

NDC COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2023
MINUTES

PRESENT: Carmel Dines, Barbara Austin, Carol Chester, Clare Goldspink, John Pugh, Enid Weaver, Wendy White

1. Agenda for AGM

Carmel presented a draft agenda for the AGM to be held on 21 February 2023 which was agreed by the Committee.

2. Members' Questions

Two questions had been received:

- a) Whether it might be possible to consider afternoon concerts rather than evenings in the future. This was discussed and it was stated that this had been tried some years ago and was not very successful. Barbara said that Havering Road church had actually asked whether we would like an afternoon slot for the concert on 24th June.

It was agreed to ask members at the AGM if this is something they would prefer.

- b) What the Committee were proposing to do in order to recruit new members, specifically men.

John is to produce a draft flyer for distribution to local men's groups. Choir members to be asked for their input and suggestions regarding such groups and/or other outlets. **Clare** will also distribute these to libraries and supermarkets when she makes the drops of concert posters.

The Choir's social media presence was discussed and it was agreed that this needs improvement. **Wendy** to look into this and suggest improvements where possible. **John** to include reference to the Facebook page on promotional posters.

Enid suggested trying to get "advertorial" articles included in the Romford Recorder. Members to be asked if anyone has contacts or experience of obtaining

this type of coverage. We will also try to get a mention in the local neighbourhood Bulletins which are regularly delivered.

Carol reported that there had also been a suggestion of running a one off Saturday afternoon workshop. This would involve inviting participants to come along and learn one or two easy songs in parts to judge whether NDC might be the sort of choir they would like to join. This was considered a good idea in principle but it was agreed to wait until interest generated from advertising and an improved social media profile had been evaluated.

3. Financial Situation

Carol presented the balance sheet which shows choir funds currently stand at just under £1600 with 15 members' subs for this term still outstanding which would equate to a further £600.

There are no large expenses imminently due.

A further £1600 in subs will be received after Easter.

The purchase of new music was discussed. It was agreed that it was not necessary to purchase any Christmas music as people generally like to hear traditional pieces and we also have the carol books which hold a vast selection of pieces to choose from.

With regard to summer music Wendy has discovered some as yet unsung pieces including musical theatre medleys (Mamma Mia, Phantom of the Opera, Wicked) but these are incomplete sets. **Enid** is to look at these scores to see whether they are suitable for us to sing and if so **Wendy** will investigate the purchase of additional sets. **John** to check whether we already have the backing tracks for these pieces.

If these prove unsuitable and we decide to order any new pieces for summer 2024 this will need to be done by October 2023.

4. Concert Venues and Dates

Barbara has now confirmed the following dates for summer/Christmas concerts:

Summer

Saturday 24th June

Havering Road Methodist

Friday 30th June Harold Wood Methodist

Sunday 2nd July All Saints

Christmas

Saturday 25th November St. Chad's

Friday 1st December Harold Wood Methodist

Sunday 3rd December All Saints

It was noted that there may be some delay to the works being carried out at St Chad's in which case Havering Road would be approached regarding 25th November.

5. Updating Members' Details/New Form

Barbara presented a new draft form for this purpose and asked **All Committee Members** to review it and revert to her with comments.

It was agreed that the form needs to include a request for members to agree to the use of any imagery in which they may appear (photos/videos etc.) for choir promotional purposes.

The form is to be distributed to members at the AGM and **Barbara** will talk about its use during her presentation.

6. New Members/New Members Information Sheet

Barbara reported that she is still hopeful that three ladies who have previously been expected to come for trial sessions may appear.

Barbara presented a draft of the revised information sheet that she had put together with John for new members and asked for comments from the committee.

It was agreed that the concert dress codes should be included in this information.

7. Social Media/New Members

Both these topics have been covered under other headings.

8. Social Event/Quiz Night

The golf club event on 10 January was enjoyed by all those who participated. Carol reported that she has since spoken to the staff there and thanked them on our behalf.

Barbara reported that she had received a few negative comments regarding the choice of only two options for the meal and the cost of £30. The majority of the committee are happy to use this venue again for a winter event and it was proposed that something similar be arranged for Tuesday 9th January 2024 with rehearsals resuming on the following Tuesday.

With regard to a summer event Carol suggested that a Quiz Night be held. Members would be invited to make up teams by inviting friends and family.

The committee agreed with this suggestion and a date of Friday 14th July was proposed.

Carol to find out availability and cost of hiring the All Saints hall for this date. She will also get costs for the supply of a fish/chicken and chips supper to be delivered from the Poseidon fish bar in Ardleigh Green.

Ticket prices for this event to be determined once costs are estimated.

9. Any Other Business

Wendy reported that she and Cheryl had done some research into the possibility of selling some of the unwanted sets of music that were in our library. They had discovered that there was no market for this. Therefore we have donated a box of music to another local start up choir and as they become more established it may be possible to borrow or have some of their music.

This has freed up some needed space in our storage facility. Wendy has now refiled all the Christmas 2022 music.

Enid reported that she has been approached by Neil who would like to perform some poetry/reading as part of the concert programme. It was agreed that this would be included for summer 2023 subject to his proposed content.

Enid also made a suggestion that NDC make one of the concerts a joint concert with a brass band which Max Weaver is currently conducting. They would play a light programme and not require any payment but NDC would, on that evening, only perform for half of the concert.

It was generally felt by committee members that although such a concert would be good in principle it would dilute interest from our usual audiences who are largely made up of choir members' friends and families who come to see them sing.

It was suggested that this might be looked at again for summer 2024 but as an extra date at either All Saints or Havering Road.

Barbara raised the subject of practice aids and how they could be enhanced.

She commented that new members and those who don't read music sometimes struggle to follow what is being sung.

The possibility of providing media containing all the individual parts was discussed but unfortunately this would fall to Enid to produce and she doesn't have the time.

John continues to record and assimilate all rehearsal content. It was suggested that Enid should try to play each segment for each part prior to the choir singing to try to make the correct notes clearer.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2150.

Date of next meeting: 8 June 2023. Barbara has offered to host.