

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, ALTON COMMUNITY CHOIR, October 2013 – November 2014

Alton Community Choir has had another successful year which included invitations to venues old and new.

We sang at two nursing homes over the past year. We gave a concert of Christmas Carol at Borovere nursing home and in May we gave a short concert at the Pax Hill nursing home in Bentley. Our performances were much appreciated by residents and staff who seemed keen that we should make a return visit at some point.

In November last year the choir took part in a fund raising event at the Alton Community Centre. The concert was well supported and provided a good evening's entertainment for the community. The money raised is helping to carry out improvement work at the centre.

We made a return visit for the carol concert in Alton market square prior to Santa arriving to switch on the Christmas lights. The evening was challenging for the Choir and the children taking part due to poor lighting on stage and the evening chill, so that everyone was very cold by the end of the concert despite the new stage canopy which seemed to offer little protection from the wintry wind. Nevertheless we enjoyed taking part in such a popular community event.

The Choir had a much warmer visit singing carols, indoors, at Gilbert White's House in Selborne on Sunday afternoon 1st December. This was a very pleasant half hour concert which we enjoyed very much, as did our audience and we were rewarded with mulled wine and a mince pie after the concert.

2013 was rounded off with celebrations at the Golden Pheasant pub in Farringdon where the landlord has been keen for our presence at Christmas for the last couple of years. Long may this continue as a welcome social event at the end of the autumn term.

Our first concert of 2014 was the Burns night supper at Treloar College in Holybourne. The Choir sang a short selection of songs suited to the occasion and the evening went well.

The highlight of the year for the Choir was to be a part of the Sarah Morgan Memorial Concert on the 13th April at the Guild Hall in Winchester. Numerous artists and supporters attended what was to be such a memorable day for all concerned. People came from all over the country to take part in this celebration of a life, and thanks go to all concerned for their time and effort in making the day a success.

Thanks go to Judy Burt for her summer house party in August. This gathering is always something to look forward to part way through the holidays. And this year the dry summer weather meant we could enjoy being outside for a change and relax in the garden. It was a perfect evening as always.

The question of making another CD was raised this year. Thanks must go to Sue Lawrence for researching 'costs' and creating a survey of members to establish the level of support for this venture. The outcome being that the choir will not undertake this task at present.

Our next big adventure will be the trip to Herborn in Germany next year. Thanks go to Mark and Ruth for their scouting trip this August; getting to know the town, researching hotels and making contacts on behalf of the choir. Mark's photo's of Herborn, that we can all view via an email link, allow us to see what a lovely historic place we will shortly be visiting.

Thanks go to the whole of the membership for their continued commitment to keeping the choir viable and maintaining a friendly, good humoured, atmosphere even when we have to work very hard sometimes in achieving the right sounds.

Thanks go to those who quietly carry out regular tasks year after year; John Barnett for setting up for rehearsal, Denise Lovett for organising the weekly raffle and Alison Bucknell for keeping the information on our web site up to date. And of course thanks to everyone at the end of rehearsal who help put the room back in order.

This Committee thanks the previous committee for their help and guidance when we were finding our feet at the beginning of our first year in post.

Further thanks to Judy for liaising with St Mary's Church, Liss for the At Wars Command concert on Remembrance Sunday. A huge thank you must go to all who took part in the preparations and making the evening a great success. Alton Community Choir gave a most memorable and moving performance.

Finally thanks go to Carolyn, not just for rehearsal evenings, but for her time and effort behind the scenes in researching and sourcing new material to keep the choir moving forward by increasing our repertoire. Thanks also go to Freya and Anna for stepping in occasionally when Carolyn wasn't available.

Gill Moore - Chairman