

NEW MUSIC MAKERS

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Hedge End Village Hall 16 July 2025

The meeting opened at 7: 30pm with Eric Gerrey in the Chair

Present:

Eric Gerrey; Chris Allison; Anne Lee; Gen Marsh; Jacqui Clifft, Maureen Pay; Lin Kellaway; Eileen Evers; Beryl Gerrey; Elaine Walter; Lizzie Kemp; Jane Courtenay; Gilly Jeffery; Rosie Adams; Elizabeth Townsend; Liz Manser; Hilary Green; Wendy Westby; Percy Knight; Jerry Gamble; Rebecca Lewis; Saffron Armstrong; Alison Baker; Maragret Whale; Natalie Heppel; Beccy Coppen; Louise Staniforth

1. APOLOGIES

Eunice Deuchar; Sharon Thomas; Margaret Ballard; Margaret Dunne; Steve Swan; Debbie Swan; Tony Jardine; Naomi Holloway; Rebecca Williams

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM MEETING

Agreed by all as correct. Proposed Percy Knight, seconded Lyn Kellaway

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None reported

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Report at the end of these Minutes. Eric added his thanks for support from the Committee.

Proposed: Hilary Green, seconded: Lin Kellaway

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Report at the end of these Minutes

Proposed: Lin Kellaway seconded: Maureen Pay

6. MD's REPORT

Report at the end of these Minutes. Balance and recruitment of tenors and basses is key for next year to maintain 4 -part harmony choir. Personal invitation is key. If everyone invites one person that would provide lots of new members!

Proposed: Gen Marsh; seconded: Elaine Walters

7. MUSIC LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Report at the end of the minutes. Chairman thanked Tony for the work he has done managing the large collection of music. A question raised about whether there is a list available of all music on the website and when last sung to support the choice of music for future concerts. There is a list of music for each part on website:

[New-Music-Makers-SA-Voces-Personal-Library-including-Summer-2026-Programme-v1.pdf](#)

[New-Music-Makers-TB-Voces-Personal-Library-including-Summer-2026-Programme-v1.pdf](#)

[NMM-Christmas-Music-Personal-Library-including-2025-Christmas-Programme.pdf](#)

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Proposer: Lin Kellaway; seconded Maggie Jacobs

8. Local Vocals report

Nominated for BBC Radio Solent 'Make a Difference Award 2026'. Finalists notified in the autumn. Thanks to Eunice for her work with this group.

Proposer: Maureen Pay, seconded Liz Townsend

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following candidates have agreed to stand and continue their roles in the following positions:

Chairperson	Eric Gerrey
Vice Chairperson	Sarah Turl
Secretary	Jacqui Clift
Treasurer	Sharon Thomas

Proposer: Rebecca Lewis, seconded: Louise Staniforth. Motion carried.

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Margaret Ballard has stepped down from the Committee. The chair thanked her for her long standing support which will be greatly missed in the meetings.

The following candidates have agreed to stand and continue in their role as follows:

Jerry Gamble; Eunice Deuchar; Gen Marsh; Elaine Walters

Saffron Armstrong has stepped into the role of Committee member. to be added

Proposed; Rebecca Lewis; seconded Hilary Green. Motion carried.

11. Music Committee

Current positions are held by

Music Librarian	Tony Jardine
Alto Rep	Eunice Deuchar
Bass Rep	Eric Gerrey
Sop Rep	Hilary Green
Tenor Rep	Percy Knight

Proposer Sarah Turl, seconded Liz Kemp

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Review of Our Audition Process document (new in 2026). It was suggested to make the timing of the audition 2/3 weeks - flexible according to individual need.

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Welcome Leaflet changes: makes clear that participation in Local Vocals is from members of the choir.

Photography/ video: £1000 left by Martin. Could we buy a video camera that is remotely controlled? Committee has this in hand. YouTube NMM account in place for sharing video/ audio clips as well as through WhatsApp.

Can choir members be given two folders, to use one each half of a concert, as we have funds.

Might have some progress on being able to open the windows in the hall- neighbours to be approached.

Possible link with Dementia groups run by Rebecca Lewis.

Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, Nominated Charity for 2025/26 current total £1507.03 with 3 collecting tins waiting to be counted. The final total will be presented on a large cheque in September.

A vote of thanks to the Committee made by Louise Stanforth.

Meeting closed at 2030 hours

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Chairman's Report 16 July 2026

Well, another year over, and what another good year we have had. We started off our Christmas season singing at Bishops Waltham's Christmas Fayre, and although it was raining lightly at the start, we managed to sing in the doorway of the church, and we were well received by the general public. We then went back to John Lewis on the Saturday, and again we were well received by the customers, and especially the management who came and thanked us after we had sung. Our Christmas concerts were very well attended and we managed to make a healthy profit again, but this time we had decided to give the profit from the raffles to our nominated charity, which this year was the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, which amounted to over £500. We were again joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Eastleigh, who seemed to have become a fan of ours, as she asked if we would put on a concert for her charities, but I will come to that later. We finished off the season with singing at Haskins on the two Sundays before Christmas, and again, we had a good comments come back from their customers, some of whom stayed after their lunch to hear us sing. During all these events, we had put out the collection tins for our charity, and when they were taken into their office, we had managed to raise over £300. The Committee had decided to keep the nominated charity going for a year so that we could include the profits from the raffles at our Summer concert and Summer Spectacular, and we are hoping to be able to present a cheque to them once we have the final total from the raffle on Saturday. After Christmas, we got in contact with the Mayor of Eastleigh and agreed to arrange a concert for her charities, and after discussions with West End Parish Council, who agreed to let her have the use of the Village Hall for free, a date was agreed and we went and sang there on the 9th May. We could see by the looks on the faces of the audience that they did not know what they were going to get when they came in, but in the end, they were fully with us, and we gave a great performance for the Mayor. We had our usual concert for Bitterne URC in April, and then we sang again in John Lewis on the 16th May. We had originally agreed to have our Summer Concert back at the Rose Theatre, but after a mix up with the booking, we managed to go back to KCC for our concert, who let us have it for the same price that we were going to be charged by the Rose Theatre. Again, the concert was well attended and we made another profit. Our Summer Spectacular last Saturday was another successful event, and we were more than grateful for the air conditioning in the Village Hall, otherwise it might have been impossible to put on a concert in the heat that we are experiencing at the moment, not only for our audience but for ourselves as well. One of the things that the Committee is going to do going forward, is to put out our "Sing-Up" Sheets at the beginning of each term so that you can sign up to the events and not forget them as we did with the outing to Bishops Waltham's Summer Fayre, where we had to decline the invitation at short notice due to number who were available to attend. We will

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also put all the dates for the term ahead at the end of my email each week, just to remind you what we have committed to in the future. All the events that we do would not have happened without the backing of your Committee who put a lot of hard work into organising the events, and then help to set them up and take them down afterwards, together with the assistance of our members. We also have a band of non-members who turn out and help as well, and for that we are hugely thankful. The Committee meets regularly once a month to make sure that everything is going to plan. We have a regular meeting with Chris so that he can voice his opinions and we can voice ours on anything that we feel needs to change. One of the things that Chris wanted was to get our name at there more, and we have certainly done that this year. We would not be the successful choir, which we are, without the leadership of Chris as our MD and Keziah as our accompanist, but mostly it's you who make the choir what it is today. We have a full programme for Christmas, and although we had to decline the Bishops Waltham's Summer Fayre, at short notice, we have been asked by the organiser if we would be interested in joining him for a "Big Band" concert sometime in October/November, at the Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham, so it looks like we have not blotted our copy book with them. I thank you for your support, and look forward to another successful year ahead.

Regards Eric Gerrey – Chairman

Treasurer's Report – New Music Makers 2025/26 Analysis

The 12 month period to 31 March 2026 is showing a net surplus of £5199 (2025 £3085 surplus). We started the year with a balance of £7328 and have closed with £12527. The annual forecast showed an expected surplus of £2728. In brief, compared with the annual forecast, we increased our overall surplus by £2471. In part this was due to an extra £1900 surplus on our summer and Christmas concerts, and £300 on our other events. Annual Fees We remain a member of Making Music. The Making Music fee was £239 Dec 2025 compared with £230 Dec 2024. Insurance was £107, and Hostinger £21 for our .com address. Christmas Concerts Ticket sales for the two concerts amounted to £2015, and the two draws brought in £582. We made an overall surplus of £1734, (£1100 Dec 2024) against a forecast of £500. All the proceeds of the draw will be donated to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, our chosen charity. Fund Raising We received £177 during the year from Easy Giving (2025 £169). Contributions from Haskins at our Christmas singing event were collected in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance boxes. Donations Miscellaneous donations totalled £40. Storage rental Our rental charge with Shurgards for our storage lockup increased from £107 to £123 per month in June 2025. Other concerts The Summer Spectacular show 2025 brought in £1313 from ticket sales, (£826 2024) and £350 from the draw (£223 2024). The overall surplus was £1171. It should be remembered that we had 2 extra tables due to the high uptake of tickets, and the price was increased from £10 to £12. Other concerts at URC Bitterne, St James' West End, Bishops Waltham Christmas Fayre, Jason's wedding, John Lewis and Haskins gave a net deficit of £390. The overall surplus was therefore

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£781, against a forecast of £450. Subscriptions The subscriptions remained at £22 with no increase in September 2025. During the year we lost Terry Harland and Emmy McGarry, but welcomed new member Saffron Armstrong. Total subs received was £13024 (£10204 2024/25). We had 49 paying members at the end of the financial year. Our fixed costs are well covered and there is no requirement to increase the subs this coming year. Other Miscellaneous items amounted to a deficit of £843, due in the main to purchase of a new keyboard and some music stands. (2024/25 £180). Unfortunately the social event at St Johns had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Gift Aid We received a refund on gift aid of £2124 (£1671 2024). All members who can sign up to gift aid have now done so. Summer Concert June 2026 For information, the net surplus from the single summer concert at the KCC is £704. Ticket sales were £1056, and £304 was taken for the draw, which will go to our chosen charity. In comparison, The Rose Theatre, Eastleigh in June 2025 was £770 surplus in total. 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 2026 reserves were £12528 (£7329 at 31 March 2025). A deposit account was opened during the year with Hampshire Trust Bank for a one year term.

Sharon Thomas Treasurer 6th July 2026

The New Music Makers - Music Director's Report Chris Allison, July 2026

As I look back over the last twelve months, I feel immensely proud of everything we have achieved together. We've enjoyed a busy year of rehearsals and performances, and once again you've demonstrated your commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to embrace new challenges. One of our biggest achievements has been the sheer amount of music we've learned! We've covered a significant amount of new repertoire, and you've worked incredibly hard to learn it in good time for our performances. That preparation has meant our rehearsals haven't simply been about learning notes and words; instead, we've been able to spend much more time refining our performances, working on musical expression and developing our connection with our audiences by looking up, smiling and engaging. We even managed a bit of "choreography" (I use the word in its loosest sense!) to songs like the Can Can and Celebration! There is more to do in these areas, but we have certainly moved on. Last year, when I took over as Music Director, I outlined several areas that I wanted to develop. We talked about becoming more confident performers as well accurate singers. We also set out to improve the overall blend and balance of the choir. Repositioning the sections, especially moving basses and tenors to the middle and front has made a noticeable difference to the balance of our sound. I will come back to this when we look at areas for development between now and next Summer but thank you for your willingness to adapt, change and continually look to improve what we do and how we do it. Another thing I wanted to develop was our repertoire. I feel this year, for our Summer concerts including the

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concert we did for the mayor, that our concert programmes now better reflect where I want us to be. We are performing a broader range of music and including contemporary pop and rock, making effective use of backing tracks while continuing to benefit from the outstanding musicianship that Keziah brings as our accompanist. I feel this is essential if we are going to recruit new members and grow new audiences. Importantly, we have achieved this without losing what makes us distinctive—NMM have always been a four part harmony choir performing music of many different styles to a consistently high standard. I continue to hear very positive comments from new and existing audience members about the music we perform and how we deliver it. It has been a real pleasure to welcome Amelia back. She has now played with us for many years. As well as adding beautiful violin lines to several of our songs, she has also accompanied us confidently on the piano, bringing another dimension to our performances with Keziah on Trombone and Sharon on Djembe. Thank you also to Hilary for practising and conducting the ladies in their excellent performance of “Flying Free” and also helping with piano in some rehearsals too. Thank you also to every soloist who has sung or auditioned even if you didn’t get in this time. Drawing from these wider talents adds to the fun and variety of what we can deliver. As I reflect on how all of these things have come together in concerts, our Christmas concerts (accompanied by quite a bit of singing and money raising for charity out and about) were once again very popular. Earlier this year we were invited to perform for the Mayor’s fundraising concert in West End. It was a privilege to support worthwhile charitable causes while introducing the choir to a generally new audience. Our Summer Concert and Summer Spectacular were equally successful. Once again, familiar faces returned to hear us, alongside many people attending for the first time. Hearing positive feedback from both long-standing supporters and new audience members is always encouraging and reminds us that we’re continuing to grow both musically and in our reputation. Looking ahead to next season, I want us to keep developing accurate, confident, expressive performances which balance contemporary and classic songs. Particular areas to focus on are – • Knowing our music well so that we look up more - watching and engaging with both me and our audiences so that we perform with greater confidence, expression and accuracy. • Refining our diction, paying particular attention to maintaining unified vowel sounds on sustained notes and finishing words together cleanly. These are details that lift a very good choir to an excellent one. Our BIGGEST CHALLENGE which we all need to think how we can help overcome is our need to recruit more tenors and basses. So many local choirs have become 3 part (Soprano, Alto and Baritone) or become female only choirs. We have always been a four part harmony choir and I hope always will be. Recruiting men to a choir is never easy (and our tenors do not have to be men – thank you to Rebekah for swapping to the tenor section). Can I ask us all to think about who we know that we can invite to join us, or where we can hand out or put one of our flyers to say we are recruiting. We are holding spaces vacant particularly to recruit tenors and basses. We will continue to profile that we are looking for tenors and basses on social media and in concerts but it’s often from personal invitation that people come along. Think about who you know who you could invite to join us. September is a great time for new people to start as we will begin learning our Christmas music. Thank you for your commitment throughout the year. Thank you committee for all your organisation. Thank

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you Tony and the music committee for selecting, purchasing and sorting all of the music for us. Thank you Keziah for your excellent musicianship. Thank you all of you for the preparation you do between rehearsals, for your willingness to keep learning and for your desire to keep improving. It is a genuine privilege to work with a choir that is so committed to making excellent music together. I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing you in September for another fun year together!

Chris Allison Music Director, New Music Makers.

New Music Makers AGM 2026 – Music Librarian Report

We continue to grow our music collection, both through new manuscripts and, increasingly, digitally licensed music. This year has been no exception. In May 2025, with the Treasurer's agreement, the Music Committee selected new music for the Christmas 2025 season. We did the same in October 2025 for the Summer 2026 concerts, which concluded just before the AGM. Fortunately, our budget was sufficient to support all the music we wanted to purchase. I hope you'll agree that, under Chris's direction, the new music we've been choosing has broadened our repertoire, challenged us musically and, most importantly, been fun to sing. No new piece will ever be everyone's favourite, but judging by the reactions from our audiences, I think we're getting the balance right. Most of the new music we consider comes from you, the members of New Music Makers, so please keep your suggestions coming. You can send them directly to me or to your voice-part representative, whose details are in the Our Music Collection section of the website. If possible, please include an SATB arrangement and, ideally, a YouTube link to the arrangement you've found. It makes the Music Committee's job much easier when we're comparing different versions. So, what happens to your suggestions? First, I gather them all together, check the links and, where there are several arrangements of the same song, add suitable alternatives. This gives the Music Committee the best possible choice. We don't just consider the arrangement itself; we also think about voice balance, musical interest, the overall concert programme, mood and variety. About a week before each meeting, I circulate the shortlist so committee members have time to listen and consider the options beforehand. That means we can have productive discussions and reach decisions more quickly. Once we've agreed our choices, I carry out a final sense check before sourcing and purchasing the music for the choir. Simple! Thank you once again for taking such good care of the music you hold on behalf of the choir. I know it's a significant responsibility, especially now that our library has grown so much. If any music is lost or damaged, please let me know as soon as possible so I can arrange a replacement. Please don't copy music from another member's library. As always, I had a few "I can't find this piece – are you sure you gave it to me?" conversations! And, as always, after another careful look, the "missing" music turned up in personal libraries. Remember that up-to-date lists of your music holdings, organised by voice part, are available in the Our Music Collection section of the website. For the Summer 2026 concerts, the Music Committee selected six brand-new songs, plus one for the TB voices. The Christmas 2025 programme included the challenge of learning seven new songs. In both programmes, we also brought back a couple of

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favourites from our archive. New Music Makers AGM 2026 – Music Librarian Report Finally, if you have any questions about any aspect of the music library, please do come and have a chat. My role is to make sure you have everything you need to enjoy making music together. I'm also very happy to continue as your Music Librarian, if you'll have me! With my best wishes, Tony

Tony Jardine Music Librarian

NEW MUSIC MAKERS LOCAL VOCALS REPORT 2026

It has been another fantastic year so far for Local Vocals, and I am delighted to report that the group continues to go from strength to strength. So far this year we have performed 23 times, bringing music, fun and companionship to audiences across our community. Our visits to local care homes continue to be one of the highlights of what we do, and it is wonderful to see how much the residents enjoy our performances. The warm welcomes and positive feedback remind us just how important music can be in bringing people together. We are also incredibly proud to have been nominated for the BBC Radio Solent 'Maker a Difference Awards'. This is a tremendous honour and recognition of the positive impact Local Vocals has within our community. We are due to find out the results by the end of this month however, whatever the outcome being nominated is a wonderful achievement for everyone involved. This year we are pleased to welcome Marg as a new member and hope she enjoys being part of the group for many years to come. Sadly, we have said Goodbye to Keith but we thank him for his contribution to Local Vocals and wish him all the best for the future. As always, new members from the choir are very welcome. Looking ahead we have a busy winter programme of performances planned and we are excited about continuing to share our music with even more people. Finally I would like to say heartfelt thank you to every member and supporter of Local Vocals. Your enthusiasm, commitment and friendship are what make this group so special. We are doing really well and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together during the rest of the year.

Thank you, Eunice Deuchar