

**MINUTES**  
**of the 2013-14 Annual General Meeting of Whitehall Choir**  
**held at St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row**  
**Tuesday 8th July 2014, 6.30pm**

Chairman: *Jonathan Williams*

**1. Apologies** were received from Fiona Graph, Lesley Kirby, Christina Scharff, Matilda Curtis, Jacky Erwtman, Julia Rothmund, Richard Grafen, Julie Dyg, Claire Hunter, Kate Hand, Monica Darnbrough, Helen Audaer.

**2. The Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting** were adopted as a true record.  
Proposed *Lesley Raymond*, Seconded *Alison Williams*

**3. Secretary's Report 2013-14**

The Secretary, *Joanna Tomlinson*, gave her report on the 2013-14 Season (Please see Annex A).

**4. Treasurer's Report 2013-14**

The Treasurer, *Patrick Haighton*, delivered his report on the Season. If the expense of the recording were removed there would be a surplus of £2,000 to £3,000 which was broadly similar to past years. £6,000 had been borrowed from the Jubilee Fund for the recording project which would be repaid as soon as possible. He explained that income came from subscriptions which were fixed and ticket sales which were variable. Increased ticket sales would make a far larger impact on income than increased subscriptions, perhaps making possible a second orchestral concert per season.

Subscriptions paid for rehearsal and concert costs. He noted that the choir never made money on its summer concerts. Whilst doing well at St John's Smith Square, the income from concerts there was much reduced by their commission and concessions to Westminster residents carrying Westminster City Save cards. He favoured raising ticket prices at St John's. We would be trialing a different pricing structure there in November in the hope that more income was generated.

He estimated that each choir rehearsal cost £6.05 per head (95 ½ hours in the past year).

He thanked those who bought on Amazon thus gaining commission for the choir, and the refreshments team. He also thanked BIS who covered the printing costs of all flyers and programmes - about £500 each concert for programmes alone.

***Financial Discussion:***

In answer to *Ken Holmes*: the recording project had cost £13,700

Patrick explained that Gift Aid could be claimed on money paid into the charity to promote music for which individual members and donors gain no benefit in return. The £50 donations to the recording project fell into this category.

In answer to *Liz Walton*: refreshments at concerts raised about £200 each time.

***Ticket sales and Subscriptions:***

In answer to *William Longland*, Patrick estimated that if subscriptions alone were to be used to fund a second orchestral concert, they would need to be raised by £100 per person.

*Lesley Raymond* suggested a half-way house of having a semi-orchestral concert once a year in addition to the full orchestral concert.

In answer to *Kate Goulden*'s concern that higher prices at St John's could lose sales, Patrick said that quite a small increase would have quite a positive effect.

On the issue of increasing ticket sales by the choir, *Sam Foley* pointed out that the reality was that the choir does not sell more tickets. *Alison Williams* noted many of the members had been content to see a £20 increase in subs when asked for their comments recently.

*Ken Holmes* noted that in the past the choir had received £3,000 annually by singing at The Ritz at Christmas. A small choir of about 18 sang over several nights. *Jean Orr* volunteered to try to find a Ritz alternative and the Chairman accepted her offer.

***Financial Resolution:***

*Lesley Raymond* **proposed** that the full subscription rate be raised by £20 with concessions for younger members to be decided. Seconded *Kate Goulden*. One against, one abstention. All others in favour.

**5. Conductor's Report 2013-14**

*Paul Spicer* delivered his report for the year (Please see Annex B). He gave particular thanks to Ian Tindale who was one of the best accompanists the choir had had during his time.

**6. Committee Elections for the 2014-15 season**

*Jonathan Williams* thanked the Treasurer and Secretary, the Committee and all the many members who help, and Philip Pratley for his excellent concert management. It was a very dedicated choir. He gave particular mention to *Ian Tindale* who had engaged so well with the choir.

The following members were elected unanimously to serve for the 2014/15 season:

Chairman: Jonathan Williams	Prop: Monica Darnbrough Sec: Simon Hunter
Secretary: Joanna Tomlinson	Prop: Laurence Grace Sec: Katherine Howes
Treasurer: Patrick Haighton	Prop: Graham Hand Sec: Samantha Foley
Business Manager: Penny Prior	Prop: William Longland

	Sec: Katherine Herzberg
Librarian: Mark Graver	Prop: Katherine Herzberg Sec: Jane Mackay
Publicity (joint): Ruth Eastman Martin Humphreys	Prop: Rose Chandler; Deb Dowdell Sec: Samantha Foley; Fiona Graph
Webmaster: Richard Grafen	Prop: William Longland Sec: Brendan O'Keeffe
BIS Rep: David Rawlings (co-opted)	
Soprano Rep: Kate Goulden	Prop: Lesley Raymond Sec: Christina Scharff
Alto Rep: Alison Williams	Prop: Jean Orr Sec: Paula Nobes
Tenor Rep: Alastair Tolley	Prop: Simon Hunter Sec: Philip Worley
Bass Rep: Daniel Lambauer	Prop: James Gourlay Sec: Simon Lawson
Jubilee Signatories: Ian Williamson; Ken Holmes; Penny Prior	Prop: Katherine Herzberg Sec: Martin Humphreys

## 7. Any Other Business

### ***Workshops and Come & Sing:***

The choir had been short of rehearsal time this season. It was agreed that a Workshop could be held early each term which could also be open to outsiders to help with recruitment and publicising the choir. It could be on a Saturday with an expectation of choir attendance. There would be a charge for the day.

### ***Choir standard:***

Concern was expressed that a small but significant number of the choir were passengers who did not contribute enough and were not up to standard despite it being an auditioned choir. *Paul Spicer and many others* agreed. *Jonathan Williams* commented that by pushing the issue of rehearsal absences two tenors were lost last term. How to resolve the problem was unclear.

### ***Recruitment:***

*Martin Humphreys* reported that there was a publicity plan for this. *Jonathan Williams* stressed that nothing works better than personal contact.

### ***Friends and Patrons:***

*Ken Holmes* asked the Committee to consider this scheme which needed to expand to be worthwhile.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm