

## **TFA Committee meeting**

Zoom: 22nd October 2022, 10:30 - 12:00

Present: Stewart Hardy, Ali Say, Kathryn Kay, Hugh Firth, John Beesley, Clive Griffiths  
Apologies: Al Winsor

This is a brief summary of the main points arising from the recent committee meeting.

### **Finances**

Currently we are running at a loss but we have a good reserve and so this is not of immediate concern, especially considering the difficulties of the pandemic. Numbers attending have steadily increased in recent months and this is ongoing.

A more serious concern, given the current financial climate, is that the charge for hiring St Mary's may rise significantly in the future but there is no indication this will happen imminently.

TFA has benefited, and continues to benefit, from generous donations from friends and members.

### **Performances**

The recent performance at King's Hall with Northumbrian Pipers' Society was a great success musically and made a small profit after covering all costs. Over 60 bought tickets to attend and a similar number paid to watch on Zoom.

Our next performance will be a short Christmas concert at St Mary's on 15th December. Some sets as for NPS plus special 'Folksy' carols being worked on by Stewart.

There are indoor concerts at the Morpeth and Rothbury gatherings and Stewart will 'make it known we are available' to the organisers. Playing outdoors is a less attractive proposition (sound quality difficult to manage, risk of wet weather affecting instruments).

The Northumbrian Ranters have invited us to join again in a spring concert. Dates are being explored.

### **General**

Ways of structuring rehearsals were considered. The current system seems to be working well but feedback from members would be welcome on issues such as: should we return to separate 'cabinet' rehearsals; how do newcomers find the level of difficulty; if newcomers do not stay long, why not? Foundation parts for more recent sets are being made 'more interesting'. How are members, especially newcomers (for whom they were originally intended) finding them? Kathryn and Hugh in particular will seek feedback.

Ways of attracting new members were discussed, including performances, music teachers, website. We have a limited presence on Facebook. Should this be expanded? There are pros and cons!