

**Sandbach Choral Society**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 at 7pm via Zoom**

**1 Present**

Committee Members – Margaret Smith, Pat Arnold, Linda Norris, Joyce Watson, Ena Furber, Sandy Boyle, Stephen Newlove, Andrew Green  
Kelvin Leslie – proposed new President  
21 members

**2 Apologies**

Julie Barker, Frank Barker, Linda Walker, Christine Grove, Glenda Colemere, Ellie Tolmie, Cheryl Bolton

**3 Minutes of 2020 AGM**

Received and approved

**4 Matters arising**

a - Jackie Thorp has become Safety Officer  
b - Assistant treasurer post is still vacant.  
c - All future concert bookings have been cancelled except for Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 at Sandbach Town Hall. We will use the Charter Room (bar) for leaving coats and meeting before the concert.

**5 Notification of items for consideration under AOB**

a - Programme and repertoire – Sue Cooke.  
b - List of music used in Zoom meetings + repertoire suggestions (previously circulated)  
c - Mary

**6 Chairman's Report**

Previously circulated. No questions. Approved unanimously.

**7 To receive and approve accounts for 2020-2021 season – previously circulated**

The accounts, with the Treasurer's report, were received and approved. Pat thanked members for their continuing financial support over the past year when we have been unable to meet in person. This has put the society in a healthy financial position to start the new Season. Adrian Smith asked if the qualifications of the auditor should be included on the accounts. Pat explained that the auditor did not have to be qualified in accountancy but be willing and competent. Christine Grove is both. It was also very helpful that she is a member of the Society and understands its workings.

**8 Music Director's Report**

Previously circulated. Approved unanimously.

**9 Election of Officers**

1 - President

Our long serving president, Elsie Alcock, has retired for personal reasons. She has been formally thanked by Margaret Smith and all members wish her well for the future.

Margaret has approached Kelvin Leslie, previous accompanist and supporter of the society, who has agreed to stand. Kelvin was elected. He thanked the Society for their confidence in him and hoped to offer help and support in the future.

2 - Other committee members except for one have agreed to stand again. This left a vacancy for a second choir member. Mags Daly agreed to stand.

**10 Election on non-committee officers**

There are vacancies for assistant treasurer, raffles organiser, concert tickets printing and sales, publicity and alto voice rep.

Charlotte Grey (alto voice rep), Alison Jenkins (Raffles) David and Delia Silverwood (Publicity) and Karen Dryland-Wainwright (Tickets) were thanked for their previous contribution.

## **Election results appear at the end of the minutes**

### **11 Subscriptions for next year**

Subscriptions will remain the same, £12 a month by standing order or £140 annually, cheque paid by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **12 Appointment of independent Examiner**

Pat will approach Christine Grove who has served very well in this role in the past.

### **13 Music and Dates for 2021-2022 season**

We have only one date booked at present, Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 for the Christmas concert in Sandbach Town Hall. Dates for concerts in 2022 cannot yet be confirmed. The proposal from the committee is that the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec concert should consist of music practised by some members in zoom meetings plus carols, Christmas songs and readings. Further planning is difficult as we do not yet know how many members will be returning to rehearsals. Anxieties will remain for some time yet and precautions taken by other choirs and venues were discussed.

Margaret will recirculate protocols for rehearsals and ask members to email her if they are not intending to come to rehearsals. Covid security for the Christmas concert will be managed by the Town Hall.

Rehearsals and concerts can only continue in line with government guidance which may change over time. Additionally, many members will not have sung for over a year and it will take time for voices, and breathing, to get back to strength.

All the above have an impact on the range of present repertoire and possible concert dates.

### **14 Items previously submitted**

1 - Programme and Repertoire – raised by Sue Cooke

This topic generated considerable discussion. No decision has been taken to move to shorter pieces or lighter music. The music used in Zoom meetings was to offer variety and not too many complications.

Those meetings served as social interaction in addition to offering an opportunity to sing. It is anticipated that we will once again tackle more challenging work as we move to conventional rehearsals. This is dependent on factors discussed in item 13, i.e. number of choir members returning, condition of voices, government rules re Covid.

A wider repertoire to include more serious secular music was discussed and there was general agreement that a mix of sacred and secular would have a wider appeal. Sue provided a list of her suggestions and a list of music used in zoom meetings has been circulated. We need to consider what will draw an audience if we are to continue as a society.

A good mix will be needed for the Christmas concert including carols and songs in which the audience can participate

It was agreed that for the initial rehearsals we should use some of the music from the zoom meetings, list to be circulated by email, and from carol books which we already have available. Some members have copies of the music from zoom. Stephen Davies and Linda Norris agreed to print some extra copies for those without copying facilities.

2 - Mary Keeley

Margaret gave an update on Mary's health. She is now at home but does not feel well enough to continue with the society and has resigned. She has been a member for over 30 years. How this will be marked to be discussed at next committee meeting.

### **15 AOB**

Sue reported that she has heard some other members will not be returning (Sheila Alton, Pam Bolton, Kate Hawkshead)

Kate has moved from Sandbach and is to join a choir in Ludlow.

Margaret to follow up on Sheila and Pam.

### **16 Date of next AGM**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm**