

NEW MUSIC MAKERS
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 20th JULY 2023, 19:30 HRS
AT HEDGE END METHODIST CHURCH

The meeting opened at 19:35 hours, with Eric Gerrey in the Chair.

Present:

Eric Gerrey, Beryl Gerrey, Sharon Thomas, Sarah Turl, Maureen Pay, Jerry Gamble, Louise Staniforth, Peter Blake, Rosie Adams, Lin Kellaway, Eileen Eyres, Percy Knight, Lizzie Kemp, Maggie Jacobs, Mike Ward, Wendy Westbury, Elaine Walter, Marg Dunne, and Gen Marsh.

1. APOLOGIES

Eunice Deuchar, Margaret Ballard, Tony Jardine, Hilary Green, Rebecca Williams, Jenny Soley, Lesley Cother, Jane Courtney, Natalie Heppel, Emmy McGarry, Jacque Clift, Gill Jeffrey, Sheila Stokes-White, Roy Hogben, Ann Lee, Beccy Coppen, Alison Baker, and Ellie Best.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

These were taken as read and correct.

Minutes from previous meeting were proposed by Percy Knight, seconded by Lin Kellaway. Carried

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arising from previous meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Eric, our Chairman, reiterated what a splendid concert the Summer Spectacular was and reported a most positive audience response. No matters arising.

Chairman's Report proposed by Sarah Turl, seconded by Mike Ward. Carried.

Copy of Chairman's report attached.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sharon, our Treasurer gave a precise of her report. The summer concert did not bring in as much money as hoped as audience numbers were down, (possibly due to FA Cup Final and other sporting events). This gave an unexpected hit to our bank balance. Sharon suggested we plug 'Easy Giving' to help make up the deficit.

The Chair thanked Sharon for all her hard work with the accounts this year.

Treasurer's Report was proposed by Maureen Pay, seconded by Lizzie Kemp. Carried

Treasurer's Report attached.

SUBS

It was proposed that subs will rise to £20 a month as of the 1st September 2023 to swell funds. The £4 rise a month will probably not be quite enough to put the accounts into the black, but this is hard to gauge as possibly, five new members will join us in September. Members present at the meeting agreed that compared to other choirs, the increased subs still represent exceptional value for money.

Subs increase was proposed by Gen Marsh, seconded by Maggie Jacobs. Carried

6. MD'S REPORT

The Chairman read out the MD's report and there were no matters arising.

Copy of MD's report attached.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

There were no amendments.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following persons were nominated for the coming year:-

Chairman: Eric Gerrey
Vice Chairman: Sarah Turl
Secretary: Maureen Pay
Treasurer: Sharon Thomas

There being no other nominations, the election of officers carried.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following persons were nominated for the coming year:-

Margaret Ballard – Minute Secretary
Jerry Gamble
Eunice Deuchar – Local Vocals
Louise Staniforth – Archivist

There being no other nominations, the election of Committee Members carried.

Gen Marsh was proposed by Sharon Thomas, seconded Sarah Turl.

Carried

Music Librarian: Tony Jardine
Sop Rep: Hilary Green
Alto Rep: Maggie Jacobs
Bass Rep: Eric Gerrey
Tenor Rep: Jerry Gamble

Music Committee: Proposed by Gen Marsh, seconded by Elaine Walter.

Carried

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. The Chairman thanked Jerry for his dedication and hard work on the music. The online player is back on the website and works well. Jerry has incorporated all the new music onto it.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONT)

b. Zoom:

Zoom cost us £144 to run this year and the last person to return to the choir in person has done so. The general opinion was that Zoom is a useful backup for anyone who is ill and can't attend choir in person. It was agreed that the yearly subscription was costly. All agreed a back-up solution was required and that a suggestion of using WhatsApp instead could be trialled. WhatsApp costs nothing, has no time limit and anyone with a smartphone with the free WhatsApp app downloaded onto it can use it. Someone at rehearsal with such a 'phone could set it up in front of Lillian for WhatsApp users to see her and hear the choir. Should it be found not to work particularly well, a decision will be made whether or not to return to Zoom.

c. Uniform:

Rebecca Williams asked if the ladies in the choir could wear black with a coloured top (all the same colour but not necessarily matching in style). Other suggestions made at the meeting were to wear black with a matching brightly coloured accessory or scarf. Maureen confirmed that there were not enough pink sparkly tops for the ladies and some members thought the idea of having a uniform was deemed old fashioned and might put off younger people wishing to join the choir. A point was made that the uniform makes our choir look professional and we have invested a lot of money in it. With such a lot to discuss, the Committee will add this subject to their next meeting's agenda, (31st August 2023).

d. Soloists/Duets/Groups:

The way soloists, duets and groups are chosen to sing in a concert was discussed at the last Committee meeting in a bid to make the selection process more democratic. It was agreed to ask three choir members on the night of the auditions to listen to each soloist/duet/group, along with Lillian and Chris. Each member would vote anonymously.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CONT)

d. Soloists/Duets/Groups (Cont):

A question was raised as to why some soloists seem to have the 'right' to sing the same song or solo year after year. It was felt that perhaps Lillian could say who she has in mind to sing a piece but that anyone could still put themselves forward – men, your chance to sing top sop!

e. Music Librarian's Report:

Eric proposed a vote of thanks to Tony for doing so much in sorting out the music. All AGM attendees agreed he did a marvellous job.

Copy of the Music Librarian's Report attached.

f. Concert Dates:

Beccy Coppen requested via WhatsApp if future concert dates could avoid clashing with school holidays. It was also suggested we avoid national sporting event days, as our audience was possibly lower than usual at our summer concert because of the FA Cup final and other sporting events that day. The Committee is now aware of these points and will endeavour to accommodate dates as best as possible.

Some AGM attendees are unavailable on 8th June 2024 for our next summer concert, so Committee will revert to Chris Allison to see if he is available on another date. (Eric has since confirmed that the date for the Summer Concert will be the 1st June 2024)

g. Venues:

Hall venues have become prohibitively expensive. Summer concert venue this year cost £760, which in fact was a discount of 20 per cent of the full cost. It was felt that the organisation of the KCC was not good and it was noted that a member of staff was hoovering during the concert. There was much discussion on cheaper venues for our next summer concert.

Suggested venues:

- St Lukes Church, Hedge End: Has a stage and large auditorium but car parking not so good and it is a fair distance from the town centre, so not so easy for the local audience to get to. However it was deemed worthy of a visit to ascertain facilities/cost, etc.
- Hedge End Village Hall: It was noted this has more atmosphere than the KCC, being a more intimate venue. It is easier for elderly locals to get to, much cheaper to hire (£180) and has good acoustics (the audience at the Summer Spectacular said we filled the hall with sound).
- Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham: Venue seats 250 and costs £22.50 per hour (similar to Hedge End Village Hall). However, it was deemed too far a distance too travel for our Hedge End audience.
- Market Hall Botley: Venue offers a stage, seating for at least 100, kitchen facilities and is not far from Hedge End. Free parking is nearby but the time limit is either 2 or 3 hours. Parking available in adjoining roads.
- Drummond Centre: Thought to be a good venue with plenty of parking, but needs some research.

Despite the above suggestions, some AGM attendees considered that a more professional venue gives gravitas to the choir and affords a different concert experience to both singers and audience alike.

The Committee will consider all options and will work on the above in future meetings.

g. Jill Parkinson:

It was with much sadness to hear that Jill Parkinson has left choir because of ill-health. She had been in the choir a long time and as such was a dear friend to all of us. Jill will be missed greatly. Gen Marsh read out Bob Parkinson's message to the choir, explaining why Jill had to leave, but it was good to hear that she had enjoyed her years with us. Jill still listens to recordings of the choir and loves singing along. Bob wished the choir future success and hopes to attend concerts if possible. A card will be sent to Jill and Bob from the Choir.

h. Folders:

Peter Blake asked why the new folders still do not have New Music Makers labels on them. Lin Kellaway explained that sparkly labels had been sought, but nothing proved suitable, so the idea unfortunately could not be proceeded upon.

Mention was made of ensuring Choir members hold their folders correctly and that Lillian becomes more insistent upon us looking over our files whilst singing, as it makes a huge difference to our musical projection.

i. Mary Gunn:

Lizzie Kemp informed the AGM attendees of the sad passing of Mary Gunn. Mary had unfortunately been ill for quite a while and Lizzie was in touch with her on a regular basis. Mary was a long-serving

Choir member and invested much time in our concerts and pantomimes. Always keen to support us as a choir and also individually, she will be missed enormously. It is understood there will be no funeral, but Lizzie confirmed that she and other friends of Mary will organise a nice afternoon tea in her memory. Lizzie will inform us of details once they have been arranged and should anyone like to attend, please let Lizzie know.

j. Vote of Thanks:

Lin Kellaway proposed a vote of thanks to Eric and the Committee for their help in running the Choir and the AGM attendees unanimously gave their thanks, which was gratefully received.

The AGM closed at 20:35 hours.

NEW MUSIC MAKERS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

My first year as Chairman has been quite remarkable.

Taking over from Lin, with her several years of service just not as Chairman, but as Secretary and as a Committee Member was not an easy task to follow, but with the Committee's help I think we have managed. I must thank Lin for her help and advice during this past year, it has been greatly appreciated.

Well, we managed to stage our first live Christmas concert after two years, and having a sponsor who paid for the expenses for the concert, we were able to only charge a modest fee, and everyone who came and saw us really enjoyed the selection of music that we were able to offer.

We then had the Carol Concert at Royal Victoria Country Park, and the atmosphere for the evening was something to behold, and again, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Over the Christmas period we were able to go out and sing for some private concerts, and again, they were well received by the groups we sang to, especially the Halo club, where we dressed in Victorian costumes as it was the theme for their Christmas Get Together, and the effort was very much appreciated by the club. Again, thanks to Lin for supply of the Victorian costumes, which she has now donated to the choir and are kept in storage at the Lock-Up.

We were able to put on a successful Summer Concert at KCC, but this year the audience numbers were down, possibly due to the fact that it was FA Cup Final Day, but we only managed to make a small profit for this event, which will affect the amount we can spend on costumes and music, so we need to think about next year, and where we hold the Summer Concert and if we do one or two.

None of our concerts would be the success they are without the loyal help of the partners and friends that come along each time and help out as Front of House, with the Raffle, and in the kitchen. Without them we would not be able to put on our concerts, and our grateful thanks is extended to them all.

We have had several members resign during the year, but saying this, we have also gained several members, so our numbers have kept relatively stable during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for all the hard work over the past year. I think we have worked well together, and I certainly could not have done the job of Chairman without their help and guidance.

Well, that's all for now, and I look forward to seeing you in September when we return for the Christmas season.

Regards

Eric Gerrey - Chairman

Treasurer's Report – New Music Makers 2022/23

Analysis:

The 12 month period to 31 March 2023 is showing a net deficit of £1857 (2022 £89 deficit). We started the year with a balance of £5508 and have closed with £3651. A forecast was produced for the whole year, but each month the actual balances were entered as appropriate, so that the committee could see what money was being received/spent as the year progressed. The annual forecast showed an expected deficit of £901.

Annual Fees:

We remain a member of Making Music but decided not to continue with the National Association of Choirs, as we do not get anything out of being a member other than being included in their listing.

The Making Music fee was £140, and we paid £144 for the Zoom licence. This needs to be discussed as to whether we require it going forward.

Other fees paid were to cover our website £357 (£174 2022).

Fund Raising:

We received £94 during the year from Easy Giving (2022 £203).

Donations:

Miscellaneous donations totalled £48, and we donated £100 to the Ukraine appeal through our concert at Bitterne church.

Subscriptions:

The subscriptions increased to £16 from September last year. During the year we lost Rebecca Bull, Peter Foster, Terry Harland and Pat Jenkins, but welcomed Ellie Best, Emmy McGarry, Jane Nunez, Sheila Stokes-White and Wendy Westbury. Total subs received was £8518 (£7630 2022). We had 47 paying members compared with 46 in year ending March 2022.

Other:

Miscellaneous expenses amounted to £647. (2022 £231). These included a lap-top for the Secretary (£200).

Gift Aid:

We received a refund on gift aid of £1215 (£1238 2022). All members who can sign up to gift aid have now done so.

Summer Concert June 2023:

For information, £905 surplus had been made at the time of writing this report but hall hire not yet paid for. Estimate of final surplus is £150. Forecast was for £500.

Reserves Policy:

The Trustees have established a policy whereby unrestricted funds are not committed or invested in intangible fixed assets. This policy equates to having between £2,000 and £6,000 in general funds to be able to continue the current activities of the charity. At 31st March 2023 reserves are £3650 (£5508 at 31 March 2022).

Sharon Thomas

09/07/2023

**THE HEDGE END NEW MUSIC MAKERS 2022/23
FINAL ACCOUNTS**

31 March 2022 **As at 31 March 2023**

Details	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ Deficit	Variance To Previous Year	Forecast
-353.98 Annual fees (societies etc)		640.94	-640.94	-286.96	-374
-78.88 Christmas Concert	1966.65	987.28	979.37	1058.25	500
-12.40 Choir Anniversary Dinner	700.65	674.70	25.95	38.35	
255.35 Fund Raising	93.76	0.00	93.76	-161.59	
1074.20 Donation/Grant	47.76	100.00	-52.24	-1126.44	
-862.49 Hall Rental		1792.49	-1792.49	-930.00	-1875
-95.00 Insurance		99.00	-99.00	-4.00	-95
0.00 Summer Concert KCC	2665.93	1910.58	755.35	755.35	500
-154.65 Music		1208.35	-1208.35	-1053.70	
-2016.00 Box Room Rental		2316.00	-2316.00	-300.00	-2136
-4100.00 Musical Directors Fees		3900.00	-3900.00	200.00	-4200
40.00 Other Concerts/Weddings	1587.06	1465.09	121.97	81.97	
-2400.00 Pianist Fees		2720.00	-2720.00	-320.00	-2500
-12.00 Stationery & Administration		0.00	0.00	0.00	
7630.00 Subscriptions	8518.00		8518.00	888.00	8064
0.00 Tea/Coffee	0.00		0.00	0.00	
-9.84 Uniforms/Sweaters	10.00	200.56	-190.56	-180.72	
-231.06 Other	825.98	1473.29	-647.31	-416.25	
1238.16 Gift Aid	1215.25		1215.26	-22.91	1215
-88.59 Totals	17631.04	19488.28	-1857.24	-1768.65	-901

Balances

7.95 Petty Cash	16.11
6574.69 Lloyds	5216.02
-1174.52 Unpresented payments	-1581.25
100.00 Outstanding bankings	0.00
<u>5508.12</u> Total assets	<u>3650.88</u>

Liabilities

Nil

Reconciliation

Receipts & Payments

Opening Balance	5508.12		
Income	17631.04	Expenditure	19488.28
		Closing Bal.	<u>3650.88</u>
	<u>23139.16</u>		<u>23139.16</u>

Musical Director's Report 2023

Dear Choir,

I have been so proud to be a part of this choir this year as we have put on really engaging and meaningful Christmas and Summer concerts. It has been a full-on year and although I've noticed our overall tone quality change due to a new mixture of voices, each voice adds to the quality of our sound and reminds me how important each and every person is in our choir, so thank you for taking each Thursday evening to rehearse and prepare for our concerts. It is quite a commitment!

Our Christmas concert in Royal Victoria Country Park Chapel was a highlight for me. It was a beautiful performance in a beautiful space. We were well prepared, the music selection was perfect, and I hope that is a tradition we keep. It was also thrilling to be back in KCC for our summer concert and I always look forward to the Summer Spectacular, another new tradition that I love.

This year, I hope to work closely with Eric with the seating arrangements so there isn't so much moving around. I realize how unsettling that was for many choir members. I'd rather know what arrangement we will likely use for the concert and stay in those whilst we rehearse and prepare. I think we've gotten into a comfortable groove, so I'm hoping this year to push the choir a bit more and get back to count-singing and maybe la-la-la's to achieve a tighter sound, but don't worry--my priority is always making music enjoyable!

Kindest regards,

Lillian Sediles

Lillian Sediles
Musical Director

Music Librarian's Report to NMM AGM 2023

Introduction

I ran an audit on behalf of your Committee of all the music held by choir members earlier this year. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and co-operation in helping me complete what was a complex task. It could not have been done without you.

The aim of the audit was to ensure that:

- Our sheet music assets remain complete.
- Our sheet music assets remain in good condition.
- Everyone has original sheet music rather than photocopies
- To help us understand which pieces may need more copies to be bought should they be included in a future music programme.

What did I find out – the headlines

- You really recognise the responsibility you have for looking after the music you hold. Out of the total of about 6400 pieces audited examined, only around 250 might need replacing because they are in poor condition.
- The biggest risk to music condition, beyond wear and tear over time, seems to come from spilling drinks (water and coffee being the top culprits) onto music. Drinks and sheet music do not mix! You have been warned!!
- Very few of you have pieces missing from what they are supposed to have. One member is missing three pieces and two others are missing one.
- I have a much clearer view of music sets 48 to 60 where the number of copies in the library did not necessarily cover the full active membership. Wherever I can I now recycle lower numbered sets for new members rather than issuing higher numbered sets.
- You all use pencil nowadays for your reminder notes on your music. Marking in ink or highlighter appears to be historic and generally on pieces older than about 20 years, at least.
- We have very few questionable photocopies being used rather than originals – much lower than I expected. These will be replaced should that piece ever be included in a future summer programme.

What happens now?

The Committee have accepted my recommendations from the audit. In short:

In my opinion, there is no need to take any specific action to purchase replacement music immediately. Any action required will only be identified when the Music Committee meets in Autumn 2023 to consider the programme for Summer 2024.

I will use whatever spare copies there may be to top up some of the pieces a few of you have never had. You may still be some pieces missing but it will be better than now.

I will now do a further audit of the rest of the music in the archive store.

Any perceived risk about allowing you to hold all your music yourselves seems to be minimal given what you all told me. Therefore, I will be asking the new Committee to approve extending the music you hold to also include Christmas music. I'm hoping that will start with the music you've recently received.

What can you do?

Everyone fully expects wear and tear to our music over time. However, if we can maximise the life of the music we have, we can invest in new music. You all enjoy the challenge of the new pieces we have bought in recent years. One simple thing you can do is to stick reinforcement rings around worn punch holes. You can buy a pack for a couple of quid. Some of you said you were going to do that anyway. So, thank you for that.

Keep your music away from drinks or vice versa. As I said earlier, music and drinks do not mix!!

Should you ever leave the choir, and some of you do – you really do, please do get your music back to me (or the librarian at that time) or someone on the Committee as soon as you possibly can. It makes life so much easier all round!

Final Words

Thank you for all your help, support and co-operation. It really does make things a lot simpler, more than you can possibly imagine. Have a great summer and see you in the autumn.

With my best wishes

Tony Jardine

New Music Makers Librarian