

FARINGDON SINGERS

Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2 October 2014
7.45 pm at the United Church Hall

1. APOLOGIES - Jo Allan, Nicki Norris, Karen Vogt

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

After two corrections (*page 2* – both Terence and Maureen had represented the choir at David Peachey's funeral; *spelling* - Roy Woodhams) the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 26 September 2013 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT (from Aileen Bridge)

The Treasurer reported on a substantially good year, ending with £242.45 more in the bank than at the end of last year.

Subscriptions were down in the summer term, as generally happens, but otherwise they were holding up well as choir numbers remained high. Insurance costs had remained the same, and printing costs were kept down thanks to Janet's contacts. There had been a slight increase in accompanists' fees, but we had been fortunate to have good quality accompaniment.

The Come and Sing event had been very successful and, though only half the proceeds were given to charity on this occasion, there had still been a handsome gift of £457.50 to the All Saints' Church Barber Rooms Appeal.

Other charitable monies raised during the year were:

£400 to Blessed Hugh Faringdon for Oxford MIND
£243 to St Mary's Uffington
£420 to the United Church Faringdon
£307 to the Carterton and Brize Norton Churches – a total of £1837.50

4. MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (from Terence Carter)

The Musical Director said the choir had sung well, and he described the choir's concerts for the past year (see Appendix). He thanked the choir and the committee, particularly Maureen; also Sophie for managing the library loans for the last six years; and all who had helped in the smooth running of the concerts.

Terence also commented on recruitment: we shall continue to recruit, but only where spaces are available.

He urged full attendance and prompt starts at rehearsals, and he asked singers to listen more to each other to ensure a good blend of sound, and in concerts to focus maximum attention on the conductor.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT (from Maureen Pendlebury)

Maureen began her report with the recent Choir Social at The Eagle, Little Coxwell in July. She thanked Sophie and Janet and Aileen for a happy choice of venue and good organisation. It had been a pleasant way to end the year's activities (a meal together in the summer, in the week after the final rehearsal) and this was a pattern we might repeat.

The choir had welcomed Richard Fergusson as a tenor (and bass when needed) and were glad still to have Peter Martin with us even though he is now living further away. We had been sorry to lose four members who had moved away or had other commitments at present – Joan Prichard, Jeffrey Slater, Lisa Avenell and Steve Hayler. They had all contributed as soloists, and Lisa as a violinist, and in Jeff we had lost our youngest member (and his young friends who enlivened our audiences!). Young new recruits would be welcome!

The choir currently has 41 members, slightly fewer than last year, but the balance is good: 13 sopranos, 13 altos, 6 tenors and 9 basses. We do not need to recruit new members at present, except perhaps tenors and basses. It is hard to turn away experienced singers who are keen to join us, but the locations for our concerts have limited space, and we also need to keep a good balance of voices. There are currently sopranos and altos on a waiting list.

Maureen thanked the committee, including its newest members, for all their prompt and efficient service to the choir.

Jo Allan had volunteered to take over from Sophie to look after library loans. Thus the Committee for 2014 – 15 is:

Chair	Maureen Pendlebury
Treasurer	Aileen Bridge
Secretary	Janet Crawshaw
Minutes Secretary	Pam de Wit
Advertising	Karen Vogt
Choir Library	Chris Morgan
Library Loans	Jo Allan
Member without portfolio	Maggie Morris-Marchant

Maureen thanked Sophie for her six years looking after music library loans so efficiently, ensuring that music was available on time for the singers and safely returned to Oxford after concerts. The singers expressed their thanks with warm applause.

The committee meets once a term, and the next meeting was announced for the following week. Suggestions were invited for music for the Easter concert in 2015.

Maureen also thanked Tracey and Stella for providing drinks in the break, and all those who help to prepare the hall for rehearsals.

Special thanks on behalf of the whole choir were offered to Terence, for his guidance, musical enthusiasm, and energetic and inspiring teaching, making Thursdays, as one singer put it, the 'highlight of the week'.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.