

Sandbach Choral Society
Committee Meeting Tuesday 1st November 2022

Minutes

1. Present

Pat Arnold, Ena Furber, Mags Daly, Julie Barker, Frank Barker, Cheryl Bolton, Sue Powner, Stephen Newlove, Kelvin Leslie, Margaret Smith, Sandy Boyle

2. Apologies

None

3. Matters Arising

a) Margaret has contacted Offley Road primary school about the possibility of a children's choir contribution to the Christmas concert. They expressed an interest but have not been back in touch. Margaret will make contact again. Stephen has produced an amended Christmas programme to cover any gaps left should a children's choir not be available. **Margaret**

b) Peter Kwater has agreed to be our permanent accompanist. A contract will be drawn up to begin in Jan 2023 **Sue/ Margaret**

c) Concert Sunday Nov 6th. Rehearsal starts at 2pm. The church hall will be available during the afternoon. Choir members to meet in church Hall at 7pm ready for start of concert. Wine and juice to be served at the interval. Uniform - men, black, white shirt; women, all black with circular pink scarf. Poppies can be worn.

4. Publicity, posters and Programmes

Cheryl Bolton has agreed to take on this role and was welcomed to the meeting.

25 posters have been sent out via post and only 3 replies received. This is a considerable expense for very little return. The mailing included an enquiry about the acceptability of email contact in future. 1 of the 3 replies requested that a physical poster should be sent, for the other 2, email was acceptable. In future, posters will be sent via email to the two responders. They are also sent via email to choir members who can forward to friends/ possible audience members or print off for display.

It is also possible to become Facebook friends with churches and other organisations including town "What's On" pages, sending information by that route. Cheryl will consult Sue Cooke about the best way to proceed. **Cheryl**

Shops now seem much more reluctant to display posters and/or put them up late. This no longer seems an effective way to advertise.

The possibility of a banner on the Waitrose lower carpark fence is a possibility.

The printed programme for the concert on Nov 6th is awaited.

Information about the Spring concert will be needed to be included in the Christmas concert programme. Julie will produce it and send to Margaret **Julie**

Local dignitaries to be invited to Christmas concert, Mayor of Sandbach, Mayor of Cheshire East, Fiona Bruce MP **Sue**

5. Programme Update

a) Christmas Concert Dec 15th Town Hall

PA and new keyboard required. Suzanne will be soloist, fee of £100 suggested. If children's choir available, they will be asked to do one 4 to 5 min piece in each half. 2 programmes now produced to cover inclusion or exclusion of children's choir.

Music from 100 Carols for Choirs + printed sheets which we already have available.

Mince pies to be served. Pat to ask Town Hall if we can serve a non-alcoholic fruit cup. Possibility of using kitchen for tea and coffee- an additional £20 charge **Pat**

All concerts in 2023 will be at St Peter's Elworth and will start at 7.30. Christmas concert may be in the afternoon. Singing day, also at St Peter's, will be from 9am to 4.30pm.

b) Spring concert March 25th 2023

Soloists not yet booked. Hall to be booked 1.30pm to 9.45pm. Handel Messiah pt 2, Puccini Messa Di Gloria

c) Summer Concert 24th June Madrigals

d) Come and sing day 2nd Sept Handel and Purcell

e) Autumn Concert Nov 11th Remembrance theme to include some of the works from Come and Sing day. Possibly Faure's Requiem. Retiring collection for British Legion

f) Christmas concert Dec 16th Enquiries to be made about an afternoon booking, morning rehearsal and afternoon concert, room to be booked 11am to 5pm. Sue to ask about Hall availability on all Saturdays in Dec with Dec 16th as preferred option **Sue**

6. Social events

a) Concern has been expressed by a society member that there is too much concentration on social events when the purpose of the society is to perform choral music. The committee discussed this concern.

Social events go some way to offset the continuing losses of the concerts without compromising the programmes of music. As such they are essential to the society's continuing existence. They also provide an opportunity to advertise the society's activities, hopefully encouraging those who participate to come to concerts. 2 tickets for any forthcoming concert will be offered as a raffle prize at future social events. Additionally, they give members a way to get to know each other better in a context other than the rehearsal room and to bond as group.

b) Society Annual Dinner booked, Crewe Golf Club Sat 14th Jan 2023. Money (£23.50 per person) to Jayne Bunn by 6th Dec

c) Recent quiz night worked well and almost £600 was raised for Society funds. 6 people failed to attend, leaving 6 portions of food to be paid for. Agreed that tickets should be issued and paid for by the last rehearsal before any future event ie 5 days before the event. The next quiz night will be at the end of Feb after half term. Same format as previously. Sue to book St Mary's Hall. Sandy to enquire about the digital scoreboard used by U3A. Bernie Davies to be thanked for the questions last weekend and to asked about availability in February **Sue/ Sandy/Margaret**

7. AOB

Peter Kwater is unable to attend the rehearsal immediately before the Christmas concert. Carole Kwater will deputise.

8. Next meeting

Tuesday 6th December 6pm Wheelock