

## THE STONDON SINGERS

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015 AT 7.45 PM AT THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE, BLACKMORE

**Present:** Michelle Arthur (chairman), Annabel Malton, Audrey Cassidy, Marjolein Hillman, Matthew Butt, Christopher Tinker, David Schacht, David Hampson, Faith Marchal, Jill Evans, David Lloyd, Phil Holmes, Karen Mortley, Mark Ellis, John Waggett, Josephine Gordon, Julia Dimon, Katharine Adams, David Evans, Michael Aves, Joanne Webber and Nick Alston.

**Absent:** Chris Overy

**Apologies:** Kate Hanson, Mavis Brown, Mavis Holmes and Julie Lorkins.

#### Minutes of the AGM 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Printed copies were circulated. The minutes were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Annabel Malton, seconded: David Schacht. All choir members were in favour.

#### Matters Arising

The reports of the trustees, treasurer and music director are available on the choir website.

#### Trustees' Report

Printed copies were circulated. Michelle Arthur made the following points:

The Trustees' Report is of necessity more formal in tone than the previous Chairman's Reports, in order to fulfil the criteria laid down by the Charities Commission.

Michelle expressed her thanks to Christopher Tinker, the trustees and all those, often friends and family, who helped in many ways and were very generous with their time and expertise.

She also thanked the choir members for their commitment to attendance at rehearsals, work on the music at home and the purposeful atmosphere at rehearsals.

The Stondon Singers presented seven concerts in the past year which were well received and attracted some favourable reviews.

In the interest of the public good the choir performed in a Mencap concert and at Blackmore Church's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We also organised a workshop, which received very positive feedback from the participants, who ranged in age from 17 to 80.

There are two matters of concern:

Firstly audience numbers: as a small choir we have to sell proportionately more tickets per member than a choral society. Matthew Butt does a lot of work to get publicity printed and broadcast locally and Christopher Tinker even mentioned the Imogen Holst mass on BBC Radio 3.

Tickets for the subsequent concert are now on sale at the door, with varying success.

The committee would welcome any other suggestions, such as for the use of social media.

Secondly, the tenor section is rather small in relation to the rest of the choir, so there is not much leeway in case of illness. More tenors are needed.

There were no comments from choir members.

Christopher Tinker suggested the use of Friends Pages on Facebook to spread publicity.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Josephine Gordon explained that the figures seemed to show rather a great surplus this year, which is not a true reflection, but a consequence of the fact that the year-end has changed. Members who pay annually did so in September. There was also a substantial donation from Gerald Malton.

The November concert, which was well attended, broke even thanks to Gerald Malton's donation. Christmas was good as usual.

The choir did well in terms of donations, gift aid and coffee money. The workshop also made a profit. Good concerts, however, cost a lot of money and in our case do need better audiences.

Members who pay their contribution annually were requested to pay £60 in September for the remainder of 2015 and then £180 in January for the calendar year of 2016.

Other members were also asked to pay annually if they can afford to do so.

Josephine suggested that people who have not paid their fee by the end of a term should be asked to pay the entire fee for the remainder of the calendar year in the next term.

One of the choir members mentioned that another choir she sings with offers reductions for those who pay promptly, whereas members who pay late will have to pay a higher amount.

The choir is very grateful to Gerald Malton for his very generous donations.

### **Music Director's Report**

Christopher Tinker gave his report and a copy was placed on record. It will also be made available on the website.

Michelle Arthur thanked Christopher for his report.

### **Election of Trustees to Hold Office until the AGM in 2016**

The list of officers standing was included on the Agenda for the AGM.

The nominees have indicated they are prepared to stand for the following offices:

Michelle Arthur - chairman  
 Mavis Brown - librarian  
 Matthew Butt - PR  
 Jill Evans - trustee  
 Josephine Gordon - treasurer  
 Marjolein Hillman - secretary  
 Annabel Malton - concert manager  
 David Schacht - trustee  
 Phil Holmes - trustee

Michael Aves proposed to elect the nominees en bloc, seconded by David Evans. All choir members were in favour.

### **Any Other Business**

Due to Mavis Brown's illness library tasks will be covered by other members for the time being.

The meeting was closed at 20.06.