

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Arts Hall, Chepstow Comprehensive School, on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 8.45pm. Present 40 members

The Chairman opened the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from the following members : Nicola Giles, Janet & Steve Ellard, Dorothy Harris, Rosemary Ing, Glynis Croft, Gaynor McCarthy, Susan Maine, Kathryn Payne, Richard Kubiak, Derek Dye

1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2015 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

Congratulations on an extremely successful year of beautiful music.

It's been another 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. You have made my role as Chairman an absolute pleasure. I'm sure that the cake helps!!

This year we welcomed Richard Kubiak as our new accompanist. 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 one of our favourite events - our Patrons evening. Our patrons and guests joined us for an evening of splendid music including the rousing Zadok the Priest and Vivaldi's Gloria. In late November festive carols at St Pierre were followed by our traditional Christmas concert in early December and we were delighted to welcome back Peter Cook on the organ. Our Passiontide concert delighted our audience with the well loved Faure's Requiem followed by Dvorak's Mass in D. Our soloists, Angela and Roger, were fantastic- thank you. The highlight of our year has to be our summer concert -what better way to celebrate Marje's retirement than with a night at the Opera and musical theatre. It was truly a memorable night for us all !

Our social calendar has also been busy with our New Year meal at The Village Inn, the quiz night at Mathern and most recently the picnic at Beechenhurst Lodge. 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 2016/17 continues.

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 on lighting, Brian and the front of house team to name but a few.

Sue Carter, Chairman Chepstow Choral Society. October 2016.

3. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Brian confirmed that the 2014/15 accounts were audited by David Pask

We have made a surplus this year of £1,443 as the committee's careful planning kept us in a strong position. Main points to highlight : lower concert costs (no orchestra), honoraria for Graham & Marje were not increased and we did sell more tickets this year. But subscriptions were down in 2016 with fewer paying members, and rehearsal hall costs did go up. However the society is in a sound position with assets of £7,727

Q. Do we get a Ty Cerdd subsidy ? Funding has been cut and grants are now allocated for different reasons, eg young musicians, community work, new compositions. So far we have not qualified for any funds but will keep checking this.

Q. Have we made any money from Easy Fundraising ? Yes, small amount. We could do with some more users. See our website for more details – its really easy.

The accounts were accepted by the members and Brian will now approach David Pask for auditing. Proposed by Sylvia Jackson, Seconded by Doug Lawrence.

Next years budget : we will have a more expensive year as we plan an orchestra concert. The committee have also agreed to increase the honoraria. As membership is also down a little, it was proposed that the subs need to go up to £80 to balance the books and keep our anticipated deficit to below £1000. Subs have not been increased for 5 years and it still only represents £2 a rehearsal.

There was a general discussion about this but universal agreement that the choir is still very good value for money vs other choirs & societies, and the increase was accepted.

4. Membership Secretary's Report

Membership No's

	Sops	Altos	Tenors	Basses	Total
2014/15	20	23	7	10	60
2015/16	18	25	6	9	58

MEMBERS

A warm welcome was extended to all present and especially to those who joined during the last choir year, Altos, Barbara and Lucy as well as Roger in the Tenor section and also to Alison, Sue, Jenny , Sopranos and Kathryn, Alto, who have joined us this term.

Sadly, for us, Roger Martin decided to retire from the Society after some 36 years. We are most grateful for Roger's contribution to the Society as a chorister, Tenor and Bass rep, music committee member and also as Society Chairman – twice-and we wish him well in his retirement. Also, sadly, we have recently heard that Bernard Hill is no longer able to sing with us due to a change in his circumstances. Both Roger and Bernard wish us well for the future.

Members were encouraged to invite new members via the Workshop and in general, especially men.

Members were also asked to complete membership forms to make sure we have current details on file & return to Jean with sub payments.

PATRONS

Thanks were extended to all CCS Patrons for their continued support and encouragement. It is always 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 48 Society patrons – and there is always room for more. Sadly, we did say goodbye to a couple who have passed away this year.

A welcome was extended to Richard Kubiak – our new accompanist, and to Marjorie who will be re-joining the Soprano ranks!

Thanks expressed to Christine, Janet & Steve for their efforts with music and socials.

And of course a huge thank you to Graham for his direction, enthusiasm & patience !

5. Election of officers and committee members for 2015-16

POST	NAME	NOMINATED	SECONDED
Chair	Sue Carter	Yvonne Copestake	Maureen Jackson
Secretary	Angela Ham	Alison Bevan	Sylvia Jackson
Treasurer	Brian Duerden	Barbara Dwyer	Doug Lawrence
Member Secretary	Jean Parkes	Stephen Adamson	Helena Shepherd
Publicity Secretary	Yvonne Copestake	Pat Dawe	Judith Wells
Sop Rep	Yvonne Copestake	Pat Dawe	Judith Wells
Alto Rep	Christine Lovett	Barbara Dwyer	Jan Butler
Male Rep	Hywel Williams	Sheila Trott	Richard Driver
Social Secretary	Janet Ellard	Continuing on	

All nominees were elected unopposed and will serve as the Society officers and committee for 2016-17.

6. Any other business

Stephen Adamson – raised the issue that as patrons have reserved seats at the front of the Arts Hall, they are then last out to the rapidly diminishing food. We do keep some food back to make sure it's not all gone, but will keep an eye on this.

He also raised strong concerns re lighting in the Arts Hall, an ongoing issue. The committee have been in touch with the school who are also trying to resolve it. It's not simple as specialist equipment is needed so it's an expensive job. It's a little out of our hands at the moment. We will try the drama room for rehearsals to see if it is better.

Mary Vittle – asked if we can check on heating in Winter as it goes cold after about 8.30.

Doug Lawrence – asked if we could check concert dates don't clash with major events – (eg final 6 nations weekends !) as they might affect audience numbers.

Peter Evans & Gill Pope – Raised question of age profile of choir and can we attract younger singers. It is true we are not a young choir, but we do have connections with local schools and encourage youngsters where we can.

Sheila Trott – Asked if Chepstow school could join us at Xmas concert. Hot of the press : we have already approached them, and they have agreed.

Christine Morton – Also suggested we could invite Chepstow school pupils to be involved in the Arts Hall concert in some way which we can look at.

Peter Evans – Although not made in public, due to time constraints, Peter wanted his thanks to the committee to go on record.

7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.