

St. Ives Community Choir AGM 9th January 2024 Minutes

List of those present:

Alan Thomas	Alison Ashby	Angela Charleston
Ann Stone	Anne Bassett	Chris Pearson
Don Stevens	Helen Jones	Judy Tremelling
Laura Underwood	Lesley Thomas	Lynda Thomas
Lynne Brereton	Maggie Marr	Maureen Stevens
Mike Laramy	Rachel Hird	Sandra Oliver
Sarah Rees	Sheryl Mylchreest	Tamzyn Smith
Tracy Stent	Tricia Thomas	Val Ollis
Vicky Taylor	William Thomas	

Apologies for absence:

Barbara Warner	Christine Wheeler	Gill Titchener
Heather Greaves	Julia Penhaligon	Michael Taylor
Pauline Tan	Steve Bassett	Stuart Greaves
Vincent Tan		

Chairman's Welcome & Report

Vicky welcomed everyone and wished them a happy new year. Happy birthday was then sung to William.

She then handed over to Lynda who said that there were 9 apologies for absence. Lynda read out the abridged minutes from the 2023 AGM which were approved.

Vicky said that we had 5 new members last year. Sends her love and best wishes to Helen who hasn't been very well. Also we lost 2 of the choir members last year. Roy Brookes who had moved away to be with his family and later passed away. Also Lillian, who had been a member of the Choir for many years.

The choir had made a recording which was played by the family's request at Roy's funeral. Vicky said that she sat next to Lillian in the choir and would get an elbow in the ribs when she hit a wrong note. Lillian was pitch perfect.

Vicky particularly enjoyed the fabulous garden party. Thanked Ann & Laura for the tombola and Don & Maureen for the raffle. The weather was good and so were the cream teas.

Enjoyed the Coronation and September concerts. Also enjoyed the choir Christmas party arranged by Maureen and thanked Rachel and Julia for organising the raffle. The Memorial Hall looked particularly beautiful for the 30th December concert. The choir was not at its best due to croaky voices but the audience was very appreciative.

Thanks go to Tricia who spends a long time sourcing music that suits the choir's

voices. Alan for the website, that is one of the best around. Bill for photos. The concert write ups last year were originally done by Dave Brotherton. The choir was asked if anyone would like to take on the role of writing up the events. Tracy produced some and has agreed to do future ones. Talking about the amount of money in the bank account, Vicky said that we have to have a contingency in case we have to pay for a Musical Director and Accompanist in the future. Thanks to Lynda as I know that every day she is looking at the choir's business. William for his dedication and commitment. Don and Maureen as social secretaries. It's a thankless task as you can't please everybody. Thanks also to the commitment of choir members. This year sees the 20th Anniversary of the choir.

Secretary's Report

We have had a really busy year with 20 events and have had a few enquiries for this year.

We now have 40 choir members, some of whom had seen our entry in the St. Ives Local magazine, attendee concerts and on the website.

There are sheets on the table by the door, as usual, to tick off to indicate whether you are able to attend future events or not. Will you please make sure that you indicate, **yes** or **no**, so that William can see the balance of voices when choosing the songs that we will be singing. We do not agree to attend a concert unless William is sure we have a good balance of voices. If your circumstances change, will you please let me know, don't just cross your name off, so that William can make any alterations.

As you are aware we purchased a defibrillator from donations and a partial grant which we received from Tesco tokens. To date it has been utilised 5 times as we are listed with the Ambulance Service. The last time it was used, we had to replace the pads at a cost of £70, which The St. Ives Town Council kindly reimbursed. They have put on their Facebook page that they would be supporting local defibrillators, so hopefully we will be on their list. I'm sure that you all agree that this is a vital piece of equipment and is well situated on the main road in Carbis Bay

Moving on to the accounts.

Treasurer's Report

- We started 2023 with £5,627.13.
- We paid out £126.10 for Public Liability, and equipment insurances etc.

- Rent for the Memorial Hall was increased to £30 this year giving a total of £1,175 paid.
- The cost of music was £461.86
- We purchased a new printer, the cost of which was £394.87 which included the ongoing cost of paper and inks. This was offset by a £1,000 grant from the St. Ives Operatic Society.
- Donations and collections came to £4,876.26.
- We paid £70.74 for replacement defibrillator pads, which as I mentioned previously, one set had to be replaced which was re-imbursed by The St. Ives Town Council.
- £2,271.48 was paid in subscriptions. Some members prefer to pay subs in advance. You can pay by cash, cheque, bank transfer (I can give you our bank details) or debit/credit card.
For those of you who have paid in advance I have a list of when you need to start paying again. If you prefer to pay in advance by cash at the door, can you please let me know so I can adjust my list.
- As we agreed previously, any weeks that you miss need to be paid for on your first week back. Sickness is accepted, but holidays **must** be paid for.
- We have donated £2475.43 to local charities through our concerts.
- The final total in the bank to start 2024 is £7,413.71
We have £1,701.38 in hand, pending donation, advance subscriptions and £140 donated by the Golf Club for future replacement of defibrillator pads. This makes the total donations for the year £3838.81 and gives a revised bank total of £5,572.33 which is £54.80 down on the year

Musical Director's Report

William accepted the Treasurer's report and re-iterated his thanks to Vicky and Lynda. Said that his job was not to teach you how to sing but rather how to work together and sing as one. Being part of the choir is all about commitment. Said that himself and Alison have to be there if we have agreed to do concerts. Some choir members pick and choose which events that they want to go to. If people drop out after agreeing to attend, it throws the balance of the choir and I have to make last minute changes. That's not being part of the choir. We had 20 engagements last year, some of which were casual, but I particularly enjoyed the more formal concerts. The choir looked and sounded the part. The highlight for him was the end of year concert. The hall was beautifully decorated and 90% of the audience were new. Suggested concerts for the coming year were the Garden Party, a concert to coincide with the September Festival and an End of Year concert.

Choir members were encouraged to come to him if they had any suggestions or concerns.

Social Secretary's Report

Maureen said that 2023 had been very quiet. Trips to Exeter and Truro Christmas Markets were proposed but deemed too expensive. They did have a trip to Mevagissey and read out a note from a couple of people on the trip praising the trip. In the past, previous to Covid, we had weekend trips to Babbacombe, Torquay, Weson-Super-Mare, Exmouth and Ilfracombe. If anyone had any suggestions for future excursions let me know.

Webmaster's Report

Forthcoming events were all logged on the website and a few days after the concerts the site would be updated with photos and write-ups. There is a wealth of information on the website and some new choir members have been encouraged to join the choir after reading about it on the site. This year we have had new members submitting photos and reports. There have been 20 events which Bill, who is not even in the choir, has attended and photographed. Neither for that matter is Charles! He then gave a breakdown of when the website had been accessed. Said that it was one of the best sites around and that most of the other choir sites had not been updated. Encouraged the choir to look at the Links page where there is a wealth of information. William said to look at the videos on the site and sing along with them.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The re-election of officers and committee was unopposed

Committee

Chairman	Vicky Taylor
Secretary	Lynda Thomas
Treasurer	Lynda Thomas
Librarian	Tricia Thomas
Musical Director	William Thomas
Social Secretaries	Donald and Maureen Stevens

Accompanist	Alison Ashby
Webmaster	Alan Thomas

William said that Tricia spends a lot of time researching new music for the choir. Most of the music is from America and it would cost a lot of money in postage to have it sent. Instead Tricia prints all of the music but it takes a long time.

William accepted the nomination of Musical Director for the coming year but didn't know how long he could carry on as his hearing was getting worse. Vicky said that if anyone was interested in taking over any of the committee roles to approach that person and possibly work alongside them and then decide whether they would want to do that role or not.

Any Other Business

Sandra suggested that one of this year's concerts should be a fund raiser for the choir. Alan would like to have a record of donations (*this has since been sent to him*) William asked if anyone knew of anyone who would like to sponsor the choir regarding purchase of uniform etc.

Vicky closed the meeting.

Date of Next AGM: 14th January 2025