

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Salisbury Community Choir November 3rd 2011

Apologies – J. Kirby, T. West, A. Dean, S. Schruers, J. Head, C. Wilson, A. Price.

Minutes of the last AGM 23/09/2010

Amanda Clarke (Chairman) gave a brief summary of the contents of the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurers Report

Clare Jack gave a comprehensive review of the choirs' accounts for the previous year. A copy will be available for those interested on the choir website. Questions were invited from the floor and were all answered. Amanda Clarke to investigate and provide an answer to a question posed in relation to a donation the choir had made to the Trussel Trust.

Amanda proposed a vote of thanks for Clare.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by S. Bennetto and seconded by D. Machon. The accounts were duly adopted.

Musical Directors Report (Summary)

Jeremy Backhouse gave an overview of the concerts that the choir had given over the previous year.

Sutton Veny – Saturday 2 October 2010 - This concert had an attractive mix of sacred and secular pieces. A wonderful evening with some good singing – special thanks went to Peter Hopkins for his organisation.

Christmas concert in Wilton – 11 December 2010 - As last year this turned out to be a lovely evening of festive music involving choir and audience, mixing the traditional with the less well known.

Rodgers & Hammerstein in Wilton - 26 March 2011 – This included performance of pieces from “The King and I”, “South Pacific”, “Oklahoma!”, “Carousel” and “The Sound of Music!” Jeremy expressed his pleasure with this evening of light-hearted song and thanked those who stepped forward to sing solos items and ensemble pieces.

Where Two Worlds Meet – Cathedral – 21 May 2011– Jeremy reiterated his belief that one should not judge a piece of music, theatre or art until it is finished and/or performed. The approach of this piece was experimental and the choir had had to go along with slightly more informal ways of working, and trust that the co-creators would come up with something that excited and moved. The audiences had reacted very positively to the piece and it was good for the choir to have been involved in such a project.

Summer concert at the City Hall – 16 July 2011 – This concert was a mix of repertoire that the choir had learned over the year and before together with some new music. The concert also included some monologues expertly delivered by Chris Chelu. Jeremy reported that much of the concert went well, but some concerns had

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been aired about lighting and seating on the stage. However he felt that many of the problems which occurred during the concert were not due to such factors, but rather members not watching him and not having marked their copies appropriately. Jeremy finished his review of this concert by stating that there was much to commend it, but that there were lessons to be learnt by all.

Concert at Winterbourne Earls – 15 October 2011 – Jeremy reported that this concert was to raise money for Winterbourne Earls' Church toilet, hence the inclusion of the Halle-loo-jah chorus. £960 was raised.

Tour to Spain – 22-27 October 2011 – Jeremy reported that this was a tour that had absolutely everything. The most moving had been the concert in the Basilica in Montserrat, and the experience of singing in Figueres had been amazing with its fantastic acoustic. Jeremy thanked Katie Fry for all her hard work in organizing the tour with the help of Rayburn Tours.

Future Plans – Jeremy outlined future plans he has for the choir. These include:

- Two appearances at the Festival in May 2012. One performance will include the "Fire" piece which the choir rehearsed at the end of the summer and the other performance will be of a new work by the composer Johnathon Dove
- One concert per term with some smaller events in between.
- The introduction of new music of all varieties.
- A new venue and ideas will be sought for next year's Summer concert.
- A major concert and another tour.

Aims for next year – To continue introducing new music with as much variety as possible in order to cater for all tastes. Learning pieces from memory will also continue as this has massive benefits.

For every choir member to be more disciplined about bringing a pencil to every rehearsal and using this to mark their music. The point was made that hired copies of music must never be marked in pen or any other permanent marker.

Jeremy's three watch words for the coming year – WATCH, LISTEN and REACT.

Jeremy ended his report by thanking Amanda and the committee for their work, and David Coram for his ever imaginative contribution at the keyboard in rehearsals and concerts. He asked members to continue coming forward with suggestions and thanked everyone for their commitment to the choir.

Chairman's Report (Summary)

Amanda started by saying that as usual SCC had excelled itself during the year with an amazing range of performances and events. Although some concerts had been more successful than others the choir always gave everything and the audiences appreciated our efforts.

Over the year the choir had raised in the order of £5,500 for different charities including the Trussell Trust, Hope and Homes for Children, Wiltshire Young Carers and the Winterbourne Earls Toilets!

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Amanda went on to say that the friendliness of the choir and support that members gave to each other, together with the support and efforts of the committee are what make SCC such a wonderful thing.

Unfortunately not everything that had been planned for the year came to fruition – the recording of the Salisbury Vespers had to be cancelled due to financial constraints.

Amanda mentioned the loss of one of the choirs' long term members - Betty Dunne, and that a quiet special moment was held for her during the choirs tour to Spain. She will be sadly missed.

It was suggested that the proceeds from the Christmas concert should go to Salisbury Hospital League of Friends in Betty's memory.

Amanda then thanked members of the committee for their work. She also thanked the following people who work hard for the choir:

Jackie and her helpers who had provided lovely cakes for the choir to buy.

Glynis with her endless supply of plants and produce.

Joan for making the scarves and bow ties, putting out the chairs every week, taking the register and for making the lovely centre pieces for the Summer concert and donating the costs of these to charity.

Mike for also putting out the chairs and running the SCC shop and much more.

Shelley who also helps with setting up the rehearsal hall and taking the register. It was also noted that Shelley had sung a lovely solo whilst on the tour in Spain.

Louise for meeting and greeting, and like Joan had helped with the decorations for the Summer concert and donated her costs to charity.

David who had made sure of a venue for our rehearsals, and finding ones at very short notice

Mike for doing such an excellent job as membership secretary.

Clare for being the choir Treasurer for the past year.

And finally thanks were given to Jeremy and David.

Election of Trustees.

Amanda stated that David Machon, Mike Hiles and Clare Jack were standing down and that Ann Jackson and Anne Ruffer had been nominated to take places on the committee.

Ann Jackson was proposed by Moura Macdonagh and seconded by Jane Capper

Anne Ruffer was proposed by Shelley Oxford and seconded by Jan Hiles.

Both were duly elected to the committee.

Ed Bull was nominated for the role of Treasurer by Sue Taylor and seconded by Sally Bennetto

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Mary Onstenk was proposed for the role of secretary by Louise Machon and seconded by Liz Long.

Amanda Clarke was nominated for the role of Chairman by Daphne Ponsford and seconded by Mary Onstenk

Andrew Smith was nominated for the role of Deputy Chairman by Amanda Clarke and seconded by Katie Fry.

All the above were duly elected to the stated roles.

Amanda then invited questions from the floor.

A member suggested that each rehearsal should start with a warm up.

Jeremy replied saying that warm ups could be beneficial, but that they needed to be taken seriously, but if members were keen to have warm ups then he would start rehearsals with one. Other ideas for ways of warming up were voiced from the floor. A vote for inclusion of a warm up at the beginning of rehearsals was put to the choir. The proposal was defeated.

No other questions were forthcoming and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm