

We are indeed functioning within challenging and unprecedented times and all any of us can do and say is that we are doing our best!

Who would have thought, after the very successful second concert of the 42nd Season that just a few weeks later, we would be in full Covid-19 Lockdown. It wasn't even on the committee's radar when we met on February 3rd to plan future concert seasons and plan the detail for May 2020.

Sadly, that concert had to be cancelled, so too, the concert planned for the start of the 43rd Season and speaking pragmatically, the jury is out for January 2021. Equally disappointing was the need to postpone the string 'play-day' scheduled for Saturday 19th September. Again, too many uncertainties and external pressures to be able to facilitate this going ahead.

The committee, whom I am delighted to say have agreed to stand for a further term, have been phenomenal. They have worked tirelessly on a range of issues: programming, soloists, venues, publicity, cashless ticketing, WS community profile. We have met regularly, via ZOOM, sometimes meeting twice in a month to keep things moving forward and in response to new Government Guidance; a real baptism of fire for our new Secretary, Catherine Ross, who has had an unprecedented workload, due the Covid Context and the significant number of additional meetings. On behalf of us all, I would like to thanks them for their hard work and creative thinking.

I am grateful too, to Adrian, for his unstinting support of our musical society; his understanding and acceptance of decisions we have had to take locally, often at short notice has been appreciated by us all. We are very fortunate to have his commitment and suport

As we embark on the Society's 43rd Season the future still looks very uncertain, but rest assured we will respond to what heads our way and ensure that, as soon as it is safe to do so for both audience and players, WS will be staging a concert with a programme that is both popular and engaging.

Keep well and keep safe

Michael