

Trustees News

January 2022 - Issue 3

Welcome to 2022 from the Trustees and we are all looking forward to a year that is hopefully more predictable than 2021. The last few months have been eventful in a good way so this newsletter brings you up to date and looks forward.

AGM

The AGM for this year is scheduled for 26th May 2022. We will be doing this on Zoom to allow as many as possible to join. Details will be sent out closer to the date.

The AGM provides the opportunity to formally report on our last year and to look forward.

We do hope you can join. It's important for the trustees to hear from the membership and AGM is a good opportunity for that.

Key Dates

AGM: 26th May - Zoom

Half term: w/c 21st February

Christmas Concert and Singouts

The Christmas Concert was our return to public performances after a very long break and what a wonderful evening it was.

The joint choirs sounded absolutely terrific and the feedback from the audience was very positive. We were sorry to lose CLASP at late notice but it provided the opportunity to enjoy Louise, Kieran and Euchar displaying their talents.

The trustees were delighted to see so many volunteers step up to help make the evening such a success – our thanks go to all of you and all those that contributed to the raffle prizes.



We were, of course, very conscious of the risks that such a gathering would bring in these times, but were very impressed with the care that both choir members and the audience took in complying with the well thought out controls to minimise any major issues.

Christmas Singouts

As well as the Christmas Concert, members also enthusiastically supported SingOuts at “Glow” at Wisley, the Christmas lights turn on at Brants Bridge, Royal Berkshire Hospital, two sets outside Waitrose in Bracknell and supporting CLASP outside Waitrose in Wokingham. Good fun had by all and thank you to those that braved the elements.



Cold in the Wisley Glow



Brants Bridge NHS



Clasp in Wokingham



Bracknell Waitrose

Covid and rehearsals

Alas we are not yet clear of Covid and we continue to closely monitor Government guidance and the recommended measures from our industry body, Making Music. Clearly, we are hoping

that in person rehearsals will continue (even if they are a bit draughty), but we will of course advise of any changes or constraints that might apply to us. We have a range of

contingency plans to allow us to adapt to whatever circumstances arise but we do hope that we don't need them.

Charitable Giving

Charitable giving is the second of our core objectives as a charity (singing for the benefit of everyone is our first!) so we were delighted this year to be able to achieve two notable donations.

CLASP

<https://wokinghamclasp.org.uk/>

David Raeside (Bracknell bass) has been our CLASP champion in leading and looking after their choir.

He has done this without charge over 2021 and as a result Sing Healthy were able to make a donation of a printer and a Bluetooth amplifier/speaker to the CLASP charity.

The picture shows David presenting the speaker to Debs Morrison of CLASP with Ann Shaw and Ann Stainton who both sing with the CLASP choir along with other enthusiastic volunteers.

Thank you David! (and the volunteers)



The Cowshed

<https://www.thecowshed.org/>

For the Christmas concert, our chosen charity, The Cowshed Christmas Present Project, benefited from the profits that amounted to £1273.51 after all our costs had been covered; an excellent outcome that The Cowshed greatly appreciated.

We were delighted to visit The Cowshed at their headquarters in Hurst to hand over the cheque in person to Rebecca Mole, their Fundraising Coordinator and to see their very impressively organised work.



Graphic design

One of the benefits of being a charity is that we can access free or low cost software. We have recently taken up using “Canva” as our package for producing publicity materials for events and

general promotion. We used some aspects of the toolset for the first time for the Christmas Concert and it worked very well for us.

If anyone has an interest in using Canva to develop



artwork for the choir then do please contact us – we would love to hear from you.

Finances

Our treasurer, Mike Gale, will be reporting formally on our finances at the AGM but overall we are in a good state after the uncertainties that Covid presented in 2021.

Thank you to all of you that we asked to amend your standing order details. That has allowed us to close

some of the old accounts that our bank had started to charge for. Our financial arrangements are now very much simpler.

Gift Aid continues to benefit the choir with a regular monthly flow of income. If you are a new member or have just not got round to it, you can sign up to Gift Aid

at any time providing you pay income tax. Registering can be done here: [Online Gift Aid form](#) or ask Mike for a paper form - Please have a chat with Mike if you have any queries on this - he's happy to help.

What has Louise been doing?

You may have noticed that during the last term Louise was periodically missing (and we had the lovely Tom standing in!). So what has she been doing? We caught up with her.....

“Outside of my work at Sing Healthy, I teach piano, compose lots of music, and work at the Royal Academy Music in London as an academic tutor and a Fellow in composition. I'm also in my final year of study at Academy as a PhD student. My PhD project is focussed around my composition projects both internal and external to Academy, including my strong connection to, and passion for, choral music - these include works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, choirs and orchestras.

My current composition projects include a new orchestral piece for the London Symphony Orchestra, which will be premiered in the Barbican during the 22/23 season. And before that, the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Academy students will perform another of my orchestral pieces at the Royal Festival Hall in April (details here: [Southbankcentre](#)).

I recently completed my largest project to date - a forty-minute community opera involving primary schools local to the Academy. This was commissioned for the Academy's 200th anniversary and will receive four performances in their theatre on 22-25th February. The performances are free and I'd love for you to attend if you can



make it! (Details can be found here: [Tickets](#))”

Thank you, Louise. As always the trustees very much appreciate the talented musicians that lead us.

Future music plans

As the Wokingham choir are aware, we are looking to revisit Faure's Requiem. Date and venue still to be fixed but likely to be after Easter time this year. We have our fingers crossed that we will successfully stage it. For Bracknell, Louise and Kieran have come up with a

great repertoire and planning is underway for an appropriate event and location for a performance.

CLASP choir continue to meet on a regular basis. Sing Healthy choir members are more than welcome to come along to enjoy the fun in the

outdoor events and help support the singing.

The next event will be for the Red Nose Day in March. David Raeside can provide more information if you need it. But the more the merrier!

Trustee plans

The past year for the trustees has been very much focused on grappling with Covid, the transitioning to the change in management structure and becoming a registered charity.

We now feel that we need to take a step back to think about how we want Sing Healthy to

develop to further the achievement of our objectives of encouraging the enjoyment of singing together and being able to provide charitable support to worthy local causes.

We will be communicating more on this in the coming months and it will include

engaging with the members to understand what your experience has been and what your objectives are from being part of Sing Healthy.

The Trustees



Chair
Ann Shaw
Wokingham and
Bracknell Alto



Trustee
Nicky Nicholson
Bracknell Alto



Secretary
Lynn Marshall
Wokingham Mezzo



Trustee
Paul Dunn
Wokingham and
Bracknell Bass



Treasurer
Mike Gale
Wokingham Tenor



Trustee
Ann Stainton
Wokingham and
Bracknell Alto

Thank you!

Let's hear from you

As always feedback is very welcome - the Trustees are here to make sure that the members enjoy being with Sing Healthy so let us know what you think and what you would like to hear about.

Drop any of us an email or just come and have a chat.

Chair - Ann Shaw (Ann.Shaw@singhealthy.co.uk)

Secretary - Lynn Marshall (Lynn.Marshall@singhealthy.co.uk)

Treasurer - Mike Gale (Mike.Gale@singhealthy.co.uk)

Trustee - Ann Stainton (Ann.Stainton@singhealthy.co.uk)

Trustee - Paul Dunn (Paul.Dunn@singhealthy.co.uk)

Trustee - Nicky Nicholson (Nicky.Nicholson@singhealthy.co.uk)