

The Lllysfaen Singers

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd July 2019 at Lisvane Memorial Hall

Attendees: Joanna Burdett, Jan Marsden, Val McBroom, Bronwen Andrews, Viv Griffiths, Jan Jones, Cath Lynn, Alan Prosper, Anne McGuffin **Chair** (AMcG), Peter McGuffin, Angela Archer, Tom Lazell (TL), Peter Gwatkin, Gloria Lindsey, Carolyn Tranfield **Treasurer** (CT), Bruce Cross, Alison Dickinson, Diane Rhoden, Eirlys McNeil-Watson, Simon Armitage, Kathy Armitage, Emma Smith, Cath Evans, Keith Ingham, Bryn Ennis, Sue Anthony, Philip Husband, Brenda Manley, Bruce Cross, Lorraine White, Ann Doubler, Sue Lewis, Martin Bye **Secretary** (MRB).

Apologies: Iona Picton, Cathy Evans, Jane Williams, Harriet Jenkins, Karen Mingay, Helen Husband.

1. Opening Remarks

AMcG welcomed Choir members to the meeting and referred to the AGM minutes of 18th July 2018. These were approved.

2. Actions Arising from Minutes of 18th July 2018

- 9.1 Falling membership and recruitment. Choir membership is now ~40. No further action.
- 9.2 Storage of music in the Memorial Hall. A cupboard for storage of music scores has now been obtained.
- 9.3 Performances at the Glanfa Stage (Millenium Centre) have been discontinued. No further action.
- 9.4 Joining Ty Cerdd. We are now members of Ty Cerdd.
- 9.5 Support for the Alzheimer's Society Cymru through a donation/bucket collection. The enquiry was answered but no follow-up was possible.

3. Chair's Report

The following key points were reported by AMcG.

i) The concert last Christmas coincided (more or less) with the anniversary of the ending of World War 1. In addition to our usual repertoire of Christmas songs, Tom also included a medley of songs from the period. Thus, it seemed appropriate to title the concert "Keep the Home Fires Burning". We were also able to borrow a triptych from the Lisvane Historical Society for the concert, which displayed the stories of some of the men lost in the war who were from the village. All very poignant.

Heledd Eleri (soprano) was our guest soloist once again, singing several traditional Christmas songs as well as a very entertaining version of "The 12 Days of Christmas". Gwen, our regular Accompanist also played a Debussy Prelude as soloist. We are most grateful to both Heledd and Gwen for brilliant performances.

ii) Our Summer concert on 19th June was entitled "A Million Dreams" and mainly featured musical theatre. Our guest this time was Tom Mottishead (Baritone) who entertained us with show tunes, as well as a duet with "our" Tom. All much appreciated by our audience as well as the choir.

iii) Both concerts were well received by our usual supportive audiences and were considered to be the best concerts we've performed in, (although it's hard to hear the "whole" when singing as well). Over the past year, the Choir has continued to mature under Tom's leadership. Not only are the concerts very enjoyable, so are the rehearsals each week- a boost to the sense of well-being in the middle of busy weeks.

iv) As well as our usual concerts we have also sung for the residents of the St Isan Care Home on two occasions: St David's Day and to celebrate Easter (including Easter bonnets!). While Tom conducted and sang, our

keyboard accompanist was Brenda who did sterling work with “In your Easter bonnet”, “A nightingale sang in Berkley Square” and “Calon Lan” etc. The residents seemed to enjoy both performances and joined in. Many thanks to Gloria, Brenda and Tom for organising these occasions.

v) Back in 2018, we were just welcoming Tom and Gwen to the Choir after an unsettling period following Rachel and Phil’s departures. They have both been amazing, inspiring, extraordinarily hard working and just a lot of fun. Also, Gwen has taken over and directed rehearsals from the keyboard in Tom’s occasional absences over the past year. A huge thank to both!

This year we awarded our Musical Director and Accompanist a long overdue and very-well deserved pay rise starting in April - nothing like what they are both worth but more a measure of the Choir’s esteem.

vi) Committee Members were thanked individually for their contributions and hard work for the benefit of the Choir. Carolyn Tranfield has now taken over as Treasurer, making sure our finances are in good shape. Alison Dickinson has now take over as soprano rep. and Joanna Burdett has joined as our Social Secretary, bringing her terrific organisational skills (and clip board) to the role. As ever, Ian Shopland has been diligently working away behind the scenes, maintaining and updating our website as well as the Alice Fayn Singer (YouTube) and the Sound Cloud recordings, both of which help us to rehearse our parts.

In addition, a big thank-you was expressed for all the support we have from families and friends in every aspect concerned with the running of the Choir. Thanks also to the Choir for all the shoulder massages and for singing so brilliantly.

vii) Finally, we have more members this year compared with last; it now totals 40. Our gift-aid application has been submitted to HMRC, which should add around £560 to our funds. (We only have gift-aid forms signed by 19 out of the total - so, if there’s anyone who pays UK taxes and is willing for us to collect their gift aid and hasn’t done so yet, please fill in a form. As we can recover 25% of subscription, it is worth a lot to us and means we can give more to our designated charities (and buy more music!).

4. Music Director’s Report

The following is a summary of the main points presented.

i) TL began by thanking everyone in the Choir and Committee for the support they have given him over the past year and a half, both in terms of the MD role and also with regard to his PGCE degree.

ii) The Christmas and summer concerts were highly successful performances, with very happy audiences. The Choir performed really well and the passion and enthusiasm for music once again shone through. The summer concert was challenging and introduced a lot of new music. The Choir definitely rose to the challenge excellently and we produced a slick, polished and professional performance on the night.

iii) Mention was made of the performances at the St Isan’s Care Home in Llanishen on St David’s Day and for Easter, the residents thoroughly enjoyed having us there to sing for them.

iv) TL commented that an aspect that can be improved for the future is contact between Choir members and him. It is important to know whom to expect at rehearsals (and who not to expect). An email will suffice!

v) Another comment related to talking during rehearsals. Occasionally a few sections are talking during rehearsals, particularly when a specific part is being worked on. If members could please refrain from the chatter during rehearsal, the process will be much more fun and much more enjoyable for all of us. The concern expressed by Tom was echoed by other Choir members.

vi) Future Plans. Building on what we already have achieved. In addition to the two main concerts per year, TL commented that it would be good to try performing in and around the community and the whole of Cardiff, perhaps even touring!

vii) Our Christmas concert. A potential list follows:

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| a) There is No Rose (Phillip Stopford) | h) Away in a Manger (Willcocks) |
| b) Christmas Blessing (Phillip Stopford) | i) Somewhere in my Memory (John Williams) – Home Alone |
| c) The Little Road to Bethlehem (Michael Head) | j) Finnish Oik (Traditional) |
| d) A Christmas Special (Alexander Le Strange): Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas/Jingle Bells | k) Dear Evan Hansen Medley (Ben Pasek) |
| e) Stille Nacht/Dawel Nos/Silent Night (Traditional) | l) Fields of Gold (Sting) |
| f) Christ the Apple Tree (Elizabeth Poston) | m) Christmas sing-along |
| g) Deck the Hall (Willcocks) | |

viii) Additional Points:

- a) Alan Prosper enquired about the possibility of starting a “school choir”. (This has been mentioned on previous occasions). CT agreed to approach the head of Llysfaen Primary School.

Action: CT

- b) Not everyone can access recordings via “Sound Cloud”. A request was made to revert to Alice Fayn Singer.

Action: TL to consider.

5. Treasurer’s Report

i) Firstly, thanks were given to Carolyn Tranfield and Doug Craddock for preparing and reviewing respectively the accounts for the year to 5 April 2019. See Appendix 1. Ann Lewis has kindly “volunteered” her husband to review the Choir accounts next year.

ii) Another successful year with a profit of just over £1000 (c.f. £440 for 2018). The difference was due mainly to the reduced level of charitable donations this year. Both concerts made a considerable amount of money (Summer: £858 Christmas: £1103). However, without the income from these concerts we would have made a loss of nearly £900. This shows how important a successful concert is to the continuing financial stability of the choir.

6. Changes to the Constitution

The following change to the Constitution was discussed.

6.1 Establishing the new position of Social Secretary as a Charity Trustee. Joanna Burdett (who has been carrying out the role for the best part of a year) was nominated. Paragraph 4.1 of the Constitution will need to be amended. The change was proposed by AMcG and seconded by Alison Dickinson. The motion to amend Paragraph 4.1 was carried unanimously.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and all Committee members agreed to stand for a further year. The Committee (including the individual change noted above) was proposed *en bloc* (Alan Prosper) and seconded (Keith Ingham), and the motion was carried unanimously.

8. Charity Donations

The previously agreed charities for 2019 are “Llamau” and “The Cardiff Foodbank”. Following a recommendation from the Committee, it was agreed that the Choir should donate £200 to each of the two nominated charities.

9. AOB

9.1 Peter McGuffin and Cath Lynn both suggested that there should be a “spotlight” on Tenors and Basses in a future concert (a summer concert was suggested).

Action: TL to consider.

9.2 Emma Smith commented on the Choir’s future music repertoire and suggested that the Choir perform more medleys (e.g. 80s). In reply, TL stated that he had tried to include 60s, 70s and 80s medleys in our programme.

Action: TL to reconsider.

9.3 A regular entry in the Lisvane Link calendar was proposed. Angela Archer kindly agreed to progress this via the Link Editor.

Action: Angela Archer

10. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Martin Bye
15th July 2019

Appendix 1

LLYSFAEN SINGERS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	YEAR ENDED 05/04/19 £	YEAR ENDED 05/04/18 £
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	5061	4640
CONCERT TICKET SALES:		
SUMMER	728	639
CHRISTMAS	915	691
RAFFLE TICKET SALES:		
SUMMER	213	246
CHRISTMAS	258	195
BAR TAKINGS:		
SUMMER	141	191
CHRISTMAS	162	57
OTHER INCOME:		
A.G.M	51	
SALE OF FOLDERS	28	
	<u>7557</u>	<u>6659</u>
EXPENDITURE		
HALL HIRE	1369	1224
MUSIC PURCHASES/HIRE	721	781
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	1820	1540
PIANIST	1430	1395
RELIEF PIANIST	70	0
CONCERT COSTS:		
SUMMER	224	331
CHRISTMAS	232	115
DONATIONS	200	750
OTHER COSTS:		
PURCHASE OF FOLDERS	198	
AGM	19	
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION	10	
MAKING MUSIC AFFILIATION & INSURANCE	202	
OTHER		83
	<u>6495</u>	<u>6219</u>
	£	£
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1062	440
Surplus brought forward at 06/04/2018	<u>1809</u>	<u>1369</u>
Surplus carried forward at 05/04/2019	<u>£2,871</u>	<u>£1,809</u>
Represented by		
Balance at bank at 05/04/2019	2871	2055
less unrepresented cheques	<u>0</u>	<u>-246</u>
	<u>£2,871</u>	<u>£1,809</u>

I certify that the above is a true and fair reflection of the books and records and bank statements of the Llysfæen Singers.

Douglas Craddock, Certified Accountant