parking will be difficult, it was agreed that lift shares and public transport would be best.
* **Guilfest**
* The organization of our appearance will be the same as last year, including those choir members attending receiving free tickets for both days.
* So far, we have 24 members who have said they are coming.
* **End of Term Concert**
* It was agreed to have a Family and Friends concert at our usual rehearsal venue.
* The possibility of allowing people to socialize with drinks outside during the break was discussed, and agreed, depending upon Church regulations and Ten licence requirements, Eileen will be able to clarify both.
* **Taster Session**
* Chris to ask Anna to run a Taster Session on the first rehearsal of September.
* **20th Anniversary Celebration**
* Anna’s father’s ceilidh band is booked, as is the Fairland’s Community Centre for the 1st of November.
* We have the Hall from 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm, The Hall can take 200 people, has a kitchen and a bar with bartender.
* Tickets will be £10:00. The ceilidh band’s cost is approximately £600.
* Doors will open at 7:00 pm and close at 10:00 pm.
* Having guaranteed help from members of the choir to set-up and take down the event is vital.
* Everyone will be asked if they would like to bring a main course, and a Google form will be set-up to say how /when they can help and what main course they will bring. Lucy offered her help with the form set up.
* Laura (an ex. Choir member) will be making a substantial celebration cake, cost to be agreed. Laura also made the cake for the 10-year celebration.
* Briony has put together a leaflet, highlighting our greatest achievements and Anna will write a piece about setting up and running the Choir to add to it. Lucy and Janet suggested we share this with the local press. Janet suggested it would be perfect for a ‘Spotlight’ article in the Roundabout magazine and has a contact there, Phil Kemp.
* All greed that £5:50 per anniversary mug, that we had thought of giving to each Choir member, was too expensive. Discussed whether to investigate whether Choir members would like to buy their own. Chris will contract the Greyshot Pottery to investigate whether they can supply mugs at a more reasonable cost and research other companies.
* Lucy suggested that a drinking glass could be a lower cost alternative, as they can be laser engraved, which Chris will follow up.
* Wording, size and position of the logo were discussed. It was agreed that the front of the mug/glass will say ’20 Years of Guildford Vox’, with our logo on the back, all in a size that stands out.
* **Christmas Performances**
* An afternoon concert with Alder Valley Brass is booked for the 30th of November in Normandy Village Hall, time to be arranged. All the planning is being undertaken by the band.
* On the 13th of December, we are singing with Anna’s trio. The cost for the trio is currently unknown.

Discussed how to cover the cost of this event, as our current rehearsal venue has a limited number of places available, after Choir members are considered.

Lucy suggested online ticketing with no door sales, could solve the problem of people turning up unexpectedly.

If we were to choose another venue, Lucy suggested Christ’s College Theatre and will pass a link on the Chris.

Kate will investigate the cost of Ripley Village Hall and Chris will discuss further with Anna.

Discussed the cost of tickets, with £12:50 being the suggested price. Chris will speak to Anna about the venue and costs, as Anna’s trio has previously sung with Horsell Sings.

* **Last rehearsal, 2025**
* The last rehearsal will be held on the 15th of December. It was agreed that we should hold this as a relaxed singing session just for Choir members with wine, minced pies and a possible open mic session.
* **Ideas for 2026**
* All agreed with Lucy’s suggestion of taking apart in outdoor events. Suggested places included:
* Guildford Cricket Club, - Chris has a link here.
* Long Dog and Hog’s Back Brewery events – Kate to follow-up.
* River Wey celebration at Dapdune Wharf – Kate to follow-up.
* Community festivals – Chris has a link here.
* Choir Blast.
* A Choir tour and/or Guildford Vox and Horsell Sings Workshop Day.

**AOB**

* Lucy thanked everybody for the opportunity of being a guest conductor.
* All agreed to spend £55 on a phone free card payment device.
* Chris to follow up with Anna on our 20th anniversary song commission.
* Date of the next meeting will be Thursday the 9th of October and Geoff has again generously agreed to host.
* The AGM will be held during the rehearsal break on the 17th of November.
* Meeting dates of the 10th of February and the 14th of May 2026 were agreed.