

## FARINGDON SINGERS

### Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

7.30 pm on Zoom (Internet meeting room)

**1. APOLOGIES** – Linda Lord, Richard Waterhouse, Sarah Macelvogue, Alison Thomson, Janet Sheil, Richard Maw, Douglas Dalrymple

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM** - The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 19th October 2019 had been put on the Faringdon Singers website, and were agreed by all..

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Carl advised that the committee had agreed to increase the sub per term to £25 from September 2020, however this is something to be discussed with the group again when we are eventually able to reconvene.

Carl also mentioned that we still need to work on a structure for a more effective distribution of the music at the beginning of each term.

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT (from Carol Griffin)**

Accounts for the year ending August 2020 had been put on the website. These had been prepared by Carol Griffin and independently examined by Jonathan de Wilton.

Total income for the year: £1,350

Total expenditure for the year: £1,137.71

Profits from the refreshments: £26.00

Total in bank £1,399.95

The total in the bank shows an increase compared with this time last year, because we had not paid out any expenses for the Spring and Summer 2020 concerts, and subscriptions for the Spring term 2020 had been included in the total.

Carl thanked Carol for preparing the accounts and Jonathan for examining the accounts for us free of charge.

The monies raised at the Christmas concerts in 2019, went to the following:

- The Hall and Church at Ashbury £300
- CRUSE (at the Catholic Church, Faringdon) £338.49

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (from Carl Oberman)**

(summary - full details in file copy)

Carl explained this year's report being shorter than usual, with the Covid-19 restrictions postponing all rehearsals and the cancellation of the Spring and Summer concerts. Carl expressed there was little hope of returning to 'normal' until Spring 2021 at the earliest.

Carl described the Christmas 2019 concerts, the carols, songs, soloists, venues and the Christmas readings (well read by Meg Greenwood). The concerts held in Ashbury Village Hall, and the Church of the Blessed Hugh in Faringdon were well attended and appreciated. He stated that the singers had been made particularly welcome in Ashbury Village Hall.

Carl continued to talk about the single work Haydn's Creation, which was due to be performed at our Spring Concerts, and the good progress which had been made. All rehearsals were halted on 12<sup>th</sup> March due to increased reports of Covid-19 virus outbreaks nationally. This was agonisingly close to the planned concert dates on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March. There had been 38 members of the choir for the winter and spring terms, both with a high attendance rate.

Carl thanked the individual Committee members for their work, Terence for his continued dedication, enthusiasm and support, and Sjoerd for his technical support in keeping the website up to date, as well as all the singers.

#### 6. MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (from Terence Carter) (summary - full details in file copy)

Terence described the Christmas concerts in 2019, the carols and venues then continued with Spring:

*"Unfortunately, our Spring concerts, scheduled for March 2020, had to be postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus outbreak just before the planned concert dates, when all arrangements had been made (and at a time when I would also have been celebrating a milestone anniversary of my retirement from full-time employment at the Harwell Laboratory!). Organist and soloists had all been booked for a performance of Haydn's "Creation".*

Terence continued by saying the planned Summer concerts, the Buffet Dinner and future rehearsals had all been cancelled for the time being with great sadness.

Terence confirmed the Singers would not be able to continue with the usual Christmas concerts and would have to wait and see regarding Spring 2021. Terence was hopeful that we could bring Haydn's Creation back into our schedule and give it the performance it deserves.

Terence said it had been suggested that we could sing well known Carols in Faringdon Market Square in late December, but at the present time, with the corona virus heading into a second wave, the rules and restrictions of social distancing would not be safe or give the desired musical results. As such, Terence confirmed he would not be happy to lead such a venture.

#### 7. THE COMMITTEE FOR 2020-2021:

Musical Director	Terence Carter
Chair	Carl Oberman
Treasurer	Carol Griffin
Secretary	Charlotte Holley
Minutes Secretary	Charlotte Holley
Publicity	Karen Vogt
Choir Library	Richard Maw
Library Loans	Janet Sheil
Concert Planner (Organiser)	vacancy

Carl said he had not received any nominations for vacancy / to become a committee member but all current members were happy to stay on.

He was grateful to Charlotte Holley on taking the role of Secretary along with that of Minutes Secretary. Carl understood that Richard had found it burdensome distributing the music scores out to all at the start of term, and an alternative time-efficient method could be found when the choir reconvenes.

Carl also expressed thanks to Janet for collecting, distributing and returning the scores to the library so efficiently.

Carl stated it to be academic at the present time, but reiterated that there was still a vacancy for Concert Planner (Organiser) on the committee. No volunteers had come forward but Maureen said she was happy to continue to help out in this role. Carl thanked Maureen for her continued help and support with the concert planning and making contact with the appropriate people at various venues over the years, agreed by all.

## 8. AOB

Terence would like to change the title of 'Concert Planner' to 'Concert Organiser'.

Nina advised that on Christmas Eve, a group call Run by Singers, will be conducting a carol service on Zoom at 4pm for anyone to join. Anyone wishing to take part can email [nick.couchman@gmail.com](mailto:nick.couchman@gmail.com). Alternatively 'Mozart in Vienna' is being produced from November to December. See website: [www.runbysingers.org/virtual-vienna](http://www.runbysingers.org/virtual-vienna)

Nina also advised she is training for 'Singing for Lung Health' and if anyone is interested to let her know, she also advised if anyone wants to join Run By singers in the New Year, then please do contact them on [info@runbysingers.org](mailto:info@runbysingers.org)

Nina advised that she would like Faringdon Singers to try singing over Zoom, however it was felt it would be too much effort for not a lot of gain.

Sjoerd had received a message from Janet Sheil to thank everyone for returning their copies of Haydn's Creation in time to avoid the March lock-down.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.07 (16 people present).