

Minutes of Cavendish Singers AGM 8th January 2020

40 members present

Chairperson's Report

Carol Bodey reported that it has been a very active year for the choir, with four concerts, all of which were well received, plus additional pieces learnt and sung for fun. Choir numbers have remained good, and the tenor section has grown to be quite large at times. We like the relaxed and friendly ethos at our choir: we cope with people missing rehearsals/going on holiday and we miss those who have moved away or are unable to come any more. But she requested that people should not arrange any holidays around June 13th which is when our next main concert will take place.

The **main concert** was in June, where we performed Haydn's Creation, which was a quite a challenge but very successful.

We held two **café concerts** in March and December, which had a lovely atmosphere and were very well attended.

Also at **Christmas** we performed as usual at Manchester Central Library, which was well received, and we sang outside of Oxfam, raising £85, as well as enjoying ourselves. A very positive comment was made after the Library performance about the Calypso Medley which Bill Birkhead had put together so well. Carol also mentioned Bill Godfrey's solstice party, where Handel's Messiah is sung, and which is always much enjoyed and almost seen as a choir event.

There were 4 committee meetings this last year, held in February, May, September and November, each timed to take place in the run-up to a concert.

Carol gave thanks to:

- All choir members who helped in setting up, serving refreshments etc at concerts
- Natalie for all her hard work
- Bill for all his hard work in arranging and composing music for us
- Tony C for keeping us solvent and helping with the website
- Elaine for writing up the minutes and sending emails out
- Cathie for sharing the warmup sessions
- All choir members for their loyalty, commitment and support.

Carol had one plea to members – to keep the level of chat to a minimum during the actual rehearsal time because of the bad acoustics in the hall.

Treasurer's Report

Tony Craven explained our monetary strategy, which is that the subscriptions should balance expenditure (hire of hall, photocopying and honorarium to Bill and Natalie) and this balanced exactly this year. Subscriptions will therefore remain at £60 p.a. and should ideally be paid this January online. They may be paid in instalments, but cheques will only be received the first week of each half term, so any other payments must be cash notes or online.

Concerts are not included in the aforementioned, and we do not try to make a profit but just to cover costs. We seem to make more money from concerts where donations are received, rather than concerts where we sell tickets. £278.67 was raised through donations.

A full statement of the Accounts for 2019 can be obtained from the Treasurer, but it is also on the website.

Website

Tony Craven explained that he will meet with Steve Butler, who created the website, in the next few weeks and so asked for ideas of how to improve the website. He already plans to have photos more visible on the website.

At present there are two sections to the website: a public one and an area where members can log in. Suggestions for improvement included creating a password which is easier to remember, having more links to pieces we're currently singing, being emailed when new things are put on the site, having more detailed information of concerts (eg. time to arrive).

Tony said he will put something up on the website each Sunday night, such as what we might be singing the coming week, so that choir members can get into the habit of looking at it in the run-up to choir, and he will email everyone from the website about any changes.

Conductor's Report

Natalie Marshall said that plans for 2020 include our **main concert on 13th June**, where we will perform a collection of shorter pieces, some of which we already know.

Much extra photocopying had to be done last year due to people missing copies, and so Natalie has a new system. At the beginning of term each member will be given a set of copies, which they should put in their folder and bring each week. It would help if people put names on their copies. Natalie will have a copy of who is present when music is given out, and so be able to keep track of it.

John Eaden suggested that each choir member be given a unique number which they put on all their copies, but this would take some organising, so we will begin Natalie's system first. Perhaps if one person from each section could look after their section, that might be a good start.

Election of Committee Members

Carol noted that her earliest agenda for an AGM dated back to 2008, and Carol, Tony C, Natalie and Bill were all on the committee then, with Tony M following in 2010. She asked if anyone else would consider being on the committee, and only Danny Flowers volunteered.

The following were elected en masse, though actually Natalie and Bill are ex-officio as we could not run the choir without them!

Chair of Committee – Carol Bodey

Musical Director – Natalie Marshall

Librarian/Accompanist/Composer in Residence – Bill Birkhead

Treasurer – Tony Craven

Secretary – Elaine Wilkinson

Choir members – Danny Flowers (newly elected) and Tony Matthews

It would still be helpful to have a 'Publicity Team' for the period running up to concerts.

Any Other Business

John Eaden requested that we have one rehearsal where we all wear sticky name badges, so that people can get to know the names of those in other sections. He will arrange badges.

The next AGM will be during our first meeting in 2021.