

FARINGDON SINGERS

Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
9th October 2025
7.30 pm United Church Hall



1. APOLOGIES –Lyn & David Williamson, Aileen Bridge, Rebecca Pickering, Lynn Trigg, Sarah MacElvogue, Jo Allan, Ed Brooke, Ghislaine King, Charles Philo, David Willey, Linda Lord, Tim Koder

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM - The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 10th October 2024 had previously been made available to all on the Faringdon Singers website, and were all agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING : lights still being investigated. Otherwise - none that aren't covered below.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Carol Griffin- Treasurer, audited by Jonathan Mapley)

Faringdon Singers Accounts for the Year to 31st August 2025

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	£6,100.00	Hire of Hall	£423.50
Spring Concert	£435.00	Fees	
		Music Director	£2,520.00
		Accompanists	£150.00
		Soloists	£750.00
			£3,420.00
		Hire/purchase of Music	£764.95
		Donation to MND	£435.00
		Presentations	£157.63
		Bank Charges	£29.24
		Insurance	133.77
			£5,364.09
		Surplus for the year	£1,170.91
	£6,535.00		£6,535.00
Opening balance	£3,193.56		
Surplus	£1,170.91		
Closing balance	£4,364.47		

Independent Examiner
Jonathan L Mapley FCA (retired)
01-Oct-25

5. MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Clare Woodall)

What a wonderful year of music it has been. The Christmas concert in 2024 was very successful and it was a particular delight to welcome Phillip Augar and Lawrence Mann, violins, in *Das Neugebor'ne Kinderlein* by Buxtehude, with Debra Warner on continuo. The choir sang with great energy and commitment (in German!) and it was a real success. Phillip and Lawrence also performed stunning solos which added another beautiful dimension to the programme. We were fortunate enough that Lawrence also accompanied us on the organ for *Christus Natus Est* by Cecilia McDowall which was a bouyant way to finish the concert.

The Spring Concert was a personal highlight of the year as we tackled Durufle's sublime but technically challenging Requiem. It was no mean feat and I was so grateful to the amazing choir for coming on that musical journey which culminated in a brilliant performance at St Mary's Buckland. We were very fortunate to welcome Simon Lawford on the organ who brought such richness to the work and a wonderful accompaniment for the choir that gave us all a great deal of confidence. The accomplished soloists were Sam Jardine and Dinah Loasby, sopranos, and Tim Koder, cello. Ben Beurklian Carter joined us as Baritone soloist and it was especially touching that Ben performed a beautiful sequence of songs on the theme of "light" accompanied by Terence Carter, his father, on the piano. It was a moment to remember.

We were delighted to be welcomed to Fyfield Church for the first time, to perform our summer concert. The programme featured a range of songs on the theme of "where words meet music" with the central work being George Shearing's *Songs and Sonnets*. This jazz number was performed brilliantly by the choir, who had put a great deal of work into learning the fabulous harmonies. We were accompanied for the first time by Roger Spikes on the piano, who gave the work a lightness and energy that perfectly matched the choir. Other items in the programme included a wistful performance of *She moved through the fair* by a small group of singers and a very personal premiere of Charles Henderson's beautiful *Golden Sleep*. It was a wonderful evening and the audience were warm and appreciative.

It is my continued privilege to lead the choir and my heartfelt thanks go to each member for giving so much in every rehearsal and pulling out all the stops in our performances! I am also very grateful indeed to the committee and especially our chairmain, Sjoerd Vogt, for all that is done to keep the choir running so smoothly behind the scenes.

*Clare
October 2025.*

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Sjoerd Vogt)

2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS

- Clare back from maternity leave
- Choir – steady as she goes @ 45ish singers
- Lovely Summer Garden Party – thank you Lyn & David – again!
- Celebrating our 50th anniversary! Three MDs, 270+ concerts, and £80,000+ raised for good causes . Wow!

And of course, we're very grateful for Terence's continuing invaluable support as our rehearsal accompanist; long may it continue!

THANKS

First and foremost, to our Musical Director Clare – for making our Thursday evenings so enjoyable. Then to ALL the Committee, but especially to Carol, who, after seven years as our trusty treasurer, is now stepping down. But she's been on the committee for longer than that – first as library loans– then as secretary. And as her final act as treasurer, she's managed to persuade Bran to take over. Thank you Bran! Thanks also to all who help in so many other ways; putting out the chairs, tidying up, carrying the piano around – it's a long list. My thanks also to our HOST venues over the past year; in this case Blessed Hugh Faringdon, St Mary's Buckland, and St Nicholas Fyfield. And last but not least, special thanks to Bryony – for faithfully continuing to do the programme layouts for us for every concert– even though she left the choir and moved out of the area in 2008!

DONATIONS TO CHARITY

Our three concerts were all well attended, and as always also raised money for worthy causes: £1100 to Sanctuary Faringdon (local refugees & asylum seekers) : £1485 to MND Research; and £700 to Fyfield church funds.

*Sjoerd Vogt
October 2025*

7. THE COMMITTEE FOR 2025-2026:

Two committee members are stepping down (Jonathan Mapley, & Carol Griffin - treasurer) . Carol will be replaced by Bran Ebsworth as our new treasurer. Welcome Bran! Proposed: Val Chapman. Seconded: Peter Hoole.

Musical Director	Clare Woodall	07810-675245	clare_woodall@yahoo.com
Chairman	Sjoerd Vogt	01367 241707	sjoerd@vogt.org.uk
Treasurer (new)	Bran Ebsworth	07788 412140	bebsworth@gmail.com
Publicity	Karen Vogt	07527-256308	karen@vogt.org.uk
Secretary	Charlotte Holley	07730 558995	charlotteholley86@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member	Alison Thomson	07548-221536	tijtbcarter@btopenworld.com

Choir Library	Ieuan Jones	07968-526280	ieuanjones@gmx.com
Music Loans	Linda Lord	07812-026389	lmlord75@gmail.com

8. AOB

Summer Social in the Williamsons' garden again a great success. THANKYOU TO LYN AND DAVID!

(Carried over from 2024: David Willey came up with the good suggestion that we should investigate portable lighting that we could use at concerts. He will investigate.)

Proposed changes to dress code for Winter/Spring concerts: Women in black – possibly with a splash of colour... Majority clearly in favour. Men still (probably) in dark suits/white shirts; and no change to summer attire (pastel shades, summer dresses) .

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm .