

CHAIR'S REPORT, ALTON COMMUNITY CHOIR, October 2016 – November 2017

The year kicked off with a performance at Watts Gallery - a bit cold and not too hot with the acoustics either but an interesting place to wander around and a chance for a practice in front of an audience.

The Christmas concert at Alton Methodist Church was well attended and the combination of readings and songs was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Barbara and Carolyn for researching the materials and putting it all together. Also a big thank you to the Mummers for their part in the proceedings.

It was a particularly busy Christmas as in addition to the Concert we performed in the Assembly Rooms at the Yuletide Festival and then moved swiftly on to Selborne to do a performance at Gilbert White's House. Very nice mince pies and mulled wine!

The end of term saw us entertaining a few! Orchard House residents before an enjoyable sing in The Crown

After Christmas all thoughts turned to the Jane Austen 200th anniversary and rehearsals began in earnest for a proposed summer concert focusing on folk music from Hampshire

But before the Summer Concert – a trip to London to Cecil Sharp House and an invitation to share the stage with their own choir. An interesting and enjoyable outing where everyone saw the benefits of knowing the words and not having eyes fixed on the books! And after all the hard work a joint Tom of Bedlam sounded magnificent!

And so to July and the Summer Concert in the Assembly Rooms. Hampshire folk songs interspersed with interesting and amusing snippets from Jane's letters and excerpts from her books. A very successful and enjoyable evening. Once again thanks to Barbara and Carolyn for putting it all together.

And, finally some thank yous to people who do a little bit extra to keep the choir moving along-

to Julia for continuing the welcome sessions and for organising several gatherings where people could arrive to rehearsal early and have a social get together over a cup of tea and cake before choir practise.

to Judy for opening up her home for the summer party

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

to Debbie for setting up the ACC Facebook page and helping with the Website

to the Committee for all the work they do over the year

and finally to Carolyn who has proved that even with a terrible cold she can out-sing most of us! Make that all of us!

And another finally! Thanks to you all for turning up every week and having a good sing. Here's to another great year.

Ann Foulkes Chair