

# SALISBURY COMMUNITY CHOIR

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT CHAFYN GROVE SCHOOL

ON 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 7 PM

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Ed Bull, Wendy Bull, Liz Long, Francis Taylor, Sue Taylor, Jane Foley, Julia Day, John Carvell

59 members were present.

The Chairman Jane Capper opened the AGM and thanked everyone for coming.

## 2. MINUTES OF AGM 14/10/08

The minutes of last years AGM were read by Jane Capper, They were than proposed by Glynis White and seconded by Peter Hopkins as a true representation of the 2008 AGM.

## 3. TREASURERS REPORT

In Francis Taylors absence, Peter Hopkins gave a comprehensive overview of the choir's finances in a slide show presentation and a hand out to the members. It had been another busy year for SCC.

Questions were requested from the floor and were all answered satisfactorily. The accounts were then proposed by Mike Walker and seconded by Pippa.

Jane thanked Francis for all his hard work in maintaining the choirs' accounts.

## 4. CHAIRMANS REPORT (Summary)

Jane Capper told the choir that she was grateful to Colin Hunt, who had been stand in Musical Director for the autumn term of last year. Colin had been a long time supporter of the choir and the Christmas Concert was a challenge that the choir and he had taken on with great gusto. £1000 had been raised which had been split between Salisbury Hospice and Wiltshire Motor Neuron Disease Support Group. Jane said she hoped that we could remain in contact with Colin, although she understood his commitments in Bath.

Jeremy Backhouse had joined in January as Musical Director and launched into Chilcott rehearsals. 10 members of Laudamus had joined us and one had stayed on and was now a member of the choir. In April Jeremy introduced David Corum as our accompanist, and the partnership worked well.

Bob Chilcott had visited the choir which was a high point for many. In May we had performed the world premier of the Salisbury Vespers and it had been an amazing experience. The Cathedral was packed; the composer was in the audience alongside Fiona who had been the original inspiration for the project. A debt of gratitude was owed to the Chilcott committee for all their hard work.

In the summer the choir played host to Sierra Vocal Arts from America and we performed a concert which raised over £1000 in ticket sales and donations which went to the Fezeka Scholarship Fund.

The Scholarship fund had a committee which was working towards giving it an independent status away from SCC. Jane wished the new committee and the Scholarship fund continuing success. Jane thanked all those who had contributed towards the £1200 raised by the barn dance which would go towards Amanda's education.

In September the choir had started the new term with a concert in Amesbury that had gone very well.

There had been a number of social events for the choir during the year, and Jane thanked all those who had worked so hard to make them successful events.

Jane said it had been a shame to cancel the tour for Prague, but hoped one could be arranged in the future.

Jane thanked Jeremy and the committee for their support, and suggested that others might like to come forward and join the committee in the future. It was hard work, but also a privilege.

##### 5. BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

Jane Capper stated that she would be standing down from the committee. The remaining trustees; Mike Hiles, Francis Taylor, Amanda Baldwin, Rose Hawkins, Annie Riddle, Peter Hopkins, Mary Onstenk and Rosie Norman wished to put themselves forward for another year. Proposed by David Machon and Seconded by Daphne.

There had been only one nomination, Katie Fry, who was proposed by Wendy Bull and seconded by Ann Galton.

The trustees had nominated Amanda Clarke (Baldwin) as Chairman, Francis Taylor as Treasurer and Mary Onstenk as Secretary. Proposed by Judy Davis and Seconded by Dot Walker

There were two trustees' places available on the committee, but only one nomination had been received, therefore no ballot was required. Katie Fry was proposed by Wendy Bull and seconded by Ann Galton.

Jane welcomed Katie to the committee. Jane said that there were people who were not on the committee who worked hard for the choir and there was a small presentation to Joan and Mike Hiles, Shelly Oxford and Ed Bull for all the work they do in running the register, putting out chairs, selling merchandise and opening and closing the hall each week.

There was a short break for refreshments.

#### Address by new chairman Amanda Baldwin

New Chairman Amanda thanked outgoing chairman Jane for all her hard work over the previous year.

A presentation was made to Jane.

Amanda went on to outline her vision for the future of the choir, and she hoped that the current ethos of the choir would continue.

Amanda then invited Jeremy (MD) to address members.

#### Address by Jeremy Backhouse (MD)

Jeremy thanked everyone for making him feel so welcome from the start. The past nine months with the choir had been a great time for him. It has been a learning curve for Jeremy – getting to know us, how quickly we learn new music, our responses to performing and the time to build a rapport between the choir and himself.

- Review of Chilcott experience – The Salisbury Vespers had been a unique occasion,
- And a great challenge for all involved. SCC had risen to it well. Our performance of the Totus Tuus was impressive and through our performance that night we had gained many admirers. Bob Chilcott had expressed his admiration for the enthusiasm and joy with which SCC sang.

- Concert with Sierra Vocal Arts from America – we had had very little rehearsal time but the concert had gone well.
- Workshop with Andrew Gant – on the whole people seemed to have thought that this was a positive experience. Jeremy apologised for there not being any technical support at this event, as had been advertised.
- Amesbury Concert – we had learnt 2 new pieces very quickly for this performance. Concert was very well received. Thanks was given to David Coram for his excellent organ solos.
- Jeremy thanked Colin Hunt for his huge contribution and commitment, and David Coram for his skill and expertise in accompanying the choir.
- Looking ahead – Jeremy then went on to outline his plan for the choir. These included:
  - Concert performances at the end of every term, in a variety of venues and with a variety of repertoire ranging from pop to religious.
  - The possibility of doing a recording was raised.
  - To maintain and build on our relationship with the Salisbury Festival
  - To continue with the idea of touring at some point in the future.
  - Organization of workshops with recognized musicians together with technical input.
  - Repertoire – This will include a wide variety of music. Jeremy suggested the following which he would like us to perform: “Te Deum” by Will Todd, Bob Chilcott’s “A Little Jazz Mass”, and a return to the “Salisbury Vespers” for a performance in 2012 in Guildford Cathedral with his Guildford choir. He also suggested a staged version of part of either Haydn’s “Creation” or Handel’s “Messiah” with the involvement of drama groups and the young musicians of Salisbury possibly in 2011.

Jeremy then rounded up by saying how he had seen the choir increase in confidence, and that this is something that we need to maintain. He also said that the choir should be very proud of their achievements.

Jeremy then received a long round of applause.

Questions were invited.

Topics which arose included:

- Lack of encore at the Amesbury concert.
- How we could encourage more men to join the choir.

Discussion of the following then took place:

Choir Charities -The beneficiaries of our Christmas concert were chosen - Salisbury Trust for the Homeless and the Salisbury Samaritans.

Hopes and Homes for Children would be beneficiary of next fund raising concert.

New members - how they were welcomed, and how it was felt this could be improved. Current membership 161.

Workshop -The possibility of organizing a workshop with one to one sessions was raised. Members present showed interest in this.

Venues - Size of venues chosen in relation to the size of the choir was discussed. Amanda explained that this had always been a difficult issue. The balance of voice parts always has to be taken into consideration.

Meeting closed 8.45