

Derbyshire Singers

Annual General Meeting minutes

Date: 19.01.21 at 7.30 p.m.

Venue: via Zoom

All paperwork for the meeting was previously distributed to choir members by email or post.

89% of members responded by email or telephone.

Questions received from members by email were fed into this meeting.

Apologies: Freda Chapple, Charlie Cope, Una Doyle, Julie Fletcher, Jonathan Francis, Barrie Greenwood, Jackie Grimshaw, John Hadfield, Mary Hill, Brian Key, Jean Munro, Peter Pitkin, Beth Richardson, Ann Singleton, Dorothy Smith
57 members attended the online meeting.

Pauline welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining the meeting online, voting online regarding the minutes and on the change to the Constitution. The minutes of the last AGM held on 14.01.20 were adopted as a true and correct record - proposed by Ruth Preston and seconded by Gill Lockwood. 80% of members had voted by email or phone to approve the minutes of 14.01.20 and 9% abstained as they had not been present. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Question from Lesley Butcher regarding subscriptions. Paul Thompson replied to say there will be no subscriptions until further notice and Pauline thanked members who are continuing their payments and who regard them as a donation to choir funds.

Question from Hilary Doherty regarding the size of the rehearsal room for the size of the choir. Pauline replied to say that we are not yet in a position to make decisions about future rehearsal rooms. The Trustees will continue to discuss this issue which is multi-faceted.

Question from Gill Lockwood about future plans and from Freda Chapple asking how we could bring people back together.

Plans have been constantly changing.

Lynne explained that the biggest challenge is that we don't know what state the choir will be in. Our vocal physical condition and stamina will have changed. We will keep revisiting, look at possible future programmes and aim for the first concert we do to include as many members as possible.

Joe outlined the current plan from Autumn 2021 – Messiah November 2021, Cracker December 11th 2021, Dream of Gerontius March 2022, Summer concert 'On the Lighter Side', Brahms Requiem November 2022, Cracker December 2022. This plan is very likely to change. Social distancing, rehearsal space, concert venues are all going to be challenges. Thanks to Pauline, Peter Holden and Shelley for their excellent medical advice. Advice from a singing colleague of Lynne's working on Covid transmission by singers is that it will be March 2022 before we can sing together safely.

Lynne added that for rehearsal venues, The Incorporated Society of Musicians suggest churches, schools or 'your local concert hall'! A lot of suggestions are for much smaller groups. Sectional rehearsals for us, aimed at decreasing the size of the groups, wouldn't work on a monthly basis.

Pauline read the Christmas card message and note of thanks from the Presentation Sisters and the Care Home staff for the delivery of wine and sherry to them at Christmas.

Pauline thanked Peter Jury on his retirement from the committee for his many years of work for the choir since it first started. Peter will continue to sing with us.

Pauline went on to thank Lynne and Joe for all that they do. She also thanked Lynne for running the musicianship classes on Zoom since September. She mentioned Lesley Butcher and Paul Thompson who joined the Trustees in January 2020 and have been great new additions to the committee. Lesley's remit is organisation of the Choral Weekend and Christmas Cracker which haven't taken place this year but thanks to her for her work as a Trustee. Pauline also thanked Paul who has taken over as treasurer at a difficult time both with respect to the pandemic and changes in the requirements of The Charity Commission.

The committee has continued to meet on Zoom throughout the year. Pauline put out a plea for members who might consider becoming Trustees as it is important to have 'new blood'. This year has been particularly difficult to recruit new Trustees and some continuity was thought to be important. Thanks to Chris and Helen for agreeing to stand again. Nominations were as follows:

Pauline Holden: Proposed by Liz Sheerin, Seconded by Madeleine Holmes.

Chris Baker: Proposed by Andrew Auld, Seconded by Janet Tsakiropoulou.

Helen Stafford: Proposed by Margaret Harris, Seconded by Julia Jackson.

As there was no one else standing, all three are re-elected for period of 3 years. There will be three Trustee positions coming up for election in 2022 so Pauline asked members again to consider standing for these.

She went on to outline the challenges of the vaccine program and emphasized that the committee would continue to meet and feed back to members. She thanked committee members for their work in meeting online. She gave particular thanks to Chris for maintaining contact with all members in a variety of ways and for introducing and managing the 'Musical Escapes'.

Lynne referred to the Musical Director and Conductor's report circulated before the meeting. She thanked the committee, all members for 'keeping with us' and endorsed Pauline's thanks to Chris. Lynne thanked those who joined the musicianship classes and mentioned that there are still places for cohort 3 which starts on 26th January.

Treasurer, Paul Thompson, began by thanking Beverley Sloan and Annabelle Godber, our outgoing and incoming Independent Examiners, for their past and current work. He also gave thanks to our previous treasurer, John Fussey, for his continued support and advice. Finally, he thanked members of the choir for their support.

Financially, comparisons with previous years don't stand up due to cancellation of concerts. The exception is the Christmas Cracker which was successful as a concert but, in keeping with the trend of previous years, showed similar income and increased costs. Some of these increased costs are due to changes in Health and Safety requirements. The Trustees will continue to monitor this. He referred to page 4 of the Treasurer's Report which shows financial activity by event over the year. There were some costs associated with cancelled concerts but, due to closely following government directives and Joe's negotiations of postponements, those costs were mitigated. Over the coming year our costs are not great and our reserves easily cover those so we are in a good financial position when we come out of the current restrictions.

There were no further questions about any of the reports presented and there was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.11 p.m.