

2017-8 Chair's Report to AGM

This year saw the final transfer of all of the treasurer's responsibilities to John Chalmers. Following discussions with Michelle Heathcote, it was agreed that he would now also manage the membership lists alongside the subscriptions. The committee would like to thank Michelle for all her work over the past years managing the membership data.

We have discussed the new data regulations. We agreed that as subscribers you give us your information so that we can keep you informed of any relevant information to do with musical activities that may be of interest to you and that by subscribing you give us permission for that use. If anyone has any concerns about their data, please let us know and also please let us know if any of that information changes or if you do not pay a subscription and no longer wish to be on our lists.

Also discussed were issues around safe-guarding. We have three minors playing regularly with the orchestra and there may be other players from time to time who might be considered vulnerable. Jean Swift has agreed to be our officer for safe-guarding, so if any member has concerns about a player, please contact Jean.

Most of the committee's time has been spent on planning and organising concerts. Thank you for your ideas and requests for future programmes. We have used the information for drafting future concerts. And thank you to Steve Bingham for his tireless efforts to improve our playing. (He will report on our musical achievements!) We are delighted that we have had good audiences recently and hope that we can maintain the audience and build on our growing reputation. That the cathedral looks to us to provide an orchestra for November 11th and for its Christmas, both big occasions, reflects this.

Looking forward:

There is the workshop on Jan 6th where we will tackle Mahler's 1st Symphony – more about that from Dave McLeish. I have mentioned the wind workshop to you all before – planned for Feb 16th/17th – first weekend of half-term. Jean has also agreed to organise this. And we will be providing an orchestra for Paul Trepte's final Easter.

Then we have Verdi Requiem with Kings Lynn Festival Chorus on May 4th. With Easter being late (April 21st) the rehearsal schedule will be built around the Easter break but may have to include rehearsals in the holiday period.

This first concert of next season will be on September 21st. Please make note of the date. We will probably have to adjust the programme given that we will have only a short and intensive rehearsal period. The cathedral is being very strict about not allowing bookings more than 18 months ahead so we have no further dates.