

# Dolau Mixtures



## Special Meeting Tuesday 8 January 2013 Minutes

### Members present :

Rob & Barb Shelton, Ruth Jones, Phil Wear, Mike Reynolds, Wendy Thomas, Joyce Hope, Pat Howard, Martin Howard, Jenny Hodge, Keith Hatfield, Anne Berg, Graham George, Rachael Layton, Maureen Foister, Chris Green

		<u>Action</u>
<b>1.00</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	
<b>1.01</b>	Apologies received from Angela Gilbert, Owen Jones, Martha Wooldridge	
<b>2.00</b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	
<b>2.01</b>	Keith Hatfield (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained he had called everyone together to discuss the future of the choir.	
<b>2.02</b>	Keith recalled the history of the choir which was originally started by Marion Rowlet as conductor. When Marion retired Martin took over as conductor and we continued to keep going and had successful concerts.	
<b>2.03</b>	In recent months numbers had dwindled and now we were only the bare bones of a choir. Subscription payments at practices were not covering costs – Rob pointed out that in the current year subscription income was £412 but expenditure on Hall Hire and Accompanist totalled £575	
<b>2.04</b>	Keith said that for him and he thought a number of others the choir had become less enjoyable. Socially it is great but to keep going there needs to be commitment and a need to identify a way forward.	
<b>2.05</b>	Martin had undertaken an excellent job in keeping us together as a choir but he and the rest of the choir are not getting younger and he thought there should be a plan to attract new blood, including a new conductor who might be able to move the choir forward with new and younger members.	
<b>3.00</b>	<b><u>Choir members discussion</u></b>	
<b>3.01</b>	Views from members of the choir raised some criticism and suggestions for improvement as detailed below	
<b>3.02</b>	Some expressed being bored at learning lines but others	

	asked for more detailed learning of lines.	
<b>3.03</b>	There were suggestions for more structured practices with more singing. It was suggested at each practice we start with singing through a few pieces we know before moving onto learning new pieces. We should also finish with a confident sing through without stopping. If there are phrases that need note practice the conductor can mark these for future planning.	
<b>3.04</b>	It was suggested we concentrate on learning no more than three new pieces at a time. When learning something new we should be practising the parts and building up one phrase at a time.	
<b>3.05</b>	Chris suggested we try to sing simpler pieces and concentrate on easier music. Everyone agreed some of the new music suggested by Chris had been enjoyable and successful.	
<b>3.06</b>	Chris pointed out that a fundamental problem with the DMs is very few members were skilled sight readers and some people were also not able to read music at all. Under these circumstances careful teaching techniques are called for.	
<b>3.07</b>	Chris suggested the choir should aim for a summer and a winter concert only and learn three new pieces in each session.	
<b>3.08</b>	It was noted the Altos had been very successful in having separate practice sessions and this model would improve other sections – particularly the Tenors	
<b>3.09</b>	One suggestion was to have sectional rehearsals Either coming half an hour earlier , or putting in sectional rehearsals for half the time or when numbers were predicted to be low– Barb offered Upper Mill if this suggestion is taken further.	
<b>3.10</b>	It was suggested by one member that the conductor should choose all music. Members of the Music Committee disagreed with this suggestion because Chris has valuable input and sectional representatives know their capabilities.	
<b>3.11</b>	It was suggested that we need to ascertain why people have left in the past. The Secretary stated that this had been taken on board and explored but it served no useful purpose because there were several and often personal reasons why people left.	
<b>3.12</b>	It was agreed we need a direction to go towards but cannot undertake concerts at the moment because of numbers. It had, however, been positive and enjoyable to sing for the old person's homes, to take part in larger events such as the	

	Gathering Wave, S4C hymn singing and Bring & Sing events.	
<b>4.00</b>	<b>Way forward</b>	
<b>4.01</b>	Keith asked if members felt there was a future for the choir and whether we had enough support to continue. The majority wanted to continue when put to the vote.	
<b>4.02</b>	In order for us to pay our way it was passed unanimously that the weekly subscription be increased to £3.	
<b>4.03</b>	In order to ensure enough members were available to warrant a practice it was agreed a weekly list is kept on which members will be asked to indicate if they will or will not be attending future scheduled practices. This will not overcome sudden absence due to unforeseen illness etc but should enable a quorum of singers will turn up.	
<b>4.04</b>	There was a consensus that it was now appropriate to start looking for a new conductor to take the choir members through into the next decade and also bring younger choristers into the ranks. A fresh start would do everyone good.	
<b>4.05</b>	We have a wealth of music and Chris suggested we should consider advertising sets to hire out on <a href="http://www.gerontius.net/">http://www.gerontius.net/</a> Music secretary was asked to make up packs of legal music held in order to list and hire out..	
<b>4.06</b>	Since the meeting Pat has realised that it could be possible for us to sing for old people's homes and the hospital again before the end of March when the grant funding is being withdrawn. This will give us a short term aim as well as funds.	