



## FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

### NEWSHEET 11

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The following is information from the Executive Committee Meeting held at the Church of St Nicholas, Warwick on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held at Blackburn on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May and further details will be sent out in March. Under the constitution, the closing date this year for nominations for the executive committee of the Federation will be **Saturday 15th March**. The current officers are as follows;

Chairman	Ian Henderson (Rochester)
*Vice Chairman	Geoffrey Mitchell (Exeter)
Secretary	Richard Belton (Leicester)
Treasurer	Michael Lake (Chelmsford)
*Marketing Officer	Andrew Orland (Lincoln)
Publications Officer	Michael Barry (Guildford)
Association Representatives	The North and Northern Ireland – Alastair Pollard (Durham) Midshires and Wales – (vacant) *The South East, Scotland and Overseas - Malcolm Bury (St Albans) *The South West – Malcolm Green (Winchester)

All officers of the committee, including the Chairman, are elected annually. \* denotes those officers who are not seeking re-election this year. The Associations' Representative for the Midshires and Wales region has been vacant for 12 months. We shall be pleased to receive nominations from affiliated associations before 15<sup>th</sup> March.

There has already been a motion put forward by the Lincoln Association which has been seconded by the Exeter Association that *"The Chairman of the Federation must have served as a Child Chorister in the choir of one of the Federations' Affiliated Associations"*. The Lincoln Association feels that as the Federation expands and its membership becomes more diverse, it should not lose sight that it is a Federation of Old Choristers' Associations and that it is therefore really important that the person wearing the Chairman's Chain of Office should actually have served as a Chorister in their youth. Time must therefore be given at the meeting for this motion to be discussed before a vote is taken.

If your association has not been represented recently at an AGM, or your federation representative is unable to attend this year, please try to encourage one of your members to represent you. Perhaps you have a member who lives in the area? If your association is unable to be represented, you may elect someone from another association to cast a proxy vote. The person casting a proxy vote must have a written nomination from the Association he or she is representing.

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAIN OF OFFICE**

There are 37 association badges on the Chairman's Chain of Office which are all about the size of a 50p piece. These have been identified as belonging to the following associations:

Blackburn, Bristol, Cambridge St. John's, Canterbury, Carlisle, Chester, Chichester, Dublin St Patrick's, Durham, Edinburgh, Ely, Eton College, Exeter, Gloucester, Guildford, Leicester, Lichfield, Lincoln, \*Liverpool, \*Llandaff, \*Manchester, Norwich, Oxford Christ Church, Peterborough, Ripon, Rochester, Salisbury, Sheffield, Southwark, Southwell Minster, St Albans, St Pauls, Wakefield, Westminster Abbey, Winchester Cathedral, Worcester & York.

(\* not currently affiliated to the Federation)

If your association has had regular changes of officers over the years, you may not realise that these badges are in existence and I can email a picture to anyone who would like to see one. Alternatively, those associations whose badges are not represented can contact Michael Lake, our treasurer, if they would like further information. The chain is covered on the Federation's Regalia Insurance Policy at no cost to associations and if any association has its own regalia which is not currently covered under this policy, you may like to obtain a competitive quote from Michael.

## **FINANCE**

Michael Lake submitted his usual report showing a bank balance of £7,644. Michael will be contacting those associations who are not up to date with their subscriptions and whose membership of the Federation has now technically lapsed. Early indications are that the magazine will show a profit of about £550 for 2013.

The main costs of the federation were insurance, computer & website and meeting costs. It was queried why the federation needed Trustee Indemnity Insurance and Michael will be checking with the brokers regarding this.

Ian Henderson was delighted to report that the Federation has received a cheque for £500 from the St Albans Association in respect of the 2013 festival and Malcolm Bury was personally thanked for this generous donation.

## **MERCHANDISE**

The current Federation shop stock currently has a retail price of £2,500 as against the cost price of £1,750. The committee will be looking to concentrate on only a few core items after the Rochester festival and so there is currently a sale of a lot of stock items as advertised on the "merchandise" page of the Federation website. When a new Marketing Officer is appointed, the opportunity will then be taken to revise the title and job description.

## **ONCE A CHORISTER MAGAZINE 2014**

Michael Barry was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report to say that the magazine was coming on nicely with a bevy of new and interesting free-standing articles. Despite his current disability, he was still hoping to get to the printers on 28<sup>th</sup> February when the bulk of the magazine should be completed. If you haven't placed your order for the magazine yet, please let Michael know your requirements at [editor.oac@gmail.com](mailto:editor.oac@gmail.com) so that he has some idea how many copies to have printed this year.

## **TOUR OF EAST ANGLIA**

Advance notice that the next tour will be to East Anglia in September 2015. Full details will be advertised as soon as the necessary arrangements have been finalised.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full meeting was arranged for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

## **STRATEGY REVIEW**

Only three members representing two associations had sent in feedback relating to this topic as mentioned in Newsheet 10 which had not produced any new ideas.

In response to the question "What are the benefits of being affiliated to the Federation?" A list of these has now been drawn up as follows:

1. Membership/discount cards at a nominal amount (free for choir leavers)
2. Direct contact is available with a Regional Representative
3. Regular newsheets after each executive committee meeting and AGM
4. Opportunity to host and attend an AGM or Festival where new friends are met and old friendships renewed
5. Access to a grant of up to £100 towards the cost of setting up an association or promoting membership of a dormant one
6. Access to "round robin" requests for information from other associations
7. Receive invitations to support organised Federation tours
8. Federation website provides:
  - a.) a list of all associations and their current contact details
  - b.) a list of the support given to choristers and choirs
  - c.) association newsletters and any forthcoming events
  - d.) detailed FCOCA information e.g. documents, merchandise, events, officers, etc.
9. Once A Chorister Magazine provides:
  - a.) an annual list of all associations and their contact details
  - b.) annual association reports, articles, photographs, next reunion, etc.
  - c.) annual reports about the current choir from the Director of Music
10. Group Insurance given:
  - a.) free for third party Association arranged events (UK only)
  - b.) at competitive rates for Association Regalia
  - c.) free for Associations' badges on the Federation Chairman's chain of office

## **"WHAT IS THE FCOCA?" LEAFLET**

This updated leaflet is now available to give out to your new members and can be obtained from Michael Lake, our treasurer and viewed on the "documents" page of the Federation website..A copy is also sent out by David Horner with each membership card ordered together with a list of Cathedrals and companies which offer free admission or discounts. The list is still in its infancy, so if you are able to help us expand the list, please let me know.

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10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**[www.onceachorister.org](http://www.onceachorister.org)**