

East Bridge Chorale *Annual Report 2016-17*

East
Bridge
CHORALE



We now move into our 8th year with Benedict Preece as our musical director. We congratulate him on being selected as the 'Genesis Sixteen' conducting scholar for 2017-18. We are very pleased that he will still find time to remain as our musical director and we are very proud of him.

We performed three main concerts through the year, featuring Mozart's *Great Mass*, Haydn's *Theresa Mass* and Brahms' *German Requiem* all accompanied by orchestra and performed in St Mary's Arts Centre in Sandwich, our favourite venue for space, acoustics and facilities. We received grants from Canterbury Arts Council and the four villages (Littlebourne) Shop association towards orchestral costs for our summer concert and have applied again.

Our committee has recommended that we increase our termly subscription to £30, or £80 for the year, to cover basic costs leading to the three main performances. Please see the ongoing costs document attached.

Choral score hire remains at £5 per term.

We performed a Christmas concert jointly with Sandwich concert Band and a light hearted performance of *Pirates of Penzance* excerpts this spring, We asked for £10 subscription to cover rehearsal costs for these events.

We all enjoy singing with the high quality orchestras which Ben recruits to accompany us but the cost of them is causing our modest reserves to dwindle mainly because we are not attracting large enough audiences. It is really important that all members make every effort to sell tickets. Financial sponsorship for the orchestra would be very helpful. Helen will be making a gift aid claim soon. All subs or donations from members who pay tax attract gift aid which increases their value by £25%.

Sincere thanks to all Committee members for the year:

Helen Abbott: Treasurer and printing. Helen instigated purchase of a printer which has proved cost effective for posters and programmes.

Kate Page: Minutes Secretary and Joint Librarian.

Mary Rudge: Joint Librarian and register administrator.

Annette Walter: Administrative help and concert refreshments.

Other Committee members are: Sally Godsell, Stephen Graham, Martin Scofield and Jane Kendal. All of the above are happy to stand again for election. David Sadtler, who has set up a Facebook page for us, has also agreed to stand for election to the committee.

Sandra Williams who has been a willing and hard working committee member from the start wishes to stand down because of other commitments but is still happy to help at concerts.

Our sincere thanks to her. Sandra has maintained our presence on the Canterbury Arts Council website and is happy to teach whoever might be willing to take over this role.

I am happy to remain as chairman if there are no other nominations and you are willing to re-elect me.

Special thanks to Ben for guiding us through some challenging works to produce performances of which to be proud.

Looking forward to another enjoyable year with you all.

Geraldine

P.S. I must not forget Tony Garrett who endlessly produces our beautiful posters and patiently waits for the final names to go into the programmes at the last minute before printing.