

# FRMS Newsletter

No 18

January 2018

Compiled by Allan Child, FRMS Chairman



## FRAUD – BE ALERT!

Our Treasurer recently received an e-mail purporting to be from the Chairman, asking him to authorise a payment of several thousand pounds. This was suspicious in itself but as the e-mail used the names of our previous Treasurer (Graham Kiteley) and Chairman (the late Colin Dancer) it was obviously an attempted scam.

The lesson to be drawn from this is clear. Be on your guard against fraudulent e-mails, even if they appear to come from a genuine address. In particular we wish to emphasise to Treasurers or other officers of affiliated societies that requests for payments due to the FRMS will never be sent by e-mail but only by post. Should you receive such a request by e-mail please report it to the Federation Secretary by phone (not e-mail), but otherwise ignore the request and delete the e-mail from your system.

## GOOD NEWS AT THE AGM

The Federation's 2017 Annual General Meeting was held in Nottingham on 4th November, when our hosts were the Wollaton Recorded Music Society, celebrating the Society's 25th anniversary in 2017.

In his Chairman's address, Allan Child referred to the difficulties faced by the Federation – and affiliated societies – in finding people willing to take on the responsibilities of officers and committee members. However, he was also able to give some good news in that, following his letter to societies earlier in the year, two people had put their names forward for election to the committee – Adele Wills of Street & Glastonbury Recorded Music Group and Ron Mitchell of Leicester Music Society – and they had already attended a committee meeting as observers.

Adele's and Ron's election was confirmed later in the meeting and the committee line-up for 2017-18 is thus:

Chairman: Allan Child (Derby)  
Vice-Chairman: Ron Beech (Solihull)  
Secretary: Jim Bostwick (Barnsley)  
Treasurer: Paul C Godfrey (Cardiff)  
Committee: Mick Birchall (Hinckley)  
Denise Beech (Solihull)  
Ron Mitchell (Leicester)  
George Steele (Rochdale)  
Adele Wills (Street & G)

Mick Birchall and George Steele continue in their respective roles of Minute Secretary and Webmaster.

Philip Ashton (Letchworth) and Paul Astell (Oswestry) were subsequently reappointed as Technical Officer and *Bulletin* Editor respectively at the November committee meeting, and at the same meeting the committee were pleased to co-opt David Wherrell (Letchworth) to complete the line-up.

We were sorry to lose the services of John Hardie (Southport) and Stuart Sillitoe (Preston) who have stood down from the committee for health and family reasons, but we thank them for their contributions to the Federation and wish them well for the future.

Profiles of the new committee members will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

## DATA PROTECTION – NEW RULES

From later this year individuals will have more control over the personal data that they share with organisations, including societies, charities, churches and companies. On 25th May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force across Europe, including the UK. This law is designed to create a more accountable, transparent and uniform system by which personal data can be collected and used by organisations. The race is on for many organisations to ensure they are compliant.

### What this means for individuals

In the coming months you may begin to see changes in the way in which organisations collect

**SOCIETY SECRETARIES – Please make sure your members get to see this Newsletter!**

information from individuals, including being more upfront about what data they will keep and for what purpose. Organisations may also ask individuals to confirm that they still have the individual's consent to be contacted, and the means of making contact (post, phone, e-mail etc).

### **What do the new regulations mean for the FRMS and affiliated societies?**

To ensure that we are compliant with the new regulations the FRMS committee will be auditing the data and permissions we hold and identifying where updates are required.

In the coming months societies will hear from us again if we determine that we need to update any of the personal data we hold about society contacts, such as names and contact details. We may also contact you to verify how some of that data can be used, for example to confirm that you still wish to receive newsletter mailings or other information about Federation activities.

Similarly, societies will need to ensure that they are compliant with the new regulations with regard to the data they hold about individual members, occasional visitors – and even casual enquirers.

### **Finally, please respond to GDPR requests!**

Many organisations, particularly those such as the FRMS, whose management is conducted by volunteers, are committing precious resources to make sure they are compliant with the new regulations. In the light of this significant investment, a common fear is that affiliates or members will ignore their requests to update data for their contact preferences. In some cases, if we haven't been able to confirm the data or the consent for you, we may find ourselves unable to communicate with you beyond the deadline of 25th May 2018.

You can read more about the changes to GDPR on the website of the Information Commissioner's Office at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

---

## **FURTHER CHANGES**

As reported in the Chairman's letter of 6th June to societies, and confirmed at the AGM, Jim Bostwick intends to stand down as FRMS Secretary at the 2018 AGM. We are very pleased, though, to announce that Adele Wills, newly elected to the committee, has agreed to "shadow" Jim's role with a view to taking on the office in succession to him.

Ron Mitchell, another committee newcomer, is to "shadow" George Steele's role as webmaster in order to be able to provide a backup should the need arise.

**However, two other committee members have announced that they wish to stand down also at the 2018 AGM. They are the Treasurer, Paul C Godfrey, and the *Bulletin* Editor, Paul Astell. So the search is on for their replacements.**

In essence, the Treasurer's job involves collecting affiliation fees, PRS and PPL fees, and insurance payments from societies, and making payments to PRS, PPL and our insurance brokers. Paul Godfrey will be pleased to provide further details (and even more pleased to hear from a potential successor!)

The *Bulletin* Editor's job is likely to change as the committee will be considering the future format of the *Bulletin* and whether the present glossy magazine is still appropriate with fewer societies and therefore a lower readership. But please contact Paul Astell in the first place if you are interested.

Contact details for Paul Godfrey and Paul Astell can be found in the most recent (Autumn 2017) issue of the *Bulletin*.

---

## **MUSIC WEEKENDS**

Although there will not be a Federation Music Weekend in 2018 and, sadly, no Scottish Region Music Day either, for the Yorkshire and Northwest Region's Music Weekend in Ilkley it is still very much business as usual – and this year it has reverted to the traditional three night format. The event runs from Friday 16th to Monday 19th March and there is a good line-up of presenters, some of whom will be remembered from past appearances at Daventry.

Booking is open till 31st January, although late bookings can be accepted subject to rooms still being available. For the full programme and booking form please contact Jim Bostwick, 01484 717865. Alternatively, information about the weekend can be found on the FRMS website – [www.thefrms.co.uk](http://www.thefrms.co.uk)

Although not an FRMS event, the Torbay Musical Weekend in November is supported by many FRMS society members. The 2017 event survived emergency relocation to Torquay's Grand Hotel and plans are in hand for a 2018 weekend. More information when available from [www.fot.org.uk](http://www.fot.org.uk)