



Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers Season Report 2021-2022



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President

Mr Philip Stopford

Vice-presidents

We are grateful to the following for their continued support
as Vice-presidents during the 2021-2022 season

Mr P Dickens

Mr and Mrs J Oxley

Dr and Mrs D Wray

Mr R Watts

Annual General Meeting 27th March 2023

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on January 17th 2022
3. To consider any matters arising
4. To confirm the appointment of Sam Huston as Musical Director, with effect from January 1st 2023, a review at 6 months
5. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees
6. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2022
7. To consider a recommendation from the Management Committee on subscriptions for the season 2023-2024
8. To propose that Roger Chapman, Paul Dickens, Kathryn Emerson and Richard Watts, all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue in post, be re-elected as Trustees
9. To consider electing further trustees
10. To confirm the re-election of the current President and the Vice-presidents
11. To consider the election of Mr Noel Woolford as a Vice-president
12. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2022-2023
13. Any other business

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at St Barnabas Church
17th January 2022

The meeting started at 19.30 at St Barnabas Church, Linslade.

The chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed those attending the meeting. There were 21 members in attendance plus 6 members of the committee.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Anne Chapman, and Richard and Judith Watts sent their apologies.

2. To approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on November 16th 2020

The meeting approved the minutes from the last meeting.

3. To consider any matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive the Annual Reports of the Trustees

The reports had been sent to members in advance.

Roger Chapman let the members know that he has asked all the local schools to advertise the LBFS in all their staffrooms as part of our recruitment drive.

Richard Watts sent a statement to be read out by the chairman congratulating the Festival Singers on the successful recent 70th Anniversary concert. He also thanked Roger Chapman for his role in the EGM and ensuring the choir's continuation; Paul Dickens, David and Kathryn Emerson for taking on management roles; and Philip Stopford for his support as President and involvement in the November concert.

Pauline Lyon endorsed Richard's message particularly with regards to Roger's contribution at the EGM.

5. To approve, subject to receipt of a satisfactory report from the independent examiner, the accounts for the year ending May 31st 2021

The accounts had been sent to members in advance.

The accounts have been approved by Independent Examiner Mary Hardy.

Proposed: Sally Johnston

Seconded: Valerie Fielder

All members agreed to approve the accounts.

6. To re-elect Richard Watts and Pauline Lyon as Trustees

Proposed: Jean Lawson

Seconded: Margaret Oliver

All members agreed to re-elect Richard and Pauline as Trustees

7. To consider electing further trustees

No members put themselves forward to be a trustee. The chairman encouraged members who would be interested in helping with the organisation of LBFS to speak to a member of the committee.

8. To confirm the re-election of the President and the Vice-presidents who have expressed a wish of continuing

It was noted that since the choir year 2020-21, Mr Smith has passed away and Mrs Smith has expressed a wish to step down as Vice-President.

Proposed: Valerie Fielder

Seconded: Sally Johnston

All approved the re-election and thanks was recorded to the President and Vice-Presidents for their support.

9. To appoint a responsible person to examine the accounts for 2021-2022

Mary Hardy has agreed to examine the accounts next year and the members gave their thanks to Mary for continuing in that role.

10. Any other business

David Emerson discussed a proposed plan for the summer term with regards to singing on Sunday 7th August at Southwark Cathedral in August, and asked for interest from members.

The chairman closed the meeting at 19:45 and thanked the members for attending.

LBFS Members – April 2022

Kathryn Emerson

Kathy Guess

Sally Johnston

Jean Lawson

Christine Oliver

Fay Smithson

Gill Tarbox

Judith Watts

Jo Ayres

Anne Chapman

Valerie Fielder

Dorothy Fletcher

Pauline Lyon

Rosalind Mennie

Janet Miller

Leanne Morgan

Margaret Oliver

Janice Wearmouth

Brian Bainbridge

Simon Beirne

Maurice Crowe

Graeme Lockhart

Peter Mundy

Alan Gomersall

Roger Chapman

Carl Moulding

Alan Perrott

Philip Titcombe

John Tournay

Richard Watts

Noel Woolford

Trustees' Annual Report

2021-2022

Trustees holding office during the year

Paul Dickens
Roger Chapman
Kathryn Emerson
Pauline Lyon
Richard Watts

President and Interim Musical Director's report

It was my great pleasure to return to the UK after six years living in Bronxville, New York, USA and sharing the conducting podium with David Emerson for the 70th Anniversary Concert of the LBFS. David conducted a wonderful performance of Vivaldi's Gloria, and it was a great joy for me to conduct the English premiere of my own Missa Deus Nobiscum. The concert with orchestra, held in St Barnabas on 27th November 2021 was extremely well attended and the first time an audience could be invited back after the global pandemic.

On 2 April 2022, the LBFS presented the Platinum Jubilee Concert in celebration of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. David Emerson conducted a Royal feast of music including Handel's Zadok The Priest, Parry's I Was Glad, Vaughan Williams' Lord Thou Hast Been Our Refuge and John Rutter's effervescent Gloria accompanied by Milton Keynes Brass and organist John Wearmouth. The choir rose to the challenging programme and particularly the rhythmic complexities of the Rutter Gloria.

Handel's Messiah was the choice of music for the autumn concert held at All Saints Church on 26th November 2022, and it was my great pleasure to direct this performance. The choir was joined by soloists Helly Summerly, Anna Boucher, Benjamin Durrant and Edward Price all accompanied by the Aurelian Ensemble. There was a full house at All Saints Church and a joyful atmosphere as the choir completed a strong performance of this most famous choral work, with traditional audience participation in the Hallelujah Chorus.

Following interviews and auditions, Mr Samuel Hudson was appointed Music Director beginning in January 2023. A concert of music celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on 29th April 2023 at St Barnabas Church.

Philip Stopford

Chairman's report

Well, what a start we had to the Festival Singers' post-COVID era. The 70th anniversary concert in November 2021 was one to be truly proud of. David Emerson led the choir in some wonderful music (Vivaldi, Britten, Stainer and Mendelssohn) whilst our President, Philip Stopford, conducted his own Missa Deus Nobiscum, which was a joy to sing. On top of that, we had a very large audience and lots of kind words spoken about the concert afterwards.

This concert followed a garden party in August 2021 organised by Pauline Lyon as a first tentative step by the choir towards meeting socially post-COVID. Our thanks to Pauline and Jim for that initiative. In September we held a successful "Come and Sing" event featuring songs from the shows and a bit of Gilbert & Sullivan.

A second wonderful concert was given in April 2022, with another good audience and to further critical acclaim. This was a concert to celebrate Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and included lots of jubilee related music (accompanied by John Wearmouth), together with John Rutter's Gloria (accompanied by Milton Keynes Brass), all of which was much enjoyed by the singers. Reproduced below are an exchange of letters relating to this concert which will be of some interest to you, I am sure.

Rounding off a busy year, we sang to the revellers in the High Street on May Day. Unfortunately, we were given an early slot when many of the revellers were still in bed, but it all seemed to go well and those that heard us seemed very appreciative.

Numbers are on the increase and, altogether, the 2021/22 year witnessed the Festival Singers' triumphant return to the music scene in Leighton Buzzard. Hurrah for that! Many thanks to all those who contribute to our success.

Paul Dickens

Membership secretary's report

The membership of the Choir at the end of May 2022 was 31 (soprano 8, alto 10, tenor 6, bass 7) and has continued to increase since that date. Further recruitment is central to the future success, both musical and financial, of the choir, especially if we are to perform much of the standard choral repertoire. Efforts to boost numbers have included sending recruitment posters to every school within the choir's logical catchment area and to every parish office in addition to publicity at concerts of the Leighton Buzzard Music Club and in the Festival Singers own concert programmes, in local press and broadcast media. The Trustees will continue to work to attract new members.

Roger Chapman



Mr Paul Dickens
Hockliffe Grange
Hockliffe
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire LU7 9NL

April 15th 2022

Her Majesty The Queen
Buckingham Palace
London
SW1A 1AA

Your Majesty,

I am writing as Chairman of the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers on behalf of the entire Choir to offer our sincerest congratulations on Your Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and in the hope and expectation that it will be a happy, successful and memorable anniversary year.

The Festival Singers staged a concert on April 2nd in celebration of this remarkable Jubilee and the programme included a number of pieces which were performed at Your Majesty's Coronation in 1953. I include a copy of that programme.

At the Festival Singers we celebrated our own 70th Anniversary last year, having been established as part of the wider impact of the Festival of Britain. We are delighted to include among our current members Mr Richard Watts who was one of the Westminster Abbey choristers at Your Majesty's Coronation and to report that he remains in very good voice.

Again, please accept the congratulations and warmest good wishes of the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers in this Your Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr Paul Dickens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mr Paul Dickens
Chairman

Registered CIO No 1178649

Chairman	Paul Dickens
Secretary	Kathryn Emerson
Membership Secretary	Roger Chapman
Treasurer	Ros Mennie



WINDSOR CASTLE

To: The Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers

The Queen wishes me to thank you very much for your letter, and for the kind message you sent on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

The Queen was interested to see the programme Mr Dickens enclosed, and to know something of your Platinum Jubilee Celebration, a special concert held on April 2nd at St Barnabas Church, Linslade.

Her Majesty was touched to learn that your group is a continuing legacy of the Festival of Britain, and hopes you too enjoyed your seventieth anniversary celebrations last year. The Queen was delighted to hear that one of your number, Mr Richard Watts, a Westminster Abbey chorister on duty at Her Majesty's Coronation, remains in good voice to this day.

The Queen is most grateful to Mr Paul Dickens for writing on behalf of you all, and I am to thank you again for your thoughtful words of support.

Lady-in-Waiting

16th May 2022

Treasurer's report for year 2020-2021

This was our first year back under normal conditions with two major concerts. It was therefore the first chance to show if the choir was financially viable since new management took over in 2020. This looked as if it was successfully achieved as we finished the year with a loss of only £500 which was acceptable given that we had over £7000 in the bank.

During this year we held two concerts. The 70th Anniversary concert used an orchestra and therefore made a loss of £977. However, this was offset by a grant of £500 from the Leighton-Linslade Arts Forum and a generous grant of £1000 from Osborne, Morris and Morgan. The second concert, the April one celebration the Platinum Jubilee used MK Brass instead of an orchestra. The expenses were therefore much lower and we made a profit of £380.

Hopefully the accounts are self-explanatory. The small amount of reserved funds appear because we failed to pay Alan Childs all the money that was raised for him – this was rectified in this financial year.

There are two ways of making money for the choir that are not utilized as much as they should be. The first is gift aid – I have had no new registrations for this so the only claims I can make are for a few of pre-2020 members. I would urge any tax payer who has not filled in a gift aid form to do so. There is a form that can be used in the member's area of the web site. Secondly we are now registered with easyfundraising.org.uk. If you sign up for this with Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers as your nominated charity the choir will receive money for purchases you make on-line from a number of retailers.

Please note that a lot has happened since the period this report covers including running a long summer season with no income but that will have to wait until the next AGM.

Ros Mennie

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022**

		2021-22			
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds
		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions and donations					
Members		3,681	-	3,681	500
President, Vice Presidents, Friends		100	-	100	25
Fundraising Events	2	28	-	28	0
Grants and Gift Aid		1,500	-	1,500	626
Concert tickets, programmes & other receipts		5,186	-	5,186	0
Bank Interest		0	-	0	0
Other	3	93	0	93	0
Total Incoming Resources		10588	0	10588	1151
Resources Expended					
Hire of halls & rehearsal facilities					
		1,522	-	1,522	120
Music Hire and Purchase		147	-	147	53
Music Storage		441	-	441	0
Advertising & Publicity		0	-	0	0
Orchestra & Soloists		3,643	-	3,643	0
Musical Director		2,430	-	2,430	420
Rehearsal Accompanist		1,850	-	1,850	300
Insurance & Subscriptions		250	-	250	275
Sundry Concert Expenses		478	-	478	0
Postage & Printing		273	-	273	0
Fundraising Events		0	-	0	0
			-		
Other	3	62	18	80	146

Total Resources Expended	11096	18	11114	1313
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	-508	-18	-526	-162

Note 1

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material i the society's financial statements

Basis of accounts: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

Note 2

Fundraising receipts include payments from Amazon Smile

Note 3

Other receipts: music hire to third parties

Other expenditure includes depreciation; choir refreshmenst ; remainder of gift to Alan Childs

2020-21 Restricted Funds	Total Funds
£	£
-	500
-	25
-	0
-	626
-	0
-	0
500	500
500	1651
-	120
-	53
-	0
-	0
-	0
-	420
-	300
-	275
-	0
-	0
-	0
-	
482	628

482

1795

18

-144

n relation to

LEIGHTON BUZZARD FESTIVAL SINGERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MAY 2022

	Note	2122		2121
CURRENT ASSETS				
Music Stocks valued by officers		717		797
Sweatshirts/Uniforms		0		0
Debtors & Prepayments		0		0
Cash in hand and at bank		7,033		6,016
			7,750	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors & Accrued Income		1,480		18
			-1,480	
ASSETS			6,270	
GENERAL FUND				
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total
Balance 1 June 2021		6,795		6,795
Balance of Income over Expenditure		-507	-18	-525
Balance 31st May 2022		6,288	-18	6,270

6,813

-18

6,795

Total	6,939	-144	6,795
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6,939

-144

6,795