

FARINGDON SINGERS

Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8th October 2026
8.00 pm United Church Hall



1. APOLOGIES –Vicky Lewis, Geoffrey Foster, Dinah Loasby, Sam Jardine, Charlotte Holley, Lynn Trigg, Jo Allan, Alison Thomson, Ghislaine King, Denise Monk, Olivia Bentley, Ed Brooke, Ghislaine King, Linda Lord, Tim Koder

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM - The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 9th October 2025 had previously been made available to all on the Faringdon Singers website, and were all agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING : - none that aren't covered below.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Bran Ebsworth - Treasurer, audited by Jonathan Mapley)

Faringdon Singers Accounts for the Year to 31 August 2026					
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions	£6,250.00		Hire of Hall		£495.00
Petty Cash to bank	£10.00				
Interest	£4.69		Fees		
			Music Director	£2,520.00	
			Accompanists	£150.00	
			Soloists	£375.00	
					£3,045.00
			Hire / purchase of Music		£394.02
			Presentations		£482.15
			Bank Charges		£53.71
			Insurance		£311.45
			Misc: folders etc		£142.12
					£4,923.45
			Surplus for the year		£1,336.55
	£6,260.00				£6,260.00
Opening balance	£4,364.47				
Surplus	£1,336.55				
Closing balance	£5,701.02				

5. MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Clare Woodall)

It has been a year of varied and rewarding music for the choir, with plenty of opportunities to explore new repertoire and revisit old favourites. The Christmas concert in 2025 was very successful and it was a delight to welcome Phillip Augar returning as our guest violinist to perform the very lovely *L'escarpolette* by Ethel Barns which was a wonderful addition to our programme of Christmas music. The choir performed a number of familiar carols and Alan Bullard's *A Light in the Stable*, complete with readings from the choir and a stunning soprano solo by Sophie Stainer from the organ loft, all accompanied by Laurence Mann. The choir were in fine voice and the rousing *The Holly and the Ivy* by Gardner was a perfect, festive way to round off the afternoon's concert.

The Spring Concert was held in St Mary's, Uffington, the perfect venue for us to perform alongside members of the Marlborough Orchestra and professional musicians local to Faringdon. We took on the challenge of Ola Gjeilo's extraordinary work *Sunrise Mass*, which was cinematic and sweeping, technically challenging and profoundly moving. The last movement, *The Ground*, was particularly poignant and the combined forces of the string orchestra together with the choir were a feast for the ears. Not only this, but we also enjoyed other items along the theme of "Songs of the Morning", including a specially-written piece for solo trumpet by Phil Singleton, composer and also conductor of the Marlborough Orchestra. His piece was extraordinary, using quarter tones on the trumpet which was new to nearly everyone in the audience. It contributed beautifully to what was a very exciting evening of music.

It was a pleasure to return to the beautiful church of St Mary's, Longcot, for our summer concert, "Love through the Seasons". The choir performed an array of songs that touched on all aspects of love, from the buoyant to the more contemplative, all of which were utterly beautiful. The choral items were very accomplished and entirely unaccompanied, apart from one item where we joined forces with The Clarinet Collective. This exceptional group of musicians is well-known to Longcot and they graciously agreed to come and collaborate with us, performing a series of items that were musically exciting, with rich harmonies and playful rhythms, covering centuries of music from Dvorak to McCartney! It was a truly wonderful concert for a summer's evening.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Terence Carter who has been our accompanist since I took over from him as Musical Director several years ago. Terence has been utterly indispensable, not only for his expert accompanying skills but also for his humble generosity and positivity. He invariably finished our rehearsals by remarking how good the choir were sounding (he was absolutely right!) and I am delighted that he has now joined the ranks of the basses to continue his more than 50-year involvement in the Faringdon Singers! I am very pleased indeed that Laurence Mann has agreed to become our rehearsal accompanist from this Autumn Term and look forward to an exciting year of music ahead.

Clare
October 2026.



6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Sjoerd Vogt)

AGM 8th October 2026
Chairman's Report



2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS

- Choir continues to grow organically - now touching 50ish singers
- Finally took responsibility for our performing rights through "Making Music"
- Lovely Summer Garden Party – thank you Lyn & David – again!
- Celebrated our 50th anniversary in the autumn of 2025! Three MDs, 270+ concerts, and £80,000+ raised for good causes . Wow!
- Thank you Terence – and Welcome to our new musical accompanist Laurence!

THANKS

First and foremost, to our Musical Director Clare – for making our Thursday evenings so enjoyable – and of course so ably supported by Terence. Then to ALL the Committee. Bran as our treasurer; leuan as our librarian; Linda as our loans secretary; and Charlotte as our meetings secretary. 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 Uffington, and St Mary's Longcot. 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: £1000 to Sanctuary Faringdon (local refugees & asylum seekers) : £800 to MacMillan Cancer Support/Uffington church funds; and £900 to Longcot church funds & Village Trust.

*Sjoerd
October 2026*

7. THE COMMITTEE FOR 2026-2027:

All committee members have agreed to stay on in their current roles. Proposed: Val Chapman.
Seconded: Lyn Williamson.

Musical Director	Clare Woodall	07810-675245	clare_woodall@yahoo.com
Musical Accompanist	Laurence Mann	07464-995588	laurencemann@hotmail.co.uk
Chairman	Sjoerd Vogt	01367 241707	sjoerd@vogt.org.uk
Treasurer	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	tjitbcarter@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!

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm .