

Draft 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: 13/10/2025 on Zoom.

Present: Steve Bowkett, Chair/Trustee, Anna Brazier, Secretary/Trustee, Neil Schofield, Treasurer/Trustee, Rosemary Morgan, Alto Part Rep, Sara Hayes Sop Rep, Ben Teague, Musical Director, Lesley Jones, Comms lead, Janet Daly, Choir Member, Margot Henery, Trustee/Part Rep

Apologies: Richard Tebbboth, Vice Chair/Trustee, Jane Brown Librarian, Gareth Jones Part Rep, Phil Hawkins, Website lead

Record of previous meeting: Record agreed. Sent to Anna and Phil.

Matters arising not on Agenda: None

Financial Report

- Neil had circulated a draft of his report for the AGM previously. All reasonably positive and in line with expectations. The rise in subscription rate and increase in choir membership has improved income. Planned modest winter concert will reduce expenditure. Those two factors alone should ensure we are able to have a more expansive concert in 2027.
- Neil pursuing enquiries into the acquisition of a card-reader as agreed.
- Noted that Gift-Aiding could be more widespread. Neil will encourage those members not signed up to do so (at the AGM)
- Another source of income which we could use more regularly is Easy Fund-Raising. Margot will publicise via part reps and Neil will add a plug at the AGM. Thanks to Margot for reminding us of the benefits of this and of Amazon's similar scheme.
- Rosemary also raised the issue of advertising in local free papers/magazines. Her local, "Community Link ", has carried adverts from choirs before. There's a small charge but it could be a valuable recruitment aid.

AGM – 22/10/25

- Arrangements are in hand. Financial Report ready (see above), Trustees Report will be finalised by end of week, nominations for trustees/officers received.

John Abraham

- John's Memory Book now completed. Anna has been in touch to tell him. John's health still of concern but he has invited Anna and Steve to visit and present the book. Big thanks to Anna for collecting and organizing all contributions from choir members and producing a book we hope will bring John much pleasure.

Winter Concert 2026

- Some discussion about whether we need extra items in what will be a relatively short programme. Soloists could be asked to perform solos (though this would probably mean an increase in their fees). Whatever decision is finally taken there will be a concomitant effect

on the timing of refreshments (part of St John's expected income). Ben will consider both questions and get back to Planning Group with his thoughts.

- **Flyer.** Lesley beginning to plan re flyer for Winter concert. Agreed that it should be colourful (as last concert's was) and should also emphasise that our soloists and instrumentalists are professional musicians (to encourage potential new audience).

December Come and Sing

- Ben proposed a Come and Sing at Canton Uniting for choir members and non-members. Repertoire would be seasonal. Cost and date to be decided. Suggested dates are Saturdays (6th or 13th December); Times 11a.m. to 5 p.m. Anna will check availability of Canton Uniting.

Next Meeting

- **To be confirmed following AGM**

Steve Bowkett

Acting Sec Canton Chorus

18/10/2025