

North Kingston Choir
AGM Minutes
Monday 2nd February 2015, 9-930pm

Present: Sonja Steed, Jessica Bate, Darlene Ahmed, Hannah Deveson, Vanessa Hartley, Tristan Bate, Jem Goddard, Andrew Steed, Asa Backman, Ellie Giffard, Emily Scotcher, Georgi Vaughn, Joanna Horner, Julia Dankl, Linton Broadley-Stace, Maike Rentel, Michelle Dawson, Neil Gowe, Penny Hamilton, Phil Meir, Rob Hicks

1. Welcome – SS

- a. SS welcomed all choir members to the AGM
- b. SS introduced the current committee members and thanked them:
 - i. “Jessica--Musical Director: I know we are all grateful for her leadership, positivity, enthusiasm and energy. How she helps us all escape on a Monday night. How she believes in us and lets us take risks safely. The sheer hours she puts into searching for the right music, rehearsing it, thinking and asking how we are all feeling about it, learning more on how to conduct, doing the PR and simply the love she puts into this choir on top of working full-time, being a wife and a mother. Jess, you are inspirational.
 - ii. Darlene –Secretary: I have never met anyone so organised or efficient. At our committee meetings, she never leaves out a point, and her minutes, as professional as any business's, are emailed to us the next day.
 - iii. Monica—Treasurer: Despite the massive demands of her work as a newly qualified teacher, Monica is always the first to offer to do any job. She cares so much about this choir and the people and I admire just how kind and generous she is.
 - iv. Hannah--Events Officer: With a toddler already at home, Hannah had a baby this year and I think barely missed a rehearsal and certainly not a committee meeting! She is really hard-working and thorough, an absolute detail person. When she says she will do something, it is done and I am just so pleased that she is running for Chair because we will be so unbelievably lucky to have her.
 - v. Vanessa--Membership Officer: Vanessa is one of the warmest and most honest people I have met. She sees straight through to the heart of an issue and the most straight-forward solution. She has a lot of common sense and business sense which have made her such an asset to the committee.
 - vi. Tristan--Communications Officer: I don't think our choir would be our choir if it hadn't been for Tristan on the guitar, which gives us such a cool sound and has brought in other band talent. As well, the way he is reflective, often giving a point of view the committee haven't

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considered. Finally, he does an amazing job of organising the tech side of things with the recordings and website.

- vii. Jem and Clare--Social Secretaries: A later addition to our committee, I cannot believe how many ideas you have and how much effort and time you are willing to put in for us all to go have fun. Thank you!"

2. Apologies: Monica Chapman and Clare Barton

3. Chair's Report – SS

- a. "Events: We have put on some amazing events this year, each with increasing audience attendance. The Summer concert was nerve-wracking but so positively received. Don't Stop Believin' and Our Song really stand out for me, as do Neil, Rob, Monica and Vanessa's beautiful solos. And then there was Ham House and we all relaxed and just enjoyed the Sun and the moment and really lived the music. The build-up to the Christmas concert was at times intense but what an outcome--a sold-out concert and beautiful harmonies, especially Amazing Grace with soloists Michelle, Clare and Corinne. Our band helped to create a magical background. I am told we are doing what choirs that are over 5 years old are just beginning to achieve.
- b. Money we have raised: I am so excited to share that we raised £320 for Momentum at the Summer Concert, £624.50 for the Down's Syndrome Association at the Christmas Concert and we contributed towards the £2000 made by Marie Curie the day we did the carol singing.
- c. Social Events: Jem and I were talking at the Karaoke about how we could sit with anyone in our choir and find a common ground. From weekly pub visits to 2 karaokes, post concert-parties and dinners and boat cruises, we have had a chance to get to know each other outside the choir walls and it has been lovely.
- d. Survey Feedback: We had 22 responses which was brilliant. This was useful as we found that people were happy with the location (even if chairs, parking and heating have challenged us more recently!) and with the rehearsals' time length. People were happy with the pace and liked learning with sheet music the most. People were happy with choir members leading the occasional rehearsal where Jess wasn't able to attend but were keen to have a workshop, too."

4. Treasurer's Report – HD in MC absence

- a. Closing balance at end of 2014: £185.22 (HD explained that all costs were covered like room hire, concert costs and music and the committee agreed to a reserve which is why there is money left over)
- b. Full financial report and bank statements are on the NKC website

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5. Motions: SS explained that the date for new motions has passed. Voting will be done by a show of hands and decisions are determined by a majority vote.
- a. *Social Secretary role:* The committee believe that a Social Secretary role is an important addition to the committee officers as social events play a big part of our choir.
 - i. I move that the choir vote on the addition of a Social Secretary in the constitution under Committee Membership.
 - ii. **All choir members are in favour.**
 - b. *Fees for year:* The committee want very much to keep fees as low as possible. For 2015, we propose that the fees remain at £30 per person per term, which covers the room rental, concert costs and music ordered. If this is not enough to cover music and the musical director is unable to find appropriate and free music, it may happen that the committee ask choir members to spend up to £10 on buying their own additional music in a term.
 - i. I move that the choir vote on choir fees remaining at £30 with a possibility of up to £10 per term to buy additional music.
 - ii. **All choir members are in favour.**
 - c. *Shape of the year:* For 2015, the committee believe the best plan for choir events is: Spring Event (Love Kingston), Summer concert, an outdoor event (Ham House), a shared Christmas concert (Rose Theatre charity concert/Choir event with Singing It Back and other community choirs), Charity Christmas carolling.
 - i. I move that the choir vote in favour of the shape for this year.
 - ii. **All choir members are in favour.**
 - d. *Kingston Council Small Grant:* HD explained the choir can apply for a grant of £750. To ensure our best chance of receiving the grant, existing members must be consulted about the application. If successful, the grant will be made available in June.
 - i. Committee members suggestions for how to spend the grant (discussed at last committee meeting): Microphone/ stand, battery powered amp, hiring a larger hall for a future concert, promotional video
 - ii. Suggestions from choir members on how to spend the grant: keyboard, video camera, professional videographers at our concerts, singing workshops
 - iii. Discussion points:
 - 1. Is there a time limit to spend the grant? Can we apply again?
 - 2. Do we need receipts?
 - 3. Can we use the grant over a longer term (i.e. pay for singing workshops over the next 3 years)?

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4. Does our weekly practice venue have to be physically accessible?
 - iv. 18 members at the AGM live in the wards of Kingston.
 - v. I move for the NKC to apply for the Kingston Council Small Grant.
 - vi. **All choir members are in favour.**
- e. *Amendment to the Constitution:* The following paragraph will be added to the Membership Fees section in the NKC Constitution: *Prospective or current members who face financial hardship will be eligible to apply for a reduction in fees by contacting the Chair in writing. The Committee will consider applications confidentially depending on individual circumstances and ensure that this policy is applied fairly.*
 - i. I move to accept this amendment to the NKC Constitution.
 - ii. **All choir members are in favour.**
6. Election of new Committee Members: SS explained that members have submitted their nominations prior to this meeting. Voting will be done by a show of hands and a majority means they have secured the position.
 - a. The following committee members have been elected for 2015-2016:
 - i. Chair: Hannah Deveson
 - ii. Treasurer: Vanessa Hartley
 - iii. Secretary: Darlene Ahmed
 - iv. Communications Officer: Tristan Bate
 - v. Events Officer: Ellie Giffard
 - vi. Membership Officer: Maike Rentel
 - vii. Social Secretary: Jem Goddard
 - viii. Musical Director: Jessica Bate
7. Any other Business
 - a. VH presented SS a gift from the choir to thank her for doing an amazing job as chair for the past year. Thank you Sonja, we will miss you on the committee!
 - b. A gift will be presented to MC to thank her for all her hard work as Treasurer over the past year. Monica you have done a fantastic job, we will miss you on the committee!