

**NDC COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Carmel Dines, Chair                      Enid Weaver, Musical Director  
Carol Chester, Treasurer Barbara Austin, Secretary  
Wendy White, Librarian                      Clare Goldspink  
John Pugh

**Summer 2022 Repertoire Changes/Return of Music**

It has been decided to change 3 pieces from the repertoire for this summer's concerts in order to freshen things up a little as some members of the choir have been rehearsing this list for the past two+ years on Zoom during lockdown.

The titles to come off the list are: Windmills of Your Mind, Rhythm of Life and Someone to Watch Over Me. These will be replaced by: When You Believe, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and It's a Grand Night for Singing.

**Wendy** will issue the three new pieces at rehearsal on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The three abandoned pieces are to be retained by members until all the summer music is due for return after our concerts.

With regard to return of the sets of music by members, Wendy expressed her frustration at not receiving these back in a timely manner from members which made her job of organising the re-filing and distribution of the new season's music very difficult. It was agreed that **Wendy** would provide an explanation of the problem in her report to be delivered at the AGM. It was decided that in future pencil marks need not be erased by members from their scores (as they would usually be given the same copy for future performances) and hopefully this would enable everyone to return the music on the dates specified by Wendy. It was further agreed that these dates and instructions for return should be issued well in advance to members.

**Update of CDs/Memory Sticks**

John reported that the updated media will be available to issue to members at rehearsal on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February including the 3 new pieces mentioned above.

**Golf Club Event Revised Date**

Two potential dates were suggested: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. **Carol** to contact the Golf Club re date availability and to clarify the menus.

It was noted that this could mean no rehearsal for up to 3 weeks taking into account the Easter holiday and depending on the dates of **Enid's** eye treatments which she will confirm as soon as possible.

**Financial Situation**

Carol reported that at the end of the financial year, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, our bank balance stood at £1062.94. This was after expenditure of approximately £4,000 on hall rental, Enid's fees, insurance, golf club event, Brian Goldspink Award.

The Christmas concerts netted £500 after the donations to the churches. (All Saints was the most successful with takings of £470 and a donation of £235 to the church).

Carol further reported that she has received members subs in the amount of £1520 for the current term with four members still to pay (£160)\*. This amount has already been depleted by payments for hall rental, Enid's fees, insurance and sundry replacement copies of music.

\*It was noted that we are unsure of the situation regarding Richard Devlin who has not attended choir recently because of Covid uncertainty. **Barbara** to contact him to clarify.

### **AGM Agenda/Members' Questions/Issues**

The AGM Agenda as drafted by Carmel was agreed with no additions by other committee members.

Carmel distributed copies of the questions/issues raised by members which all related to choice of music and the possibility of obtaining new material of a more up to date nature.

**Enid** will address this at the AGM and in the meantime devise a method of asking members to select favourites for next summer from our back catalogue which would then be subject to a majority vote.

With regard to the purchase of new music Wendy explained that, on average a new set of music including the backing track and sufficient copies of the score costs, on average, in the region of £125 per song. With choir funds currently very low following the pandemic we are very limited in what can be afforded at this time.

### **Castors on Piano**

Carol has identified a set of retractable castors which can be fitted to the piano to facilitate its positioning in the hall for rehearsal. The cost of these is £47. **Carol** to place the order for these and liaise with **John** who will fit them as soon as possible.

### **New Members**

It was agreed that some new members would be beneficial to the choir (especially tenors). Wendy confirmed that we have sufficient sets of music for a further 6 members.

**Barbara** to contact two ladies and one man who had previously enquired about membership to see if they are still interested.

It was suggested we put something on local neighbourhood Facebook groups to invite enquiries.

**Carmel** to draft wording.

It was also suggested that some posters be made and distributed for display on supermarket notice boards (as we do to promote concerts). **John** to draft these.

### **Concert Dates**

Summer concerts are confirmed for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Harold Wood Methodist Church and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at All Saints.

### **NB Music would need to be returned by members on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July.**

We would like to do at least one concert on the previous weekend (Saturday/Sunday 25/26 June) and **Barbara** will speak to St. Michael's and Havering Road Methodist Church to try to secure booking/s. It was agreed not to approach United Reformed Church as the acoustics leave a lot to be desired and audience numbers there have been low.

It was noted that St. Chad's is not available this summer as they are having extensive renovation works carried out.

Christmas concerts are booked as follows:

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Harold Wood Methodist Church
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	St. Michael's, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL*
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Havering Road Methodist Church, Moray Way RM1 4YD*
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	All Saints

**NB Music would need to be returned by members on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

\*John and Barbara are liaising with the two new churches to ensure suitability and availability of both venues.

### **Signing In/Register at Rehearsals**

It was agreed that the sheets for signing in should now be provided again and members asked to register on arrival. This is for safety purposes and also to monitor attendance levels.

**Carmel** to remind members at the AGM that it is part of the choir's constitution that they should strive for minimum 75% attendance.

### **Any Other Business**

Barbara asked where the white flowers to be worn by ladies at the concerts were. These are believed to be in the filing cabinet in the Family Centre. **Barbara** to provide a list at rehearsals for those who have retained their flowers to mark up.

Enid raised the poor attendance at the extra Sunday rehearsals which usually take place just before the concert dates and should provide a 'dress run' for our performances. She suggested that this might not be necessary for the summer concerts this year as rehearsals were in advance of the norm. However with the shorter rehearsal time available pre-Christmas we need to encourage the members to attend and try to get the definitive number who would be available. If the numbers are low the extra rehearsal has limited effectiveness.

Enid suggested that we make an additional donation to All Saints this summer who are facing a £22,000 expense for electrical refurbishment of their premises. It was agreed that we would like to contribute and this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Carmel raised the previous discussion regarding concert ticket prices and it was agreed that these be raised from £5 to £7.50 starting this summer. It was noted that other choirs in the area usually charge in excess of this amount.

Barbara provided all committee members with an up to date list of members' emergency contact numbers.

There being no other business raised Carmel closed the meeting at 2200 hours.

**Date of Next Committee Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Barbara to host.**