

## CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Arts Hall, Chepstow Comprehensive School, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 8.35pm. Present 56 members

The Chairman opened the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from the following members : Ivor Cavill, Dorothy Smith, Jean Toole, Sylvia Lemon, Rosemary Ing, Janet Gregory, Angela & Derek Dye, Sarah Whitehead, Richard Kubiak,

### **1. Minutes of the 2016 AGM**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### **2. Chairman's Report**

Congratulations on yet another successful year of beautiful music. It has been a fantastic year for the Society and we should be extremely proud of ourselves !

Thank you to the loyal committee for all their commitment, hard work and support over the last 12 months. It is wonderful to work with such a capable group of people who carry out their designated tasks with minimal fuss. Thank you very much.

On behalf of the committee and members I would like to thank Graham, Marje and Richard for their dedication, motivation and guidance, which never fail. I am happy to announce that all are happy to remain in their current roles.

Chepstow Choral Society has had another busy and rewarding year.

We commenced our year with our October workshop which ranged from Mozart's Requiem to Bond!! Although it was not well attended by non members it gave our members a lovely afternoon of singing and valuable time to socialise - something we don't always have at Wednesday's rehearsals.

In late November festive carols at St Pierre in aid of The St David's Hospice Care got us in the festive mood for our traditional Christmas concert in early December at St Mary's.

Our Passiontide concert delighted our audience with the well loved Mozart's Requiem followed by Haydn's beautiful Maria Theresa Mass. Our soloists and CCS Orchestra were superb. It may have been April the 1<sup>st</sup> and we may have encountered several obstacles on the way, but we rose to the challenge and came out on top!!

Our summer concert - A Summer Celebration was certainly just that. Choruses from Bach, Mendelssohn and Haydn were followed by English Madrigals and Classic pop ballads. Need I say more!!

Of course we must not forget our taking part in The Big Lunch at Chepstow Castle and the highlight of our year, filming with Tony Robinson at Tintern Abbey for Channel 4's Britain's Ancient Tracks.

Our social calendar has also been busy. Our New Year meal at Abbey Mill, Tintern and most recently the pizza and skittles night at The British Legion. Thank you to Janet for all her hard work in organising these events.

The committee continues to promote the Society and has had a full year.

- Regular committee meetings to plan for forthcoming concerts and events.

- Quarterly newsletters continue to provide useful information to members.
- Regular press releases.
- Forward planning for 2017/18 continues.
- Facebook and Twitter. We have indeed entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century!!

Lastly, I would like to thank our unseen helpers, many of whom do their duties with little fuss. Hywel on camera, Christine on music, Peter on posters, John Rodgers and his team on lighting, Brian and the front of house team to name but a few.

Sue Carter, Chair, September 2017.

### **3. Treasurer's Report (attached)**

Brian confirmed that the 2015/16 accounts were audited by David Pask and he is satisfied with them as a true record.

We were very happy with this year's figures and the finances are in good shape. We had forecast to make a loss this year of around £800 but actually we did slightly better, only losing £613. The major influences on this outcome were the increasing of subs to £80 last year which improved income, and the larger, more costly Spring concert. Music expenses & income pretty much balanced out. Ticket sales for Spring were good, but Summer concert tickets were down on previous year. At the end of the financial year we have £7114 in the bank which is a comfortable buffer.

Q: What are the bank charges ? A : CAF Bank has now decided to charges all charities £5 a month - ironic since it was set up specifically to support charities.

Adoption of accts. Proposed : Alison Bevan, Seconded :Stephen Adamson

The members are happy to have David Pask review this year's accounts.

Brian presented the budget for coming year, which indicates we could make a small surplus of around £700. However, this is all dependent on keeping up ticket sales for concerts and we ask that everyone does their part to at least match this year.

It was recommended that subs stay at £80. Proposed:Sue Maine, Seconded: Sylvia Jackson

Q: What are the organ hire & percussion costs? A: These instruments will be needed for our Spring concert. We are hiring the organ that we did in 2016, and was so successful.

Q What is the £500 administration cost? This is a catch-all budget for a number of things over the year eg. postage, stationery, website costs etc

Finally, we received a £49.90 cheque this week from Music Dynamics - a company that had gone into liquidation. Nice to get something back !

Brian Duerden, Treasurer, September 2017

#### **4. Membership Secretary's Report**

We have enjoyed a happy year of music-making and our concerts have been well-attended and we all can recall highlights from them. Sue mentioned in the most recent CCS Newsletter our participation in the BIG LUNCH and who could forget the filming at TINTERN on that glorious warm Summer's evening a few months ago - our 15 minutes of fame ! We look forward to viewing the actual programme on CHANNEL 4.

##### Welcomes

A warm welcome was extended to all present and especially to those who have joined during the last choir year, Altos, Helen and also Sarah who has returned to us following a break. Sopranos, Catherine, Karen and Pat. Bass, Adrian. In particular, welcome to all those who have joined this term, Alison, Janet and Sue in the Alto section, Rosemary in Sopranos and also Anne who has returned to choir. Stephen, Stuart in Bass section and also Graham and Andrew in the Tenor section. We hope that you are enjoying singing with us and are looking forward to our future performances.

##### Farewells

Towards the end of our Spring term this year we bade a reluctant farewell to Doug Lawrence our dear friend who retired from the choir after many years as an enthusiastic chorister having been one of the Society's founder members. He had also served as Society Treasurer for some 18 years. If you recall, a collection was taken up among members and Doug was delighted with the gifts presented to him on your behalf by Sue, Angela, Marjorie and myself when we visited him and his lovely wife Iris, a former CCS Patron. A group of gentlemen recently paid him a visit and he was most pleased to see them and to be able to reminisce over happy times.

We were all shocked and saddened at the unexpected passing away of Richard Driver, from the Tenor section, shortly after our return to choir early last term. Richard joined us in 2011 and took great pleasure in his membership of the choir. Meg, his widow, was, and still is a very enthusiastic Society Patron and felt able to come along to our Summer Concert and was most touched by the rendition of a piece of music sung by the men as a tribute to Richard. Meg had previously expressed her thanks to the Society for condolences received and for the attendance at Richard's funeral by choir members. Our thoughts remain with Meg and her family.

Most sadly for Judith in the Alto section was the recent very sad loss, following a long illness, of her dear husband Reg. Reg had been a very enthusiastic Patron and Supporter of the Society and together with Judith they encouraged their friends to come along to our concerts and it was always a pleasure to reserve the large number of seats for Reg and friends. Our kindest thoughts and support remain with Judith.

##### Patrons

Our thanks go to all CCS Patrons for their continued support and encouragement. As always it's good to see such numbers in the 'reserved' places at our concerts and also to have the opportunity to meet many of them at social gatherings. There are currently 46 Society patrons, slightly down from 48 this time last year. Please suggest Patrons' membership to family and friends – many of whom would probably come along to our concerts any way—or even think of a Patrons' subscription as a present ... It's always good to see a long list of names in our programmes. Perhaps an extra gift for 'someone special'.....!

## Thank you's

Thankyou to Christine for the unenviable job of CCS Librarian and Janet and Steve, our social events organisers.

A huge THANK YOU goes to Graham for his music leadership throughout the year, Richard for his lovely piano- playing and to Marjorie for so ably standing in for both Graham and Richard on occasions.

## Year Ahead

We have an enjoyable and varied programme in the year ahead details of which are in the latest CCS newsletter and we look forward to our rehearsals under Graham's leadership.

Jean Parkes, Membership Secretary, September 2017

## *Membership No's*

	<b>Sops</b>	<b>Altos</b>	<b>Tenors</b>	<b>Basses</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015/16</b>	18	25	6	10	58
<b>2016/17</b>	23	27	5	6	61

## **5. Election of officers and committee members for 2017-18**

<b>POST</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>NOMINATED</b>	<b>SECONDED</b>
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Sue Carter</b>	Alison Bevan	Sylvia Jackson
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Angela Ham</b>	Gill Pope	Yvonne Copestake
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Brian Duerden</b>	Judith Wells	Barbara Dwyer
<b>Member Secretary</b>	<b>Jean Parkes</b>	Stephen Adamson	Ivor Cavill
<b>Publicity Secretary</b>	<b>Alison Bevan</b>	Yvonne Copestake	Karen Power
<b>Sop Rep</b>	<b>Yvonne Copestake</b>	Dorothy Harris	Rosemary Hall
<b>Alto Rep</b>	<b>Christine Lovett</b>	Jan Butler	Helen Morris
<b>Male Rep</b>	<b>Hywel Williams</b>	Peter Evans	Sheila Trott
<b>Social Secretary</b>	<b>Janet Ellard</b>	Hywel Williams	Gill Pope

All nominees were elected unopposed and will serve as the Society officers and committee for 2017-8.

## **6. Any other business**

None, and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

*Angela Ham, Secretary, Chepstow Choral Society Sep 2017*