

Canton Chorus Planning Group Meeting Record

Canton Chorus is a registered charity: No 1166663. We hold Planning Group meetings on Zoom at least four times a year and face to meetings as required. The planning group routinely consists of Trustees (Five elected annually at our AGM) Part Reps, Librarian, Communications Lead, Web Site Lead, co-opted choir members, and our Musical Director. Choir members are asked to raise items with Part Reps or if they wish ask the Chair if they would like to attend a meeting. Meeting records are posted on our web site cantonchorus.org.uk

Meeting Date: 01/09/2025 on Zoom.

Present: Steve Bowkett Chair/Trustee, Richard Tebboth Vice Chair/Trustee, Anna Brazier Secretary/Trustee, Neil Schofield Treasurer/Trustee, Rosemary Morgan Alto Part Rep, Sara Hayes Sop Rep, Ben Teague Musical Director, Jane Brown Librarian, Gareth Jones Part Rep, Phil Hawkins Web site lead, Lesley Jones Comms lead, Janet Daly Choir Member.

Apologies: Margot Henery, Trustee/Part Rep

Record of previous meeting: Record agreed Anna to send to Phil as a PDF.

Matters arising not on Agenda: None

Feedback from Summer Concert

- Musically a very positive experience. Ben's arrangements of folk songs singled out as particularly enjoyable. Financially the cost was approx. £1100. Ticket sales amounted to £365. Much as treasurer had expected and on a par with previous summer concerts.
- Neil will look into the possibility of buying/obtaining a **card reader** for audience convenience - ticket sales on the door and for interval refreshments if/when we provide.

Feedback from Summer School

- Another musical success. Those who attended appreciated having the four sessions filling what can feel like a long break with no singing. Focus on Brahms *Schicksalslied* should prove very helpful at the winter concert. Non-members of the choir were all invited to join. Ben has email addresses and will contact them.
- 36 people attended, raising £900 which easily covered the £650 cost.
- Big thanks to Ben for organizing what may well become a regular annual event.

Winter Concert

- Venue and Date confirmed – **St John's on Saturday 7th February**

AGM

- Date agreed – **22nd October**. Richard has begun compiling the Charity Commission report and will liaise with Neil re the financial section. The call for nominations for election of Officers will go out at least 3 weeks before the date.

Plans for Orchestral Concert – Winter 2027

- Although our finances are stable it is recognised that if we want to sing with an orchestra again we need a strategy. We will need an amount in the region of £10,000. A very useful discussion generated a list of actions:
- Ask choir members who can afford it to make a donation to pay for a specific purpose i.e. to pay musician's fees.

- Set aside half of the money we have in the bank currently (we have £6,000 approx, so £3,000) – again for the specific purpose.
- Increase regular income – Consider a bigger venue than we’ve previously sung in; Consider raising ticket prices (from our historical £10)
- Offer “Come and Sing” opportunities
- Keep choir members aware of progress towards our goal.
- Ensure repertoire for 2027 concert is commensurate with our finances

Succession Planning

- It was confirmed that we should maintain current arrangement meaning that there should be 5 Trustees who should also be the 5 elected Officers of the choir. It was recognised that we needed to wait until the AGM before certain changes can be made e.g. it may take a while for our bank to accept a change in who can authorise payments. Steve happy to continue to authorize as required.

Next Meeting

- **13th October 4.30 on Zoom.**

Extra meetings can be called as needed.

Steve Bowkett

Acting Sec Canton Chorus

2/9/2025