

FCOCA Secretary's report for AGM (via Zoom) 12th September 2020

The 2020 AGM was due to be held in Rochester in May but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. It was rescheduled to take place as a video conference in September. Hence this AGM today.

Since the 2019 AGM in Lichfield, the Executive committee met in Leamington Spa on 19th October 2019. We intended to meet in person in Leamington Spa on 21st March 2020, but this had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, but we managed to meet via Zoom video conferencing software on 9th May and 4th July 2020. These meetings proved very successful, so we are likely to use Zoom again. Members associations are encouraged to consider using this technology (or equivalent such as Skype, Teams, Google Meet) for their own meetings to save on travel time and costs. A Newsletter was published in August this year.

We had a highly successful festival at Portsmouth Cathedral. You can read all about it in last year's Once a Chorister Magazine on our website. Next year we hope to meet At Ely Cathedral on 15th to 17th October 2021 for a combined AGM and Festival.

The 2020 Festival was due to be held in Chester in September but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. It was decided not to reschedule for 2020 due to the uncertainty about travel restrictions and the anticipated reluctance of many to travel.

I shall be standing down now as Secretary, but may be asked to assist my successor my husband Alastair!

Nicola Pollard (Honorary Secretary)

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56 membership cards were issued in 2019. 41 new (plus 1 re-issue) were issued so far in 2020.

He noted that "*... there still appears to be the appetite for members to have the FCOCA membership card which I believe should be encouraged.*" The Hampton Court Association is now up and running (80 members) and we await a formal membership application. A small number of non-cathedral former chorister association have expressed an interest in joining The Federation in the medium future.

On Twitter we are currently following all cathedrals and many churches (154 in total). We are being followed by 133, and have tweeted 150 times.

Richard Lilley (Membership secretary)