

LYMINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

1. Welcome by Chair

2.. Apologies for absence

Rosalie Mans, Jan Preston, Ann Keir, Val Robinson, Alan Bulloch, Hettie Armistead, Jo Turnage, Liz Wallbank

3. Minutes of AGM 20th October 2021

Accepted as correct: Proposed by Chris Hobby. Seconded by Jill Elphinstone

4. Matters arising

None

5. Committee Elections

Secretary – Rebecca Millington

Proposed by: Pat Mennie. Seconded by: Karen Brett.

6. Chairman's Report...as given by Pat Mennie:

“What an exciting year we have had; somewhat different from the one I reported on last year when covid restricted us to singing for just six weeks! We have had two sell-out concerts, the Faure Requiem last October and Karl Jenkin's Armed Man in May as well as enjoying some Christmas fun singing as guests to the Nova Foresta Orchestra. Such was the success of our concerts because of the quality of the singing, especially in the Armed Man, we had a larger than expected number wanting to join the choir. We started this term with 96 members and a waiting list for sopranos and altos. It has settled out a little now, with some realising they were not going to be able to make the commitment for the regular attendance that is so necessary to maintain the quality of singing to which we have now reached and our large audiences are expecting. Local folk are still commenting about the Armed Man performance...six months on and rightfully Phil our music maestro, is getting many accolades.

I would like to say now Timothy's weekly rehearsal support and Phil's Musical directorship have inspired us and made us really believe we can reach new heights. Thank you.....I have been one who initially found Barber's Agnus Dei difficult, but together with Vivaldi's Gloria, now know we are going to give a great Christmas Concert and will maintain our new reputation. Singing many of our favourites at Beaulieu, including Rutter, will be thrilling, and then to have the opportunity to make a CD and USB of the Choir, is the icing on the cake, especially as it is at no cost to the choir because of sponsorship at Beaulieu. We follow this with a concert of the magic of Mozart in May.

Of course, all these things do not just happen without a lot of work going on in the background and my first and fulsome thanks must go to Karen for her work as treasurer plus, plus, plus! Even last week she remembered that we need to apply for an interval drinks licence, her work has been endless ...thank you.

I would also like to thank Ann Blacklock for her work as music librarian, no mean feat as we overlap music requirements across the terms to fill the Beaulieu concert and recording...thank you. I would

also like to thank the voice reps, Chris, Jane and Sue and Maureen as she has stepped down after her 6 years on the committee. Thank you to Ann Lewington for her work with the Associate Members as well as Sheila Hammond, with new members and Jill Hendey, our archivist. I do appreciate all those willing to stay on the committee for many years and hope that others new to the choir will be happy to give a few hours to help in a variety of ways. One immediate need is web site editing as Viv Parsons who has done this for very many years, is stepping down. A big thank you to Viv who sadly will no longer be an active member of the choir because of the drive across the Forest in the winter. So, if anyone has a few hours a month on a computer, please talk with me or Karen.

I am sure this will be another notable year for Lymington Choral Society as our reputation continues to grow with your increased enjoyment and abilities and with the wonderful music Phil has in store for us".

7. Treasurer's Report

The full examined accounts were circulated a month before the AGM. The treasurer said at the meeting: ... We now have a healthy reserve to take us forward – increased by £4,000 this year. The upping of our subs has helped; also grants and donations from The Rachel Sharmon Trust, The Acorn Trust, and Dennis Rothwell. Gift Aid has enabled us to raise £1,600. Fundraising by Jill, Sheila and Sue has raised £1,700. Karen was thanked by all for these accounts and her work as treasurer.

8. Musical Director's Report

I look forward to this term's concert with relish and delight. It has been quite a journey so far...

I must say the highlight so far for me has to be the Armed Man performance last May. Last year when we started after the pandemic restrictions, it was hard to imagine such a concert like that could happen, let alone one of that standard and quality. We peaked at exactly the right time, and it was an extremely special and moving concert. I've performed nearly 3,000 concerts in my life and that one is in my top 5 favourites!

However, we must not rest on our laurels and continue our upward trajectory. We have a lovely Christmas Concert to look forward to with different vocal challenges, including the Barber Agnus Dei and Vivaldi's much-loved Gloria. I encourage you all to prepare by listening to these on Youtube, following a vocal score if you already have one. I have all the orchestra music sorted and players prepped.

Looking ahead to the spring, I am excited about our first ever appearance in the prestigious Music at Beaulieu concert series, followed by our first full recording 'Choral Classics Reimagined' in March. Repertoire for this shall be eclectic; literally 'Bach & Beyond'. A digitally edited professional recording is something that will need commitment and focus; we have a unique opportunity to create musical history for LCS with this recording.

This is not forgetting of course, our performance in May of Mozart's Requiem. Widely considered as the last part of the 'Holy Trinity' of great choral works alongside Handel's Messiah and Haydn's Creation. It will be another epic occasion in Lymington.

I thoroughly enjoy conducting LCS and I believe we will only get stronger.

9. AOB A vote of thanks to the Chair was proposed by Chris Hobby on behalf of the members

10. Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday October 18th 2023.