

## WHITSTABLE MUSIC SOCIETY

**Minutes of the Forty-third Annual Members Meeting** held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church, Whitstable.

**Present.** J Walker (Hon. Chairman), G Smyth (Hon. Vice Chairman), S Wheeler (Hon. Secretary), G Bush (Hon. Treasurer), C Palmer, M Crawley. 6 members.

**Apologies.** J Wilkinson, D Wright, H Ellson, D Palmer, M Hughes, J and P Davey, M and C Vaile.

**Minutes** of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Members Meeting held in June 2017 had been circulated and signed at an Executive Committee Meeting held in September 2018.

**Matters arising** There were none.

**Trustees' report to the members.** J Walker read the 2018 Trustee's Report see attached page.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their hard work, K Hogarth the programme writer, L Spiro the page-turner, A Palmer and the coffee helpers, and all the volunteers who help with setting up the hall on concert nights. He also thanked the Sponsors and Donors who, due to the active efforts of G Smyth and M Crawley, provided their much appreciated financial support. He thanked the Methodist Church.

**Finance.** See attached Accounts for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

It was proposed that the Financial Accounts be accepted, by G Smyth and seconded by C Palmer and all agreed.

After discussion it was decided that the price of the season ticket should be increased by £1 to £16 per annum.

It was unanimously agreed that thanks to the creative efforts of N Anthony, the website was very good value and a great asset to the society. It was suggested that a survey should be attempted to assess how many of the audience were coming to concerts having looked at the website and been attracted by the artists and programme notes.

**Annual appointments** Hon Chairman J Walker

Hon. Vice Chairman G Smyth

Hon. Secretary S Wheeler

Hon Treasurer G Bush

Executive committee

M Crawley and C Palmer

As no nominations had come forward and the committee were willing to stand again, it was proposed by C Isenberg, and seconded by C Palmer that they should be voted in *en bloc*, and everyone agreed.

**Any other business.** The matter of succession on the committee was raised. As an attempt to attract members to come forward to join the committee, it was suggested that members could be invited to come and take part in committee discussions (but without voting rights) as a 'taster'.

63 people had answered the Data Protection form. It was decided not to pursue the matter as further reading of the Data Protection Act seems to say that as paid-up members are '*interested*' members of a society according to the rules of the Data Protection Act, it means that a consent form is unnecessary.

The meeting ended at 3.30pm and refreshments were served.

# Whitstable Music Society

## Chairman's Report to Members June 2018

I am pleased to report that 2018, our forty third season, was a very good season of concerts with excellent audience feedback in respect of both the choice of musicians and programmes. Each concert was different in its own way with memorable performances from The Sacconi Quartet, Michael McHale (Piano) The Maxwell Quartet and the Trio Shaham, Erez, Wallfisch to mention just a few.

As I write this report our accounts for the year are with the auditor for approval but generally the society is in a healthy state financially with good reserves. The audited accounts will be presented at the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

The committee are always keen to keep the cost of a season ticket as low as possible, consistent with maintaining our high standards. With this in mind, for our 2018/19 season, we have decided to keep the cost of a season ticket unchanged at £70 being only £10 per concert. The cost of a Single Ticket for individual concerts is to be increased to £16 which continues to represent excellent value.

Our sponsors play a key part in maintaining our finances and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their generous support. I am delighted to report that Gill Smyth and Margaret Crawley have once again done a really superb job in maintaining excellent relations with our sponsors. Without their efforts we would have to raise the ticket prices quite substantially. We owe them our thanks for all the hard work they put into this. I congratulate them most warmly on behalf of the society for their excellent work. The extent of their efforts will be apparent when we present the accounts at the AGM.

In my Annual Report last year I said that we had formed a subcommittee to look at ways of promoting the society, attracting new audiences and maintaining sponsorship for our concerts. I am pleased to report that the committee has made great progress. Our new website was launched a few months ago and is more informative, interactive and visually attractive than the previous version. As a result we have noticed a lot of new faces at our concerts and our income from single ticket sales has remained buoyant. I would like to thank Neil Anthony for the excellent work he put into this. Existing members and concert goers also have an important role to play in the success of the society. Experience over many years has shown that personal recommendation is the most effective way of promoting the

society, so we hope that our current members and regular concert goers will play their part in the campaign to increase audience numbers.

On behalf of all our members I would like to thank the committee for their hard work throughout the year. Also those who kindly help to set up the performance space and to reinstate the room after our concerts. Many hands make light work. There are many ways in which you can help the society so if you would like to help in any way please mention this to any of the committee members who are always on hand at our concerts. We are very grateful too for our many donors who help us in various ways. A list of donors is published in our season's brochure. We are grateful too for the many volunteers who help with the teas and coffees during the interval and the washing up after the concerts. Finally our thanks to our page turner Lorraine Spiro and to Kim Hogarth who produces our excellent programme notes.

John Walker

Chairman