

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Arts Hall, Chepstow Comprehensive School, on Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 8.45pm

Present 42 members and the Musical Director

Introductory matters

The Chairman opened the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from the following members Gaynor McCarthy, Jean Toole, Nicola Giles, Anne Dunn, Kate McCoy,

1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2013 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Society on another excellent and successful year of music. I would like to formally thank the committee for all their hard work and dedication over this period. Their support and encouragement is greatly appreciated.

Our thanks also go to Graham and Marje –for without their constant guidance and sheer commitment none of this would be possible. I am very pleased to announce that both are happy to continue in their roles for the coming year.

We have had another busy year! Festive Carols at St Pierre, our delightful and traditional Christmas concert where we were joined again by The Beachley Military Wives Singers and the Dell School Singing Group, our Passiontide concert of Handel's Messiah in all its' splendour, and finally our successful Summer concert. A full programme that we should congratulate ourselves on!!

Our social calendar, thanks to Janet, has also been full- our Christmas get together, Cosi Fan Tutte at the Riverfront Theatre, pizza and skittles evening and most recently our beautiful picnic at Cannop Ponds. Thank you Janet.

The committee have had a busy year and continue to promote the Society.

- Regular committee meetings to plan for forthcoming concerts and events
- Quarterly newsletter providing useful information to members
- Our new pop up sign by local artist Susie Grindey
- Regular press releases

Planning for 2015 is well under way.

Sadly we said farewell to Pat Fleming this year. She was a loyal and dedicated member of the Society for many years. Many members were able to attend her funeral. A beautiful lady who will be greatly missed, but lovingly remembered.

3. Treasurer's Report

Last years accounts were audited by David Paske as all in order.

At the end of this financial year, we have almost broken even, being only c£300 down on the year. This was mainly driven by some increased costs (eg hall & church hire) & creation of the new Chepstow Choral Society banner.

Subscriptions were slightly up. Whilst attendance at the successful (but loss making) Messiah concert was up, worryingly, profit for other concerts was down and it is imperative that all choir members both sing in and sell tickets for all concerts to help secure the financial position of the choir.

As a result of the financial forecast of for next year, (we expect to see c £700 deficit), Brian is recommending that subscriptions remain at £60 this year, but if the ticket income does not improve, will be forced to recommend an increase next year. We also anticipate that music may not have such a great subsidy this year. We would also like to increase the musical director and assistant musical director honorariums, but will look at this for next year.

(accounts sent by email with these minutes)

Pat Dawe reminded everyone to please gift aid if they can – we had £1000 from this last year.

Dorothy Smith suggested Easy Shopping as a fund raising activity – we will look into it.

Doug Lawrence queried the increased admin costs – mainly down to a few one off costs eg new banner and should not be an ongoing issue.

Anne May asked about the website update. Angela apologised for her time pressures and hence asked for understanding from choir. Will get basics added to old website to ensure it's up to date.

Peter Evans queried reduction in grants – Brian explained we had no civic concert grants this year &, Ty Cerdd grant is down.

Sheila Trott asked if we have a Town Council grant – Brian explained these tend to be one off costs not running costs. Hywel asked if website design could be considered a one off cost – a great suggestion, which Brian will look into.

Roger Martin approved accounts as submitted, Tony seconded.

And Brian was given permission by the Roger on behalf of the choir to have the accounts audited by David Paske again.

4. Membership Secretary's Report

Membership

Welcome all members to our AGM, spookily the same no of attendees as 2013 !

A year ago we had held our ' choral workshop' and recruited a good number of new members who are still with us. We also welcomed more new members who had joined during the course of the year and those who had returned after an absence. We hope everyone feels welcome.

We enjoyed singing carols at St Pierre, and our regular Christmas concert was special as always. The Messiah concert had been the year's highlight for many members and we received a very large number of favourable comments following the concert. The Summer Concert had been most enjoyable and the social afterwards gave an excellent opportunity for us all to get together with each other and with patrons and guests. These occasions are really important for the choir.

Membership numbers: Total 65. (S 26 A 24 T6 B9)

Thankyous

Thanks to Janet for the lovely organised social events that we have enjoyed this year.

Thanks to Christine for her input as our new librarian, after taking over from Angela Moore last year.

Thanks to Graham for the production of the very useful music booklets which he has provided for some of our recent concerts.

Patrons

We have 49 patrons- the highest ever number. Thank you to all our patrons for their continued support and we welcome and encourage new membership of our patrons' group.

Farewell

We said farewell to Pat Fleming who had sadly passed away during July. She had been a very committed long-term member of CCS and although very poorly, Pat came along to support us at our last concert in June. Many members had been able to attend her funeral.

And Finally ...

A very big 'thank you' to Graham and to Marjorie for all their efforts, time and patience!

Looking forward to the year ahead 2014-2015!

5. Election of officers and committee members for 2014-15

| POST | NAME | NOMINATED | SECONDED |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Chair | Sue Carter | Sylvia Jackson | Gillian Lambert |
| Secretary | Angela Ham | Judith Wells | Yvonne Copestake |
| Treasurer | Brian Duerden | Roger Martin | Dorothy Harris |
| Member Secretary | Jean Parkes | Doug Lawrence | Sue Carter |
| Publicity Secretary | Yvonne Copestake | Sylvia Jackson | Jean Parkes |
| Sop Rep | Keli Beamon | Trish Trickey | Sylvia Jackson |
| Alto Rep | Christine Lovett | Judith Wells | Anne May |
| Male Rep | Roger Martin | Derek Dye | Sheila Trott |
| Social Secretary | Janet Ellard | Continuing on | |

All nominees were elected unopposed and will serve as the Society officers and committee for 2014-15.

6. Any other business

Pat Dawe will send greetings on behalf of the choir to Cynthia & Tony Mitchell when she sees them shortly.

Peter Evans asked if we could introduce new members more formally. A discussion was had but generally felt it may be a bit intimidating. All members should make an effort to welcome new members – it would be good if everyone can take responsibility for this.

(Graham also suggested he might mix us up in the odd rehearsal or two to meet new people!)

7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18pm.