

## **Faringdon Singers Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Meeting hosted by Karen and Sjoerd – 7 Leamington Drive, SN7 7JZ

### **1. Apologies** – from Jonathan Mapley, Linda Lord, Ieuan Jones

Jonathan has decided to step down from the committee due to other commitments

### **2. Previous Meeting notes & AGM – matters arising**

None

### **3. Feedback – Spring Concert**

Sjoerd congratulated Alison for the job she did organising Buckland, and for her speech about MND.

The card machine needed to be on Wifi not 4G – otherwise very slow.

People were very generous with their donations.

Alison had feedback that it was fabulous. Everyone confirmed they had the same feedback.

£450 transferred to Faringdon Singers from the Card Machine – Carol has transferred this to the MND charity account.

MND has promised us recognition.

Sjoerd also transferred £905 as this was the amount collected in cash.

Sjoerd said to Clare the way we were stood in the choir stalls was very good and worked for the Durufle. Expressed that maybe we should have let the audience know that we were 'scrambled' for the first 3 pieces, but it was felt people would have noticed.

Simon Lawford (Organist) was excellent and relaxed. Clare advised how hard he worked, and he knew the piece very well.

Bernard donated all of the red wine – thank you Bernard!

### **4. Finance**

£3,891.30 in current account

£4.62 for bank charges / month – On review of all society accounts available, they now all have charges associated with them.

£848.66 in saving account. This has 0.8% interest – Carol is trying to find an account with a better rate.

Bran Ebsworth has volunteered to take over from Carol as the treasurer (2 years only)

Carol asked if we wanted a Debit Card ? Karen said that would be helpful with the Mustard Seed. All agreed this would be good to have if needed.

Carol said Carl is still down as signatory. Suggested Sjoerd could be one. We only need one signatory on cheques.

Carol's address is the address on the account, so this will need to be changed.

Sjoerd mentioned that the subscription was put up to £50 2 years ago and this still works, but to be mindful that Terrence might not be able to accompany us much longer and we will need to find a replacement. As Terrance is only paid a transport fee (he doesn't want anymore) we will need to pay more for a new accompanist.

Subscription to stay at £50 / term for the time being. All agreed.

## **5. Summer Concert(s) – checklist**

Sjoerd – we still need to decide on venue

## **6. Looking ahead: Summer Concert(s) & Summer Social**

12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July - Fyfield and Longcot can't do it / want us that weekend.

Sjoerd suggested we move the concert to the week before – the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July – everyone happy.

No big or conflicting sporting events on that weekend.

Should it be 2 days? Should we consult the choir if they want 1 concert or 2? Clare feels the summer concert is lighter and can do 2 concerts, but it depends on the choirs availability.

Benefit of Saturday – we can start at lunchtime

Carol said does it have to be in a church? Can it be a hall? Uffington is good. Sjoerd felt variety is good we should try new places as they have offered / shown enthusiasm.

Sjoerd has asked Carol to pursue Stanford Church to see if they will / can host – they have a piano.

Checking Longcot (still might want us)

Sarah is checking with Fyfield (maybe too small)

Clare advised that we should bear in mind the churches that would like us to perform there, but can only be suitable for the summer eg. Fyfield.

Alison mentioned Methodist in Shrivenham, but we didn't get many to come watch and Stella, who used to organise that, but she has since passed away.

We are comfortable with the options we have before going further afield.

Clare asked if we have ever done 2 in one day. Maybe one at 2pm and one at 5pm.

Would we have to do 2 lots of refreshments? 2 locations. The rest of the committee were not sure about logistics.

The Committee decided to only have one concert on the Saturday. Present to the choir – one concert on the Saturday and see the reaction.

Sjoerd spoke to Laurence – organist / piano – he can do the Saturday. Half the programme is without. He can't do the Sunday as he is Rome – He was also happy to do the Christmas concerts and asked for the dates.

Clare knows one other accompanist, but she is waiting to hear back.

Marlborough Concert Orchestra have a concert on the same night.

## **Summer Social**

Last year went very well.

Lyn and David are willing to lend their garden again on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 'Bring and Share' for the food. *(Since the committee meeting took place – the new date is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July as Lyn and David are away on the 10<sup>th</sup>)*

### **7. AOB:**

Maureen's brother was clearing out her house and found all the historic Faringdon Singers paperwork and all the music she had bought over the years. Sjoerd asked to let him know if anyone was interested in having a look.

- ) Portable Lighting? This is referring to the choir owning their own spotlights to use when the location don't have good lighting.

Clare advised it was about lighting up the choir rather than the choir being able to see. It depends on the individual venues.

Blessed Hugh – it was suggested we can then turn down the audience lights and have more of a stage setting. The audience does sing along, but we can turn on / up the lights.

Estimation for the lights is £300-£400

We can store them up in the United Church

CH said is it worth hiring items first to see what suits / we like before buying

CH – Uffington Players have lighting, which we can use in the hall – to ask if we can use it / take it off site?

Clare will send CH what David sent us for reference

Clare asked about staging – Sjoerd advised that Rachel Williams, who runs the Community choir, borrows our piano. We used to charge them £30 / term, but then we borrowed her staging, so we now do this on a quid pro quo basis.

- ) Music Loans – Linda all in control
- ) Our own FS Library – all in hand and Iwon doing a good job. You can click on a link on the Faringdon Singers and a list of all the music is on there.

No more AOB - Close 8.33pm