

Committee Meeting Monday 12th February 2018

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Kirsty Allan, Mark Evans, Judith Neil, Bill Noblett, Ewing Wallace,

1. Welcome and Apologies: Colin welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Moira McKendry.

2. Matters arising from meeting on 4th December 2017

Mark felt that the two Christmas Concerts in Gartmore and Killearn had been very well received and people particularly enjoyed *Wenceslas* by Chilcott.

The new arrangements for the raffle at Killearn were a great improvement on the 2016 concert. Next year pens or pencils should be available and also £5 notes for change. The raffle income was substantially up on 2016.

The new set of steps purchased to enable people to access the top of the staging is now stored in Killearn Kirk.

3. Financial report

Bill provided a spreadsheet detailing income and expenditure for the two concerts (see attached). There is still income to be added from the advertising in the Christmas Concert programme, and more expenses to be deducted for printing/photocopying and catering.

It was decided that a donation of £300 should be given to Killearn Kirk for the use of the church for the concert.

4. Diary Matters

a) Coffee Morning March 3rd

The Killearn Kirk hall is booked for March 3rd from 9am-1pm.

A letter will be sent to all choir members with practical details and information.

JN

Publicity

Notices are already in Parklife and Killearn Courier and adverts will be placed in the Stirling Observer and Milngavie Herald.

JN

Ewing will provide posters, as well as tickets (price £3 and £2 for children), to be distributed to choir members on Monday 19th February.

EW

Colin will make sure the banner is in place and will provide fliers for the Spring Concert to put on the tables.

CC

Stalls and stallholders

All the people involved in organizing stalls last year are happy to continue this year:

Cake and Candy Joyce, Cathy and Sheena

Bottle stall Ewing

Books and DVDs Colin

Raffle Alison



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Catering

Moira and Kirsty will organize the kitchen with help from the choir. Joyce will borrow the table covers from the Monday Club as usual. Choir members will be asked for baking for the tables, posies of flowers and milk jugs and sugar bowls. Alison will be asked for flasks.

MM/KA

Bill will provide a float.

BN

Entertainment

Helen Barclay has kindly agreed to play the piano for us on the day and to accompany the choir and any groupings who wish to perform.

Mark will find some suitable songs for the choir to sing, maybe on the Monday before the concert (26th Feb.)

ME

Christine Hunter has agreed to collect the flowers promised by Endrick Florists in lieu of payment for an advert in the Christmas Concert programme.

b) Spring Concert March 25th

Killearn Kirk and Hall are booked from 1pm-10pm. There will be a rehearsal for the choir from 2pm-5pm and staging will be put in place between 1pm and 2pm. Judith will contact Joanna Donaldson to make sure that the staging can be accessed at that time from the Village Hall, and Vicky to see if her vehicle can be used to transfer the staging.

JN

Adverts will be, or have already been placed, in the usual places.

JN

Ewing will again provide the tickets. It was decided to keep the price at £10 with under 16s free.

EW

The first half of the programme will be the Faure *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine* and the second half will be the Rutter *Magnificat*.

Mark is following up on possible soloists.

ME

There will be a further committee meeting after the coffee morning to discuss other advertising, catering and musicians' fees.

5. Strathpeffer/Badenoch Trip May 18th-20th

Extra rehearsals are to be held in Balfron on 23rd and 30th April and 7th and 14th May.

Concert in Strathpeffer Pavilion with Dingwall Choral Saturday 19th May

Mark has been in touch with Paul Griffiths, President of the Dingwall Choral. As they are keen to perform *Dvorak Mass in D*, the likely programme will be 40 minutes of Dingwall Choral, 40 minutes of Strathendrick Singers singing material from our Spring Concert and a short section with the two choirs singing together – possibly *Cantique de Jean Racine*, *The Irish Blessing* and *Will ye no come back again*. This has yet to be finally decided. This will mean that there will not be a need for a long joint rehearsal beforehand.

ME

As Penny is unavailable to be our accompanist, Mark will contact Jose who accompanied us previously at a rehearsal in Balfron.

ME

It has been agreed that, as the Dingwall Choral have made the booking of the Strathpeffer Pavilion and done all the publicity, they should take any proceeds of the concert.

Badenoch Concert Sunday 20th May

The concert on the Sunday afternoon will either be in Kingussie or Newtonmore Church. It is not clear yet whether it will just be the Strathendrick Singers or whether the Badenoch Chorale will sing with us.

Colin will contact John Crombie to discuss the repertoire and will try to attend their concert in Kingussie on April 28th. If it will just be the Strathendrick Singers we will perform the same material as at Strathpeffer,

CC

Costs.

Bill is keen to know of any marketing costs/other expenses before he contacts choir members with the total cost of the weekend. Colin will clarify the costs with John Crombie and Paul Griffiths. The coach is confirmed as costing £1400.

CC/BN

It was suggested that La Taverna in Aviemore would be a good choice for Sunday lunch for the choir. Colin has a previous connection with the owners and will contact them to ascertain whether we can make a booking for a large number (39) and what the cost of a meal would be. This will be included by Bill in the cost to the choir.

CC

6. AOB

Choir rehearsals for the 2018-19 session will restart on Monday September 3rd.

Colin brought up the matter of the AGM/Social evening. The AGM was moved last year to be at the first rehearsal of the new season in September, instead of June, as previously. It was felt that this arrangement worked well, with the choir starting a little earlier and having a short rehearsal before the AGM and refreshments afterwards. There was discussion about the fact that it might make the evening too long if the Friends were also invited to this (as they have previously been invited to a short social evening with refreshments and some musical entertainment after the June AGMs). Colin will speak to Alison Brown, who is the contact person for the Friends, to get her thoughts on the matter, and then maybe put it to the choir for their thoughts.

CC

Christmas activities

There was a discussion about our programme for Christmas 2018. Colin suggested a return to Gartmore for our second concert as the hall is a very pleasant venue and the audience is appreciative and growing. It was agreed that Judith should speak to Vicky about the possibility.

JN

Artlink

Philip Gaskell, as Chair of Artlink, had contacted Colin about an event at Christmas 2018 in the grounds of The Prudential in Stirling. There will be musical events in a marquee and he wondered if the Strathendrick Singers might perform a concert. It was felt that a concert would not be appropriate, but some carol singing might be possible, especially since the Killearn Country Market, where we have sung carols for several years, will most likely not take place this year. As an alternative to Stirling, Colin wondered if The Smiddy near Blair Drummond might be a more appropriate venue and it was thought that this might be more 'within our catchment'.

We will return to this subject at our next committee meeting.

Gift Aid

Bill brought up the subjects of Gift Aid, and our Charitable status. With regard to Gift Aid, at a recent Making Music meeting, it was reported that some choirs had had issues with HMRC over non-compliance in terms of reclaim forms. Hence the email sent out to choir members for whom there is no form in the records. He has been waiting for these prior to

sending in our claim for last year; he will process this claim within the next week.

Since our stated aim is to "to advance the education of the public in the art of Choral Singing", he feels that to justify our charitable status we may need to do more in the way of outreach. He thinks that a Come and Sing outreach event held by us on the last Saturday of August, possibly in Balfron High School Hall, would be valuable in publicizing what we do and would maybe attract new choir members. Mark said he would be keen to make connections with the school. There was discussion as to the purpose of the event and the need for well-targeted marketing/publicity to make this a success. It was decided that Bill should speak to the Head of the school music department and we will return to the subject at the next meeting.

BN

'a quiet life'

Colin informed everyone that Aran Browning has now made a You Tube version of our performance of 'a quiet life'. He used the BBC Radio 3 recording to which he has overlaid the words as we sing them and included the video of the choir made by Alan Cameron. He intends to put this on the choir website.

CC

7. The next meeting will be held on March 12th.