

JULY 2018

Summer Newsletter

Colinton & Merchiston Choir



Chairman's Report

Last year, on 26 November, the choir sang *I Landed with Seven Men* by Jim Maxwell and Ken Johnston, and John Rutter's *The Sprig of Thyme*. We also heard songs from Lyndsey McGhee accompanied by Angus Buchan on the guitar. During the year we lost one of our founder members, Alan Dobson, whose wife, Audrey, sponsored this concert, in part, in Alan's name.

On 22 January, we held an EGM to update the Constitution which now states that committee members be elected every three years rather than annually, and be available for re-election if they so wished.

In Spring, on 25 March, we sang Johannes Brahms' *How Lovely are Thy Dwellings*, Herbert Sumsion's *They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships*, and John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*. Both concerts were well received.

With over 80 members, the choir is in good fettle, but we are very short of men, both tenors and basses. We're advertising over the summer in various community newsletters, hoping to recruit new members. Can you help? If you know of anyone who might sing with us, please do encourage them to come along to a rehearsal. With so few men, our choice of repertoire is limited.

We are very much indebted to our conductor, David Turner, and our accompanist, Morley Whitehead, for all their hard work in getting our choir, many of us modest singers, into shape. We are also very grateful to our audiences; we hope they enjoy the music as much as we do in performing it.



Rehearsals resume
Monday 17 Sept.,
7.00 for 7.30 pm.

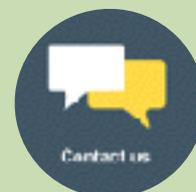
Break at half term
Monday 22 Oct.

Christmas Concert
Sunday 16 Dec.

AGM on 1 Oct.



Annual Subscription
- still just £35.



Robertson Building,
Merchiston Castle
School

tel: 0131 312 2273
(during normal school
working hours)

colintonchoir.org

Conductor's Report

Our first concert of the season will be a Christmas one, a performance of *Bethlehem* by Maunder. This cantata tells the Christmas story and includes one or two carols for the audience to join in.

Our second concert in March will be a joint venture with Merchiston Castle School and will be in the McEwan Hall. The concert will include Bob Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass* which will be familiar to some members from 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Subscription receipts were pretty much the same this year, but receipts from concert retiring collections, encouragingly, were approximately 25% higher. (£1,116).

Thanks to Audrey Dobson, the accounts now show a Concert Sponsorship Fund, which is kept separate from General Funds, opening with the sum of £1,000, and from which the committee decided to make a contribution of £395 towards the cost of soloists for the autumn concert.

The General Fund reserves as at the year end date of 31 July 2018 amount to approximately £5,300. As a result the committee is able to hold the subscription for the forthcoming year at the same rate as the last two years, namely £35.

Staying in Touch

We maintain a database (names and contact details) so that we can stay in touch with current and some former choir members to pass on information we deem essential. Your data is held securely and is not shared with third parties.

Given a recent new regulation, the committee wants to confirm that you do consent to receiving emails. Please let the Secretary know whether you wish to stay in touch or alternatively, be forgotten.

Dress Sense

Unavoidably in the audience at the Easter concert rather than on stage, Liz reported that the look of the choir did not match its performance; there were so many varying shades of white in the ladies' tops. Is it time to reconsider our dress code? Should we go all black, for example? What do you think?

Your Committee

Chairman - Ronnie Seiler

Ronnie began his stint last September.

Treasurer - Libby Campbell

Libby, a retired accountant and founder member, became Treasurer in 2009. Duties include recording income and expenditure and preparing accounts for audit, as well as giving regular reports.

Librarian - Audrey Dobson

Audrey, Librarian from the outset, locates and issues scores and collects and returns them with members' pencilled notes erased.

Secretary - Alison Kennedy

Alison joined the committee in 2012, becoming Secretary a year later. She administers meetings, maintains the choir database and section registers, produces posters and keeps in touch with members.

Ordinary members -

Allan Gray - Allan, a founder member, joined the committee 7 years ago. He is men's convenor and assists Audrey in her tasks.

Morag McIntyre - Morag joined the Committee 2 years ago to assist with promoting our concerts, social events and choir membership.



Lix Mackie - Liz joined the Choir on her retiral from art teaching. She was Chairperson for 3 years and has an input to the design and layout of publicity.



Rhian Moir - Rhian, new to the committee, joined the choir in 2015 singing soprano, and will be organising events to support the choir's social side for its members.

