

BVB minutes steerers meeting 15.01.25

1.No apologies. Present: Fritjof (chair), Liz, Lyn, Heather M, Chris M, Pauline, Heather J

Action points in bold

2. Matters arising

2.1 Pauline sent baby present (John Lewis voucher) + card to Alison about a week ago

2.2 Chris Chaloner's photos of Redcatch are very good, especially 3 of Briggy interacting with audience. We need to decide what we want to use the photos for (eg archive, publicity) and then who will look at them and select. It could be someone who is not on the steerers

2.3 Liz has not heard back from Bristol Folk Festival – wrote yesterday to chase them up.

2.4 carried over to next meeting

2.5 Possible options: 1. no social, 2. picnic + play in a garden or park (bandstands at Clevedon Mangotsfield), 3. boat trip perhaps with small instruments.

Fritjof to gauge interest at the Feb rehearsal.

2.6 (and 9) John M will take photos at the Jan rehearsal.

Fritjof to email reminder to everyone to turn up in band attire.

2.7 Chris Chaloner spent a whole rehearsal looking at our tech and mending it. He explained it to Chris Newman and set it up at Alveston. Liz has written to thank him. HJ will add this to the minutes of the Dec steerers meeting.

3.Treasurer's report

3.1 bank account contains £2375. Ruth will pay Alison for the Jan rehearsal and 2 x £50 for work on rehearsals during maternity leave. Alison will have to send invoices to Chris M thereafter.

3.2 Ruth has renewed and paid for BVB Membership of EDFSS. Chris M is now the email contact.

Next annual payment due Dec 2025

3.3 EFDSS certificate of Public Liability Insurance up to 31st March 25 was attached to Ruth's email of 20th Dec 24. New certificate to cover April – December 2025 will be sent to Chris M. If gig organisers need to see it, we must show proof of EFDSS membership as well

3.4 Lloyds bank have confirmed by text that the changes to the business account access requests have been completed. There are 2 card readers. Chris M has one but has not gone into the account as he hasn't had the password yet (**he will check his texts / contact the bank to get it**). Fritjof has received a temporary password by text but not the 2nd card reader. **He will check whether Ruth has sent it and if lost in the post will take action**. **Someone (Fritjof or Chris M?) needs to take Ruth off being a signatory after January 31st.**

3.5 Lyn has joined BVB as a member of Pill memorial Hall for 2025. Cheap venue £15 per hour for members.

4. Questionnaire for band members

HJ will send the questionnaire to band members after the January rehearsal with a request to return it to her. **She will collate the responses.** It will go in word format and can be returned electronically or as a paper response. Add a question asking how people want to receive communications. (Fritjof mentioned that everyone has an email address, and access to a printer for printing off music)

5. Steerers roles etc – to be discussed face to face at the Feb meeting

6. cover for Lyn etc – carried over to next meeting. Liz thought it would be useful if there was a **holiday spreadsheet / calendar so that we can all put our vacations down..... Fritjof??**

7 + 8 also carried over

10 Redcatch gig. It was very good and the band enjoyed it. There was a big enthusiastic audience who had to be moved forwards to get everyone in safely. The band learnt the importance of a positive audience. The organiser has written to thank us.

However, there were 2 major problems. 1. The advertisements for the day did not mention BVB at all, including the one in the Bristol magazine. 2. It was not well organised. For example, despite a visit that Lyn and Liz made to Redcatch the Monday before, Briggy's entry door was locked, there was no microphone, no collection bucket. Also, the choir leader, having suggested a joint song, was unable to respond in time (for which he apologised) to Liz' attempts to organise it. These things all led to the gig being a greater headache than necessary for Liz and Lyn to sort out before and on the day.

11. Date of next meeting: in person at Liz' Tuesday 4th Feb 10.30 am

12. AOB

12.1 steerers supported the proposal for 8 people having a workshop with Mick Mangan on band / audience interaction

12.2 At the Redcatch gig, there was a difficulty with one member which was really awkward and unsettling. An apology was received and the member concerned will receive a co-ordinated response from the steerers to prevent a recurrence. The response will include a reminder that the person leading the gig must make the decisions and that the constitution 3c says 'Membership is conditional on members behaving at all times in a respectful and collegiate way.'

12.3 frequency and nature of gigs carried over to next meeting

12.4 Mick Mangan – improving reading and audience interaction. Liz reported that Mick is a university teacher of drama and amateur theatre director (a friend of Roland's). He saw BVB perform at Redcatch and thought he could help with improving reading / interacting within the band and with the audience. He could give a half day session with 8 volunteers + Briggy who like the non-musical performing. Cost £120, £60 to be paid out of band funds, and £10 each participant. Where and when tba, but hopefully in time for spring / summer performances. **Approval given for Liz to proceed with making the arrangements.**