



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16 October 2019

The chair welcomed Wendy Eathorne, Patron, Mr L Gregory and Mrs N Kirby, Associate Members and extended a special welcome to new members attending their first AGM

The chair noted the sad loss of longstanding Patron, Dr. Ivor Johnston in May. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Chris Hobby, Ann Blacklock, Pat Mennie, Lynda Pierpoint, Diana Platt, David Parsons, Sue Cook, Celia and Ron Swan and Paul Barnes.
- 2. Minutes of AGM held 17 October 2018.** These were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by: Barry Kent

Seconded by: Mike Matthews

- 3. Matters Arising.** None.

- 4. Committee Elections.**

It was stated that there were 6 Committee members coming to the end of their 1st term of 3 years, who were happy to be re-elected to their 2nd Term of 3 years. The Constitution suggests only a third are re-elected at a time, which would be 4, however, there were no members wishing to stand against them, and advice had been taken that this is acceptable in order to avoid a shortage of Committee members. The Membership were asked to re-elect all 6.

Sheila Hammond, Membership Secretary/Fundraiser:

Proposed by Pauline Stephens,

seconded by Rosemary Perryer

Jill Hendey, Fundraiser and Archivist.

Proposed by Viv Parsons, seconded by Delphine Matthews

Barry Kent, Tenor Rep.

Proposed by Mike Matthews, seconded by James Soper

Maureen Askin, Soprano Rep.

Proposed by Sue Strong, seconded by Sheila Hammond

Ann Lewington, Patrons and Associate Members.

Proposed by Karen Brett, seconded by Shirley Hewitt

Ann Blacklock, Librarian

Proposed by Joy Elphinstone, seconded by Karen Brett.

All changes were agreed unanimously.

It was stated that we will aim to align ourselves better with the Constitution during the next couple of years, in order to avoid a mass exodus of these Committee members in 2022.

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

- Shirley Hewitt, Chairman
- Karen Brett, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
- Sue Rusling, Alto Rep
- Nichola Kirby, Treasurer
- Chris Hobby Bass Rep

Viv Parsons, the Publicity Committee member, stood down at the end of her 1st term. Viv was thanked for her hard work in this challenging area. and for leading the Publicity Working Group with great commitment. Viv's work on the website has been invaluable and she has kindly offered to continue to manage the website.

Someone who to take on coordination of Publicity is being actively sort. This role does not have to serve on the Committee and could be filled by a friend or a family member.

In 2020, Chris Hobby, Bass Rep, Nichola Kirby Treasurer and Shirley Hewitt, Chairman will each have completed 6 years in office. Nichola and Shirley have informed the Committee

that they will not be standing for re-election. Candidates for both of these roles are being sort.

The Treasurer role requires a certain set of financial skills. A role description will be available for interested parties. As with the Publicity role the Treasurer could be a friend or a family member.

5. Chairman's Review

It has been a very good year for the Society Member attendance at rehearsals and concerts has been high. I'm delighted that we have 76 performing members this term and I hope you are all enjoying rehearsing the Christmas Concert pieces.

The Committee has met three times since the last AGM, and we feel that the Society is in good shape. The choice of music for the Concerts has been very well received by both members and audiences. Our finances appear stable. And there have also been very good responses to the social and fundraising events. Our Concerts always take a lot of planning, and then on the day there is a lot to do. So, I am grateful to those members, including the Patrons and Associate members, who come forward to give their support. More help is always needed. So here we are well into the Autumn term, and we have just had the Choral Day last Saturday. Thank you to all those who supported it, there were nearly 60 of us there, including 8 non-members. Alexander L'Estrange the composer of 'Wassail!' ran a very enjoyable 3-hour workshop, with enthusiasm and gave us great encouragement I thought. And thank you so much to Michael who was there all day, and introduced some potential Encore pieces to us in the afternoon session.

And talking of Wassailing and Carol Singing, most of you have seen Pauline Stevens' lovely painting of the choir singing for the Blessing of the Crib, outside St Thomas' Church, from a photograph of Bill Bonett's, from which we have produced Christmas Cards. Packs of 5 on sale from Sheila Hammond. And Pauline has donated the painting for us to raffle at the Concert. Thank you very much Pauline.

Michael's report has listed the key dates for our performances. But I have more to add. From 6th to 10th December, St Thomas' Church is holding their Christmas Tree Festival and I'm hoping that we can have a Choral Society tree. Volunteers, especially those who love arts and crafts, will be needed to design the decorations and decorate the tree! Naturally it is a golden opportunity to advertise the Concert. A quick mention about the weekend of our Spring Concert 2020 when the choir from Vitre will be joining us. I am delighted to tell you that Pat Mennie has kindly agreed to head up the French Visit Working Group. Thank you very much to Pat and those who have volunteered to be in the Group. Planning has already started, and you will all have seen the Hosting Questionnaire on your chairs this evening.

Just projecting ahead to 2021, which is the Society's Diamond Jubilee year. I think it would be appropriate to mark the year with some sort of social event. During the next year, the Committee is likely to start thinking. Any suggestions from the membership will be welcome.

There were no questions on this report.

Jason Pitt thanked the Chairman on behalf of Chris Hobby for all of her hard work during the year.

Shirley Hewitt thanked the Committee for their hard work and support.

6. Musical Director's Report. This was included in the AGM pack.

Additionally, Michael mentioned the report on the Choral Day that new member Suzanne Ashworth has submitted for publication to the Lymington Advertiser and Times.

He stated that he may investigate the possibility and potential costs of commissioning Alexander L'Estrange to compose a piece to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Society.

Elizabeth Thorn thanked Michael for arranging for Alexander L'Estrange to lead the morning of the Choral Day.

Michael thanked Shirley, Karen and Maureen for organising the Choral Day.

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts.

Nichola highlighted that the Society is in good financial shape and that the surplus in this year's accounts is particularly good.

The benefit to the Society of claiming Gift Aid was stated and members were encouraged to participate in this if they are UK Tax payers. All that is required is to sign a simple form that can be obtained from Sheila Hammond.

A thank you was extended to all of those who supported the Social Events and therefore made such a positive difference to the bottom line.

Nichola stated that not too much special knowledge is required to be the treasurer and that she may be willing to be the Independent Examiner once the new Treasurer is appointed.

Proposal for adoption of the accounts: Jill Hendey Seconded: Ann Lewington

Adopted Unanimously

The re-appointment of Mr Roy Patterson as our Independent Examiner was proposed.

Proposed: Sheila Hammond Seconded: Elizabeth Thorn

Agreed Unanimously:

8. Publicity Report The report was included in the AGM Pack.

Viv thanked the members of the Publicity Team for all of their hard work and support.

9. Fundraising Review

There were three major fundraising events during the year. Thanks were extended for all of the hard work that was put into making these so successful:

- Spring Quiz.
- Spring Fair
- Coffee Morning

This year's Milford Lunch will take place on 1 November. Members were encouraged to attend and there was a request for raffle prizes and for volunteers to help with the organisation.

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

10. Librarian's Review

Thanks, were extended to Ann Blacklock for her care and commitment to this important role. Ann ensures that we have the correct copies of concert music and that accurate records are kept so that these can be returned without the incurrance of fines.

Thanks, were also extended to those who help Ann with this role.

It was stated that Elizabeth Thorn is very kindly holding a considerable amount of music on behalf of the Society. Plans are in place to rearrange the storage space at LCC including improving the cupboards.

11. Associate Members and Patrons: At the date of the AGM 2 Patrons and 15 Associate members had joined the society.

The cost and benefits of associate membership were highlighted and members were asked to encourage family and friends to become associate members

12. Date of Next AGM: suggested date: Wednesday 14th or 21th October 2020

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