**Minutes of Kaleidoscope 2023 AGM held 15th February 2024 7.45 pm at Thomas Spencer Hall, Whittington, Lichfield**

1. **Apologies**

 Victoria Smith, Louise Troman, Pat Brant and Marilyn Heald

1. **Minutes of 2022 AGM**

It was proposed by Sue Bowring, and seconded by Lynne Walsh, that these be adopted as a true record. This was agreed unanimously by the members present.

1. **M.Ds Report**

I feel thatwords cannot express the heartbreak at losing Helen. It has cast a shadow over the year.

 She was the ‘Mother’ of the choir ; a leader offering guidance, wisdom, and support. We valued her and are coming to realise what a big hole her loss leaves. She would pick up on musical errors and suggest changes. We are all going to miss her so much.

We also lost Chris Dixon. I was sorry she was not able to return to choir after surgery and treatment. She is also a loss to the choir.

On a more positive note we had 3 very good concerts during 2023

The Townswomen’s Guild at the George Hotel was a pleasure to do. It was a polished repertoire and capable performance enjoyed by those present.

The joint concert for ‘Kids Like Us’ with the youth group from Stagecoach was joyous. ‘Seasons of Love’ was a fantastic sound, engaging with the music and the audience.

The Christmas Event at the Guildhall was another success.

Listening to the playback we had a good sound but perhaps need to work on being together. And then there was the ‘Friends and Family Evening’.

We have learnt several new songs.

 ‘Walk on By’ was enjoyable to learn and is very effective.

 ‘Here There and Everywhere’ is an older piece which we have brushed up and ‘Watching the Wheat’ has been learnt.

 ‘ Music Spread thy Voice’ was worked on and polished.

We spent quite some time learning ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’ ready for Christmas performances.

Kaleidoscope are strong. We are a non-audition, non music reading amateur choir. And we are really good. We perform with enthusiasm.

This year I would like to focus on more subtlety, colour and polish, looking at details and improving accuracy.

Please be forthcoming if you are unsure of notes or rhythm.

Please contribute to the learning and don’t be embarrassed even if you have been singing this for a while.

We now have 3 concerts planned, Stonnall, Rotary (date for which has been postponed) and Shenstone Festival.

We are looking at options for Christmas as the Guildhall is not available on suitable dates and it may be something different.

I would like to thank Jo Bull for all her hard work and Sue Bowring for stepping in when needed. The choir thank them and I am happy to present a small thank you gift of flowers. The choir expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

In conclusion it is a privilege to be able to arrange music and then hear it brought to life.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Choir Running Costs

The choir income, which is subscriptions only, was £3216.

Expenditure was £2597.76 made up of;

Hall Hire £1782

Equipment £194.48 (scarves, printer paper, treasurer books)

Music £305.13

Insurance £244.15

Web Hosting £38

Sundries £34 (flowers, wine for photographer)

Balance £618.24.

Donations for ‘Kids Like Us’

£1 Square £70.50

Refreshments £66.48

Concert 1st July £321.96 + £363.94 bucket donations taken by Kirsty

Workshop 16 Sept £41.56

Concert 8 Dec £85.78 + PRS refund

Concert 13 Dec £252 Raffle + £66.53 bucket donations taken by Kirsty

Total for the year so far £838.28 + £430.47 = £1268.75

A big thank you to Josie for all the work she puts in to produce the wonderful raffle prizes

Barclays Banking

The Lichfield branch of Barclays closed during the year although we can pay cash and cheques into a post

office counter. The cheques are sent off separately and do not appear in the account instantly.

The queue is about the same length though!

Fees for 2024

I propose that the fees for 2024 remain at £144 for the calendar year.

Please pay by standing order or bank transfer whenever possible.

Josie Wilson asked if it was easier to pay by standing order or bank transfer. Yvonne said it was but she still needed to bank the cash from the £1 square and refreshment donations.

Yvonne also thanked Catherine Docherty for the refreshment supplies, which she donates. This was appreciated by members present

1. **Nominations for Committee**

Anne Mapley explained that all members of the committee were standing down, but were happy to be re-nominated.

Sandra Derrick proposed that all the committee be re-elected. This was seconded by Kathy Maskell and passed unanimously by those present.

Nominations for additional Committee members and a Chairperson had been received.

Yvonne Ward proposed Cheryl Guest as a Committee Member. This was seconded by Josie Wilson and passed unanimously by those present

Anne Mapley proposed Sandra Derrick as a Committee Member. This was seconded by Lynne Walsh and passed unanimously by those present

Anne Mapley proposed Lynne Walsh as a Chairperson. This was seconded by Catherine Docherty and passed unanimously by those present

Lynne Walsh expressed her sadness at the necessity of having to have a new Chairperson elected. She was sure the Committee would share the load, as it has done over the last few years. Lynne felt that the choir would continue with the spirit of Helen as a friendly and welcoming group. And singing, as that was why we were here.

1. **2024 Fees**

Fees of £144 for 2024 were proposed by Yvonne Ward and seconded by Josie Wilson. This was passed unanimously by the members present.

1. **Nominations for 2022 Charity**

One charity nomination had been received. This was MIND, the charity chosen by the Klich family at Helen’s funeral. This was proposed by Josie Wilson.

Yvonne explained that the most local branch was at Burton-on Trent. She had spoken to the finance officer who was happy to receive a cheque as donation from the choir in memory of Helen. She hoped that a working relationship could be formed although it was unlikely to be as active as Kirsty from ‘Kids Like Us’.

Lynne Walsh questioned whether there was a branch at Stafford which may have more links with the Trust Helen worked for.

Sandra Derrick told the members about a young lady supported and mentored by Helen through the Trust. Lynne Walsh agreed to contact the Klich family and Josie Wilson her contacts at St George’s, Stafford to ascertain if there is the possibility of adopting a suitable mentoring scheme, contribute to Trust facilities etc.

It was agreed by those present that the 2024 Nominated Charity will be re-visited following the next Committee Meeting and the enquiries at the Trust.

1. **A.O.B.**

Rupert Feld thanked the 2023 Committee for the their hard work and emphasized that there had been a lot of stress and hard work over the last few months.

Einir Wyn Baxter thanked Anne Mapley for all her work in the background.

Anne Mapley thanked Rupert Feld for his inspiration leading the choir, all his hard work on the music and some wonderful arrangements. This was appreciated by the choir with a round of applause.

The meeting was closed at 8.22 pm.

**EGM held Wednesday March 13th 2024 at Thomas Spencer Hall, Whittington, Lichfield**

**Apologies**

 Valerie Hughes, Pat Brant and Cheryl Guest

The EGM meeting opened at 8.50 pm

Josie Wilson explained that she had been in touch with St George’s Hospital, Stafford. This is the mental health hospital where Helen Klich worked. She explained that we could raise money for a nominated ward to provide for something the NHS did not provide. The ward could be nominated by ourselves, or we could ask staff.

Rupert Feld then read a letter from the local branch of MIND. This was thanking us for our donation in memory of Helen and commenting on her personal involvement with MIND.

A copy is appended below. Rupert will also scan a copy to be added to the website.

Yvonne Ward explained this contribution from Helen was involving users in providing services.

Several members commented that they didn’t realise the extent of Helen’s personal involvement with MIND in the course of her work. Anne Mapley suggested that perhaps we could split funds raised in 2024 50/50 between support for St George’s and MIND.

Lynne Walsh explained that she had been in touch with Rosie Klich. Rosie was very pleased that we were intending to fund raise to support something in memory of Helen.

Yvonne Ward proposed a 50/50 split to support MIND and St George’s Hospital during 2024.

Anne Mapley seconded the proposal.

The membership present agreed unanimously to the proposal and therefore the two charities were duly adopted to be supported during 2024.

Marilyn Heald suggested that it might be appropriate to support something annually in Helen’s name in addition to the 2024 adopted charities, perhaps at Fradley primary school.

Lynne Walsh agreed and thought books about mental health suitable for primary children might be an option. Anne Mapley will add this to the next Committee Meeting agenda for further investigation.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

