



Compiled and edited by Simon Rawlings FRMS committee member

Congratulations to our President!



Julian Lloyd Webber OBE

We would like to offer our congratulations to Julian on being appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 for services to music.

Visit Julian's official website at:
www.julianlloydwebber.com/

From the Chairman's desk

Hearing *Forest Murmurs* from Wagner's *Siegfried* on the radio recently set me wondering how many composers have been inspired by woodlands in various ways. Pieces such as *Forest Scenes* (Schumann), *November Woods* (Bax) or *From Bohemia's Woods and Fields* (Smetana) may come to mind or, in a lighter vein, *A Walk in the Black Forest* – of which I still have Horst Jankowski's original 45 rpm Mercury single from 1965 tucked away somewhere!

The idea of walking through the woods, though, has something of a parallel with our present situation. As life begins to return to something like normality after lockdown it's a bit like coming to the end of a forest walk; the trees are beginning to thin out and we can see a bit more daylight, but we're not out of the wood yet and some have fallen by the wayside. Nevertheless, although some societies have, regrettably, had to close, others are now beginning to meet again, albeit with precautions, and the FRMS Committee has produced some fresh guidance – which can be found in this Newsletter – on what measures may be necessary in order to meet safely.

So, as we begin to pick up the pieces may I, on behalf of the Committee, send best wishes to all societies.

Allan Child FRMS Chairman

Covid-19 - Guidance on Resuming Meetings

Advice to societies on resuming meetings following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

On 19th July, the UK Government confirmed the move to step 4 of their Covid-19 recovery roadmap. This removes the vast majority of the previous legal requirements. Nevertheless, as infections continue to rise, the Government recommends continuing caution. The following are all noted as beneficial:

- good ventilation;
- diligence in hygiene;
- wearing a face covering in enclosed and crowded spaces;
- minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts with those we do not live with.

In the light of this, the Federation considers that it is both sensible and appropriate for societies to take some measures to limit the spread of Covid-19. Societies have a Duty of Care, i.e. a responsibility to protect their members and other users of the premises where they meet. However, it is now down to each society to determine for itself what measures should be taken. It is to some extent fortunate that most, if not all, societies meet on premises which are owned and managed by others and that therefore the overall responsibility for the safe operation of the premises does not lie with societies. The onus on societies is to act in accordance with any restrictions which the owners of the premises may consider necessary. We suggest that it is sensible to discuss with the owners what measures, from those given in the risk assessment template* are appropriate in their situation. The template is based on one drawn up by Swinton Recorded Music Group in conjunction with the Church where they meet, and we are grateful to Swinton RMG for making the original available to us.

We are aware that the age profile of many societies means that in any society there are those who consider themselves vulnerable and are therefore still reluctant to attend meetings; on the other hand, there are members who are keen to return to normal as quickly as possible. Hence making decisions on resuming meetings has the potential to be divisive. In some respects, it was easier when rules were more restrictive but at least definite. **Continued on the next page**

How we make decisions may prove to be as important to societies, and their future survival, as the decisions themselves. Members should listen to each other and compromise as necessary.

NB. These notes are based on the conditions applicable in England. Whilst the general principles will also apply to Scotland and Wales there are differences in the situation in both those countries which may affect the ability of societies there to resume meetings.

***The risk assessment template can be downloaded from www.thefrms.co.uk**

AGM 2021

Last year, as we know all too well, the UK and the world found itself in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic and our planned AGM in



Leicester was replaced with an online meeting using a videoconferencing application called Zoom. It is certainly true that there is no cloud without a silver lining: the online meeting allowed a much wider geographical range of societies to attend and it provided a productive platform for discussion and interaction. And all in the comfort of our own homes!

This year is ostensibly different and, over the past few months, we have seen most legal restrictions lifting and life gradually returning to something closer to normality. The vaccination programme has given many people a feeling of greater confidence in attending public gatherings. However, the situation remains volatile and we, as a national committee, feel that it would be irresponsible to attempt to return to a live AGM this year, given a significant degree of uncertainty about the months ahead and the potential for another rise in infections during the winter. I recently conducted a survey with affiliate societies and there was a very strong majority in favour of another online meeting this year.

Therefore, this year's AGM will take place remotely on Zoom with the Leicester AGM postponed again to 2022.

The Zoom technology will allow everyone who has an internet connection to be involved and it really is very easy to use. It costs nothing and all you do is submit an email to me – using the form in the AGM invitation letter – and our Webmaster will then ensure that you

are sent an electronic invitation. The Zoom display looks very much like the picture you can see here from last year's meeting.



I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us. In addition, joining the Federation committee has never been easier as all our meetings will now be held in this way. There are two vacancies on the committee, so please do think seriously about joining us.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on **6 November at 2pm.**

Adele Wills FRMS Secretary

FRMS MUSIC WEEKEND AT ILKLEY

March 2022



Best Western Craiglands Hotel
Cowpasture Road
Ilkley LS29 8RG
01943 430001
sales@craiglands.co.uk

This event will now take place from 25th to 27th March 2022.

Some adjustment to the programme may be necessary but at the time of writing we hope that all the original presenters and recitalists will be able to be with us.

All bookings and payments have been transferred to the new date, and as bookings were made directly with the hotel, we have asked the hotel to notify participants individually.

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This may take a little while, so if you know of anyone who may be wondering what the situation is please feel free to make them aware of this.

The hotel can be contacted by email or phone – see above for contact details.

It may be possible to accept additional bookings for the rescheduled dates. If you are interested; please email chairman@thefrms.co.uk for further information.

Mick Birchall

It is with sadness we have to announce the passing of Mick Birchall recently. Mick was born, grew up, lived and worked in the Leicestershire village of Desford. He was, though, an inveterate traveller, visiting many parts of Europe and notably Italy; his love of Italy extended to its music and arts (he was a member of the Dante Alighieri Society) as well as its cuisine. Nevertheless, he was also an enthusiast for English music, particularly that from before the 19th Century, which he felt was unfairly neglected.

Mick was first elected to the FRMS Committee in 2001 and was its longest-serving member when he stepped down at the last AGM. He was Vice-Chairman for a time but his greatest contribution to the Federation has been his many years of service as minutes secretary, keeping scrupulously accurate records of the Federation's business. Mick's involvement with the FRMS was not limited to the national Committee, however. He was Secretary of Hinckley RMS, a member of Northampton RMS and, until its closure, a member of Spalding Music Club. Many members of societies in central England will remember regional music days for which he was not only one of the organisers, but was often the caterer too!

Mick is survived by a brother and sister, to whom we extend our sympathy.

Society News...

West Wickham RMS - It is with great sadness we have to announce the passing of Philip Cox earlier this year. Philip was elected to the Society's Committee in 1980, becoming Chairman in 1984, a position he held from that date until his death. The Society developed numerically and actively under his leadership and he contributed to the lives of very many people. Philip organised enjoyable summer holidays, both abroad and in the UK for the Society always based on various Festivals such as Kings Lynn and Cheltenham, as well as visits to Glyndebourne Opera, the Promenade and Festival Hall Concerts, sometimes associated with

river trips or visits to places of interest. We have lost a fine leader and a very good friend.

Katie Severs, Hon Secretary West Wickham RMS

Stone RMS - As we at Stone Recorded Music Society celebrate our **75th** anniversary year we think back to the young people who in the latter years of the Second World War found this a way of enjoying music and socialising together.

We still have a society whose members feel the same. However, we are not young and the new members who join us are of a similar vintage. We have come to accept that this is not the way our children and grandchildren choose to listen to music and it is unlikely we shall reach our centenary. Nonetheless it works for us. Numbers have declined from towards 60 in our heyday but seem now to have settled round about 23/24. There is much fun and laughter at our fortnightly meetings, and social events are popular and well-attended. We are as young at heart as our founders and hope to be around for some time to come.

[Ed. Taken from the FRMS Website]

Rochdale GS - FRMS Vice Chairman, George Steele, reports that the members of his society, Rochdale Gramophone Society, are hoping to celebrate their **90th Birthday** later this year as and when the lockdown restrictions are lifted. The amusing story of their first meeting can be found on our [stories from the societies](#) page on the FRMS website.

From that early beginning they prospered over the years, although current numbers are quite low. Like many societies their membership has grown older but is still loyal. Rochdale GS is the second oldest society in the FRMS.

George Steele FRMS Vice Chairman

A Forthcoming Weekend Event!



**Torbay Musical Weekend
19th – 22nd November 2021
at The Grand Hotel,
Torquay TQ2 6NT**

Although not an FRMS event, the Torbay Musical Weekend is supported by many FRMS society members and we are pleased to promote this weekend. The Grand Hotel is located on the sea front adjacent to the railway station.

Full details can be obtained from: www.fot.org.uk

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns

(9 October 1835 – 16 December 1921)

December 16th will be the centenary of the death of Saint-Saëns.

This photo was taken around 1880 (courtesy of Wikipedia).

Please refer to the link given below for more information about the man and his music.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camille_Saint-Sa%C3%ABns

A special note from the FRMS Treasurer

Issue of Invoices for 2021-22

As societies will know, we have been gathering information regarding their activities during 2020-21 with the intention of seeking some refund of payments made by FRMS on their behalf to PRS/PPL and for public liability insurance. We now have all the required information and will be entering discussions with the relevant bodies shortly. In the meantime, there seems little point in issuing invoices for the coming year, until we know whether any credits will be available to societies in respect of payments they made during the last twelve months. We will therefore **not** be issuing any such invoices until the situation is clarified – which may take some time. Please bear with us; we don't want to be in the position where we are asking you for payments which may not be necessary!

Also...



I am at present involved in the composition of a number of major works scheduled for both performance and recording over the next five years or so, a process which makes unexpected interruption unwelcome. Under the circumstances, should societies need to contact me please e-mail and **not** telephone unless the matter is extremely urgent. I will reply as soon as possible. Thank you.

paul.godfrey@thefrms.co.uk

Paul Corfield Godfrey FRMS Treasurer

The current FRMS Officers and Committee

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Allan Child – chairman@thefrms.co.uk

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Secretary

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Simon Rawlings simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk

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David Wherrell david.wherrell@thefrms.co.uk

Distribution of Newsletters

If you are now willing to receive future newsletters electronically instead of hard copies, and have not already notified us of this, please contact: simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk

The next newsletter is planned for January 2022. Please send any society news or articles in good time.

Current and past Newsletters can be downloaded at: www.thefrms.co.uk



Keep an eye on our website for updates, along with other useful information and matters of interest

www.thefrms.co.uk
