



# MINUTES

## Wareham Choral Society

### AGM 2013

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
2013 8:15pm  
at URC Wareham

#### **1 Welcome to those attending**

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Jane Randall

#### **3 Minutes - 8/10/2012**

These were available for attendees to read. There were no comments.

#### **4 Matters Arising**

The only matter arising was whether we should institute a fixed period of tenure for committee members. This is dealt with separately under item 9.

#### **5. Chairman's Report**

Judith Price reported as follows:

"It seems rather more than a year ago that I became Chair of WCS and during the year the Society has continued to build on past success. We are retaining old friends, attracting new, and both our Christmas and Spring Concerts were well received by audiences of record numbers.

However there have been significant changes.

Firstly, Beverly Manning our well loved accompanist retired in March of this year. It seemed a sudden departure but in truth Beverley was struggling with increasingly arthritic hands, the journey from Wimborne on cold dark nights was becoming more of an effort, and he had already informed us that he was unavailable for the Christmas concert. We were fortunate in being able to book Rob Dishington as our accompanist for both the final rehearsals and for the concert. In his letter to me confirming his retirement Beverley wrote that he was quite happy with this step. We gave Beverly a bottle of Glenfiddich and a card but I know that many of you felt that a proper good-bye and expression of gratitude had not taken place so we are inviting Beverley to join us when we gather on the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec for wine and mince-pies.

Joan Willis also retired last year after many years as Secretary and we are delighted that she is back with us singing again.

A further change for the Society will be announced this evening when Richard Marchant stands down from his present office as a co-opted member of the Committee. No one could possibly replace Richard. He is the 'Pooh-Bah' of the Society and done all things from Musical Director

down. He has been an enormous source of advice and support to Jane. We will say more when we celebrate his time with us on the 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. and I would be pleased to receive your ideas for a fitting tribute. We understand that Richard has many commitments but hope that he and Karen will remain members of the society.

WCS has benefited over the years from a series of talented musicians. It is good to acknowledge and record their inputs. They have been in the best sense of the word 'amateurs'; making music was their hobby not their source of income and they were pleased to give unstintingly of their time. Perhaps we should consider appointing Honorary Members or Presidents. Please let us know your view.

We are now being led by professionals and our subscriptions are being gently raised to meet the fully justified cost of their excellent inputs.

We are fortunate in having new friends to replace the old. John Radford, our accompanist, is both a pianist and organist with extensive skills and experience. He has already established a user friendly professional relationship with us and through him no doubt we will establish lines of communication with the many choirs he serves.

Robert Dishington has taken over as the Briantspuddle Choir conductor and we have agreed with him to work co-operatively whenever the opportunity arises, as it did in September when we needed an accompanist for both the rehearsal and performance of our in-put to the WaterAid concert. That occasion made us aware of the entrepreneurial skills of our youngest member Sam Clarke who is a valued member of our publicity and promotions group.

We hope Sam will continue to provide ideas for attracting younger members. On that front we have been approached by the Harbin and Pitt Trust for a donation. The fund exists to finance the ambitions of young people to acquire a skill or to participate in an activity. We replied saying that we would consider this but suggesting that we would be interested in offering 'scholarships' to young singers. This would involve free membership of the society and the possibility of some small group or individual vocal training. I am discussing this with the Purbeck School and will report back to you.

That Water Aid concert and a recruiting poster campaign proved an excellent way of attracting new members in all sections and we are delighted to welcome our new arrivals

For our society to thrive we need to grow further and I hope that we will be able to take advantage of two new opportunities to flag-up our existence by singing after our rehearsal for 30 minutes for the Hemsbach society on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec and at the Kingston Tree Festival – for 30 mins. on Sunday Dec 1st. It is a lovely occasion for family and friends. We are a little short of men so would greatly appreciate it if a couple more Tenors/Bases were able to join us.

For several years our concerts have clashed with both the dates and programmes of Swanage choirs. We hope we are now ahead of the game. We are already planning our Christmas 2014 and spring programme 2015 and the following dates have been set

June 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 – Concert to commemorate the start of WW1

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 – Christmas Concert

April 25th 2015 will be our Spring Concert – details to be announced.

The Church is booked and both the Purbeck and Making Music Anti-clash diaries have this information.

The summer concert will consist of music and poetry relevant to WW1 with readings related to the war-time experience of the people of Wareham. We are fortunate that Richard Hall has specialist knowledge of music 1912 -18 and Jane and I have already met with him to share ideas. Laura Marshallsay, one of our new members, is an historian with a special interest in the period and she will be supporting us with newly researched facts and stories. We hope to have a small exhibition at the back of the church for memorabilia. Our Lady Mayoress Carol Turner will be in attendance and there may be further civic involvement.

We are very grateful to the URC for our continued use of this venue. The heating has been improved and as the primary users of the keyboard we have funded necessary repairs and the purchase of speakers. All this, under the guidance of Richard who sought out a highly skilled keyboard specialist. We still have funds to purchase our own keyboard and we are continuing to explore which instrument would suit us best.

Throughout the year the Committee have amazed me with their commitment and the contribution of skills outside their particular areas of responsibility. We are all in their debt for the organisation that goes on behind the scenes. I do hope that tonight someone will come forward to represent choir members or with a particular role that they would like to fill. We need people to become familiar with the workings of the society and able to step forward when officers wish to resign. If you have no wish to serve on the committee but feel you have a role to play then that too would be absolutely fine.

Finally, it is Jane who continues to lead us in attaining a standard equal to that of many auditioning choirs. There is no such thing as absolute success or failure but there is learning, and a development of the will to face new challenges. This is why I say with confidence that WCS is a choir on the move and with an interesting future. I hope you agree!"

Following a suggestion by the Chairman, the meeting discussed a proposal to change rehearsal times to 7:30pm-9:30pm, since it was felt that this would be more convenient for members (present and future) who still worked. Response from members was mixed; some members felt that this would mean getting home rather late. Starting at 7:15 might be an acceptable compromise. No immediate change is contemplated, and the feelings of other members not at the AGM would be canvassed.

## **6.Music Director's Report**

Jane Oakland reported that our Christmas 2012 concert had been a success for the choir, with a varied programme which had showcased our own talent. This is something we should seek to continue, and our Christmas 2013 concert would be equally successful with an ambitious and innovative programme.

Our Spring concert – Eternal Light – had been a considerable challenge, but a huge success, in which we had worked as a team to overcome some interesting instrumental issues! It was certainly encouraging to see younger people in the audience.

We will rehearse for our summer concert after Christmas in parallel with learning Elijah for the Guild concert. The Summer concert will include a substantial Elgar work and other songs, some of which will be a capella.

It is important that we continue to show commitment and innovation so that we can compete in a crowded marketplace in an area richly served by other choirs.

## **7.Treasurer's Report**

Details are given in the table below.

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
In Bank September 2012	£1773.62	Music Hire	£126.00
		Insurance	£149.62
Subs	£4060.00	Postage etc.	£77.79
		Mayors Charity	£100.00
Bequest	£300.00	H for Heroes	£241.07
		Not Just Sundaes	£50.00
December Concert	£521.61	Dorset Guild Provision	£750.00
		Rehearsal room inc.URC & LSM.	£555.00
Collection Charity	£22.00	Musical Director	£2080.00
		Gifts- M Lewis & Bev Manning	£86.97
H for Heroes	£241.07	Camera/monitor	£156.39
		Accompanist	£1070.00
		Loss April concert	£253.17
		Bank August 2013	£1222.29

£6918.30

∑

£6918.30

**Savings Account**

In Account

August 2012

£5002.39

Interest

£2.45

August 2013

£5004.84

**Concerts**

<b><u>Dec 2012</u></b>				<b><u>April 2013</u></b>	
				Ticket Sales £1861.00	
Ticket sales £8.00			Approx 168 @		
<u>£1347.00</u>			Programme sales £55.80		
			Total <u>£1916.80</u>		
Outgoings			Outgoings		
	Brass	£70.00		Piano Hire	£613.00
	Organ	£120.00		Soloists	£465.00
	MD	£130.00		Musicians	£526.00
	Printing & Advrtng	£265.39		MD	£162.50
	Wine & Flwrs etc.	£90.00		Printing & Advrtng	£233.00
	LSM	£150.00		Wine & flwrs etc	£120.47
				LSM	£50.00
	<b>Surplus</b>	<b><u>£521.61</u></b>		<b>Loss</b>	<b><u>£253.17</u></b>

## **8.Subscriptions.**

These have now been raised to £45 per term.

## **9. Period of Tenure for Officers**

The issue of whether to institute a maximum period of tenure for officers has been debated extensively by the committee. We will not restrict the length of service for committee members. However, we would like members to give one year's notice of their intentions to retire from committee membership.

## **10. Election of Officers**

There were no new nominations for officers and all the existing officers were prepared to stand again. It was proposed (Hazel Carter), seconded (Laura Marshallsay) that the existing officers be re-elected. This was carried unanimously.

## **11. Election of Committee**

Richard Marchant has decided not to continue on the committee, after many years service to WCS in a variety of roles, due to family and other commitments. Other members were prepared to stand again, and were re-elected unopposed. Laura Marshallsay has indicated willingness to assist in publicity for WCS and will join the publicity sub-committee.

## **12. A.O.B**

## **13 Thanks to all attendees**