

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2017

To have music in one's life is to be blessed. To have a modicum of ability to be able to produce it and like-minded friends with whom one can share it, is to be thrice-blessed.

It has been a good year for Brockham Choral. Thanks to a hard-working and innovative committee, we have taken on a new conductor, a new rehearsal venue, an earlier starting time for rehearsals and, thanks to the efforts of all members in selling tickets to produce good audiences, supporting all our fund-raising activities (special mention must be made here of Estelle and Jane for their outstandingly successful Auction of Promises) and the judicious handling of the accounts by our treasurer, we ended the year in a stronger financial position than has been seen for a some time.

Social and fund-raising activities over the past twelve months have been many and varied, starting with taking Christmas Carols to the Reigate Beaumont and Broome Park, followed by the aforementioned Auction, the Annual Dinner and Cabaret, Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Teas on the Green and the Portsmouth Workshop with Patrick and Neil Ferris. Commiserations to those who were unable to join in with the two night stay at the Marriott Hotel and the day's session with Neil and Patrick. A real coup for Brockham to have the director of the BBC Symphony Chorus all to ourselves. Thank you Patrick and David for organising it all. There was also a Making Music Day, organised by Jules and Stephen but supported by members who helped raise £1,500 in support of the fight against Myeloma UK. A superb result. Well done and thanks to all.

As far as our concerts for the year are concerned, the details can be found in the Annual Report of Trustees and Accounts and I will leave any comments for the Musical Director's report, but I can say that the overall quality and variety of our performances over the past year have attracted bigger audiences and nine new members plus one 'returnee'.

I am indebted to the members of your committee who have made my job as Chairman so easy over the past year. To Ed whose record keeping, and organisational skills are second to none and for his over-seeing of the web-site, to Estelle and Jane for organising all social functions and news letters including after-concert parties, to Nick for the clarity and accuracy of his accounting, to Anne and Jenni L-P for always having the musical scores ready for our rehearsals (even when Patrick changes his mind at the last minute!), to Moira, Janet, Jenni, Diana Unwin, Robin Luff and Ray who, as part reps, feed information to Victoria and Mary who, in turn, keep tabs on who sings what and when and ensure that all new-comers are made to feel welcome, to Victoria for heading up the staging team, to Sue for her expertise in procuring grants, to Ali for her programme compilation, to Phil for finding advertisers whose fees cover concert printing, to Lyn and Anne Slack who look after Brockham's 'Friends', to Pauline for over-seeing ticket sales and ensuring we have good audiences, to Anne Mitchell for handling the publicity ensuring that details of our concerts are spread far and wide, ably assisted by the artistic talents of Soo Abram who produces fliers and posters that no-one could possibly fail to notice, to David John for concert management, who also joined Jenni L-P, Anne Mitchell and Jenny Bartholomew on the Music Selection Committee, Tony Earnshaw for running the 100 Club, Maureen and Gareth for hosting the trailer. My thanks also to all of you, not specifically mentioned above, who have helped those who are, and to those of you who have said 'yes' when I have asked you to do something.

Lastly, and they deserve a separate paragraph, I am sure you will join me in thanking Patrick for his seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm when taking our rehearsals, the fun and laughter he

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provides each week, and his good-natured engagement with choir and audience alike when conducting our concerts, ably supported by the redoubtable Marion who, at the drop of a hat, seems to be able to find extra fingers on each hand to bolster a faltering section. What a team. Did I say thrice blessed at the opening of this report? Make that five times!

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in St John's School on the 5th September 7.30pm and our next rehearsal, same place, on the 12th 7.30pm. For the forth-coming years events, see our web-site.

"Life without music would be a mistake" Nietzsche

Reuben