

Gloucester Cathedral Old Choristers' Association

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 20th September 2014 12:00pm

The King's School Hall

1. Apologies

The Dean - The Very Revd Stephen Lake, The Precentor & Vice Dean - The Revd Canon Neil Heavisides, Stephen Power, Andrew McAnerney, John Bowdler, Michael Kirby, Shelley Squire, Dr Richard Sheppard, Douglas Mason, Trevor Heywood, Josh Saunders, Ben James, Oliver Lewis, Peter Wilman, Roger Foreman, Alan Timblich, Barry Lacey.

2. Minutes of 2013 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were approved. Proposed: David Arnold, Seconded Andrew Stratford.

Graham Terret raised issue with the fact that the Vice Dean chaired last year's meeting (at the request of the previous Chairman). The constitution states that should the President be unavailable the responsibility falls to the Chairman.

The Chairman confirmed that no action had yet been taken in contacting the King's School Music Department to request assistance with the 2015 reunion concert, but took an **ACTION: JB to make contact with the School Music Department regarding the 2015 concert.**

3. Chairman's Report

The full transcript will be made available on the website over the weekend. A summary follows:

The chairman (JB) thanked everyone for their attendance and made special note of John Bowdler who sent his apologies. John was not well enough to attend but sent his best wishes and would have loved to have met up once again with Donald Hunt (or guest speaker) as the two were at school together.

JB made special mention of Colin Charter, thanking him on behalf of the Association for his many years of service as Secretary, Chairman (twice) and Federation Secretary. He also made special mention of Raymond Highley for his services as Treasurer (over 30 years) and as Secretary.

JB then thanked the committee for their support and hard work over the previous 12 months. He made mention of the departure of Stephen Power to Brecon, and welcomed the new member of the Music Department staff - Nia Llewellyn-Jones. He also thanked Alison Mayhew of the King's School for all her hard work surrounding the AGM and Lunch in the School.

The chairman reported on the Choral Work commissioned by the Association and the Sanders Society which was premiered at the Christmas Carol Service.

He stated his goal for the committee over the next 12 months will be to focus on reinvigorating interest in the Association.

Colin Charter, thanked John for his words, and corrected that he resisted the calls to be federation chairman, choosing to remain as Gloucester's Federation Representative.

4. Secretary's Report

The secretary thanked John Balsdon for all his hard work this year, and Stephen Power for his support in handing over the secretary role. He also thanked Andrew Stratford and David Arnold; having committee members filling these roles has reduced the burden on Secretary considerably. The Committee met three times over the course of the year, with a considerable amount of further collaboration via email. A Christmas Newsletter was introduced which was distributed via email, and we hope that this will become a regular feature. The Christmas carol service not only saw the premiere of David Bednall's BC:AD, but also, Following the service the Association hosted its second Christmas Real Ale & Curry evening at The Pelican Inn and Shahi Balti. January ushered in a complete melt-down of the Association Website, but thanks to considerable effort from Phil Webb a brand new (and much improved) website was up and running within a few days, and the good news is that we didn't lose anything. The annual newsletter has taken on a new look and feel; it's been rebranded as the Gloucester Chorister, and was circulated to 150 people via the postal service, and a further 90 via email and Facebook.

Colin Charter responded to ask that we ensure that the website data is backed up. **ACTION - JH To make second backup of all website archive material.**

5. Treasurer's Report

Elvin presented the Accounts which show a small profit in 2014.

Andrew Stratford commented that the music fund was looking healthy once again, and asked whether we should make a donation to the choir. Those present voted in favour of donating £300 to the choir tour fund, to be announced at Lunch.

Colin Charter mentioned that Andrew McAnerney was starting a new venture in Canada as a conductor, and suggested that the Association make contact with him to see whether we can be of assistance. **ACTION: JB to contact Andrew McAnerney.**

6. FCOCA Secretary's report

Andrew Stratford circulated copies of the Federation AGM which was held in Blackburn in May we were unfortunately not able to send any representation. The 2014 Festival is at Rochester next weekend. Next year's festival is at Exeter in July 3rd to 5th. - Matt Cann (Ley Clerk at Exeter) was invited to comment.. Matt informs us that Andrew Millington (ex Gloucester Assistant Organist) has announced his retirement so it will be one of his last main events, and hoped that there might be strong support at their Festival from the GCOCA. Next year's Federation AGM

will be held at Chichester on 9th May [Edit: both Chairman and Secretary are expecting to attend].

Tim Daniell commented that he will be attending this years festival and was asked to convey our best wishes.

Colin Charter sought to reassure members that the Festival was not as onerous as it sounded, and that attendees need not attend all activities, but could pick and choose only those that interested them or those that the time or day was suitable.

7. Membership

JH noted that the current constitution does not allow for Lay Clerks to be made members on leaving the choir, and that this was a clear oversight. Colin Charter reminded JH that we had already voted that Lay Clerks could be members [edit: this was voted through when Bill Armiger retired], but the constitution was not updated. JB proposed that the committee should update the constitution and present it for approval at the next AGM. JH requested that the committee formally involve Chorister Parents in some way to help in keeping track of Old Choristers. Matt Cann requested that Choral Scholars should also be afforded membership status on leaving the choir.

ACTION: Committee to propose new free membership type for Chorister Parents and establish how they can be involved.

ACTION: Committee to update constitution and present to the 2015 AGM.

Colin Charter requested that the committee should make contact with Edward Gardner with a view of renewing his links with Gloucester Cathedral.

ACTION: Committee to contact Edward Gardner.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

Current Officers:

Chairman - John Balsdon
Secretary - John Heywood
Treasurer - Elvin Young
Federation Secretary - Andrew Stratford

Current Committee Members:

David Arnold (Editor)
Andrew Douglas (Concerts)
Alan Iles
Stephen Power

In addition to the elected Members above, the following non-elected Vice-Presidents are part of the Committee:

Neil Heavisides (Precentor)
Adrian Partington (Director of Music)

Colin Charter pointed out that the committee are elected for a 3 year term, and since all the officers were elected last year there was no need to re-elect them. For completeness the committee indicated that they were happy to have been re-elected should it be necessary, and the attendees were happy for them to continue for a further two years.

9. Any other business

A request was made for information regarding the memorial service for Henry Beaumont who died last month. Negotiations are ongoing with the Cathedral and the Beaumont family regarding a suitable date but looks likely to be in February next year. **ACTION: JH to post memorial service announcement on the website once known.**

The meeting closed at 12:40pm