



NEWS



The Executive Committee met virtually using Zoom on 11th September 2021 and 19th March 2022. The AGM was held on 16th October 2021. We next plan to meet on Saturday 9th July 2022.

Money, Money, Money

Money makes the world go round; so says the musical Cabaret. Unfortunately, the Federation is running out of money and each year we run at a deficit. The Executive committee is considering options to make membership more relevant, increase revenue, cut costs, and increasing the subscription. Let us know what you think.

Working together

The Federation hopes to have a close working relationship with Cathedral Music Trust (formerly Friends of Cathedral Music), but we do not appear to fit into their future strategy as closely as we envisaged. The Federation will continue to support Cathedral Music Trust, and encourage former choristers to join them as individual members. We shall work together when we can.

Development matters

Arnold Wills and Ollie Hamilton-Box continue to look at the development of The Federation. They are currently looking at improving our communication methods (e.g. how we maintain and email our members) and finances (e.g. how we record money matters, keep an eye on subscriptions and improve reporting). This may include investing in new software such as a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system.

Nick Hodges, chairman, is working with a graphic artist to improve our branding, make communication more consistent, and improve our image making it more relevant.

Would you like to manage our website and social media output? Please get in touch.

2021 AGM – 16th October

The AGM took place via Zoom on Saturday 16th October. We had 15 attendees, but would love to have more participation.

Carl Jackson (Director of Music @ Hampton Court) was approved unanimously to be a Vice President of The Federation. Carl was said to be delighted.

There were no changes to the Executive Committee, but we are very keen to introduce new people to join us on the committee to help drive The Federation forward and keep it relevant to existing members and attractive to new members, especially former girl and lady choristers and younger former choristers.

All reports are included in Once a Chorister 2021 magazine or can be read on our website www.fcoca.org.uk The Federation Constitution was simplified and brought up to date.

2022 Festival 9th – 11th September (Ely)

The next Federation Festival will be held in September this year in Ely. The programme for the festival is on page 14 of the latest edition of Once A Chorister. It will be published on the Federation website and updated shortly with details of accommodation in and around Ely. For information please contact John Marshall on 01353 664927 or jandmarshall68@yahoo.co.uk

The Executive Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ely former choristers for their efforts, patience, and determination in these difficult times.

The Dean of Ely Cathedral and President of the Society of Ely Choristers Mark Bonney, Edmund Aldhouse Director of the Music, and the Ely Cathedral Choristers' Society invite you to the FCOCA Festival in Ely in 2022, and are looking forward to meeting you in the City of Ely.

Attendees will typically arrive on the afternoon of Friday 9th September. Tea will be held at 4pm followed by Evensong at 5:30 and a Civic Reception at 6:30. Round off the evening with Compline in The Lady Chapel.

Saturday starts with Early Communion for the early risers at 8:00. Optional tours and an organ recital in the morning. Ely will hold its own Reunion Lunch and Ely AGM for former Ely choristers. The Federation 2022 AGM will be held in the afternoon followed by Evensong at 5:30 Former chorister are invited to join in some of the Festival Evensong with a rehearsal at 4:30 The Festival Banquet will be held in the Monastic Barn Kings Ely at 7pm with Christopher Robinson CVO CBE as guest speaker.

On Sunday, all attendees are invited to attend Early Communion (8:15), Festal Choral Eucharist (10:30), Farewell Reception (12:15) and lunch in the Almonry at (1pm).

The 2023 Festival is planned to be held in Warwick and will form part of St Mary's and the choir's 900th anniversary.

What do members want from the federation?

Nick Hodges, our Chairman, has continued his pledge to speak to all current (about 50) member associations, to gain an understanding of the challenges facing our members and to discuss what the Federation could be doing to help. After more very constructive meetings, comments include the challenges of encouraging others to get involved, getting younger members and former girl choristers involved (who often don't like formality and like things to be more family orientated), and share information at national level and cross organisation. More meetings are already in the diary. Feedback has already led to proposals to update our branding and documentation, changes to our website and social media presence, as well as inform us on how we should project ourselves to the outside world.

Once A Chorister magazine

The 2021 edition of Once a Chorister magazine was published to our website in November last year. If you have not already done so, please do go to the website where you will find the link on the Home page.

Insurance - reminder

Last year it was agreed at the AGM that The Federation will cease to offer insurance for Association regalia to its members and ask Associations to make their own arrangements for insuring their regalia (if they have any) from June 2022.

The executive committee has been reviewing all our Insurance costs, as they made up the biggest annual expenditure and are unsustainable. We are currently investigating exactly what insurance we need (including Indemnity, Federation regalia and Public Liability) and what we can afford. We are also looking at finding a secure location for the Federation Chair's chain of office.

Coventry Cathedral Diamond Jubilee 21st 22nd May 2022

On May 21/22 2022, there will be a weekend reunion for all those who have sung in Coventry Cathedral Choir, and indeed any others who have sung in the Cathedral and feel that they would like to be part of the event. There will be a Choral Evensong dedicated to former Choristers, in which they will be invited to fully participate, if they wish ... and if you do it might be a good idea to re-visit Stanford's evening service in Bb!!! There will also be a formal dinner, but I understand that this is already sold out.

New music society at Norwich Cathedral

Norwich Cathedral recently launched The Statham Society. Following the success of the Cathedral Music appeal over the last 4 years, Friends who are especially interested in supporting the music of the Cathedral, are invited to become members of this new 'giving circle'. The guild is most delighted that the Society has been given the name of our much-loved former Director of Music; Heathcote Statham, and Prince Edward has agreed to be its Patron. The new society was launched by the Dean after Evensong on Sunday 27th February. More information can be found by emailing stathamsociety@cathedral.org.uk