

## **PLYMOUTH PHILHARMONIC CHOIR**

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at Meade King Hall, Plymouth College at 7pm on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Brian Gerry, our President, in his address, thanked Christopher and the Committee under the leadership of Margy, ably supporting everyone, and particularly Jen as Secretary and Anne-Marie as Treasurer.

Brian commented that Plymouth was fortunate, in the Plymouth Philharmonic, to have one of the best choirs in the UK. He congratulated us on another successful year, and in his letters to Christopher after each concert last season used the word "Outstanding".

Brian then expressed his regret at having to leave the meeting in order to run the rehearsal of the Police Choir.

**Present:** Chair: Margy Keene, Secretary: Jen Millward, Treasurer: Anne-Marie Smith, Associate Members' Secretary: Alan Hart, Music Director: Christopher Fletcher and approximately 70 members and associates.

1. **Apologies;** these were received from Judith Blake, Alison Cameron, Louise Courtneil, Alison Griffiths, Adela Hawley, Bob and Alison Jeffery, Mary Johnson, Jenny Kinder, Sue Maries, Meg Norris, Jane Pamplin, Oksana Riley, Frances Tait, Barbara and Edmund Shillabeer, Cathy Vasey, Jackie Visser.
2. **Minutes of the last AGM** were read and approved. **Proposed** by Janet Perks and **Seconded** by Barbara Beatty.
3. **Chair's Report – The full Chair's Report is to be found at Appendix 1.**  
This was followed by a "cheerio" message from Jen Millward who was stepping down as Secretary. Jen said that the Choir was formed in 1970 and she believed that she joined in 1974 and has been Secretary for more than 40 years. Jen thanked Margy for her meticulous care of the Choir over the last five years. In the early days Jen was unsure that the Choir would make it to the end of a concert in one piece. However, she stated that we are now an excellent Choir, initially thanks to Philip Liddicoat and then Christopher. Jen hopes to sing with us again after having a bit of time off.
4. **Musical Director's Report -** CF reported that all three concerts were fantastic and a great success. We achieve these results through team effort. Thanks were expressed to the Choir for their hard work and your loyalty. Since Covid, we have had a run of nine fantastic concerts. Thanks must go to Charles Morgan who has worked hard and used his contacts to achieve a wonderful orchestra to support us so effectively. The new orchestra leader Jonathan Storer, and our soloists, have all been wonderful. Thanks must also go to Irina whose supportive and inspirational playing make the conductor's job so much easier. It is so important to the Choir to have such support. CF

also expressed his thanks to the Committee who voluntarily give their time to undertake all the tasks which need to be done and have worked so hard. A special tribute was made to Jen Millward for her 40+ years of service to the Choir and for her efficiency and longevity. The Choir will not be the same without her. Thanks too to Margy who has worked so hard with incredible diligence and care.

- 5. Treasurer's Report** – Ann- Marie reported that we had had three great concerts in the previous year which had been relatively well attended. Overall, there was an expected loss of £11k. The summer concert made a small profit. Our bank balance is reducing and we need to take action. There was a £2k drop in subscriptions last year. Anne-Marie recommended that subscriptions be raised for the coming season and said that subscriptions have not been raised for a couple of years. Fundraising projects will also help our income. The donations received for refreshments this year amounted to c£1k and we received £250 in Gift Aid on these donations. Anne-Marie encouraged the Choir to join the 100 Club. The raffle held during one of our concerts raised £609. The workshop held in October '23 made about £800. However, the workshop held in October '24 made nearly double that. Anne-Marie encouraged all choir members to join "Easy Fundraising" as this was free to join, however for every eligible online purchase made, money came to the Choir. Anne-Marie is going to send the details of this scheme to choir members again. This year, we also made money on programmes c£700. The Choir also received about £4k in Gift Aid (claimed in respect of programmes, subscriptions and refreshments).

The cost of producing concerts was increasing in part because of having concerts on Saturdays. There was more demand for orchestra players for Saturdays than Sundays. This has resulted in members of the orchestra travelling further and therefore claiming more expenses. Pauline Cornish **proposed** to accept the accounts. They were **seconded** by Pat Brodie. Members voted to accept the accounts.

- 6. Proposed increase to Choir Subscriptions** – There was a proposal to increase Choir Subscriptions to £170 from £150. The **proposal** was made by Kate Knowles. The proposal was **seconded** by Ruth Gozzard. The proposal was accepted by members with one member voting against the proposal.
- 7. Associate Members' Report** – Alan reported that he had sent out the invitation to renew Associate Membership today. The cost of becoming an Associate member this year would be £50. He has left flyers about the benefits of Associate Membership on chairs around the MKH. He encouraged choir members to encourage regular supporters of the Choir to become Associate Members. He reiterated that he is always happy to respond to any queries made to him concerning the scheme.

## 8. Changes to the Constitution of the Choir

Resolution: that the proposed changes to the Choir Constitution be adopted by the membership:

- 1) NAME and OBJECT – change layout
- 4) Change heading to: COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES
- 4) vi. Change quorum process for Committee members and Trustees

The change to the Constitution of the Choir was **proposed** by Trevor Stanberry-Flynn and **seconded** by Janet Perks. Members then voted to accept the changes to the constitution.

## 9. Election of Committee

There are 5 Officers of the Committee, 2 of whom are prepared to stand again:

Chair	Margy Keene standing down in accordance with our Constitution. Role now vacant.
Deputy Chair	Charles Morgan has resigned from this role. Sue Maries has offered to undertake this role. Sue was <b>proposed</b> by Margy Keene, <b>seconded</b> by Pat Brodie and voted in by the membership.
Secretary	Jen Millward standing down after c42 years. Catherine Teague has offered to undertake this role. Catherine was <b>proposed</b> Jen Millward, <b>seconded</b> by Pat Brodie and voted in by the membership.
Treasurer	Anne Marie Smith.
Membership Secretary	Pat Brodie
	These two officers were voted in by the membership together as they are already on the Committee and are prepared to continue in their roles

The other Committee Members willing to stand again were:

Mary Johnson	(Press Secretary)
Janet Perks	(Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)
Jenny Hart	(Voice Representative)
Anna Lewoniewska	(Publicity Officer)

The Choir voted in favour of the motion of these members being reappointed.

Judith Blake (Fundraising Team) **proposed** by Pat Brodie and **seconded** by Mary Johnson, was also voted onto the Committee as a new member of the Committee by the Membership.

Margy expressed thanks on behalf of the Choir to both Charles Morgan and Bob Jeffery, who had also stood down from the Committee, for their service over the past year.

## **10. Any Other Business**

On behalf of the Choir, Anne-Marie presented Jen Millward and Margy Keene with bouquets of flowers and gifts in recognition of their extensive service to the Choir.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

# Plymouth Philharmonic Choir

## Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of August 31, 2024

	Aug 31, 2024	Aug 31, 2023	£ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Electronic keyboard	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.0%
Tiered staging	80.00	80.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
Suspense Account	20,638.40	18,814.04	1,824.36	9.70%
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>20,638.40</u>	<u>18,814.04</u>	<u>1,824.36</u>	<u>9.70%</u>
<b>Current/Savings</b>				
COIF Charity Funds	6,829.20	6,495.08	334.12	5.10%
National Savings Income Bond	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.0%
NatWest	1,272.40	7,659.71	-6,387.31	-83.40%
NatWest Business Reserve	15,054.89	0.00	15,054.89	100.0%
Virgin Money	0.00	14,834.68	-14,834.68	-100.0%
<b>Total Current/Savings</b>	<u>25,156.49</u>	<u>30,989.47</u>	<u>-5,832.98</u>	<u>-18.80%</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>45,794.89</u>	<u>49,803.51</u>	<u>-4,008.62</u>	<u>-8.10%</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>45,794.89</u>	<u>49,803.51</u>	<u>-4,008.62</u>	<u>-8.10%</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>45,894.89</u>	<u>49,903.51</u>	<u>-4,008.62</u>	<u>-8.0%</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>45,894.89</u>	<u>49,903.51</u>	<u>-4,008.62</u>	<u>-8.0%</u>
<b>Equity</b>				
Opening Bal Equity	13,327.03	13,327.03	0.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	36,576.48	39,081.33	-2,504.85	-6.40%
Net Income	-4,008.62	-2,504.85	-1,503.77	-60.0%
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>45,894.89</u>	<u>49,903.51</u>	<u>-4,008.62</u>	<u>-8.0%</u>

# Plymouth Philharmonic Choir Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison September 2023 through August 2024

	Sep '2023 - Aug 2024	Sep '2022 - Aug 2023	£ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Fundraising	1,824.36	3,245.35	-1,420.99	-43.80%
Gifts and Donations Income	65.00	-4,630.00	4,695.00	101.40%
Miscellaneous Income	947.93	268.45	679.48	253.10%
Subscription Income	19,550.00	21,515.00	-1,965.00	-9.10%
Ticket & Programme sales	12,648.68	13,973.15	-1,324.47	-9.50%
Total Income	35,035.97	34,371.95	664.02	1.90%
Expense				
Concert expenses	23,337.11	23,908.55	-571.44	-2.40%
Donations	0.00	100.00	-100.00	-100.00%
Dues, Subscriptions & Donations	626.77	632.36	-5.59	-0.90%
Hire of premises	4,000.00	4,575.00	-575.00	-12.60%
Hire of scores	500.40	658.60	-158.20	-24.0%
Insurance	283.00	269.00	14.00	5.20%
Postage and Delivery	155.10	202.44	-47.34	-23.40%
Printing and Reproduction	284.40	229.20	55.20	24.10%
Programme Expense	1,238.25	1,318.53	-80.28	-6.10%
Publicity	1,116.81	870.06	246.75	28.40%
Stipends	11,750.00	10,532.00	1,218.00	11.60%
Sundry Expenses	413.96	-1,396.58	1,810.54	129.60%
Total Expense	43,705.80	41,899.16	1,806.64	4.30%
Net Ordinary Income	-8,669.83	-7,527.21	-1,142.62	-15.20%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Dividends	73.25	46.01	27.24	59.20%
Gift Aid reclaimed	4,006.35	4,057.87	-51.52	-1.30%
Interest Income	581.61	918.48	-336.87	-36.70%
Total Other Income	4,661.21	5,022.36	-361.15	-7.20%
Net Other Income	4,661.21	5,022.36	-361.15	-7.20%
Net Income	-4,008.62	-2,504.85	-1,503.77	-60.0%

I have examined, without audit, the books and records of the Plymouth Philharmonic Choir provided to me by the Hon. Treasurer Anne-Marie Smith, and these accounts are in accordance therewith.

Fraser CH. Hepher.

15th October 2024.