

NEW MUSIC MAKERS COMMITTEE MEETING - Minutes 17th February 2026

Present:

Eric Gerrey (Chairman), Eunice Deuchar, Sharon Thomas (ST), Jacqui Clifft, Margaret Ballard, Sarah Turl (STu), Jerry Gamble, Elaine Walter, Gen Marsh

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed by all as correct.

3. Matters Arising

Website – After a meeting, JC and Emmy have instigated an overhaul of our website. A calendar has been inserted so that dates of all concerts, committee meetings etc are easily seen. It is intended to include programmes from previous years concerts so that prospective members can see the genres of music we perform. Choir members are asked to visit the website so that they can see what information is now available. Agreed that JC will deal with any changes required to the website in the future, and Emmy will perform them. A vote of thanks was given to Jacqui for the work she has put in. **Action closed**

Recruitment - Email received from a choir member concerning the difficulty in recruiting men. EG spoke to the member to invite them to come to a committee meeting to discuss options, but the offer was declined. **Action closed.**

Decided not to have a sub-committee for recruitment, but all committee members would discuss various options for promoting recruitment of men. Agreed that an advert would be produced by STu and printed on green card by EG (postcard size) to be put in prominent places. JC suggested a rolling screen advertisement with J Henrys (Fish and Chips) but at £60 per month was considered to be more than we wanted to spend just to recruit one tenor. Agreed that we would advertise for positions as they occur so that we do not have people showing an interest only to be told they will have to go on a waiting list. **Action STu/EG**

Local Vocals - email to be sent to the choir member to answer some of their other concerns regarding the departure of tenor and their non-inclusion in Local Vocals. JC approached the member personally to try and explain the points they had raised but has now received another email which seemed to reiterate what had already been put forward. The committee agreed that they felt the points raised had in fact been answered, and there was little else they could do to placate the member. The previous minutes under Local Vocals effectively explained that we would be proposing an amendment to the Constitution at the AGM to cover Local Vocals membership. **Action closed**

Christmas draw - ST asked that all those who contributed towards the Christmas draw prizes be officially thanked. **Action ongoing EG**

Mayor's charity – To be held at West End Village Hall, but time unknown. EG and Chris Allison have a meeting on 19 March with the mayor to discuss final points, including what uniform she would like us to wear. **Action ongoing EG**

New Year's Eve Party – **Action ongoing EG**

4. Correspondence

New tenor who came to one of our rehearsals is "on hold" until September as he has other commitments. However, it was generally agreed that we still need to recruit for the vacancy.

5. Finance

Total assets currently £13121. We received £51 from Easy Fundraising.

6. Publicity

STu to design summer concert poster. **Action Stu**

7. Website and Facebook

JC suggested that we put a date for the annual dinner 2027 on the website calendar.

Agreed as the third Saturday in March. Photo for Local Vocals to be replaced by a newer one. STu will take one at a choir rehearsal. **Action STu**

8. Local Vocals

Nothing to report.

9. Forthcoming events

Bitterne URC 23 April 2026 – request to sing to senior citizens. 1.45 pm for 2.00 pm start. Ladies to wear pink tops, men pink ties.

John Lewis – Saturday 16th May 2026. Arrive 11.45 am for 12.00 – 1.00 pm. Gold tops.

Can use the opportunity to advertise summer concert with fliers. May not be able to collect for Air Ambulance as John Lewis have their own charity to support. Eric will be advised.

John Lewis – Saturday 5th December 2026. Arrive 11.45 am for 12.00 – 1.00 pm.

Christmas U3A Botley and Hedge End – 9th December 2026 (Local Vocals). Donation requested as not a care home event.

Bishops Waltham Christmas Fayre – Thursday 26 November 2026 tbc. **Action GM** (date confirmed after the meeting but fee to be considered)

Bishops Waltham Rotary Carnival – 13th June 2026.

Haskins – Sunday 13 December and 20th December 2026 – tbc. **Action EG**

10. Choir welfare

Any issues discussed will not be minuted for confidentiality.

11. AOB

Cover for MD - As Hilary Green has agreed to take our next choir rehearsal, a fee was agreed by the committee. ST will ask her to invoice us. **Action ST**

Uniforms – GM suggested we look at having a summer uniform that can be worn on several occasions. A budget was agreed at £1000 to include bow ties.

The bow ties with sequins will no longer be used, and satin ones sourced in the appropriate colours to match the ladies' tops. Men to wear black bow ties and white shirts when the ladies wear gold tops. **Action GM**

Current vacancy for an alto has two prospective members – both will have a voice test, and Chris Allison will decide which one will enhance the alto section the most.

JG suggested we try doing a "Flash Mob" at the John Lewis event. This to be discussed at the next meeting with Chris.

Dates for future committee meetings – 17th March, 28th April, 19th May, 30th June, AGM 16th July, 8th September 2026.

Meeting closed at 09.20 pm. Next meeting March 17th (with Chris Allison), 7.30 pm.