**Knotanotherchoir**

**AGM: Thursday 26th October 2017 @ 18:00**

**Location: Forest Room, COGS, Gracious Street**

**Minutes:**

**Present:**

**Committee:**

John Bradbury-Sharp

Julie Bradbury-Sharp

Julie Dodson

Rachael Dobson

Jane Rutledge

**Choir members:**

Valerie Green

Heather Ireland

Pauline Dawson

Janet Davis

Anne Morley

Pam Watson

Liz Garner

Kathy Short

Mike Smith

**Apologies:**

Pam Tindall

Sally Fannen

The meeting took place during the October half term 2017. John welcomed everyone there and opened the meeting. The Agenda had been circulated a week previously.

Papers circulated at the meeting: Minutes from 2016 AGM, Financial Review 2016/17, Response to Survey.

The previous AGM Minutes were agreed and accepted. The quorum was confirmed.

1. **Financial Review:**

*NB: John explained that the accounts year had been shortened by a month to bring the financial year into alignment with the choirs terms: there was a carry-over of £155.10 from 2016, and an apparent loss of £397.5 this year. This was due to the figures being based on 11 months year. When updated and current funds included, the choir would show have shown a small profit.*

John talked through the finances. The accounts have been enhanced by splitting the Expenses and Income into various departments so the figures can be analyzed easier.

There was a discussion about the refreshments income; it was reiterated that this payment was voluntary. There had been a large saving on the previous year; Julie explained she doesn’t not always claim all expenses.

Pauline suggested any profits from the refreshments went to the nominated Charity.

The Accountancy and Audit Fees had been filed late during the previous financial period, resulting in a fine of £150.00.

£200.00 had been donated to Orb Community Arts, Knaresborough.

The MD fees were largely the same, despite Lorraine having been awarded a pay rise.

The balance sheets for accounts had been filed with Companies House.

John thanked everyone for supporting the choir. We now have 37 members with possible 3 memberships pending. The Committee and members present also recorded thanks to Lorraine for her Leadership as MD.

1. **Review of the Year:**

Julie B-S gave a Review of the year.

The choir has performed at the Christmas Tree Festival at St John’s, Le Tour in April, Street Choir Festival at Kendal, John Metcalfe: A Man of Vision at St John’s, combined with the FEVA weekend visit from the Honest Singers of Musselburgh.

2018 Street Choir Festival to be held in Brighton 29 June to 1 July.

A more detailed discussion took place about Brighton. A minibus will be organised which John would drive. Cost tbc. Requests were made for additional drivers to assist. Mike suggested the train as an alternative. Many members confirmed accommodation had been sorted. Further and ongoing discussions about organising a larger house share.

1. **Survey Response:**

This was circulated, and Jane talked through the findings indicating the very positive feedback results, main concerns that arose, and suggested actions for improvement. Some had been completed, and others were ongoing. There had been 18 responses.

Members felt the survey had been a useful process.

1. **General Comments:**

* Those present asked that the content in the session matched that of the bulletin; Lorraine would be reminded.
* Val told those present that she had felt welcomed as a new member and that the choir was very friendly.
* There was unanimous praise for Lorraine’s musical abilities
* Members felt that wherever possible, the musical score should be available as many people are able to read and follow music and would find this helpful.
* There had been good reviews for the August Concert during FEVA.

1. **Arrangements for Forthcoming Events:**

Events planned for the rest of 2017:

Friday 24 November: Bright Friday and the Switching on of Knaresborough Christmas Lights,

Thursday 21 December: Finger foods, music and carols at last session of term.

Saturday 2 December: Lunchtime singing at St John’s at opening of Xmas Tree Festival

Sunday 10 December: Evening performance at St John’s.

Rachael talked through Bright Friday. The idea has been to reclaim the notoriously commercial and expensive Black Friday.

Local children will parade with lights and lanterns from the Castle, Knotanotherchoir will be singing outside the Moat Buttery and will join the procession. There will be street food, the shops will be open and Julie B-S has acquired 40 glo-sticks for members to carry.

Janet talked about the choir’s entry into the Christmas Tree Festival, and invited members to workshops to help make angels for the tree. These will be held at Janet’s house on the first 3 Tuesdays in November (7, 14, 21).

The angels need choir members’ faces. Mike volunteered his son to take the photos. (subject to his agreement)!

Brighton was generally discussed. University accommodation suggested as cheapest option. Research still continuing into shared house. The main event will be at Brighton Dome. Pauline will add any further details or information to the weekly bulletins.

Everyone felt it might also be helpful to have the opportunity during sessions to sit out and “listen” to the sound made.

Julie D talked about outfits for each event:

Jolly Xmas hats, tinsel etc and warm clothes for Bright Friday.

All black for ladies at Xmas Tree singing plus scarves; all black and more FORMAL for evening concert with scarves worn loosely. Men to wear white shirts with red ties for both performances.

Julie was thanked for all her hard work in organising events and her enthusiasm in successfully recruiting new members.

1. **AOB:**

* Ideas for possible nominated charities to be considered in the New Year.
* There was ongoing research into acquiring Charitable Status for the choir.

John thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work, and thanked everyone present for attending the meeting and for supporting the choir.

Thanks and appreciation for Lorraine and her hard work and leadership were also recorded.

The Meeting was closed at 19.30