



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Churchdown at 10.15am on Saturday 1 June 2019

Present: Martin Bussey (Chairman), Paul Ives (Vice Chairman), Adrian Williams (Treasurer), Eric Hazelwood (Secretary), and Committee Member Geoffrey Allan Taylor.

Patrick and Kate Aydon, Anthony and Anne Boden, Christopher Boodle, Anthony and Kathleen Bradley, Kevin and Valerie Browning, David and Marjory Cashmore, Rita Cross, Nigel and Julie Evans, Richard Hall, Astrid Hazelwood, Pat Ives, Valerie Kirby-Ashmore, Martin and Diana Lee-Browne, Barry Lingard, Tim Marshall, Jennie McGregor-Smith, Robert Moreland, Jim Page, Roy and Gillian Payne, Anthony Pinching, Kevin Richardson, John and Susan Risdon, John Sasportas, Richard Smith, Philip Statham, Diana Stevenson, Sue Thackeray, Nick and Dianne Turner, Ian Venables, Norma Williams, Edward and Wendy Wiseman,

1. Apologies

Clare McCaldine (Committee Member), Marrienne Atkinson, Sharron Bassett, Colin Brookes, William March, John Maskell, Paul Spicer, Lawrence and Mary Whittaker,

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM – 14 July 2018

Copies of the previous minutes were circulated and were accepted as a true record by all present.

3. Matters Arising

There were no issues from the previous minutes that needed clarification or resolution.

Martin thanked Rev. John and Sue Risdon for all their help on each of our two occasions at Churchdown and Chose Hill and especially for the work behind the scenes. In addition, to Pat and Astrid for their work in the kitchen at this and other events.

Eric asked that as Members signed the attendance register that morning they were invited to provide their email address if they were happy for us to use it in future correspondence. This would allow the Committee to disseminate information more quickly.

4. Chairman's Report

“Welcome to our AGM here at Churchdown. It's a great pleasure to be here once again at a venue which suits our style of day so well, including the chance, shortly to go ‘up the hill’ to St Bartholomew's. I would wish to express particular thanks at this point to *Finzi Friends* members John and Sue Risdon who are a key point of contact in coming here and have supported today in many and varied ways.

I welcome, in advance, our guests today: Professor Jeremy Dibble; and Gareth Brynmor John and Gavin Roberts.

And I would wish to note the stepping down from the Committee of Jim Page and Jennie McGregor-Smith in September 2018 with immense gratitude for everything they have done for *Finzi Friends*, and continue to do.

This is our main event in 2019, but by no means all that is happening currently for *Finzi Friends*. Indeed this is not the only event today, for this is the day when our website is relaunched, as promised last year. I am excited with the complete change that has taken place in our online presence. As well as a new look, though with the well-known *Finzi Friends* logo intact, the website enables us to do many new things:

- Offer online membership, as trailed at last year's AGM
- Offer a dedicated members' area, including a forum for idea, news and comments about Finzi and the work of *Finzi Friends*
- Offer online CD sales
- Provide the newsletters electronically and, in a shorter format at times, more regularly
- Provide an archive of newsletters and journals
- Provide, hopefully, an interesting introduction to Finzi and his music which will prompt newcomers to wish to learn more and sign up to be a member of *Finzi Friends*

I am grateful to all the Committee, who have contributed in various ways to the content, but our special thanks must go to Clare McCaldin who has piloted this project through with our very efficient web designer. Clare has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to the new website – I'm sorry that rehearsals prevent her from being here today to receive our thanks in person. She will continue to develop the website, with contributions from the Committee and, critically, ensure that we keep it up to date.

At last year's AGM I highlighted that the number of *Finzi Friends* members is declining. With some rationalisation of our records we now have a clearer picture and it is still very encouraging that we sit comfortable over the 200 mark for members. As I said we would, we have continued to consider how best to move forward in retaining interest in Finzi and support for *Finzi Friends*. As I mentioned last year, interest groups increasingly exist through Face Book and other social media, or via website interest. The new website launched today enables us to go out to attract new membership amongst younger music enthusiasts and indeed professionals who are attracted to Finzi and his music. We now have 550 followers on Twitter and can use this base to encourage enthusiasts to visit the new website and, as agreed last year, sign up to be online members. Over time, this should enable us to maintain a healthy number of attendees for our events, where, of course, online members will pay to attend like everyone else. They will receive the newsletters electronically but receipt of the most recent Journal on publication will remain the right only of subscribing members. As suggested at last year's AGM, when online members join they will be invited to make a financial contribution to the running of *Finzi Friends*.

This scheme won't blossom overnight. Two things are important:

- The first is for us all to encourage people we know to visit the site and, with a few clicks, join as an online member. Then we can communicate with them directly and develop their interest in the group.
- The second is to target new online members directly, and here we come to the additional events this year.

In late September/early October we will hold informal events in London and Manchester aimed at attracting interest from University and Conservatoire students. These will be relatively low cost events because I shall be calling in favours from a number of students and ex-students to perform some Finzi, be enthused by a few words from me and, more important, hopefully the enthusiasm of some current members who will join the audience. Then, in all likelihood we shall head for the

nearest pub, rather than tea and cakes! These two events will simply say that we exist and promote both interest in Finzi and interest in British music, including current composers. And will make younger musicians aware of our website and online membership.

But we also want to extend the range of our events and to this end, on October 13, we have our Members' Event at Tardebigge where the performers will be *Finzi Friends* members, in some case playing their own compositions. This is very important for the Committee: to join together as both performers and audience in a social setting, without formality. So please think about joining us that afternoon as a performer or as audience.

Once the website is firmly established in terms of the inter-activity it offers and the opportunity to communicate with members more directly we shall work to extend awareness to the US, Australia and New Zealand and elsewhere, as Diana McVeagh suggested last year. But we are already a point of contact! Only this week, on Ascension Day, a Roman Catholic Church in New Orleans performed 'God is gone up' and thanks to the Stanford Society, *Finzi Friends* was tagged in their tweet about the event. We are not alone!

I will review other areas of our work briefly as we all want to get up the hill on time.

The 2018 Journal again included several new contributors and I am enthusiastic about the range of topics they offered to cover in an interesting and diverse publication. I'm again grateful to Jennie McGregor-Smith for continuing to set the Journal and to Jim Page for help with posting out even though they no longer sit on the Committee.

Many members again attended the Ludlow Song Weekend and enjoyed a very varied programme devised by our President, Iain Burnside. Our funding towards the event continues, this year with a substantial grant which funded the commission from Alex Woolf, firmly in line with our aims.

You will see that the CD stall lives on: now you can see what we have in stock on the new website and send me orders for CDs directly via an email link. To celebrate this I have slashed prices of existing stock, so please go and take advantage of some real bargains. One of my other aims is to add to the stock regularly with the latest releases of British 20th century music, so there are on the stall today some very recent CDs including Bax piano music, the songs of Cheryl Frances-Hoad and the recording of Stanford's *Mass Via Vitrix*, hot off the presses. And there are 4 copies of *By Footpath and Stile* sung by Marcus Farnsworth and previously only available as a download. This isn't released until Monday and we're cheaper than online so I'm hoping all four will go! This is a good point at which to thank all the Committee members, especially the other officers, Eric and Adrian for their unstinting work"

Eric also thanked Martin for his commitment to the Finzi Friends and for proactively developing the Society in breaking new ground and proposing new ideas which keeps us vibrant and attractive.

5. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2019 were circulated and our Treasurer Adrian Williams gave the following report.

"The Treasurer began by highlighting a significant feature of this year's Statement of Accounts: in contrast with last year's statement that showed a surplus, it recorded a deficit, of £5,897.59. This outcome was a natural consequence of the Friends' policy of giving financial support by way of grants to deserving projects. The deficit need not be seen as a cause of concern; rather, it was the

outcome of a conscious decision by the Committee to reduce our reserves in pursuit of the Friends' charitable objectives.

On points of detail:

The Gift Aid tax refund of £1,734.40 recorded for the year ending 31 March 2018 covered two years, whereas the latest refund of £757.04 covered just one year.

Since September 2018, the Committee had met in London instead of in the home of a Committee member – leading to the appearance, for the first time, of an amount for Committee expenses to cover room hire and travel.

The current project to redesign the Friends' website was the reason behind the substantial increase in expenditure on this aspect of the Friends' operations.

In summary, the Accounts showed that the Friends' financial health continued to be strong.”

6. Election of Officers and Committee

No new nominations had been received and consequently it was suggested that existing Committee Members were re-elected in a block vote. This was indeed Proposed by Tim Marshall and Seconded by David Cashmore. It was also accepted by all present.

The Committee, therefore, consists of the following members with offices as indicated:

Martin Bussey (Chairman)	Clare McCaldin (Committee Member)
Paul Ives (Vice-chairman)	Geoffrey Allan Taylor (Committee Member)
Adrian Williams (Treasurer)	
Eric Hazelwood (Secretary and Newsletter Editor)	

After the meeting Rev. John Risdon expressed his willingness to be considered as a Committee Member when an element of his current career duties come to an end within a few months. The Committee will explain what is involved before either party takes this forward.

7. Any Other Business

a) Three Choirs Lunch

Mr Robert Moreland asked if we would ever reinstate the Three Choirs *Finzi Friends* lunch. Martin pointed out that it used to be coupled with a Finzi performance at the Festival but he hasn't been featured of late. In addition, the venues and catering at the Festival were becoming enormously cost prohibitive and there was a gradual lack of support from Members.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.

Attachments:-

Summary Reports and Accounts for year ending March 2019.

Finzi Friends

Charity No. 1089033

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

	2018	2019
INCOME	£	£
Subscriptions	4,934.47	4,539.62
Donations	692.00	554.63
Event income	1,382.00	1,710.00
Gift Aid – tax refund	1,734.40	757.04
Bank interest	55.73	85.96
Sales	1,625.40	764.50
TOTAL INCOME:	10,424.00	8,411.75
EXPENDITURE		
Committee expenses	-	218.10
Newsletter and Journal	2,783.26	2,841.78
Event expenditure	1,819.48	2,702.00
Purchase for sales stock	1,180.38	450.50
Insurance and Performing Rights fee	193.56	245.12
Grants and disbursements	2,902.00	6,703.00
Website maintenance and development	120.00	1,020.00
Postage, printing, stationery and miscellaneous	563.46	128.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	9,562.14	14,309.34
Surplus/(deficit) of income cf. expenditure:	861.86	(5,897.59)
	10,424.00	8,411.75

Balance sheet at 31 March 2019

Assets		Represented by	
	£		£
Lloyds Bank current account	5,811.17	Operating reserve	10,000.00
Paypal	249.53	Reserve for sponsorships	4,500.00
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	15,295.93	General reserve	6,856.63
TOTAL:	21,356.63		21,356.63

Cash flow: 1 April – 31 March

	2018	2019
	£	£
Accumulated Fund at 1 April	26,392.36	27,254.22
Surplus or (deficit) across the year	861.86	(5,897.59)
Accumulated Fund at 31 March	27,254.22	21,356.63

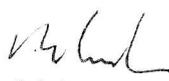
Adrian Williams, Treasurer



Date:

1 May 2019

Ronald P.J. Sonneborn, Honorary Examiner



Date:

19 May 2019

I have examined the above Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet, and confirm that they are in accordance with the books and information supplied and the information given to me.