



## Committee Meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Present: Colin Cameron (Chair), Mark Evans, Bill Noblett, Ewing Wallace, Judith Neil,  
John MacDonald, Annette Rogers

**1. Welcome and Apologies:** Colin welcomed everyone, especially Annette at her first committee meeting. He also thanked John, from the catering team, for attending. There were no apologies.

**2. Minutes of the meeting** on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 were accepted as correct (Bill Noblett).

### **3. Matters arising from the meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018**

#### **a) Come and Sing**

Bill has returned the £500 grant money to Stirling Council which was awarded for the aborted event in 2018, and he will reapply for the 2019 event. We discussed a provisional date of Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 and Bill will pursue this with Greg Ratcliffe from Balfron High School Music Department. John suggested that, as well as the High School choir, the primary school pupils might be involved in some way. Colin said that Jenny McNeely has been involved in music in the primary school, so she might be the person to approach about this.

BN

CC

#### **b) Aran Browning collaboration**

After discussion, it was decided to invite Aran to come to one of our choir rehearsals this term. In communication with Mark, Aran has suggested that the piece would be short (2-3 minutes) and also 'interesting, approachable and manageable'. Speaking to the choir would give him the opportunity to explain his proposal to us and give us a chance to consider whether we wish to participate. It was felt that the words of a poem might be an appropriate starting point.

CC

#### **c) Replacement librarian**

Ewing will write a short description of the requirements of the role of Librarian. Music has to be sourced and ordered, as well as distributed and collected in. There is also the need to register with Making Music. There are two cupboards of music in Killearn Kirk with an inventory, which need to be monitored. Colin said that suggestions for a suitable replacement librarian would be welcome.

EW

Ewing has agreed to continue with the printing of tickets, posters, programmes etc.

#### **d) Smiddy Carol Singing**

Colin felt this was a fun event with a good choir turnout. The management of the Smiddy has invited us back for next year, but we would adjust the timings to start at 11am to maximise the audience. The space allocated to us may need to be changed next year, as it was rather cramped and distant from people in the café. Colin will write to Linda to suggest Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.

CC



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#### **e) Gartmore Concert**

This was a very successful event with a good atmosphere and good sized audience. The choir enjoyed it.

#### **f) Killearn Concert**

This was also a successful concert, in that it was very much enjoyed by the audience and there was a good atmosphere. Daniel Barrett, the soloist, was exceptional and the quartet from Douglas Academy played very well. We received a lovely thank you note from the quartet for the welcome and hospitality which they have received from the choir over several years.

This year the audience was slightly smaller in size, and the takings from the raffle were down. There were discussions about why this might be, and it was decided to try to hold the concert on the Sunday night instead of the Friday next year, as some people had indicated that there were clashes with other events on a Friday night close to Christmas. It was also decided that the raffle organization could be tweaked. For example, a couple of choir members could stand by the door with baskets to collect the envelopes as people leave the church for the interval.

#### **4. Financial Report**

Bill circulated his report (see attached). The Gartmore concert income was almost the same as last year while the Killearn income was lower, partly due to smaller audience numbers. There was also a significant increase in refreshment costs, but that includes the purchase of a large number of compostable cups, which will give us a supply into the future, and there is also a surplus stock of wine and water which will carry over to the next concert. Therefore, the combined net income from the two concerts is lower, but not significantly, and the choir funds are healthy.

All the subscriptions are in and Bill said he will be working on the Gift Aid accounts next week.

#### **6. Diary Matters**

##### **a) Coffee Morning Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

Killearn Kirk Hall is booked from 9am-1pm. A letter will be sent to choir members with all the practical information and requests for contributions.

JN

##### Publicity

Advertising is already in place in Parklife and the Killearn Courier and will be placed in the Stirling Observer and Milngavie Herald. Colin will put the banners in place and design Spring concert flyers for the tables. Ewing will print posters and tickets (£3 and £2).

JN  
CC  
EW

##### Stalls and stall holders.

Judith will contact the usual stallholders to check that they are willing to continue this year. The choir will be asked to bring contributions for all the stalls, including the raffle.

JN

##### Catering

Choir members will be asked to bring baking for the tables, posies of flowers, milk jugs and sugar bowls and Alison will be asked to bring flasks. Joyce will bring the table covers, as usual.

The catering committee will organize the kitchen and the serving of customers, with help from other choir members.

##### Entertainment

Helen Barclay has kindly agreed to play the piano for us on the day and to accompany any groupings or soloists. Positioning of the choir and soloists was discussed and it was agreed that they should be positioned along the long edge of the hall, to be closer to all the customers so that they can hear more clearly. A microphone could be used for soloists, but not the choir. Judith will buy flowers as a thank-you gift for Helen. Mark will be asked if he could source some music for the choir to sing.

JN  
ME

**b) Spring Concert Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 7.00pm and extra rehearsal.**

An extra rehearsal is planned for Saturday February 9th from 2.00pm to 5.00pm in Balfron Church Hall. Tea and coffee will be provided by the catering committee.

Killearn Kirk and Halls are booked for the concert from 1.00pm to 10.00pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. Judith will look into the possibility of getting earlier access to the church as there will be a large orchestra (approximately 20) and three soloists. Rehearsal time for them and the choir needs to be maximized. Judith will contact Joanna Donaldson about access for the staging; Sue Beck for earlier access to the church; and Vicky about the use of her car to transport it.

JN

Tickets will be priced at £12 and it will be free for under 16s.

Refreshments will be wine and soft drinks.

Mark brought up the subject of the composition of the orchestra for the concert and wondered how the committee feels about his approaching the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, or The Kelvin Ensemble instead of hiring professional musicians. Both of these have some excellent young players. He feels this may keep our expenses down, and also provide good experience for the young musicians. This was felt to be a very attractive proposition and a sensible way forward.

ME

**c) Dates for next session**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 AGM following a short rehearsal

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Carol Singing at The Smiddy

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Gartmore Christmas Concert

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Killearn Christmas Concert (to be confirmed)

**7. AOB**

As there is always some good baking from choir members at our rehearsal tea break, Annette suggested the idea of a Choir recipe book as a fundraiser. This will be looked into and Annette will speak to Philip, who is a catering team member with an interest in baking, about it. We can then look at costs, format etc.

AR

John brought up the subject of the length of our tea break during rehearsal, and wondered if it should be curtailed, or moved to the end of the rehearsal. Some members have expressed concern that much valuable rehearsal time is being lost.

The tea break was considered to play an important role in the social life of the choir but that it would not really work at the end of rehearsal. Ways to speed up the serving and clearing away afterwards were discussed and John has been asked, in the light of the discussion, to revise the guidelines given to members on tea duty.

JMcD

Colin indicated that Judith's three year term as secretary, and his term as Chairperson, will be coming to an end at the next AGM. Judith has indicated her intention to step down.

**8. Date of next meeting**

This will be held on Monday March 11th at 6.15pm in Balfron Church Hall.