

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 April 2017
at Holy Trinity School Bury**

Present

Officers: Graham Bolton, Chairman; Jean Seymour, Secretary/Programmes; Rosemary Artley, Treasurer, Flowers and Gifts. **Committee:** Chris Babbs, Trustee; June Bowker, Programme Advertising; Naomi Jahoda, Trustee/Long Service Certificates; Tony Patten, Concert Seating (Assistant); Rachel Riley, Concert tickets; Geoff Stokes, Rehearsal Chairs; Sarah Taylor, Facebook/Website. **Ex-officio:** Juan Ortuno.

Apologies: Dorothy France, Minutes Secretary/Membership.

The Chairman welcomed committee members to the meeting. Minutes were taken by the Secretary and augmented by the Chairman.

Minutes of the meeting 14 March 2017 were accepted as a true record, with the addition of Geoff Stokes to the Committee list.

Matters arising: None.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the Business Premium account was £11,761 and Community account £1,845; there are a few outstanding cheques which will reduce the Community account. The loss on the first Armed Man concert was £653 and that on the second concert, at Rochdale, will be <£600 when all accounts are settled.

Upcoming Concert: Jean has been informed that the piano is fine and recently tuned but that the organ needs attention, and understands that this will be done before our concert. Mike Cawley is trying to make contact to arrange to visit and make arrangements for chairs and setting out. One of the soloists will be John Elliott (tenor) and Juan has a couple of potential baritone candidates in mind.

Future Programme:

May concert: the programme would be given to choir members with their music. There would be 4 readings by Beryl Shepherd included. We would need 2 soloists and piano and organ accompaniment.

Next Season: *Carmina Burana* would be performed at the RNCM with Gorton Philharmonic Orchestra and The Brixi Singers on Saturday 21 October 2017. Details are as given at the previous Committee meeting. Bolton Choral Union and Salford Choral Society would be performing *Carmina Burana* in the next few weeks, and in the light of this the Chairman considered that a 'come and sing' event based on that piece would be unlikely to gain much support from outside the choir; instead, perhaps a workshop for the choir would supplement the reduced number of rehearsals.

There was debate about whether an additional concert, in November or early December, should be undertaken to maintain our usual concert at Bury Parish Church and provide a concert of more musical substance than our Christmas Festivities. Juan indicated that he did not want to reproduce another Christmas Festivities in the traditional format. After a vote, it was agreed that a further concert would not be put on but that the Christmas concert could include more than just carols, including Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noel*, suggested by Juan. The Christmas concert would be at Bury URC on Tuesday 12 December, 2017 (TBC).

March concert: Juan explained his idea to present a concert version of Lehar's music based around the story of *Die Fledermaus* but including choruses from other operettas. Naomi commented that there are plenty of other societies which perform this type of programme, and queried whether we should be concentrating more on the classical repertoire. It was considered that this would be a popular programme and it was agreed that we would accept Juan's suggestion. Possible venues include The Met, recently revamped. The Secretary pointed out that while there are now more seats, they are quite cramped, and there is no more room for performers and no piano. Further suggestions were the Longfield (Prestwich) or Elizabethan (Bury) suites. The Secretary would enquire about availability and costs. Possible dates were Saturday, 10 or 17 March 2018, or Tuesday 13 March, 2018.

May concert: Juan proposed Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and the Gloria from Puccini's *Messa de Gloria* – the length of the programme precluded a full performance of both pieces. This was agreed. The likely venue would be Stand Parish Church on Saturday, 12 May, 2018.

The Chairman noted that November 2018 would be 100 years since the end of the First World War. He proposed that a sub-committee would be established to prepare a suitable programme for marking the event. One work to be considered for inclusion in the programme was Elgar's *Spirit of England*.

Website: The revamp was almost complete and the new website looked excellent.

Date of next meeting:

This would follow the AGM, which was to be held on Tuesday, 6 June 2017, and would be agreed with the new Committee – it was usually held shortly after the AGM. Committee members coming to the end of their 3-year term were Naomi Jahoda, Tony Patten and Geoff Stokes. All were eligible for re-election, but Tony indicated that he would not be standing for re-election; the Chairman thanked him for his contribution over many years.