

## Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

### Committee meeting minutes

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.45pm at Phil's house

#### Minutes of the last meeting (27<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

- The minutes were approved and accepted.
- Action updates
  - FH has one uniform bow tie
  - SN will send her training notes to PR for checking, then test them out on another committee member. SN/ PR

#### Membership

- Attendance – A desirable working number of members would be 60. At present we have 42.
- Two members have left.
- Three have suspended their membership but may return.
- Two are taking a term's leave.
- We are expecting the return of one alto and a new member to start.
- Publicity – We will use the lifeboat picture and add details to it. PR will send the original to SN to put together as a new poster/ flyer. PR/SN

#### Rehearsal Venue

- OCS and the site manager have been informed by IF that we are suspending rehearsals. We will restart when visitors are allowed on site again. IF
- The offer by the Dove to host rehearsals was rejected due to the size of the space. Karen will be informed and thanked. DI

#### Musical director's report NC

- The MD has been impressed with our performance up to Christmas.
- Joint concert in May – As we have suspended rehearsals due to Covid restrictions, it will be vital for members to practise at home.
- A poll will be put on the website to gauge availability PR
- There will be two rehearsals with the band in the two weeks leading up to the concert.
- NC shared a list of existing songs with a musical/ film connection. This has been shared with the MD of the band showing the status of each eg. familiar or not started. NC
- NC shared his thoughts on music that he would like to complete/start during this year:
  - Les Miserables
  - Friend Like Me
  - Beautiful Ghosts
  - Vivaldi – Gloria
  - Abba to include Mamma Mia

## Finance

- A Statement of Income and Expenditure was shared by NC. The account shows reserves of £4000 , which is a sound balance ensuring that the choir can carry on as we are. The statement is looking unusual as we are not meeting due to Covid, so few subs have been paid in but the choir master's fees have still been paid out. We will need to find a way to reimburse the members for cancelled meetings.
- The figure for clothing stock needs to be adjusted. NC

## Section reports

- **Soprano**
  - A recently joined member has decided that this choir is not for her.
  - A past member, who still has not returned since the first lockdown, is to be contacted AV
- **Alto**
  - One alto has left.
  - Three members have suspended their membership temporarily.
  - The sister of one of the sopranos is keen to join when we resume face to face rehearsals.
- **Tenor**
  - There are no reported problems in this section.
- **Bass**
  - The members are settled, although IF stated that he may not be aware of the members who sit further away.
  - One member has suggested a recording aid which will be looked at by NC.
  - A member has asked for the MD to call out the rehearsal marks to help people at home on Zoom.

## Past Events

- **Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening 26/11**
  - This was a useful event for our first performance since lockdown and to test our Christmas repertoire.
  - One hour was a long time to sing. It will be suggested to the organiser that we sing for 25 minutes, have a ten minute break then sing for another 25 minutes. DI
  - The incense seller will need to be moved further from the stage next year. DI
  - We will display our banner next time.
- **Singing at Ipswich Hospital Radio**
  - This was a useful experience and everybody enjoyed doing something for the hospital.
  - The recording has been broadcast a few times on Hospital Radio.
  - It has been suggested that, in the future, we may not do a live recording. If the tracks were recorded and then mixed, it would avoid problems such as the microphones not being balanced effectively.

## Future Events

- **Booth Court** This will be postponed due to the infectious nature of the new variant of Covid. This will ideally take place in July in an outdoor space. VM to rearrange.
- **Concert with Ipswich Hospital Band 7/5**
  - A visit will be made to the venue to assess the space and layout. NC/VM
  - The takings will be donated to the Children's Ward Appeal.
  - It may be possible for a children's choir to take part. NC to investigate (with ED, SC)
- **Suffolk Remembers 21/06** We have been invited to sing at this event in Felixstowe Spa Gardens. It is linked to Suffolk Day and we are involved through NF's contact with the hospice.
- **Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening 25/11**
- **Light Up A Life service 18/12** This is the Hospice remembrance service that we have been involved in before. NC to reply.
- These future events will be listed on the front page of our website to boost morale. VM

## Social Events

- As we have not been able to have our usual Christmas social event, we will try to organise an Easter get together.
- A possibility would be 09/04 at the Ipswich Social Club. PR to investigate.

## AOB

- A manual for website management will need to be completed before the extended leave of the current manager. Put on agenda for next time DI.
- We are getting low on uniform stock. A new order will need to be placed. FH

**Next meeting date and time – The next meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Venue: NC garden studio?**