

Dear Choir Member,

Here you have a Summary Note of our EGM.

It was on a wet and chilly evening that just 21 of us met for the EGM. Perhaps it was relief at the news that Merchiston Castle School (Merchiston) wanted to maintain its links with the choir that discouraged attendance, well that and the weather!

Rehearsal and concert venues decided, we were able to focus our discussion at the EGM on our choir and how it might be sustained and developed. We discussed our repertoire. There was a desire to continue to include traditional classical choral pieces, being the reason some had joined our particular choir, but other members wished also to have some variety within the programme, perhaps on a theme with the classical choral pieces chosen. Food for thought!

Having had this discussion, the Committee is now able to draft an advert for a new conductor. The Committee also plans to encourage members to become involved in the search for a new conductor through personal connections and other means. It was agreed that when advertising for a conductor social media will be a useful tool.

As the Choir will now be bearing the cost of a conductor - such was previously covered by Merchiston - we'll need to raise more money through subscriptions. The need to recruit new choir members was discussed and suggestions made, with the emphasis again on using social media, but also:

- inviting parents and teachers at Merchiston (the original reason for the word Merchiston in our name),
- inviting friends to come and sing, as a one-off event, a-popular classic e.g Faure,
- removing unseen barriers, e.g. ensuring our communications emphasise that all are welcome, not only Colinton residents or those connected with Merchiston, and
- revising our website.

Until we know the hourly rate the new conductor would charge, which could be within a fairly wide range according to their experience, we could not fix the subscription figure. A suggestion was made that the Committee could consider payment options for the subscription, such as paying in instalments.

And finally, an important appeal was made to members: do you have the interest and the skills to help out by joining the Committee? Alison, for example, is looking for help on the secretarial side, a job which has grown over the last few years; and we need someone to take over Morag's role in promoting the choir and advertising concerts.

We'll be in touch again shortly as we progress our search for a new Musical Director and Conductor.

with best wishes,

Alison  
Secretary,  
on behalf of the Committee