**Lymington Choral Society Annual General Meeting**

**St Thomas Church Lymington – 7pm Wednesday 23 October 2024**

1. **Welcome by Chair** 2. **Apologies for Absence** Celia Swan David Hanks Rhiannon Morgan Heather Sheridan Anne Rendall Andrew Daish Hedley Winnington Gill Beaumont Janice Sellers Hettie Armistead

3. **Minutes of the AGM 18 October 2023** Accepted as correct. Proposed by Ann Lewington. Seconded by Alison Towler.

4. **Matters Arising** None.

5. **Committee Elections**

For over 20 years Ann Lewington has been the Associate Rep and done a sterling job and is standing down. Jan Jones will take over the position. Proposed by Ann Blacklock. Seconded by Sue Rusling

6. **Chairman’s Report as given by Pat Mennie**

“Yet again this has been a fantastic year for Lymington Choral Society. We have had sell out concerts, sometimes two weeks before the event, full standing ovations and more people wanting to join the choir than we can house. Last year’s Christmas concert really was a cracker with extracts from Handel’s Messiah adding to the traditional carols which audiences love…the 4pm time seems to be very successful and much appreciated.

At New Milton we sang Stainer’s Crucifixion… a very emotional rendition with some audience members literally in tears and finally in May the two Glorias from Rutter and Jenkins, a full orchestra and a full standing ovation!

These successes don’t just happen as we well know and there are many who support our efforts to reach these dizzy heights. I must of course start with the musical directorship of Phil Daish Handy and his assistant Timothy Rice. We are so very fortunate to be rehearsed by such excellent professionals and enjoy the massive enthusiasm of Phil in leading us to such heights.

Continued support of our fund raisers…Sue… raffle, Maureen…Milford luncheon…my committee of music reps: Chris, Jane and Cathy, librarian Ann, associate membership secretary Ann (special thanks as stepping down after over 20 years) and meetings secretary Rebecca and a very big personal thank you to Karen …beyond work as treasurer…now including opening the church. This Society wouldn’t exist all of you.. without your work. Thanks. Thank you to our sponsors, Patrons and Associate Members. With sell out concerts, it makes good sense to be in one of those groups so that good seats are ensured up to 15 minutes before the concert starts…(worth telling your friends) and financially supports us for the future, ensuring we can afford large orchestras and good quality soloists. This year after another Christmas Spectacular, we will be again taking a popular choral piece to New Milton, that of Faure’s Requiem. In the summer of 2025, we will have a concert centred on Haydn’s Nelson Mass in May and the opportunity to join Nova Foresta Orchestra at their Proms in July.

Looking even further ahead in March 2026 we have been invited to sing Jenkin’s Armed Man this time at Romsey Abbey. A very exciting time ahead for sure, but as I have no wish to hog all the limelight I have decided I will be standing down in 2025 as Chair. Thank you.”

7. **Treasurer’s Report and Accounts**.

The full examined accounts were circulated a month before the AGM. They were Proposed by Chris Hobby and seconded by Jan Jones.

Our finances are in a very good position. This means we are able to hold the ticket prices and also the subscription. We have £28,000 which approximately equates to the choir’s costs for one year. The level of funds held has been queried by a sponsor and has been explained.

8. **Musical Director’s Report as given by Phil Daish-Handy**

“Messiah & Festive Favourites

This concert was a tremendous success. Despite being let down (again) by our soprano soloist, LCS

stepped up and delivered an excellent performance. The 4pm slot has become really popular and we

intend to stick with it. Comparisons were made by several audience members with Huddersfield Choral; high praise indeed.

Stainer Crucifixion

This concert provided us with an opportunity to support the local community with a moving piece, highly appropriate for Easter. Here, with a unique version for strings and organ, we had the pleasure of two brilliant tenor and bass soloists. Many of the New Milton faithful said how moving the performance was. The ‘away’ fixtures are to support the local community and have cheaper ticket prices to reflect that. Important we keep this going.

Gloria Concert

A raucous celebration of music! Never has Lymington heard a sound quite like that before.

Whilst we only just squeezed in, and things were musically edgy leading up to the concert, you all sung another blinder. With the orchestra included we were close to 150 performers; extraordinary. What pleased me the most is that people were really watching and as a result, the rhythmical dynamism that the pieces demanded, carried over strongly to the audience, despite at times ‘doing battle’ with a 43 strong orchestra! I was very proud of this achievement, well done!

Every LCS Concert in Lymington I have conducted has had over 300 people in the audience; I want to

keep it that way. Such is your standard that we shall be going to Romsey Abbey to sing the Armed Man in March 2026; that will be quite an occasion. You all deserve it. The sky is the limit for LCS…….

Yours Musically,

Phil “

9. **Any Other Business**

Chris Hobby gave a vote of thanks to the Chair on behalf of the choir for all the hard work that is done by

her behind the scenes for the smooth running of the choir.

Pat advised that our Accounts Examiner Nichola Kirby is standing down and is being formally thanked

on behalf of the choir for her dedicated help over many years.

10. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday October 22 2025