

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 June 2014
at Holy Trinity School, Bury**

Officers: Tina Dixon, Chairman; June Bowker, Vice Chairman; Jean Seymour, Secretary/Programmes; Graham Bolton, Treasurer.

Committee: Dorothy France, Minutes Secretary/Membership; Keith Ball, Programme Advertising; Gordon Jones, Outreach/Publicity; Michael Morris, Outreach/Publicity; Sarah Taylor, Facebook; Deirdre Elliott, Website; Tony Patten, Seating Organiser; Chris Babbs; Rosemary Artley; Naomi Jahoda, Social Events Co-ordinator; Geoffrey Stokes

Ex officio: Juan Ortuño Director of Music.

Apologies for absence

Geoffrey Stokes, Deirdre Elliott.

The Chairman welcomed new committee members Tony and Naomi to the meeting. There were posts to be filled, including Stage Manager as John Stanton had left the choir. Tony Patten had acted as deputy to John and he offered to take on the post of Seating Organiser unless another member of the choir is willing to take over, and he would need an assistant. Choir members could be asked to move their own chairs after concerts or volunteers could be asked on a rota basis as happened with programme selling and refreshments, and this would ease his role. June would take over ticket sales from Tina, and Naomi would take over from Chris as Social Events Co-ordinator as well as Long Service certificates. Keith's wife Chris had volunteered to source flowers and gifts for concert artistes. Graham, Rosemary and Chris had formed a working group to prepare the programme for the November concert.

Minutes from the previous committee meeting on 13 May and the AGM had been circulated and were taken as read.

Matters Arising

Graham had met with Juan to review the concert budgeting and to ensure that the proposed programme would be within reach. There might be a problem hiring some of the music which was out of copyright. Librarian Paul would check and let him know. Juan could possibly obtain copies via the RNCM.

November Concert

The committee working group was devising a programme that would be narrated by Beryl Shepherd and Richard Youngman. The first half would be narrative, poetry, prose and music. This would include school children reciting "Lamplight" followed by Rutter/Mendelssohn "Lord in thy mercy grant us peace", "In Flanders Field" by children and "Greater love hath no man" by the choir. The winning choir from Bury Hospice Choir of the Year might be invited to sing an appropriate piece.

The second half would include a poem by Wilfred Owen followed by Vaughan Williams "Donna Nobis Pacem". The original suggestion was an item by Parry such as "I was glad" but the sub committee felt that this did not reflect the mood at the start of the World War. This suggestion could be used at a later date.

The working party would finalise the programme with the school and also contact the Hospice Choir winners. Chris suggested inviting the Fusiliers Museum to be involved as he had a contact with them. We might also invite the family of Lee Rigby to attend the concert. The choir would wear poppies as they had done before at November concerts and Naomi will look for corsages. We could also invite the local MPs and clergy including Rev Dr Findon and Rev Hugh Bearn from St Anne's Tottington, who had military connections. The setting of "Dona Nobis Pacem" was for piano and strings and Juan would like a group of 9 players. There might be a problem with space in Bury Parish Church. Juan would look at the venue. We would not need an organist if the piano was used.

Christmas Concert

Bury United Reformed Church had been booked for Tuesday 16 December which we hoped would not clash with Bury Hospice Christmas concert as it did last year. Graham suggested bringing the date forward to 9 December but that would leave only three weeks after the November concert. The Secretary would check when Bury Hospice are having their concert and liaise with the committee to finalise the concert date. Juan might have time to rehearse some music for the March concert before Christmas if time allowed. He had asked for copies of the last two Christmas concert programmes to help him choose suitable music. There would be more audience participation this time.

March Concert

June had contacted Bury Grammar School Boys to book the hall as a venue for the March concert but she was told no decision could be made until July. She would have a look at The Elizabethan Suite at Bury Town Hall. Bolton Road Methodist Church was also suggested. The Met was not suitable as the concert needed piano accompaniment with four hands. Juan needed to know how many copies of music would be required as he would obtain them via the RNCM and this depended on the size of the choir next season. Dorothy mentioned the possibility of a Singing Day on a Saturday before the March concert. Juan would check his diary to see when he would be free to arrange this.

Tosca Rehearsals

Jonathan would take the rehearsal the following Tuesday. Naomi asked if the following week's rehearsal could be on a different evening as some choir members were missing practices with the Summer Choir for next year's concert at Holcombe Church. Juan would arrange one at the church in Bowden, possibly on the following Monday.

Outreach

We needed to try and attract new members but there were a lot of choirs in the Bury area so a lot of competition. Sarah would put an entry on Face book inviting new members. Gordon suggested a profile of Juan as our new conductor for the Bury Times Magazine. Tina would organise leaflets and flyers to be circulated, and these had been handed out at some supermarkets in the last two years. A Newsletter would be sent to members before the first rehearsal in September inviting them to bring a friend. The first meeting should be informal so that potential new members were not put off by trying to learn difficult new music. We did circulate concert details to other choirs.

Fundraising and Social Events

A quiz night and social event involving friends and family could be arranged.

Graham offered to organise a wine tasting.

Choir members needed to socialise and we should serve drinks at the interval at some rehearsals.

Michael Morris had enquired about a small group singing carols in Bury town centre on three Sundays in December. We would be allowed to collect for choir funds. He would get more details and let choir members know.

He also suggested holding an Old Time Music Hall evening but there was no support for this from the other committee members, who felt that this genre would not promote the public image we desired to convey.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in CAF Gold account was £7983 and £551.23 in the cash account. Some of the cheques paid at the latest concert had not yet been cashed. There was a standing order for rent of the school - this had increased from £70 to £91 per week but the bank had not updated the amount.

Any Other Business

Peter Fielding's Memorial Concert would be on Saturday 5 September 2014 at Blackburn Cathedral. His son would like BCS members to take part if possible and several former members would also like to sing. The problem would be finding rehearsal time as the choir only restarted on Tuesday 2 September. We needed to sing a well known piece - maybe Mozart "Ave Verum Corpus" or something from Faure Requiem. June would speak to Peter's family to check the arrangements.

The Dementia Cafe in Tottington would like a group of carol singers to entertain them on Tuesday 2 or Friday 5 December. The choir would be asked for volunteers so that we could check which date was more convenient.

Concert dress code - complaints had been made by audience members that some choir members not adhering to the appropriate dress code. Skirts should be full length or there was an option for ladies to wear trousers. Blouses should be long sleeved and high necked. Anyone who did not comply at a future concert would be asked to sit on the back row.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7 October at Holy Trinity School, Bury at 6.30pm.