

## Ilminster Ukulele Club Working Group

### Minutes of Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Present:** Polly, Ian, John, David W, Tony, Elaine **Apologies;** Marck **Chair:** John

- 1 Minutes of last meeting agreed.
- 2 **Concerts:**
  - a. **Wedding** 1<sup>st</sup> July. Those playing felt it went well and were glad to be able to support Cheryl on this special occasion.
  - b. **Parkinson's** gig 18<sup>th</sup> July. The playlist was well received and enjoyed by both players and audience. The group enjoyed the BBQ and the chance to socialise.
  - c. **NEW REQUEST:** We went down so well we were offered a gig at Westlands in Sept 2024, playing for the Retired Staff Members AGM!
  - d. **Vaugh Lee care home:** Date fixed 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. This is a Wednesday so will replace usual session. Number may need to be limited to approx 12 due to space. To be mentioned at group tomorrow, Elaine will send out poll.
  - e. **The Maltings.** Chard 9<sup>th</sup> August. Daryl is IUC contact for this event. Set list practice over next two sessions.
  - f. **Horton Cross care home.** Ilminster. Sheila is IUC contact. To be asked for an update at next session.
  - g. **Forget Me Not Café:** Curry Rival 26<sup>th</sup> September. Sheila is IUC contact
  - h. **Warehouse Theatre** Ilminster 18<sup>th</sup> November. Ian is IUC contact. Discussed as next item.
  - i. **Christmas lights** Ilminster 24<sup>th</sup> November. Start time 6- 6.30pm. Ian has been in touch and will next speak to Samantha Miller (manager) to firm up arrangements.
  - j. **NEW REQUEST:** Coombe St Nicolas church fund raiser. We went down so well we are being invited back for another event! This will be considered but not until next year as otherwise it would be too close to the last one.
- 3 **Warehouse gig.**
  - a. Poll has taken place, 17 want to do the concert and 13 people have voted to be involved in developing new songs.
  - b. Polly will set up a simple 'songs to rest' voting survey and distribute at next session.
  - c. Ian has approached Merchant Men and waiting to hear back. There is also a female acapella group to be approached if M Men can't make the event.
  - d. Specific Warehouse planning group meeting fixed for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 7pm (Braeside) Elaine to contact those interested to invite. Elaine will dig out the planning documents from last year as a starting point.
- 4 **Leading & Planning rehearsals.**
  - a. Monthly rota set up to cover sessions. The rota should be communicated to the group at the start of each month when the rota is agreed. If leaders can let members know in advance what songs they will be playing, that would be helpful. Those present felt the system was working quite well.
  - b. Ian brought an example of how songs were organised in his previous club, using a numbering system. It looks great in theory, but we are unconvinced it would help our members organise their music more effectively! However, it is worth putting to the group for feedback.
  - c. Updated Songs on the members section of the website is being done by Polly at the moment, after any amendments. Discussed tech issues using PDF rather than Word documents when needing to update a song. To be taken forward once we have agreed a new host for the website.

- 5 **Website** Waiting update from Zoe/Marck re best way forward.
- 6 **Performance equipment** To be discussed at Warehouse planning meeting next week – hopefully to agree a specification that meets our needs. Ian has shared a couple of options that look promising. Costs under £500 and Ian is confident he can access funds to cover this sort of cost.
- 7 **Intros and Outros** If possible we need to involve a few more people in starting songs so that the task is shared across the group. Marck has been teaching some of his intros to others. To be raised with group again to encourage new offers.
- 8 **Group communications:** We recognise that it's still hard to find relevant information due to volume of messages etc. Members can delete messages for themselves if they want to, but admins cannot do it on their behalf. Polly and Elaine have looked at using the 'disappearing messages' function. Agreed to set up a mock group to trial it and see if it could be a solution. Or we could have another group (!! especially for polls.
- 9 **New Members**
- a. It would be helpful to have information available for new members about the various WhatsApp groups and their purposes. Ian sends welcome email to new members – agreed to include more info in this email. Ian to send the email to management group to consider what else could go in it. Polly with draft something about the WhatsApp groups.
  - b. New members who can already play can join the group straight away. New players who can't play and who don't have their own ukulele need to be given a suitable date to start to give them a good first experience. Request should be made to a leader or management group member to arrange so we can earmark someone to show them the basics at 6.30pm and provide a ukulele. Newbies should be asked to print off a song book if possible. Suggestion that we could have a couple of copies of the songbook available to use on Wednesdays that are not lent out. Need to have a rough time limit of how long a newbie can borrow a club ukulele before they are expected to bring their own, so we can ensure we have spare instruments for other new players.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 7pm, Braeside.**