

AGM Minutes 14th January 2025

List of those present:

Alison Ashby	Angela Charleston	Anne Bassett
Barbara Warner	Chris Pearson	Don Stevens
Gill Titchener	Helen Jones	Jules Balmer
Judy Tremelling	Julia Penhaligon	Lesley Thomas
Lucy Dalton	Lynda Thomas	Maureen Stevens
Michael Taylor	Mike Laramy	Rachel Hird
Rio Balmer	Sandra Oliver	Sheryl Mylchreest
Steve Bassett	Stuart Greaves	Tracy Stent
Tricia Thomas	Vicky Taylor	Wendy Makin
William Thomas		

Apologies for absence:

Alan Thomas	Annie Jack	Heather Greaves
Lynne Brereton	Maggie Marr	Nadia Alsop
Roz Smith	Tamzyn Smith	Val Ollis

Vicky welcomed everyone. Happy birthday was sung for William, Alison & Lesley. Flowers were presented to Alison for her 60th birthday. The committee was then introduced and others who helped the choir were mentioned. New choir members were also mentioned. Pauline & Vincent had left. Choir member Helen Jayes had passed and at her request the choir sang at her cremation.

Handed over to Lynda who read out members apologies for absence. Then read an abridged version of the previous minutes which were signed off.

Vicky said that the choir had a busy year. Highlighted 3 concerts which she thought were particularly memorable. The Garden Party, 20th anniversary concert at Fore Street Methodist Chapel which raised £900 for Boxes of Hope £900, and the End of Year concert. Money from that concert and the social evening raised £510 which will be going to St. Julia's Hospice. Thanked were extended to Maureen, supported by Don, for the Calstock trip and to Julia & Rachel for the hampers. Forms were available for nominations for the election of officers . Handed over to Lynda for the Secretary & Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

We have had a really busy year with 22 events.

We have had a few enquiries for events this year. William will tell you about these.

At the moment we have 44 choir members.

There are sheets on the table by the door, as usual, to tick off to indicate whether you are able to attend future events or not. Often, we have found that events have been ticked and a few weeks later the names have been crossed off. If you cannot later make these dates, please let us know. Don't just cross it off. William doesn't agree to do any events unless he knows that he has got a good balance of voices. We just ask that if you confirm your attendance at the various concerts, that you do make every effort to attend. We understand that illness can't be helped. We ask that you attend 2 practices before an event.

Also, if you decide later that you will be able to attend, again let us know as William sorts out the seating and if people turn up that haven't ticked the list it throws this out.

As parking is very difficult for most of the events, if anyone would be able to offer a lift it would be very much appreciated. Let us know at the practice before the event.

Due to Health & Safety we now have an emergency contact form. Would you please fill this in even though you may have a partner etc. also in the choir, as something could happen while we are out.

Treasurer's Report

We started 2024 with £7,413 which includes £140 set aside for defibrillator pads.

- We paid out £2,437 for public liability, equipment insurances, hall rent and music.
- £2,183 was paid in subscriptions. We have kept the subs at £2 at the moment, but due to copyright we are now buying our music, which costs a minimum of £3 per song, and we order 50 copies of each one, so therefore the subs will be kept under review. Any replacement for lost music will have to be paid for.
- Judy has now taken over from Don in collecting and marking off subs and attendance each week. Any weeks that you miss need to be paid for on your first week back. Sickness is accepted, but holidays must be paid for because that is our choice not to come to practice. We still have to pay the same hall rental however many members turn up. Please let us know if you are not going to make practices.
- The majority of members prefer to pay subs in advance. If you prefer you can pay by cash , but as we now don't have a bank it means that monies aren't banked as regularly as they should be as it means a trip to Penzance. Credit/Debit Card or Bank Transfer would be the preferred way of paying. Let me know if you need the choir's bank details. I will let you know when you need to make another payment.
- The total amount we have raised throughout the year for charities is £3,367. I have the detailed list if anyone wants them.
- The final total in the bank to start 2025 is £6,055, and we still have £510 to be paid to St. Julia's Hospice. Taking this into account it leaves £5,545, giving a loss of £1,868 on the year.

Musical Director's Report

William thanked the committee. Said that Lynda did lot of work, mostly unseen. Also thanked Vicky, Don & Maureen and Tricia who spends many hours researching and printing music. Thought that the committee was very efficient. There were 44 choir members, but the average concert attendance was only half of that. Wondered what the reason was. Was it because of the need to travel? Propose concerts for this year: garden party for July, FSMC in June. Alison has other commitments so we will have to work around her . Muted for a Remembrance Day at the British Legion. Following the Christmas concert at Treloyhan they have asked us to perform at 3 more concerts as they were suitably impressed. William was very indebted to Alison.

William went through the musical notes giving a relevance for the choir on each note e.g. D: Dedication to each other, E: Strive to be excellent, F: fellowship etc.

On 3 occasions, members of the audience had said to him that they were sorry more people weren't at the concerts. They thought that we were just a community choir. Didn't realise we were that good. Thought of changing the name of the choir to reflect this (details will be confirmed).

Webmaster's Report

The website has several functions and each of these continues to bring added value to the life of the choir.

- All forthcoming events are logged with key details for choir members and the public. A page specially designed for this purpose allows a visitor to scan all forthcoming events.
- The home page shows the next concert. It also indicated when reports and photos of the latest event are online.
- There is a wealth of information for those interested in the choir generally and for those who may think about joining.
- The website is always relevant as information, news, reports, and photos are updated regularly. This is essential for maintaining interest.
- The website continues to grow as an archive with each event being added to the yearly news page, gallery, or media page. It has grown from 18 pages in 2015 to 41 pages now.
- The members' page allows choir members to access useful formats of songs, often as words only on just one A4 page ready to print out. This makes watching the MD easier, once notation and timing is mastered.

The value of the input of others for website content cannot be overstated.

- Bill Thomas continues to attend events and keep a photographic record that is uploaded regularly. Several others have also added photos for inclusion.
- Tracy Stent has done a fantastic job in writing so many of the reports for the news page. Others have filled in where necessary.
- Lynda helps massively by proof reading so that mistakes can be kept to a minimum and corrected promptly.

Summary:

In 2024 the average monthly visitors to the website were 631. There have been over 1000 visits in the last 30 days.

The website is set up for the coming year and I am happy to continue as webmaster.

Alan Thomas (Webmaster) – with apologies for my absence.

Vicky : The committee has now stepped down. Lynda produced forms for nominations for new committee members. Lynda said that the forms came back nominating the same committee members. Vicky confirmed with everyone that they were happy to accept the nominations. Thanked Maureen & Don, who were stepping down. Gave a detailed description of what they did and presented flowers to Maureen and whisky to Don. Said that we now have a vacancy for a social secretary and if anyone would like to take this on to speak to a committee member

AOB

Rachel suggested that the choir have a WhatsApp Group.

Tracy suggested that any new members to pair up with another choir member as it can be a bit daunting at first.

Steve suggested that William goes through the tick list and ask everyone individually if they could attend events or not.

Next AGM 13 Jan 2026

William said that he wanted the choir to learn new songs and not repeat the old ones as much.