

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

My report, this time last year, opened with the statement that it had been a good year for Brockham Choral. I am delighted to say that we have just enjoyed another one and are preparing to start the new season with increased membership and a growing roll-call of 'Friends' plus adequate funds, to enable us to press ahead with our plans for the coming year.....

Ring a bell?

Those of you who have better memories than me will see that the above opening has been lifted, verbatim, from last year's report!

The reason that I have been able to do this is because of the hard work of your committee, ably supported by all of you with ticket sales, publicity etc. Thank you, everyone, for making this part of the Chairman's job so easy! The major factor affecting the success and smooth running of the choir is illustrated by the sheer length of the following paragraph: that such a large proportion of the membership is actively involved.

I am sure you will join me when I express my particular gratitude to Ed for all his unstinting work as secretary, John for keeping our finances in order, Anne Mitchell for her publicity and poster design, Phil for the concert programmes, Lynne as concert manager, Alison for ticket sales and Estelle and Jane for their ideas for and organisation of social events and fund raising, and Nick as our representative on NFMS and wealth of experience over many years assisting in all areas.

There is also a great deal of work carried out by 'non-committee members' through-out the year. Romey, assisted by Anne Slack, as 'Friends' secretary, Sue Tanton for orchestra teas and securing sponsorship, Chris Griffin for drumming up programme advertisers, Tony for the bringing of good tidings to 100 Club winners, Mary and Victoria as joint membership secretaries collating information provided by part reps Moira, Diana, Janet, Mary White, Ray and Robin Luff (Robin also headed up a team to carry out the much-needed staging renovation), Ed and Tony for concert lighting, Sandy as archivist and Jenni as librarian who also sits on the music selection committee with David John, Anne Mitchell and Moira, not forgetting those friends and family members who regularly help with staging, front of house and interval drinks on concert days.

Without the above-mentioned, there would be no Brockham Choral. Thank you one and all, for ensuring that we have all enjoyed another year of increasingly well attended concerts, including Benjamin Britten's St Nicolas in December, Dvorak's Stabat Mater in April and a lighter programme of music from around the world in June. The inclusion of the Farnham Youth Choir and St John's school pupils in the December and June concerts respectively furthered Brockham's aim of encouraging youth of all ages to sing and enjoy music.

Social events throughout the year included a Quiz Night at the Rialto, a 'Sing for Your Supper' at Abinger Hammer Village Hall and the after-concert parties, held in the Rialto in April and Viva in June, have proved a great success.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Patrick who is moving on to pastures new. His boundless energy, enthusiasm, wonderful sense of humour and much laughter at rehearsals will be sorely missed.

Happily, I am delighted to report that we still have Marion, to whom we are indebted for her continuing support, to accompany us and help us get over our loss!

Conscious of the ever-increasing average age of our members, we do need to apply our minds to the task of attracting younger voices. The shrinking numbers of tenors and basses also needs to be addressed. Do try to encourage friends/acquaintances who might fit into these two categories to consider joining us. The workshop and concert by VOCES8 on the 5th October will present an

excellent opportunity to promote Brockham Choral and tackle the above. Don't leave it until the last minute to promote this event. We have space for 360 at the evening concert! Full details can be found on our website.

As well as a day with Voces8, we can all look forward to the coming season with Gjeilo's 'Sunrise Mass', Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass' and two Bach Cantatas in December, Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' and some Bruckner Motets in March and joining with the Surrey Youth Choir in June for a programme of music by Cecilia McDowell, Pearsall, Lauridsen and others.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on the 3rd September and our first rehearsal after the summer break on the 10th when we will be rehearsing with John Bawden for a term before our newly appointed musical director, Cole Bendall joins us in January.

Reuben