



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2016  
KILLEARN KIRK HALL**

**Sederunt:** Vicky Glasse-Davies, Colin Cameron, Mark Evans, Ken Allen, Bill Noblett, Clare Cushing, Jenny Lunn, Amy Anderson, Kirsty Allan, Moira McKendry, Fiona Renfrew, Judith Neil, Anne Parker, Alison Brown, Sheena Mclean, Rosie Series, John Smith, Ewing D Wallace, Mary K. Lawson, Joyce Begg, Catherine Davidson-Carr, Isobel Shaw, Liz Brander, Phil Gaskell, Julia Haak, Elspeth Smith, Stella Smith, Carole Young, Melanie Smith

**1)Apologies:**

Max Taylor, John MacDonald, Carol Omand, Madeline Gorham, Ola Watson, Pat Ashworth

**2)Minutes of the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015:**

**Adopted as correct: proposed – Judith Neil; seconded – Alison Brown.**

**3) Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising that were not being dealt with in the agenda.

**4) Minutes of the EGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015:**

This was the meeting to approve the Accounts for the year ending in April 2015.

**The Minutes were agreed: proposed – Jenny Lund; seconded – Ewing Wallace.**

**5) Chairperson's Report:**

This is my final report as chairperson. I have enjoyed my time on the committee, but I'm happy to be passing you into Colin's very capable hands. I think our tradition of 3 years in office is a very positive one. You don't have to spend too long listening to the same person and a wide cross section of the choir have the opportunity to contribute, at some point, to its smooth running.

We were extremely happy to welcome quite a number of new members to the choir during the course of the year, especially in the soprano and alto sections. As always a few singers have had to take either a temporary or long term break from singing with us for various reasons, and we wish them all well.

We have had another great year of singing.

Christmas was, as usual, a busy time. A good number of the choir managed to fit in singing at the Killearn Christmas market on 6th December, accompanied by Penny Watson. ( who was still a comparative stranger to us at the time.) Our Christmas concert in Killearn Kirk on Friday 11th December was very well attended and enthusiastically received. Part of the programme was the Scottish premier of Cecelia McDowall's A Winter's Night, which gave the choir the opportunity to 'live life on the edge' in a couple of places.

We were delighted to welcome once again some young performers from Douglas Academy - a super string quartet and two lovely soloists, Alice Yeoman and Ross Fettes.

Our accompanist during the autumn term and for the concert was Gina Baker, who also performed wonders on the organ. We were really sorry when she said she had been offered work on Monday evenings in Edinburgh, much closer to home for her.

We have, however, been extremely fortunate in her replacement, Penny Watson, who took over after Christmas and accompanied the choir for part of the Easter Concert.

A significant part of our fundraising for the last few years, has been the sale of advertising space in the Christmas programme. Colin has played a major role in this effort, but it is really essential that one or two people volunteer to assist with this, if it is to continue to be such a good earner for us.

As an addition to our normal fundraising we decided to try raffling a Christmas hamper at the concert. Choir members contributed very generously, including a beautiful cake from Philip, and the raffle raised £470. It was felt that, with the benefit of experience it could probably raise even more next year.

Our Friends group continues to be very ably managed by Alison who writes an excellent newsletter to keep them up to date with choir events? The Friends bring in valuable additional funds and are also the core of our most loyal audience. Our annual musical coffee morning was held on 20th February. There was a great turn out from the choir and fantastic contributions of baking, books and bottles. Helen Barclay very kindly played for us once again, and accompanied a range of groups and individuals who provided entertainment. Thanks to all involved, especially to Moira and Kirsty who co-ordinated the refreshments, and to those who organised the stalls.

Our website suffered a bit of a hitch during the year as it was dependent upon one person to make any changes. It was felt that it would be worth spending a modest sum on updating the system. This has now been done and Colin has done a

brilliant job coordinating the setting up of the new site. It is a great resource for members and will undoubtedly help to maintain the recruitment of new singers.

It did occur to me that an archive section somewhere on the website would be interesting with a list of all the major works that the choir have sung over the years, especially given that next year is I understand, the choir's 40th year - a challenge for someone?

The Spring Concert was on the 20th March. The Choir performed Jenkins' *The Armed Man*, and *I Landed with Seven Men* by Ken Johnston. It was lovely to welcome Amanda MacLeod as our soloist. It seems a very short time ago that she was sitting next to me singing in the sopranos.

The music for the concert was a pleasure to learn and seemed very popular with the audience. I think many people found the experience of performing the *Armed Man* very moving, and the *Call to Prayer* was a spine tingling moment for choir and audience alike. I was glad not to be a piccolo player however - I think that is more pressure than most of us could handle!

Please pass on a big thank you to our regular team of stewards who help out year after year and help to make the concerts run so smoothly!

Our final fling for the season ( apart from this evening ) was The Strathendrick Singers 'on tour' to Yorkshire from 20th-22nd May.

28 singers and 2 loyal supporters were able to make the trip with Mark and our temporary accompanist Alex Standing. Fortunately there were no major disasters and I would like to thank everyone on the trip for being so easy and accommodating, and such good company.

We performed in All Saints Church in Ilkley on Saturday evening and in Christ Church in Skipton with the KVV Singers on Sunday afternoon. The KVV hosted a wonderful buffet lunch for us, and were extremely welcoming and helpful.

I would like to thank Colin for his help with the trip, always happy to make time to discuss arrangements or knock up a poster. And also Bill, who had the joy of collecting the money and paying the bills.

A big thank you to Mark for his work all year, always pushing us to achieve a little more. Also for his commitment to the Yorkshire trip, managing to fit the extra rehearsal time and trip into a very busy life, planning music that would work so well, and for his confidence in the choir.

I have been very fortunate to be working with such a great committee, supportive and very hard working. I realised looking back, that we have been running with 3 fewer people than a few years ago. That probably makes meetings slightly more efficient, but may have its disadvantages when it comes to mopping floors after concerts. Something for the new team to think about.

Ewing always deserves special thanks, since his role as librarian seems to carry a life sentence, not just the usual 3 years, and he always does so many additional tasks.

Kirsty and Moira are a brilliant catering team and Moira also manages to make the daunting task of tickets and money seem like nothing.

Bill has done a wonderful job managing the accounts. The post of treasurer is time consuming and most of the work is unseen. We are really grateful for the time and effort he has put in. Thanks also to Adam Urquhart who so kindly examines the accounts.

Ken has finished his term of office as secretary. He has been both efficient and sensible and done a great job - pretty clever since he seems to be out of the country for half the year! He will be a hard act to follow.

Colin has been a constant support as vice chairperson and has performed all kinds of jobs too numerous to mention. Thank you!

Finally I would just like to wish everyone a wonderful summer, and I look forward to us starting the new season on the 5th September.

## **6) Music Director's Report:**

Mark Evans thanked the choir for its continuing energy, which he hoped to continue to enjoy.

At the Christmas Concert, the choir took on board the McDowell 'A Winter's Night' with its usual energy. The choir always shows a willingness to embrace new works. The *Cradle Hymn* by Arnesen, though derivative, was sung very beautifully, enhanced by the string quartet from Douglas Academy. 'Christmas is Coming' showed that the choir could raise its game in the concert. Alice Yeoman and Ross from Douglas Academy were excellent soloists, Ross's Bach in particular was impressive. It is excellent to offer a platform to young singers. Mark thanked Joyce Begg for her usual joyful Christmas talk.

He was very grateful to Gina Black who played for the Christmas concert. He was very pleased that Penny Watson took on the post of Accompanist in the New Year, as she had been a pupil at Douglas Academy, and she is delighted to be working with the choir.

For the Spring concert and the Tour to Yorkshire, Mark was not sure whether he would like the Karl Jenkins 'Mass: the *Armed Man*', which he had heard so much about. In the end, the performance with the instrumentalists was quite spectacular and special. He particularly liked the 'Charge' ending with the choir's aleatoric section. For many people the most moving part was the 'Call to Prayer' given by Farid Sadiq, possibly because of his young voice, clearly expressed. Thanks are due to Amanda MacLeod for her solos in the Jenkins, and her other solos, though the MacMillan piece was not universally liked. Ken Johnson always writes well for voices, and his sequence 'I landed with Seven Men' was well received.

The Tour to Yorkshire went very well and Mark enjoyed the social side as well as the musical. Getting to know people better feeds into the performances generally. The Saturday concert was not as good as it could have been, possibly because of a very good dinner. There was a reasonable audience who gave a positive response. The concert in Skipton on Sunday, along with the KVV Singers, was much improved and the good diction was particularly noted.

Mark thanked Alex Standing, the accompanist who came with us; her parents came up from Beverley for both concerts. Mark is very willing to consider another tour, and hopes we can start to consider where we might go.

The next year is the choir's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Mark's 10<sup>th</sup> as Conductor. He has spoken to Ros McGowan about possible involvement in the year's events, and she is considering this. Mark is considering two alternative possibilities for programmes: the first is a compilation of parts of the many programmes which have been performed over the years. Mark has a record of all the works he has conducted, but if people have a record before that, he would be grateful if they brought them along. One problem with this programme would be sourcing all the different bits of music. An alternative would be a performance of a large-scale work not yet tackled, like 'Carmina Burana' or the Brahms 'Requiem'. One work he would really like to include is the 'Serenade to Music' by Vaughan-Williams.

An exciting project which we are applying for is the Making Music scheme 'Adopt a Composer', in which we would work with a young composer, who would be mentored by a more established composer.

The Christmas concert could be lower key, but one work Mark would like to revisit is Bob Chilcott's 'On Christmas Night' in which we could include pupils from the primary school, which was so successful when we did this before. We would have to consider logistics as we are also to be performing in Kippen Church this Christmas.

Mark would like some feed-back from the choir about these ideas.

Mark thanked the committee for all their work behind the scenes. He particularly thanked Ewing for sourcing all the music so efficiently, and for putting together the programme, even when programme notes were sent to him quite late.

Finally Mark thanked the Singers for their commitment and energy which really keeps him going.

#### **6) Treasurer's Report:**

Bill Noblett presented the accounts for the year 2015-16. He pointed out that Gift Aid was higher because he had claimed for 2013-14 as well as 2014-15. Future Gift Aid figures will therefore be lower. The Christmas Concert brought in a larger amount because more tickets were sold. For the Spring Concert, a higher income was produced because the ticket price was increased. Entry to the KVV Singers concert was by donation, which was quite successful. Christmas Advertising was reduced, and there was a need for the choir members to help to bring this figure back up. The Christmas Raffle was very successful, and the Singers were generous in their donations to the hamper, although it was felt that more tickets could have been sold if it had been better advertised. There were 49 paying members of the choir.

Bill explained some of the expenditure figures. The figures for musicians was much reduced this year, as was the cost of guest accompanists. The rent for rehearsals included some costs which had not been paid the previous year. Donations had been made to Balfron Church, towards the roof repair fund, and to Killearn Kirk, for the use of the Kirk, as opposed to the Halls, for concerts for a number of events. Bill was very grateful for the work of Alison Brown in organising the Friends, whose contributions were very much appreciated.

In future years, some income, like Gift Aid, would be reduced, and some costs would not be repeated, but there was a need to increase income, and Bill particularly highlighted the help required from choir members to increase Christmas Advertising.

**Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by John Smith, seconded by Mary Lawson, and they were duly adopted.**

The Chairperson thanked Bill for his sterling work and the clarity of his presentation.

#### **7) Committee:**

The positions due to be filled this year are as follows:

**Chairperson: Colin Cameron was proposed by Elspeth Smith and seconded by Joyce Begg, and was duly appointed.**

**Secretary: Judith Neil was proposed by Liz Brander and seconded by Ann Parker, and was duly appointed.**

**Vice-Chairperson: No nominations were received.** Vicky Glasse-Davies said it was good practice for the Vice-Chairperson to see what was happening in the committee before taking on the Chairperson's post, and hoped that someone would still come forward.

#### **8) Future Events**

The Singers will restart on **Monday 5th September in Balfron Church.**

The Christmas Concert will take place on **Friday December 16th in Killearn Kirk, and in Kippen Church on 9<sup>th</sup> December.** The Christmas Market is on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December.**

The Spring Concert will be on **Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Killearn Kirk**

#### **9) AOCB**

1) Joyce Begg raised the issue of fundraising. The Coffee Morning was enjoyable, but most fundraising is not easy and she thought that putting out the begging bowl at the Christmas Market was embarrassing. In the end most of the

fundraising is amongst the choir members themselves. She suggested that we should look at the subscription rate. Joyce had worked out that we pay roughly £2.50 per week at the moment, and for that we

- 1) Get to sing a wide variety of excellent music;
- 2) Have the services of an excellent Music Director;
- 3) Have had a succession of excellent Accompanists.

If we increased the amount we pay to £3 per week, the subscription would rise to £84, at £3.50 a week, it would be £90, which is (for some!) a couple of trips to Tesco.

Mary Lawson agreed that this was easier than trying to raise funds.

**The proposal to raise the subscription to £90 per annum, with a reduced amount for students, was proposed by Joyce Begg, seconded by Carole Young, and agreed by the members present.**

2) Ewing Wallace raised the perennial issue of return of music. It is important to return music as quickly as possible. He is still waiting for one copy of the Jenkins 'Mass: the Armed Man'. Late returns and lost copies cost money.

Colin Cameron closed the meeting by thanking Vicky Glasse-Davies and Ken Allen for their work on the committee for the last three years.

Following the AGM, there was as usual an enjoyable social event to which the Friends were invited, catering organised by Kirsty and Moira, and Jenny sourcing the wine. Entertainment was provided by members of the choir, accompanied by Rosie Series and Julia Haak. There were also presentations to Vicky Glasse-Davies and Ken Allen