

In 2016, all the Committee were elected as First Trustees under the new Constitution. The length of Trustees' tenure of office was two 3 year terms. As all had started from year zero, and to avoid all Trustees' terms ending at the same time, last year three Trustees had agreed to retire and submit themselves for re-election, thus staggering the introduction of new Committee members.

Likewise, this year, **Sue Rusling**, Alto representative, had agreed to retire and be nominated for re-election to her second 3 year term, to continue to stagger our end dates.

Proposed Judy Kent Seconded Cynthia Chambers

All the above Committee changes were agreed unanimously by the Members.

The other members of the Committee were happy to continue, as follows:

- Shirley Hewitt Chair
- Nichola Kirby Treasurer
- Maureen Askin Soprano Rep
- Barry Kent Tenor Rep
- Chris Hobby Bass Rep
- Ann Lewington Patrons and Associate Members
- Viv Parsons Publicity
- Jill Hendey Fundraiser/Archivist
- Ann Blacklock Librarian

Thanks were extended to them for their commitment to the running of the Society, and also to Michael Goldthorpe, ex-officio member, for his wise counsel and contributions. Timothy Rice also attended committee meetings, and his comments and feedback were much appreciated.

The Chair's term of office would end in 2020, only the year after next, so the search would soon be starting for a replacement.

A request was made for any member who was interested in becoming more involved in the running of the Society, to approach the Chair or one of the Committee. Help would be appreciated with a number of tasks, for example, with publicity, preparing for the concerts, assistance to the librarian, the list was quite long. Helpers would not need to be on the Committee.

5. Chairman's Review.

The last term was indeed a busy one, with the additional Vitre trip. With regard to the invitation extended to the French to visit Lymington for a weekend at the end of May 2020 to perform in a joint concert, a good response was expected. The Chair asked all to note their diaries, as people would be asked to act as hosts. Those who were involved in the 2014 visit would remember there were 55 guests, and some 40 hosts.

The Chair's report highlighted the events of the year, and contained many thank you's, because it was only with the help and commitment of the members who volunteered for jobs, that members were able to enjoy the rehearsals and concerts, not forgetting the hard work in organising the fundraising and social events. As said in the previous item, the Committee were always looking for more help. New people and those who had returned after a break were encouraged to become involved.

The Chair was delighted that the membership was high this term, there were currently over 80 Performing Members. The concert seating might be rather tight, especially as there would be 40 in the orchestra, but she promised that all would be able to see Michael.

There were no questions on this report.

6. Musical Director's Report.

This was included in the AGM pack. It was stated that between 20 and 30 students, some from Priestlands, would be participating in the December concert. It is expected that these would be seated in the Gallery.

The members were asked to suggest musical works to be sung during the 2020/21 season.

Mike Matthews asked if there were any plans to commission a work for the Society's Diamond Jubilee Year (2021). This would be considered.

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts.

Presented by the Chair as Nichola Kirby was unable to attend the meeting

The Accounts had been independently examined and were included in the AGM pack. The version in the pack had been updated subsequently, as a couple of minor amendments were needed on page 2. The amendments were as follows:

- An addition to the list of Trustees for the year to 31st July 2018: Barbara Warburton, Minutes Secretary to the Committee.
- In Objectives and Activities, the last line of the 2nd paragraph, had been amended to 'Vitré' to show the acute é.

Receipts: A highlight was the very good amount received from Gift Aid, because of the Society's Registered Charity status. In the current Financial Year, the Gift Aid annual return has been submitted and the expected contribution was £855. So this annual return was very well worth doing.

Income from Ticket sales was worryingly down. The concerts were very expensive to put on and members were strongly encouraged to sell concert tickets to family and friends. If each member sold two full price tickets each, the income would be some £2,500. It was not expected that the concerts would ever 'break even' but high ticket sales would take the pressure off fundraising.

Grants and Donations were much appreciated. Special mention was made of the Rachel Trust for their ongoing support and special generosity this year.

Thanks were given to Patron Wendy Eathorne for the donation from the Trinity Laban Concert.

The Fundraising total of nearly £3,000 was commendable. Thanks were given to those who had worked so hard to achieve this sum.

There was an acceptable deficit. The Committee would aim to maintain a healthy balance to ensure that there were adequate accessible reserves.

Proposal for adoption of the accounts: Sue Rusling Seconded: Chris Hobby
Adopted Unanimously

The correct version of the Accounts would be posted to the Website and a hard copy would be available on request.

The re-appointment of Mr Roy Patterson as the Society's Independent Examiner was proposed by the Chair, and seconded by Pat Mennie.

Agreed Unanimously

8. Publicity Report.

The report was included in the AGM Pack.

The publicity team were thanked for their hard work and a request was made for additional help, which would be greatly appreciated. Members were reminded of the half-price to members offer for Concert Programme advertisements.

9. Fundraising Review

There were five major fundraising events during the year. Thanks were extended to all for the hard work that was put into making these so successful **February Quiz**. This had been run since 2003 by Sheila Hammond and Jill Hendeby. They had decided to step down from its organisation but it was confirmed that a quiz would be held in 2019 by other organisers.

Spring Fair. This had been a very successful event and the next Fair would be on 4 May 2019

Afternoon Tea. A lovely event on a sunny day that was enjoyed by all.

July Milford Lunch. Another great success and very well attended.

Weekly Raffle. This continued to raise significant funds. Thanks were extended to Sue Strong for her work.

10. Librarian's Review.

The recent hire of Voice and Orchestral parts had been achieved very cost effectively. Members were reminded to hand their music in promptly following concerts.

LCS music scores continued to be hired by other societies, bringing in a good income.

Orchestral parts for 'The Creation', to be performed in May 2019, had already been purchased.

Thanks were extended to Elizabeth Thorn and Deborah Swan for their help.

11. Associate Members and Patrons.

At the date of the AGM, two Patrons and eight Associate members had joined the Society.

12. Date of Next AGM. Suggested date: Wednesday 16th October 2019.

Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting was closed at 1940.