

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, ALTON COMMUNITY CHOIR, October 2014 – November 2015**

Our Community Choir has had another very good year entertaining the communities of Alton and Farnham as well as joining forces with two choirs at Herborn in Germany. Also with an intake of several new members recently and many more on the waiting list our membership remains in a healthy position.

Our Christmas concert at Alton Methodist Church was well attended and the generous contributions of mince pies by choir members, and hot drinks served, were such a success we are hoping to do the same again this Christmas.

The year seems to have gone by so quickly but somehow last spring seems a distant memory when we held our joint choirs day with the Phoenix Choir from Bordon and Stanchester Quire from Somerset. We had a great fun day. It was something different for us all to get involved with and hopefully we will arrange another get together at some point.

The trip to Herborn was a great success not only in performance terms but in Choir members getting to spend social time together. Everyone clearly enjoyed the trip and thanks go to all the organisers, here and in Germany. Special thanks to Mark and Ruth for their initial fact-finding mission and all they did to make the trip run smoothly.

Our At Wars Command concert had been such a great success in the past that we were invited to give a performance at Waverley Abbey House near Farnham for the Armed Forces Day in support of the charity Combat Stress. The concert was repeated at Alton Community Centre to help to raise funds for refurbishment of the building as well as Combat Stress.

And the social gatherings went on with more successful events in July; the ceilidh at Beech village hall to celebrate the choir anniversary of 15 years; the end of term pub social at The White Hart preceded by a short concert for the residents of Orchard House and the summer party at Judy's in August where we were entertained by a number of people giving solo performances. All in all a very enjoyable and entertaining evening. Many thanks to Judy for her hospitality.

The Committee would like to thank Julia for suggesting 'welcome sessions' and for organising the first gathering a few weeks ago where people could arrive to rehearsal early and have a social get together over a cup of tea before choir practise.

We would also like to thank Barbara for taking on the role of publicity officer. She very quickly got into it by having an article about the choir and Herborn published recently in the Four Marks village news magazine and she has already produced a very artistic poster for our Christmas concert. In addition she has started training to help in running our website which is a great help and should take some of the pressure off Alison and Greg who have been running it for several years – a big thank you also goes to them.

Thanks too, go to Denise for running the raffle, and to John and helpers who move the furniture around for us every Thursday.

Many people help out in the running of the choir so thanks to everyone for their continued support. And I have to thank the rest of the Committee for the work they undertake and comment on how well they have settled into their roles over the past two years.

Finally thanks go to Carolyn for her time and effort behind the scenes in researching and sourcing new material to keep the choir moving forward by increasing our repertoire.

Gill Moore - Chairman