

**ALTON COMMUNITY CHOIR**

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at The Friends Meeting House, Alton  
at 19.00hrs.**

**Committee:** Ann Foulkes (Chairperson), (AF)  
Helen Brown (Minutes Secretary), (HB)  
Sue Lawrence (Treasurer), (SL)  
Jenny Hallett (Membership Secretary), (JH)  
Carolyn Robson (Musical Director), (CR)  
Barbara Parry (Publicity officer), (BP)  
Pete Stephens (Committee member), (PS)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action / Comments</b>
Apologies	Committee all present	
Minutes of the last Meeting	Approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December. Proposed by Barbara Parry, seconded by Pete Stephens. The minutes were signed.	HB to notify ACC by email that the draft minutes are available.
Matters Arising	The draft minutes of the 2016 AGM are on the website. The minutes for committee meetings 22.09.16 and 20.10.16 on website. The cost of new choir folders is £119.76	
Finance	As at 10.01.16 Charity Fund                   £ 607.30 Overseas Fund                 £469.80 General Funds                 £6,498.72 Total                               £7,575.82	
Membership	Currently 65 members. Waiting list 1.	
	One member has rejoined after a period of absence.	
	Two have said they will join.	Due to start today.
	JH has invited one person on list to come for a trial session on 2.2.17	
Correspondence	3.1.17 – email from Community Vox re workshop day on 12.3.17 at Midhurst. Circulated by email to ACC 14.1.17.	
	14.1.17 – afternoon workshop in Guildford on 25.2.17. Circulated by email to ACC 14.1.17.	
Recent events	15.12.16 –Orchard House – residents hadn't realised we were going despite delivery of flyers to office. Small, apologetic, enthusiastic audience. £8.70 collected – to be added to the charity collection.	Next time, suggest we should contact the residents' association beforehand with a reminder closer to the performance as well as on the day. (Current contacts Maxine and Zoe.)
	End of term get-together at 'The Crown' Alton.	From ACC's point of view seemed enjoyable – Two sets of songs with socialising time in between seemed ideal.

Item	Discussion	Action / Comments
Forthcoming events	(Follow-on from original suggestion from Haydn Chappell in August 2016.) Possible summer concert at Alton Assembly Rooms. Of the available Fri & Sat dates in June at the Assembly Rooms, Carolyn is free 10 <sup>th</sup> June. See addendum C for emails.	Discussion re the possibility of combining a 'Jane Austen' linked concert with town events commemorating the 200 years since her death. (See also Addendum B from Alastair Gordon.) AF to speak to representative, (also friend), connected with the commemoration. Suitable date might be Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June as part of 'Regency Week')
	Possible visit to Brittany. Positive reaction from Julian, (contact in Brittany). (Ascertain interest from choir members. Investigate costing. HB has contacted Wenda – she has responded but as yet with no info. 17.1.17)  Ascertain interest from choir members.	HB contacted Wenda Moroney, (Winchester Community Choir) re costing of their visit their in 2015. No info as yet – CR to follow-up. (17.1.17) HB contacted TopMarks coach co. for estimate for a long week-end. Currently no info. A <i>'show of hands'</i> (19.1.17) indicated sufficient support to make this viable.
	Possible visit to Pertuis. See notes, page 5. (NB with the possibility of a visit to Brittany in 2017, this visit is unlikely to take place until 2018 at the earliest.)	HB contacted TopMarks coach co. for estimate for coach travel to & from Heathrow. HB hasn't yet been able to find a hotel in/near Pertuis with satisfactory accommodation. The most suitable flights seem to be from LHR to Marseilles, currently from approx £120. (NB. Cheaper flights from Gatwick very early a.m.) Info re coach hire in France not available.
Website	Lyrics and sound files of 'Tom of Bedlam' now on website.	Sound files of 'If I were a blackbird' to go on website. (CR, BP)
		Minutes of approved committee meeting, 8.12.17, to go on website. (HB, BP)
	Photos – Watts Gallery	Can go in 'Archive'. (BP)
Publicity		BP to write general article to go in local press, to include how much the choir has recently raised for charity.
AOB	Procedure for circulation of short notice information. (NB. had to cancel practice last week, 12.1.17)	<i>(Current email system seemed satisfactory – 'show of hands' 19.1.17.)</i>
	Offer from Julia Burns to organise a pre-practice get-together.	All in favour. Possibly shortly after half-term. ACC has some disposable cups, but members could bring their own. Check with Judy Burt re supplies of coffee etc. <i>(HB spoke to Julia who suggested first Thursday after HT – i.e. 2.3.17.)</i>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action / Comments</b>
AOB (cont)	Alastair Gordon has suggested a combined concert with Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir.	HB to contact AG for further information.
Next meeting	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February , 7.00pm at The Friends Meeting House, Alton	

Minutes submitted by Helen Brown (Minutes Secretary)

Proposed by – Pete Stephens

Seconded by – Sue Lawrence

### Addendum A

From Julia Burns (10.1.17)

I've been meaning to say that I would be very happy to arrange another welcome coffee session (for new and existing members) prior to choir one evening so will leave it with you to maybe discuss with the committee.

Do you happen to know if the choir has any existing tea/coffee supplies? Choir members could be asked to bring their own mugs to save using polystyrene cups.

### Addendum B

From Alastair Gordon (16.1.17.)

I have a suggestion for your consideration – the 200th anniversary of the death of Jane Austen, and I'd like to think that the Choir should make an effort to participate in any celebrations that may be organised. Hampshire as a county has a web site [www.JaneAusten200.co.uk](http://www.JaneAusten200.co.uk) which could provide an idea of what is happening so far at Jane Austen's House at Chawton, Regency Week in Alton from 17th – 25th June, exhibitions etcetera at Basingstoke, Bath and Winchester Cathedral. She was an accomplished musician, had a wicked sense of humour – reflected in her writings, and was introduced to many Irish pieces of music collected around the time of her dalliance with Tom Lefroy. I'm sure there are some pieces of music from the Jane Austen era that could prove suitable for us to sing. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

### Addendum C

Email from Haydn 16.1.17 – 'I have checked availability for you. At the moment either the Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> are free in June.'

Email HB to Haydn Chappell – 17.1.2017

Thank you so much for checking out those summer's 2017 dates at Alton Assembly Rooms. I've included them on the agenda for the committee meeting this Thursday, 19/1/2017.

Last summer I had an email from you dated 12/7/2016 inviting ACC to sing in either the Community Rooms or the Assembly Rooms last autumn and in it you said you would be able to pay expenses. At that time we were unable to take up your kind offer due to other commitments, however it would be useful to know if this would still be the situation and if you would be able to cover the expenses of a summer concert?

HC (17.1.17) - I will pay reasonable expenses out of ticket money which I expect will be £5 per head

-- Meeting with Rosemary Bugnet, Pertuis Twinning Association --

Alton Costa, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016,

Present: Rosemary Bugnet, Helen Brown and Barbara Parry (Carolyn sent her apologies)

Aim: To explore options for ACC to visit and perform in Pertuis 2017/2018.

Key points discussed and summary notes:

- Alton Concert Band visiting May 2017.
- Rosemary felt that October 2017, March 2018, May 2018 or October 2018 were possible times for ACC to visit.
  
- Performance Venues:
  - (1) Salle de Fete (also known as Les Space Georges Jouvin – good for a large concert.
  - (2) Theatre in Pertuis – maximum 40 people on stage.
  - (3) There are also a number of smaller venues possible.
- Rosemary offered to investigate whether there were any festivals/key events in the Pertuis calendar which would lend themselves to ACC being part of the performance programmes.
- Known calendar of events for Pertuis:
  - (1) Middle of March each year is the “Vin et Gastronomie” festival.
  - (2) Weekly farmers’ market every Friday in Pertuis.
  - (3) Around 8<sup>th</sup> May each year is Le Mois de l’Europe celebrations.
- Fewer things going on during October in Pertuis; Rosemary wondered if this was preferable.
- There would be a reception with the Mayor, organised by the Pertuis Twinning Association locally.
  
- Travel options:
  - (1) Definitely need to travel by air.
  - (2) Heathrow to Marseilles then coach from Marseilles airport to Pertuis (approximately 1hr on coach).
  - (3) British Airways offer the best times to travel.
  - (4) There are Gatwick travel options but Rosemary recommended Heathrow.
  - (5) Rosemary to investigate local coach travel for us and obtain a quote so that ACC can consider in the costing estimates.
  
- Accommodation options:
  - (1) 3 main hotels – Best Western, Ibis Comfort and Ibis Style.
  - (2) Also La Village Provencale hotel (locally run) – where the Shanty Men have stayed. Maximum 30 rooms and only a small dining room (?eating in shifts perhaps)
  - (3) Best Western hotel would definitely have meeting rooms suitable for ACC to rehearse in. Others may offer opportunity of using the communal dining area when not in use but the “budget” Ibis hotel (? Comfort or Style?) might not have the space. Needs further enquiry and investigation.
  - (4) Helen offered to explore hotel options via the internet/websites.
- All hotels are on the outskirts of the town but walkable to performance venues, Rosemary thought. Again may need further investigation of whether the distance is acceptable for choir members.

(Notes taken by Barbara)