

## Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

### Committee meeting minutes

15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 7.30pm at Fiona's house

Apology from AV

#### Minutes of the last meeting (28/03/24)

- **The minutes were approved and accepted.**
- **Action updates**
  - Investigation in to feedback speakers - This is still ongoing **IF**
  - Long blue dress collection update **AV not at meeting**
- **Matters arising**
  - PR shared a user print out to demonstrate that his enhanced security measures are working.
  - AC has contacts for a Suffolk Show 2025 enquiry.

#### Membership

- **Attendance**
  - The altos average attendance is dipping again.
  - The basses attendance is very good and the tenors has improved.
  - A soprano's attendance is causing concern and will need to be followed up.**AV**
- **Future term dates including an update on the proposal for longer terms**
  - We will not require the members to pay any more subs until the Autumn Term.
  - The Autumn Term will consist of two blocks.
  - In the future, it is proposed that subs will be paid by standing order. This will start in January and will be paid three monthly in advance, giving members access to rehearsals, events and the website resources. There will be no refunds. A draft document will be prepared and shared with the committee. **FH**
- **General membership housekeeping (joiners/leavers etc)**
  - A leaver questionnaire will be devised and shared with the committee. **SN**

#### Finance

- **Statement of Income and Expenditure**
  - The Profit And Loss Account By Trading Figures up to the end of August was presented to the committee.
  - The choir account is in a good position.
  - There is a good stock of the choir clothing range.

#### Musical director's report NC

- NC feels that the choir is demonstrating a real cohesion and are producing a great sound.
- We are confident with our older repertoire, which is kept familiar due to being used as warm ups and end songs each session. This is useful when we have a low turnout for events and we cannot demonstrate our four or six part harmonies.
- NC is happy with our progress on the new pieces that we are learning for Christmas and he is confident that we will be ready for the Christmas concert with the band.

- At this point the committee gave a vote of thanks to NC for his efforts to keep the choir going through the last month whilst he was experiencing health problems.

### Section reports

- **Soprano**
  - AV has not been contacted by any sopranos about current issues.
  - One soprano mentioned to DI that she would appreciate the summer break to last for the whole of August.
- **Alto**
  - One member has left and another has put her membership on hold.
  - Two members who have not attended recently will be contacted by the rep FH
  - There is an imbalance within the section with ten alto ones and four regular alto twos.
- **Tenor/Bass**
  - There are no current issues within these two sections

### Website

- **New website host update**
  - The change over from our existing host PR to the new host will be completed during August. PR

### Contingency plans

- **Consideration to be given to the future proofing of the choir should we ever find ourselves without a musical director.**
  - The committee need access to the backing tracks. These will be put on the website. NC
  - There is an alternative amp that could be used. PR
  - VT might be an alternative MD in the short term.
  - The choir could split in to small single section groups and call on the members with musical knowledge to lead.
  - Ipswich School have access to a list of people who can lead choirs.
  - We could purchase a Bluetooth speaker.

### Past events

- **Spring Concert at St Peter's**
  - Although some sections of the band were shaky in parts, the choir sang well.
  - Members were proud to perform at this event.
  - The compere was excellent again.
  - There was a problem with the running of the raffle which altered the running order of the concert.
  - Daniel was filming again and has footage which will be sent to us.
- **Ipswich Music Day**
  - Although the choir was compromised by the limited space at the venue, the choir gave a good performance.
  - There was a problem with our invitation to apply this year, due to the organiser moving house when some emails went astray, so we will check the application process in March if we haven't heard by then. AC

- **Welly Walk Jimmy's Farm**

- The choir gave a confident performance of some old favourites with three part harmonies.
- Sadly, the general public audience was sparse but we were very well supported by our families and friends.
- A lot of members took up the invitation to visit the farm for free, which was offered as a thank you.

#### **Future Events**

- **Christmas Concert at St Peter's 07/12**

- This will be another truly joint concert with us involved musically 50% of the time.
- The committee agreed to a piano accompanist to be engaged to play for the choir only numbers NC
- We will offer our help with the organisation of the evening. AC

- **Christmas Shopping And Pamper Evening 22/11**

- **Light Up A Life service 15/12**

#### **Social Events**

- **Christmas Party 2024**

- This will take place on 13/12 at 7pm at the Belstead Arms and cost £15 for a buffet supper including desserts.
- There will be background music and some opportunities to sing.
- A visit to the venue will be made in advance to see what equipment they can provide. PR
- A poll for attendance will be put out in September PR
- We may hold a raffle for charity SN
- There will be a festive quiz DI

#### **AOB**

- Members will be asked if they have any photographs from the Welly Walk or Music Day that can be put on the website. **IF**
- The Facebook settings have been changed so that non-members will have to go through Admin to advertise events not directly involving the choir.
- The AGM will be held in September – at the moment there are two possible dates. **Tbc DI**

#### **Next meeting date and time**

- **The next meeting will be held on 05/09/24 at 7.30pm at Nick's house.**