

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

HELD ON MONDAY 1st OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM AT WATFORD GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman, David Pollak, welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Pam Allanson, Stephanie Luxford and Philip Meager.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 2nd OCTOBER 2017

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as a true record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

David Pollak read his Report, in which he commended the members for their contribution to the well-being and smooth running of the Society and thanked all the volunteers and Committee members for their contributions. He pointed out that the Society had been performing at the Watford Colosseum for over 20 years, during which it had built up a reputation as part of the musical culture of Watford of which we could all be proud. His speech was greeted with applause. There were no questions.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A report written by Audrey Adams and detailing the activities of the Society during the previous year was approved by the meeting.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Buckley presented a very comprehensive financial report which had been circulated before the meeting. The Society's accounts had been submitted to the Independent Examiner for approval. Questions were invited, but there were none.

6. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Paul Buckley invited the meeting to reappoint Amanda Dean as the Society's Independent Examiner. Amanda had made it clear that she was prepared to be reappointed for one further year only. The motion was proposed by Heather Russell and seconded by Judy Newton-Davies. It was passed unanimously.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Three nominations were received for the five vacant committee posts. David Pollak was proposed as Chairman by Audrey Grey and seconded by Annie Kent. Paul Buckley was proposed as Treasurer by David Pollak and seconded by Pam Allanson. Audrey Adams was proposed as Secretary by David Pollak and seconded by Pam Allanson. All three were re-elected by acclamation.

The position of Concert Manager was vacant because, under the rules of the Society, Frances Pyatt was required to retire after eight years in post. As there were no nominations, the Committee would co-opt a suitable candidate. (Subsequently Frances Pyatt was co-opted on to the Committee to fill this role). No nominations were received for the post of Social Activities Co-ordinator, which would remain vacant.

8. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SEASON AND PREVIEW OF COMING SEASON

Michael Cayton gave a brief review of the previous season's performances. He admitted he had been worried about the choir's ability to cope with what was a challenging repertoire. In fact the choir had performed with much improved cohesion, culminating in the excellent unaccompanied performance of Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium* in the summer. He commended the playing of the orchestra, which had been boosted by several new players, particularly among the strings.

Looking forward, Michael said he was particularly looking forward to tackling Haydn's *Creation* in the spring and a new work, *Jonathan Dove*, in the summer, which would involve a lot of preparation. He had been greatly encouraged by the appearance of nine new singers, who had auditioned successfully the previous week. He was very proud to be the Society's conductor.

9. LONG SERVICE AWARDS

David Pollak congratulated nine members of the Society on their loyal membership: they were each presented with a certificate by Michael Cayton.

20 years: Margaret Coles, Louisa Osmond (orchestra) and Rosemary Reed

25 years: David Wellings

30 years: Peter Davis

50 years:

Audrey Grey, Annie Kent, Kay Leyshon and Lyn Leyshon

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

1. The Barbara Marshall fund. Judy Newton-Davies undertook to investigate the current status of the fund, which was founded some years ago in memory of a former Secretary of the Society. She would publish the results of her research in the Newsletter.
2. The seating plan. Michael Cayton said he intended to keep to the current format, which had arisen after choir rebalancing and a suggestion by Debbie Miles-Johnson. Michael added that he planned further rebalancing in the future.
3. An opportunity to perform Michael Cayton's recent work which had been commissioned by the Chiltern Choir. Michael said he would love the Society to include his composition in a future concert, but he would need to write an orchestral arrangement. At the moment it had an organ, harp and percussion accompaniment.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm.