

## ACC report for AGM - 2016

Alton Community Choir has had a busy, varied and enjoyable year since this time last year.

We have taken part in 7 performances – excluding the 2 singing sessions as end-of-term celebrations at the White Hart in Holybourne, and we've sung up to about 40 different songs.

In December last year we did 'Summon up the Sun' – a show of songs, carols and readings looking from winter towards longer days – with additional songs sung by Carolyn and Moira Craig.

The following day we were at The Gilbert White House, Selborne as part of their Mulled Wine Weekend, where we enjoyed singing again some of the songs from Summon up the Sun.

At the end of the term we entertained a small but appreciative audience at Orchard House Sheltered Accommodation – apparently the residents thought we were a church choir which we were led to believe resulted in low numbers .... but we were also competing with 'Emmerdale'!

Then in May we took part in a great concert in Winchester Guildhall to raise money for the Sarah Morgan Foundation. This, excluding CD sales raised £2,415.

Alton Town Council invited us to take part in the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in Alton Public Gardens in June. Carolyn was pleased with our performance, the repertoire was well received by the audience, but unfortunately the PA system was very disappointing.

In July the council gave us the opportunity to showcase the choir – again in the bandstand in Alton Public Gardens – with our own concert. We had significant competition from torrential rain during the first set, but despite that & the small audience we raised just over £75.00 specifically for Cardiac Rehab. (I am reliably informed that despite no PA system we could still be heard quite some distance away.)

This term we've worked hard towards the concert celebrating 10 years of Alton's twinning with Pertuis in South East France. This took place a couple of weeks ago, compliments were in abundance – so another case of 'well done'.

We enjoyed another combined choir day in April when we travelled to Yetminster in Dorset on the invitation of Stanchester Quire. We learnt and shared songs, familiar and new, had an amazing lunch, and ended the day with a concert in the beautiful local ancient church. Thanks go in particular to Bonnie Forsyth of Stanchester Quire who did so much to make the day successful.

We've had two 'end of term get-togethers' at the White Hart, Holybourne. We went shortly before Christmas and again in the summer when we tried a new social venture by having a meal together at the pub before we sang. This seemed popular with the choir and the pub coped well with the pre-ordered food. Each time we enjoyed a good sing – but we were rather cramped for space.

A few weeks later we had a lovely evening party at Judy's – an evening of shared refreshments, songs and music. Thank you so much Judy.

A special mention this year must be made for the huge effort that has gone to reorganising the ACC website – now much easier to manage and access. Particular thanks to Greg & Alison Bucknall and to Barbara Parry.

We've also recently acquired – a magnificent bright red pull-up banner featuring the new choir Logo.

We did think of embarking on a Face book page – but that's as far as we've got – so if there is anyone able and willing to set one up for us please contact any one of the committee.

Thank you to you, the choir members, who help so willingly in so many ways. In no particular order – John and Penny, the furniture movers – Jackie who has been liaising with Watts Gallery – Helen Smith, key-holder for the winter concert – Denise, the raffle organiser – and to all of you for coming regularly to rehearsals, singing at concerts, and supporting the committee.

I've been asked – on behalf of the choir to thank the committee .... We are kept busy, but no-one seems to mind, knowing that we are supporting such a worthwhile cause.

I'd also like thank Freya who has stood in for Carolyn on occasions – but most of all – on behalf of us all, I must say a really big thank you for all that Carolyn does for us and for Alton Community Choir.

Thank you – Helen Brown – 2016.11.03