

Richmondshire Choral Society

Minutes of the AGM which took place at Richmond Methodist Church at 7pm on Monday 30th September 2024

1. **Apologies:** D Boath, R Gott, H Grisewood, J Cathcart, A Young, S Stocks, H Rowan, D Cartwright
2. **Minutes of the Last AGM:** Approved (Proposed Lis Grant, Seconded Roz Earl)
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - There had been a request that choir subscriptions could be payable by monthly standing order. David Barraclough (Treasurer) had looked at this idea and found that it would be administratively too difficult to put this idea into practice. Firstly, members would have to set up standing orders with their own banks and, secondly, payments would be spread over two financial years, making the claiming of Gift Aid extremely complicated. DB pointed out that if any member found it difficult to meet the £60 termly payment, they should approach the Chair or the Treasurer for advice. Any such approach would be held in the strictest confidence.
 - At the last AGM, Peter Stallworthy had stated that the choir would perform Carmina Burana in May 2025. This is no longer the case.
 - The social event planned for 6th May did not take place. Instead a meal was organised for 13th May and a farewell presentation to Peter Stallworthy took place at this function. The members voted in favour at holding a new social in May 2025.
4. **Reports:**
 - **Chair's Report:**
 - Ben Noble has been acting as our Musical Director on a temporary contract until Christmas. An overwhelming number of members have voted to offer Ben a permanent contract as MD. Ben has accepted this offer. Thanks for their speed and confidence were offered all to members who voted.
 - The secretary has been in touch with the Methodist Church about the flickering light above the Bass section. The matter is in hand and an electrician is expected to resolve the matter within the next few weeks.
 - There is nothing further to add to the report given in the Summer Newsletter.
 - **Secretary:**
 - The secretary thanked Merrin Froggett and Judith Barber together with all the committee members who stepped in to cover her work during her illness last year. Thanks were also offered to everyone who came forward to offer concern, reassurance and moral support during this difficult period.
 - The secretary will stand down this year but will stay on the committee to ensure a smooth handover to the new secretary.
- **Treasurer:**
- The Accounts have been checked, approved and distributed.
- Last year's increase in Subscription fees did cover the running costs and a surplus of £800 was recorded.

- A small increase in subscription fees is expected to cover any increase in costs during the coming year.
- Acceptance of the report proposed by Marcia Howard and seconded by Kitty Drane The motion was carried.
- **Musical Director.**
- While some conductors might adopt an aggressive approach, Ben prefers to concentrate on who we could be.
- The approach will be to concentrate first on expressive quality. Keeping works fresh, fiery and alive. Other aspects of performance will fall into place from that platform.

5. Election Of Officers:

- David Boath was nominated and seconded for the position of Secretary. The members voted in favour.
- Richard Gott was proposed and seconded as the new Treasurer. Members voted in favour.
- Mary Branigan and David Barraclough will remain on the committee as mentors to the new appointments.
- Mark Harrison, Marian Ginnever, Judy Weeks, Merrin Froggett, Kay Marriott and Jan Beeton will remain on the committee this year.

6. Any Other Business:

- A vote of thanks was given to the team of people who make the tea during the interval.
- The choir will sing carols at the Mayfest Coffee morning which will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday 19th December.
- The Choral Society coffee morning will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday 5th April 2025, and volunteers will be sought to help.
- No date has yet been established for carol singing at Greyfriars, but this may be finalised within the next weeks.
- Judy Weeks was thanked for organising a very enjoyable social event. The members would like a social event to take place at the end of the choir year. A larger venue may be required.
- Dorothy Clague proposed that gratitude to David Barraclough and Mary Branigan should be recorded for their service to the choir over the last years. This proposal was approved by the members.

7. The Meeting Ended: 7.25pm.