

Richmondshire Choral Society

Minutes of the AGM held at 7pm on Monday 21st October in Richmond Methodist Church.

1. **Apologies:** Marcia Howard
2. **Minutes of the last AGM:** Approved.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - 3.1. The Friends scheme is off to a good start. Tim White was thanked for setting up and administering the scheme.
 - 3.2. Janet Hall was thanked for setting up the Easy Fundraising Scheme. We are now also registered with Amazon Smile. Members were reminded to use these schemes, which give a proportion of the price of each purchase to choir funds.
 - 3.3. Thanks to Marian Ginnever and the teamakers. Donations for each week's tea and biscuits are also adding a weekly amount of around £13 to our funds.
4. **Chair's Report:** The Chair thanked the Committee and Officers for their hard work and for the ideas put forward throughout the year.

Thanks were also given to Lis Grant for organising the Choir Social, Marian Ginnever for providing tea each week and to the excellent team of volunteers who set up the staging and take on Front of House duties for our concerts.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support and for the laughs we have shared along way. It has been a good three years!

The Grocers Mercers and Haberdashers Grants Committee will be looking at our application for a grant towards the cost of altering our staging in November. They will contact the Secretary with their reply.
5. **Conductor's Report:** It has been a happy year which got off to a successful start with the December concert featuring Vaughan Williams and Morten Lauredson. The acoustic in St. Mary's Church sets the choir off to great advantage. The April Concert of Dvorak's lovely Stabat Mater, enjoyed by both choir and audience, built very well onto December's good start. The Come and Sing day went well.

The year has been busy and challenging. Peter hoped that the choir would continue to show growth and improvement over the years to come. Peter thanked Andrew Christer for his musicianship, the Committee for the work which they undertake throughout the year and the Choir for its full support.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Overall, the year has been good and for the first time in four years we are showing a surplus. There was a fall in ticket sales and donations and an increase in website costs and charges for the hire of concert space. The cost of printing has fallen, as has the cost of soloists for the concerts. Rehearsal refreshments have brought in £382 over the year and the Friends scheme has so far brought in £210. Donations for concert programmes have risen.

Although the income from the choir's social event has decreased the cost of the event has also fallen.

No Gift Aid payments had yet been received for the year, but they would be added to our balance on arrival.

The Treasurer proposed that Roman Pronyszyn should be appointed as our independent financial examiner for the next year, and the proposal was carried.

David Barraclough proposed that the accounts should be approved and the motion was carried.

- 7: Addition to the Constitution:** This amendment to the constitution, the addition of Article 9:7, was proposed by Mary Branigan and seconded by Jan Beeton.

“9.7 The Executive Committee may take decisions of an urgent nature by means of electronic communication if it is not possible to arrange a regular meeting of the Committee, provided that:

- (1.) each such decision is considered on an individual basis
- (2.) the Chair has the agreement of the majority of Committee members that it is appropriate for the particular decision to be made by such means
- (3.) each member’s response is transmitted to all other members
- (4.) any such decision is made by a quorum of the committee
- (5.) the decision is noted in the Minutes of the next following meeting of the Executive Committee.”

The motion was carried.

- 8: Election of Officers:** Judy Moorhouse had retired as Chair and resigned from the Committee. In the absence of any other nominations from the Choir, the Committee had asked Janet Hall to take over as Chair, and she had agreed to the request. She was elected unopposed.

Patricia Fairey was elected unopposed as Treasurer.

Mary Branigan was elected unopposed as Secretary.

No nominations were received to fill the vacancy on the Committee, but all sitting members had expressed their willingness to continue.

- 9: Ladies’ Concert Dress:** it was proposed that ladies’ concert dress should be changed to a black long or three-quarter sleeved top with either long black skirts or black formal trousers.

The motion was carried, and the new concert dress will be adopted at our next concert. Some of the gentlemen suggested that their dress should be changed from formal white shirts and black ties to a black open necked shirt, which would be more comfortable when singing.

As this proposal was not included on the agenda it was agreed that it should be reconsidered at a future General meeting.

- 10: Any Other Business:** None

The Meeting Closed at 7.45 pm.