

CHIPPING NORTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 12th October 2011

APOLOGIES:-

Apologies had been received from Mike Crumpton, Martin Root, Becky Horton, Rosie Herdman-Newton and Rob Evans.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF AGM MINUTES OF 6th OCTOBER 2010:-

Matters Arising:-

- The £2,000 legacy has not yet been spent. The family are happy for the monies to go into “general funds”. The committee would like to do something with the monies for a suitable occasion.
- Standing through rehearsals on the day of the concert. These comments have been taken on board.

Minutes proposed by Betsy Tyler-Bee and seconded by Marion Stein – all in favour – signed by Chairman, Sarah Cobb.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – SARAH COBB:-

It continues to be a very healthy Society with over 112 active members on the database. Sarah explained that the cost of tickets remains the same so as to attract a large audience. Accordingly, it is important that all choir members try to sell their three tickets that are allocated. Becky Horton has taken on the role of publicity and will need help from choir members for future concerts that are held outside the normal area. The last two choir concerts have cost between £4,000 and £6,000 due to the excellent soloists and orchestra and the accounts demonstrate that a loss was made on each concert. Bernard’s summer concert, however, made a small profit which is excellent news! Bernard has plans for the summer 2012 concert being linked to the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations – provisional date is Saturday 23rd June.

As a result of keeping ticket prices the same and the financial losses being incurred, the committee recommends that the members’ subscription fee be increased by £5.00 from September 2012 – to £65.00 full, £55 concessions and £35 for under 18s. It is at least ten years since the fee was raised – all members agreed to this proposal. For simplicity, renewal dates will be on either 1st January or 1st September each year.

Election of the committee – Sarah explained that she was standing down as Chair after a thoroughly enjoyable five years. Toby Blundell has agreed to take over as Chair and Sarah will remain as Vice-Chair. All the remaining members have agreed to continue as follows:-

Beth Sinclair, Secretary; Graham Pike, Assistant Concert Manager and Friends; Vicki Pike, Librarian; Caroline Johnston, Librarian and Programme Designer; Betsy Tyler-Bee, subscriptions; Andrew Vaile, tickets; Becky Horton, publicity; Denis Wynn, Treasurer.

Sarah thanked all the concert stewards, refreshment organisers, servers and Leading Notes editors and contributors for all their hard work over the year. Thanks went to Peter, Bernard, Shauni and all members of the choir for everything that they do to make the Society such a success and so enjoyable.

Sarah congratulated Tish Nicholl and Rosemary Wilson who were awarded “Music persons of the year” by West Oxfordshire District Council for their sterling work with the annual Music Festival.

Roger Stein thanked Sarah for all her hard work as Chairman over the past five years.

TREASURER'S REPORT – DENIS WYNN:-

Copies were available for all members. The treasurer thanked Betsy Tyler-Bee and Andrew Vaile for their invaluable help with subscription monies and preparation and selling of tickets. Thanks also went to Mike Howes in producing the accounts. Thanks also went to Graham Pike for all his work involved with the Friends.

This year's accounts demonstrated that whereas a profit of £4,386 had been made in 2010, a deficit of £-4,395 had occurred this year due to two big concerts involving orchestras and first class soloists. The decrease in resources demonstrates the need for increasing members' subscriptions from September 2012. Ticket sales were reduced this year, perhaps due to the bad winter weather, which deterred people from travelling to Banbury. The bank interest received has increased this year from £8 to £58.

To summarise, income this year totalled £13,791 and expenditure costs totalled £18,186.

Denis explained that if we have four more big concerts, the funds will diminish quite rapidly.

QUESTIONS:-

- "See prior year note below" was questioned – typo and related to the previous year.
- The figure £5,782 relates to the overall expenditure minus the concert expenses which were £12,404.
- The accounts should be healthier next year with subscription rates increasing and having a concert that only involves two pianos with no orchestra.
- Why is there a loss on music hire and sales? It is because orchestral scores are included in this figure which the Society has to fund. *Librarians to review cost of hiring music scores.*
- There are 20 Friends at the moment – the Friends' subscriptions were absorbed into the normal subscriptions.

Accounts proposed by Roger Stein and seconded by Betsy Tyler-Bee. All members in favour of accounts being agreed. Thanks were paid to Denis for all his hard work with the accounts.

CONDUCTOR'S REPORT – PETER HUNT:-

Peter thanked everyone for another productive and enjoyable year with lots of hard work and sustained effort. The rehearsal pattern of changing seats continues to pay dividends both socially and musically. Peter welcomed all the new members.

Review of Concerts:-

Christmas 2010 – Mendelssohn's Elijah, Banbury

- A great concert with fantastic soloists thanks to Shauni.
- The Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra were business-like and good to work with.
- The choir were brilliant with a thrilling performance.
- The eight part chorus came slightly adrift due to the venue and unfamiliar positions - Peter reiterated the need for members to watch him

Chipping Norton Festival – March 2011

- Distinction – brilliant!
- The programme was performed well and none of the comments criticised basic choral techniques.

April 2011 – Back St John Passion – Deddington

- This was a superb concert – one of our best – dramatic and moving. It was very challenging.
- The band and soloists were outstanding
- The concert made us one of the best amateur groups in the County
- The German was excellent
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Peter read out some of the wonderful comments that had been received from members following this concert.

Future Thoughts:-

- The idea of a workshop has not yet occurred – maybe a fund raising occasion on a Sunday afternoon.
- Ambitious programming – this is a deliberate policy, as the funds are there.
- Consider stretching the schedule dates as sometimes one term feels too rushed
- Rehearsal seating at concerts

Peter thanked Bernard, Shauni and the committee for their support and guidance and being so open to suggestions and ideas. Special thanks went to Sarah for her professionalism and cheerfulness as Chairman over the last five years.

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR – BERNARD WEST:-

Summer Concert – June 25th Faure Requiem – Churchill

- ❖ This year had the biggest number of members singing – 50 members – which was most encouraging – maybe because the Spring concert had been earlier than usual.
- ❖ The choir was on excellent form and the quality of sound was fabulous through the whole dynamic range.
- ❖ The soloists and organist proved popular
- ❖ Bernard thanked everyone who took part in the concert including those who weren't able to sing but supported the choir as audience members.
- ❖ Thanks went to Peter and the committee
- ❖ It is good that a small profit was made!
- ❖ Next year's concert aims to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:-

Toby Blundell, Sarah Cobb, Denis Wynn, Beth Sinclair, Graham Pike, Vicki Pike, Caroline Johnston, Andrew Vaile, Betsy Tyler-Bee and Becky Horton.

Proposed by Wendy Barber and seconded by Edwin Wilson – all voted unanimously.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.