

## **London; 20 December 2016**

Our AGM was a brief affair. Tim Wood-Woolley (Treasurer), Mike Clements (Vice Chair) and Robert Girling (Chair) were all willing to stand again and were unanimously re-elected. We gave them a much-deserved round of applause.

For our Christmas meeting members had been invited to bring a recording linked to the festive season. We had a wide variety of offerings whether in format (cylinders, discs, a smart-phone); age (the recordings covered an impressive 120 years from *The Holy City* sung by Albert Campbell on an 1895 Berliner to Katie Melua singing *O Holy Night* earlier this year); or genre, including bells, laughing songs and, for want of a better term, the professional scot (Peter Dawson as Hector Grant in *Christmas Eve in a Miner's Camp*). Peter Dawson featured again under his own name singing *Nazareth* and by proxy, as it were, through Foster Richardson who can sound very like him (*Old Jim's Christmas Hymn*).

We had started off with a fine V disc of the *Nutcracker Suite*, recorded in 1944 by the NBO Symphony Orchestra under Toscanini. Other offerings included T S Eliot's *Journey of the Magi* read by John Gielgud, an anonymous Male Quartet singing that irresistible piece of Victorian gloom *The Mistletoe Bough*, Edith Piaf's version of *Autumn Leaves*, Band Aid's *Do They Know It's Christmas* (32 years old now) and the Huddersfield Choral Society with Seller's Engineering Band performing a medley of Christmas carols and songs. We ended with *Christmas Bells are Ringing*, sung anonymously though it might well have been Foster Richardson again.

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