



Affiliated to Making Music
Registered Charity No. 288724

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2018 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Hayloft, The Lymington Centre**

Present:	Shirley Hewitt	Chairman
	Sheila Hammond	Secretary
	Nichola Kirby	Treasurer
	Viv Parsons	Publicity
	Ann Blacklock	Librarian
	Michael Goldthorpe	Musical Director
	Maureen Askin	Soprano Rep
	Sue Rusling	Alto Rep
	Karen Brett	Assistant Treasurer
	Barbara Warburton	Minutes Secretary
1. Apologies:	Chris Hobby	Bass Rep
	Jill Hendey	Fundraising
	Timothy Rice	Accompanist
	Ann Lewington	Associate Members
	Barry Kent	Tenor Rep

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 September 2017 were agreed. It was noted that the Town Council grant for the harpist had been received.
- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** Shirley added that the Blessing of the Crib had been very well attended, and Bill Bonett's photos had been outstanding. The only negative feedback she had received concerning the Christmas concert was the crowding round the drinks tables. For future concerts, three drinks tables, including one for the choir near the sacristy, would be needed. Shirley had mentioned to the Town Council that we were applying for a grant from Redrows, and been encouraged by their response. If successful, the keyboard could be kept at Shirley's. Sheila asked Nichola to check whether the Rathbones money due from the Carol Service had been received. After covering Michael and Timothy's fees, there would be a profit to LCS of £200. Viv suggested that Rathbones might like to sponsor one of our programmes and would follow up.
- 5. Musical Director's Report:** Michael added that the Josephine Baker Trust would cover the cost of four soloists for the May concert. The orchestra would consist of 25 players, all of whom had been booked, apart from one trombone. The leader would again be Jenny Knights. Regarding the December Concert, when the Gounod *Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cécile* was planned, when more players would be required, increasing our costs, he announced that the Rachael Sharman Trust had pledged to treble their grant

to £3,000. The music could be hired from Bournemouth Library if necessary. Purchase price was approximately £200. Ann would check availability, adding that the Lymington library was being difficult about ordering music for hire, referring her to the on-line system. It was advisable to order the music promptly as this year is Gounod's bicentenary and it would be in demand. Orchestral music would also cost £200 to buy. Michael said that the Berlioz could be sung in English. Psalm 150 would be accompanied by the orchestra. Jason had requested "When icicles hang" but he had not stated by which composer. Bethlehem Down had also been suggested but was considered too difficult.

Michael suggested Haydn's Creation for May 2019, which albeit long, was not considered too difficult.

The Christmas 17 Concert was discussed; there had been feedback from the audience that the carols had been pitched too high for the men. The children's behaviour had been disappointing, and it was suggested that for future concerts, a responsible adult be assigned to sit with them after their performance.

6. **Vitré Visit:** Forty-four people had signed up, split 50/50 between hotels and hosts. Karen had received payment from all but one and would send the list to Shirley. Income and expenditure for this must be shown separately in the accounts to comply with Charity Commission rules. There might be a deficit of about £150, for which could be covered by an extra fundraising event. *[afternote by Shirley: we have had two more bookings, so we now expect to break even].*

Explaining the French Visit income/expenditure to date, Shirley confirmed that the coach would cost £2,480 (£100 deposit had been paid, balance due in March) and the ferry had been booked and paid for @ £1,160. There would be a few more items to pay at the time of the visit. The motorway tolls had been budgeted at approximately £200, Karen would check on line. The exact amount would depend on the exchange rate. Regarding the 'Entertainment Fund' total, Shirley explained that although the Accounts showed a balance of some £272, this figure represented accumulated funds from the previous visit by the French in 2014 and was earmarked for hospitality on their future return visit.

Shirley had been in touch with Jean-Louis Boudeville, Chair of the Vitré choir; he would send the provisional programme soon. He was also organising hosts; It was intended to ask which LCS visitors spoke French, to assist with matching to hosts. Guidance would be given to LCS visitors on suitable gifts for their hosts. Shirley remarked that the Vitré hosts were always generous with their hospitality.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** Although the report did not include figures for the May 18 concert, Nichola considered that the Society's finances were in a healthy state. She reminded the meeting that the analysis of concert costs showed only half the year's costs, since they were included in the previous year's accounts. Rathbones income would come under the General column. The Conductor's fees for the Rathbones concert were included. Nichola pointed out that the document was a draft and would be updated. Music hire and sales covered the period from August 17. £130.50 for the December concert would appear in the next accounts. Some monies had been received for music hire by another society. It was noted with satisfaction that the rehearsal raffle had raised £357.39 and rehearsal refreshments £25.10, both useful additions to the Society's funds. Nichola asked for the paying-in book so she could complete the analysis. Michael was due reimbursement for the online 'Concert Diary' costs for 2017. Shirley would do this very shortly. Hire of the church had cost £330, with £50 extra being charged for the hall.

Shirley concluded that LCS finances were healthy and the outlook was good as long as we maintained momentum with the planned fundraising activities

8. **Publicity:** Viv said she thought the earlier date of the December concert had helped swell numbers, as potential audience members had not filled their diaries with Christmas events. The December concert would be held on the equivalent weekend this year (1st Dec). The Undershore banner had been a success. Although she had been unable to arrange advertisers for the December Concert programme she would try again for the next concert. She was pleased that even so, nearly £165 had been raised by the raffle, and nearly £120 in programme sales. Shirley had retrieved the A-boards after the concert, which would be returned to Viv in due course. Karen mentioned Facebook and Twitter as potential publicity sources. There were no volunteers to take care of this. Michael congratulated Viv on the website, which was well used. Even though a few people found it difficult to use, this was generally down to “user error”.
9. **Librarian’s Report:** Ann reported that the Library had increased their hire fees to £150 for all the music required. She expressed concern that LCS librarians and their helpers were paying out large sums of cash for music which they might find difficult. Shirley said they should request an LCS cheque at the time, rather than spend their own cash. Shirley and Sheila usually had their cheque books handy at rehearsal. Ann asked for thought to be given to some male volunteers to help carry the music, as it was heavy. The cupboards in the Community Centre were a valuable asset, although there wasn’t enough space. Elizabeth Thorn was also storing some music at her house. Shirley would ask the Lymington Centre if we could be allocated space for another. Viv said she had a cupboard at home which she could offer. Regarding insurance, Shirley confirmed this was provided by ‘Making Music’. Nichola would check whether this covered loss of property.
10. **Fundraising:** Sheila reported that the Milford Church Hall had been booked for the quiz on 23 February at 7.00 p.m. The charge was £78 but it had only been £42 last time; The choral day had been only £65 and that was a whole day; the quiz was only from 5.30 to 10.00 p.m. Maureen undertook to check when she was there the next day. The event would include fish and chips, and would cost £10. Sheila would prepare a list for people to sign up.
The Spring Fayre was to be on 5 May - the Bank Holiday weekend.
The Milford Lunch was booked for 6 July. Maureen said that she would arrange the helpers, remarking that new regulations stipulated that no-one over 80 years of age could work in a catering kitchen. She would keep in touch regarding whether any LCS volunteers were needed. The lunch was very popular last year and in fact had been oversubscribed.
11. **Bass Rep’s Report:** Chris had emailed his report as he had been unable to attend.
12. **Any Other Business:** There would be a rehearsal for the Vitre visit on 16 May in the Fuller McClellan Hall.
13. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in the Hayloft.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.