



Choir Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday 3rd July 2023

Present – John Mallinson (Chairman), Steve Flynn (secretary), Chris Dempster, Fred Sims, Paul Morgan, John Clay, Steve Davies (Treasurer)

1. Formalities –

Apologies for Absence

Steve Petrie

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approved – Paul Morgan

Seconded – Fred Sims

Matters arising from previous minutes

Paul Morgan omitted as an attendee. Now corrected.

Chairman

2. Correspondence and Matters arising

- ***Mrs Sunderland Festival 2024***

We welcomed **Ann Talboys, Festival Director of the Mrs Sunderland Festival** to the meeting.

Ann gave a brief overview of the Festival, now one of the largest in the country. It has developed into a Festival of the Performing Arts and lasts for 11 days in February.

- 4,500 performers
- 2,500 total audiences
- 125 different classes,
- Adult Workshop attracts 150+ singers, run by Thom Meredith
- Local Schools workshop with 900 participants
- Special Needs concert
- Tea Dance for Dementia sufferers
- Gala concert featuring the best of the best!
- Multiple local sponsors – the festival costs a fortune to stage.

The festival is a showcase for musical talent but is failing to attract one vital component of the area's musical diversity – Adult Choirs. In 2023, of all the Choirs in the area, only Lindley Community Choir appeared. This choir is somewhat unique as it comes together for six weeks rehearsals with a single targeted performance at the end e.g. the Mrs Sunderland Festival. It attracts 150 singers from the local community.



Choir Committee Meeting Minutes (cont)

Page 2

Ann has canvased all the local Choirs for suggestions but has had limited feedback. However, for 2024, the Festival has created a class for Local Choirs only, both Male, Female and Mixed Voice. This will exclude the highly organised and selective Choirs that have begun to dominate the Festival. The meeting suggested to Ann that the winners of this class should be included in the Saturday night Gala Concert. She will feed this suggestion back to the Festival Committee.

We will continue to keep in touch with the Festival as it develops for 2024.

3. Concerts

- **Adam Brown's Daughter's wedding – Upper Denby**

August 26th 2023.

We need to be ready to sing at 2:20 (approx.)

We will sing to the guests prior to the wedding and during the register signing.

The wedding is scheduled for 3.00 pm.

We know the issues regarding parking in Upper Denby so we will need to be there in good time.

More details nearer the time.

- **Town Hall – October 7th, 2023**

Tickets are on sale.

Flyers are printed and will be available shortly.

Long time sponsors have not come forward this year so if you have any contacts please let us know.

'Ten for the Town Hall' continues to be advertised. Two weeks to go but keep up the conversation with friends and strangers alike!

- **Birkenshaw Festival (Friday October 20th 2023, 7:00 pm)**

We have accepted an invitation to appear at the Birkenshaw Festival.

St Paul's Church, Birkenshaw.

This is a full fee booking.

- **Bridlington Weekend – September 9th/11th**

Concert at the Priory on Saturday September 9th, 7:30 pm



Choir Committee Meeting Minutes (cont)

Page 3

A taxi service has been arranged between the Lobster Pot and the Priory to get the Choir to the Priory for 6:30 pm. A shuttle service, choir first (so they can rehearse/familiarise) then ladies/guests in time for the 7:30 start. A few pounds per head will cover the four mile return trip.
Flyers are in production and a site visit will take place shortly.
More comprehensive details in the next few weeks.

- **Christ Church, Christmas.**

A guest combo has been procured. More details when they have decided on a name!?

4. Finance

Bridlington monies are now due.

Steve Davies

5. Membership

Errol (Hamlet) has successfully navigated the voice test and has been accepted as a full member. Welcome aboard Errol.

Chris Dempster

6. Website and Choir Communications

A recent addition to the Choir's digital presence is a Youtube Channel.

The digital handle is

<https://www.youtube.com/@NewMillMaleVoiceChoir>

The channel has had over 10k views since its launch in mid-May. A steady start but more than 3k a week in the last two weeks. Over 1200 views in a week for 'Unchained Melody'...?!

John Middleton/SF

7. Social Events

John is working with several members on a special Social Evening.
More details later.

John Clay

8. AOB

- **Choir Development**

Paul has begun to analyse Choir feedback from the issues raised after the Peterborough Male Choir Conference and the implications for the Choir. This is likely to be a long term process.

Committee/Paul
Morgan/Choir



Choir Committee Meeting Minutes (cont)

Page 4

9. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 14th August 2023

New Mill Club, 7:00pm

Chairman

Meeting Closed

9:05 pm