Chairmans Report 2020

When I became Chair at the 2018 AGM I thought our biggest challenge was finding somewhere to store all our music! If only I had known …..

Following last year’s AGM we have a new treasurer Alison Stobbs (thanks to Alison Hudson for her time in the role) and Secretary Alison Hudson (thanks to Joyce Helyer for her time in the role).

With 54 members, welcoming new members, Amy Newberry, Lesley Hall, Trevor Green, Ian Beatty, Hamish Wood and Simon Giles.

We have had 5 meetings and the committee have worked very hard to get us to this point. My thanks to each and every one of you for helping to get us through this particularly difficult year.

In early November we had notice that Thurs 12th Dec would be polling day over Brexit and arrangements were made to hold the concerts on Tue 10th and Wed 11th. We were able to get an editorial piece into the Herald to let our audience know. The change of dates only happened because a lot of people put in a lot of time to sort it out - my thanks to all who helped. One hurdle was overcome by the PMC Youth and Childrens Group agreeing to switch location for a night, for which we were very grateful and a donation was given to The Bridge in thanks.

Our Christmas concert was full of good cheer, (even with some wassailing) and enjoyed by many in choir and audience alike. John took us through rehearsals and concerts with his usual skill and enthusiasm then a number of members sang at The Roundthorn Hotel for the PMC Luncheon Club on Friday 13th Dec, which was a very jolly affair following which John then took a year’s sabbatical.

We headed into the new year with music chosen from the archives, with Rachel on the podium and Joan returning to the piano. Rumblings of a disease in China, that was killing people, seemed a long way away. We only got as far as 13th March when the committee met and decided on cancellation of rehearsals and the April concert. This proved to be the right decision as the Government announced a lockdown from 23rd March. John kept us going with some online singing for those that wished to give it a go and the final recording sounded great.

When the committee met in July we tried to make decisions about things that were still uncertain. I felt we needed to make some plans which could be amended as needed. With Rachel happy to conduct our Christmas rehearsals and concert again, we discussed our concern that Joan was quite tired after a practice and would look for a backup. Nora Tweedie is that back up and is ready to assist if and when we are able to sing.

Now here we are doing a ‘zoom’ AGM because we cannot be together yet! I would like to say it will get better and we will be a full choir again. I am sure many of you, like me, have really missed our weekly get together but as the world battles a pandemic we can wait for the right time to begin choral singing again. Until then be kind to each other and be patient