

## Chairman's Report September 2017

Well, this is my first Report as Chairman. The past twelve months have been a bit of a learning curve for me.

Without the invaluable assistance of Nita, who reminds me in her imitable way, of things I need to do, or address, my learning curve would have been a circle!

It's our love of making music whether sacred or secular, is what brings us together. Our rehearsals are there for us to improve our performance. We all know, when on occasions we "hit the spot" in concert it's very satisfying. Practise, practise, is the key.

Our performances have been varied, some receiving very favourable comments, others not so. I thought it a shame that because of copyright etc. we could not have had a little more "Thespian" input to our performance of South Pacific. White sailor suits would have looked very fetching!

I just don't know what the men would have worn!

I have previously commented on the concerts at St Peter Mancroft, Long Stratton and the Victorian Evening in my newsletter which is available on the choir website.

8<sup>th</sup> April 2017: The Easter concert at the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation Poringland was well attended by choristers but unfortunately a small but appreciative, audience! The two guide dogs for the deaf, waiting in the car park also enjoyed the concert!

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017: St Peter and St Paul at Bergh Apton was a successful concert which was well supported and favourably commented upon.

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017: Holy Trinity Loddon was our summer concert and probably our best of 2017! This was followed by our Summer Bash at the White Horse, Chedgrave organised by the Social Committee, to whom we give generous thanks. The Social Committee also organised a Karaoke Christmas Bash at the George and Dragon Thurton which was enjoyed by many choir members.

There have been two weddings: Pulham St Mary in June and Framingham Pigot in August.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 a small group of choir members were able to attend and provide musical support for a funeral in Stoke-Holy –Cross.

Ian may comment upon the ensemble, which of course, is open to any choir member who would like to audition and improve their singing.

Unfortunately, choir membership numbers have declined a little recently. The Tenors particularly are working manfully/womanfully with reduced numbers. Ways of trying to increase the singing membership will be a target for the Committee. We have lost: Judith Rake, Carol Evans, Diana Rannik and Muriel Frost from the alto section. Louise Priest, Louise Thompson and Joyce Lavender from the sopranos, Jan Corbett hopes to return in the near future. The tenors have lost David Keefe. The basses are growling along as usual but George Frost has retired from the section. We have received a very nice email from George and Muriel which I look forward to sharing with you at the AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Luckily three new members have joined us this year: two sopranos, Christina Odams and Pam Leggate and Jennifer Walters joined the altos.

The choir, as always is indebted to the work done by a number of individuals, especially Ian and Mark. Ian does a considerable amount of work towards the running of the choir. A lot of which is unseen and unsung, thank you Ian.

Mark is also someone who does work unseen, transporting instruments and staging to concert venues etc. as well as being our esteemed accompanist. Thanks Mark.

I alluded to the committee earlier and I know the saying "a camel is a horse designed by a committee" but I couldn't and the choir couldn't, function without it and I would still be on my learning circle. Thanks are also due to our four voice part representatives; the co-opted individuals on social, publicity sub-committee and Susan McAvoy our archivist.

Individual members to be mentioned are: John Westwood, who took over as Treasurer last year and has, with your help, cleared our debt. Nita, who as I mentioned before, is the right kind of "bossy" is standing down as secretary this year. Thank you both.

Thanks are also due to Marian Fox our librarian who has been hard at work sorting and selling unwanted music on behalf of the choir which also helps to bolster our coffers. Thank you again, Marian.

Finally with reference to the voice part representatives, Hazel Coupland is standing down from the committee this year as the soprano rep. Thank you Hazel for your contribution. We will need a replacement.

Finally: thank you to Carrie Hayes who has deputised for Ian on a number of occasions this year. Sometimes at very short notice. To put it mildly, we would have been in a "pickle" without her.

Cheers Carrie.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support, it's you that make the Poringland Singers the success it is today!

Ian Kennedy

Chairman. 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

