

Ipswich Hospital Community Choir – Annual Report 2020/1

The choir management committee are pleased to present their annual report for 2020/2021 to the annual general meeting of members to be held on September 15th 2021.

Management and operations

This report has been written to include the period from January 2020 to August 2021. In future, reports will cover the 12 month period September to August. It should be noted that accounts will still be presented for the calendar year to December 31st.

The choir activity for this period was hugely influenced by the Covid pandemic. In March the first of the lockdown measures were introduced by the government, meaning that all rehearsals had to cease immediately. The committee took the decision to move to a shorter session on-line to enable the members to keep in contact with each other and the learning of some new pieces. This continued until July 2021 when, following a risk assessment and the publication of a set of rules, the first face to face rehearsal took place. During the on-line period, average attendance was between 20 and 25 members and those who were unable to connect were kept in touch by weekly emails which outlined the pieces covered. This has largely been successful, with most members returning with some knowledge of the music. During this period the committee has convened every 4-6 weeks to monitor government guidelines in order to manage choir expectations, and be ready for resumption of rehearsals at the earliest possible date.

In February 2021, Fiona Hamilton stood down as Chair. Our thanks go to Fiona for the work that she has contributed to the running of the choir, especially her leadership during the initial phases of the pandemic. The committee appointed Ian Floodgate to the position of Acting Chair until the next Annual General Meeting. He agreed to continue as Treasurer and hold both positions until the AGM. The committee also discussed and agreed the new positions of Membership Secretary and Events Co-ordinator and also recognised the role of IT Co-ordinator which Phil Riches has fulfilled unofficially for some years.

Concerts and performances

Due to the Covid pandemic, all performances in the period covered by this report were cancelled.

Finances

The financial position of the Choir to 31st December 2020 was largely one of a balanced situation. Income was significantly reduced to only the subscriptions paid in January for the first term. The main expenditure was fees paid to the Musical Director and, during the on-line period, these were significantly reduced. Other ongoing annual fees for insurance and arts organisation membership were unchanged during this period. Application of the choir's financial protocols has resulted in the sum of £480.33 being donated to one of the hospital's charity collections, this being predominantly charitable earnings from 2019. The committee decided to continue to support the Children's Appeal as was the case in 2019.

A full copy of the accounts is available for any member on request to the treasurer.