



**Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 28th January**

PRESENT - Ivan Lambert, Richard Sowerby, Brian Griffiths, John Trent Wallace	Action
1. Apologies for absence: Lachlan Munn, Kevin Mead, Richard Bull-Domican and Haydn Price In the absence of the Chairman, Ivan, as Vice Chairman took the Chair It was noted that meeting was not quorate but we would proceed and offer recommendations to be approved at the next meeting.	
2. Minutes of previous meeting Were approved and signed by the vice chairman	
3. Matters Arising : New start time agreed at last meeting seems to have been well received with good attendances	
4. Agree any matters to be discussed under AOB Choir uniform at Sing outs, resuscitation requests.	
5. Date for AGM volunteers for committee It was agreed that this would held on Mon 24th March at 8.00pm	BG
6. Items for AGM volunteers for committee It was understood that Paul Williams and Paul Reid had expressed an interest in joining the committee, It was agreed that suitable rolls should be allocated to them and if necessary re-jiggle current members existing rolls.	ALL

7. Concerts The only 100% fixed date was 18th March sing-out at High Chelmer. It would be in aid of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and they would arrange the permit to collect and we would confirm the arrangements with High Chelmer. Richard S would send them a copy of our liability insurance. The other 99% certain date was 20th September at Burnham, just waiting on Clare to ensure she can make it. It now looks like Billericay Theatre is a no go but Rayleigh Mill is an alternative. The possible date is 12th April although some members thought this might be short notice. Haydn will report back soonest. Lach sent a report updating us on his discussions with various people St Andrews Wickford Haydn in discussion re a fee Hurdlemakers Arms awaiting a date confirmation from Ivan SWF beer festival - As above St Peters Horndon - all booked until July but will make contact again in May for a possible slot later in the year. St Thomas Navestock awaiting for them to come back Hullbridge Community Centre as above All Saints Purleigh Lach chasing a response Chelmsford MVC - awaiting direction from Haydn Chelmsford Cathedral Lunchtime concert 2026 Lach is chasing. Lach did suggest that perhaps cancelling the odd rehearsal would help pay for our charitable efforts. Committee expressed their thanks to Lach for his efforts.	BG/RS JTW HP HP IL IL LM LM LM LM HP LM
8. Music Report John was a little disappointed that our learning seemed to be a little slower than usual on our new and revised songs. He was pleased with Claire Howell's accompanist skills and plans to use her a lot more	

9. Financial Update. Richard presented his draft financial report (see attached) It was good to note that Bob Drake and David Hayes had joined the choir Social Media had cost circa £2,000 in the year. It was agreed that this had raised our profile but this level of expenditure could not be maintained. It was suggested that we could cope with a monthly spend of £75 but there was an alternative to increase this. We could ask our sponsor to contribute £75 a month this would double our spend to £150 and we could ask Simon what he could provide for this. We would ensure that the sponsors logo was on all posts. We would continue with the current arrangement until we get a response from our sponsor or until the end of March whichever is the sooner. Should our sponsors response be negative then we would ask Simon what he could do for £75 a month. It was noted that members were easily picking up new copies of music and it was agreed that going forward we keep a record of who had been issued with which music and if a replacement was required they would have to pay for it. Richard and John would work out the average cost a single copy. Gift Aid and 100 club continues to be very important source of income raising around 20% of the total.. Easyfundraising receipts have been a little disappointing and we will find a way of linking it to our website and remind members to sign up.	BG/HP/JTW JTW/RS/CW
11. Website John would talk to making music to see what they offer that we don't already have. The access to practice tracks could be an issue.	JTW
12. Social The Social secretary was not in attendance but will be asked to bring his suggestions for 2025 activities to the next committee meeting	KM
13. AOB A member had suggested that at sing outs at shopping centres we should all wear black trousers as as we looked a bit of a 'mish mash' the last time we did this. It was agreed we would proceed with this and review other sing outs like Beer Festivals on an each event. It was suggested that we should know choir members resuscitation requests - hold over to next meeting	ALL
14. Date of next meeting TUES 18TH FEB - then on every 3 Tuesday and Richard would book the room ahead.	RS



DRAFT TREASURER's REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024

INTRO

The balance sheet for 2024 can be found on the next page. At the last AGM we increased the annual subscriptions by the then inflation rate, to cover general inflationary increases, plus an extra £2/month each to go towards hiring Simon Baldock to improve and manage our Media presence. This was for an initial 6 months but was extended to cover the whole year. Other than that, our charitable concerts were hoped to be self-financing with our self-funding concerts returning a profit.

As with most clubs and societies the full subscription fee is due at the start of the group year, which for us is on April 1st and is generally non-refundable. The fact that we gladly accept subscriptions by instalment does not detract from this fact. We cannot afford to run a pay-as-you-go system as it would be complicated to run and would not provide enough confidence in our main income source.

You will see from the attached balance sheet that overall we spent nearly £2400 more than we earnt which has reduced our total balance from £11489 to £9031.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Simon Baldock started this work in February, the 6 months running until the end of July. In that period it cost us £1200. At the time the Committee asked Simon to continue until at least the end of 2024, deciding that the benefits derived from our improved media presence were worth using some of our accrued bank balance.

£606 from subscriptions has contributed towards a media cost of £2010.

FUND-RAISING CONCERTS

Traditionally a Chelmsford Cathedral concert helped us to raise funds where a portion was then donated to a chosen charity. This year to save the work and risk involved in setting up the concert was supported and partly organised by our Sponsor Andrew Skinner. The resulting profit of £750 was donated to St James's Place Charities who then matched the proceeds.

The Autumn Concert at SWFVH raised £96. There were outstanding costs from the 2023 Christmas concert of £66 resulting in a final profit of £30 for our self-fund-raising concerts.

BOOKED CONCERTS

Our booking fee for concerts is £375. This amount is set to cover our MD and Accompanist fees plus incidental expenses.

We had 2 regular booked concerts for churches where unfortunately the clients could only afford £600 between them instead of the £750 we'd like.

We had two invited concerts at Chelmsford Cathedral. The first attracted their standard £125 fee, the second (near Christmas) we performed for no charge.

We had two Sing Outs and 2 beer festivals with no incoming fee attached, but there are MD/Accompanist fees to pay for.

The joint concert with Chelmsford Male Voice Choir gave us no income, but came with our usual MD/Accompanists fees.

The outcome of all these events is that although we may have helped raise a lot of money for charities it has cost us £832 to do so.

REHEARSAL HALL HIRE

This year we held 90 rehearsal nights compared to the 79 of 2023. The additional ones were in July-August and November-December. This difference plus the £1/night hire increase explains the extra £325 over 2023.

MUSIC PURCHASES

We tend to have 2 (sometimes 3) new songs each year. If there is a backing track associated with it, it will cost on average of £250 (including printing music copies). In 2024 the extra £180 music costs is the cost of printing extra copies of re-visited songs for newer choristers and replacing lost copies for those who are less new. I think that there is a case that once a chorister is given their first music copy of any song further copies should be bought and paid for by the individual.

MD and ACCOMPANIST FEES

The increased sums paid in of 2024 are in line with the increases to the fees paid and the extra number of rehearsal nights in 2024. Concert fees are not included in this section.

RECRUITMENT

In Sept/Oct we hired St. Andrews church in Wickford for 3 Mondays with the aim of recruiting new members from another catchment area. This proved to be unproductive and cost us £94. Meanwhile we continued to pay for SWFVH because, although we hoped that the Wickford enterprise would be successful, we didn't want to potentially lose the Monday night rehearsal spot at the Village Hall.

GIFT AID RETURN and 100 CLUB INCOME

These two items continue to provide an essential source of income and contribute nearly 20% of the total taken. They should continue to do so as long as the membership levels do not falter.

EASYFUNDRAISING

We embarked on this venture in August and by November had raised £19 for Men2Sing. Incidentally, our next pay out, due in February, is currently at £70.

Every pound raised helps to reduce the amount each chorister will need to pay in subscriptions; so the more of us that register and encourage their family and friends to register, and even more so shop online, the more valuable it is for the choir.

Disappointingly, less than half of the choir has registered with Easyfundraising. I would have hoped that it would be in everyone's interest to keep the cost of enjoying singing in Men2Sing down.

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS MALE VOICE CHOIR (Charity No 290428)

MEN²SING

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024

INCOME	2024	2023	EXPENDITURE	2024	2023
	£	£		£	£
Concert Income (Bookings)	725.00	700.00	Concert Expense (Bookings)	1,556.99	853.98
Concert Income (Fund Raising)	3,076.30	2,338.77	Concert Expense (Fund Raising)	3,046.04	2,186.09
Subscriptions	11,588.00	10,541.00	Musical Director & Deputy	8,255.00	7,650.00
Deposit Account Interest	414.78	165.53	Accompanists	3,340.00	3,270.00
Gift Aid Tax Refund	2,504.29	2,553.69	Rehearsal Halls	2,000.00	1,674.75
100 Club	1,100.00	850.00	Music Purchases	637.28	482.24
Fund Raising	18.44	144.91	Recruitment	93.75	60.00
Donations	85.00	348.00	Publicity (inc Social Media)	2,070.00	0.00
Sundries	0.00	0.00	Website Expenses	380.35	373.15
			Charity donations	0.00	0.00
			Sundry Expenditure	527.93	530.42
Total	£19,511.81	£17,641.90	Total	£21,907.34	£17,080.63

Cash Reconciliation 31/12/2024

Opening Balance	£11,489.55
PLUS Income	£19,449.19
LESS Expenditure	£21,907.34
Closing Balance	£9,031.40

Represented by -

Bank Account	£3,666.82
COIF Charities Deposit Account	£5,020.91
Cash in Hand	£406.29

Excess Expenditure over Income = £2395.53

I have examined the books of the South Woodham Ferrers Male Voice Choir and to the best of my knowledge they represent a true and fair view of the choir's finances for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Signed & Dated.....(Treasurer)

Signed & Dated(Hon Inspector)