

## **AGM 17 OCT 2018**

Welcome to our 6th AGM and thank you for coming, we know that this is an early start to the evening and really appreciate you making the effort to be here.

I have a short statement and then we will hear the treasurer's report from Lee-Ann followed by Carol, who will tell us about publicity and events and last but not least, we'll hear from Carolyn, our musical director.

We have had another great year with 2 wonderful and, as always, well attended concerts at St Peters Church. As part of our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, our summer concert was recorded so that we could produce a choir CD. The CD is close to being finished, which is very exciting and should be ready soon. We also participated in the Petersfield Town's Victorian Weekend, where the choir really got into the spirit of the community event by dressing up and looking fabulous – not just my opinion!

In March of this year we asked the choir to fill out a questionnaire, partly to help us gauge how we, as a committee, were doing and partly to find out what ideas you had for the choir going forward & 41 members of the choir responded.

Interestingly, 98% of you were interested in participating in local singing events other than our usual Summer and Christmas concerts and this was a big factor in us saying yes to the Petersfield Town's Edwardian Event at the Festival Hall coming up in November. Unfortunately we have only had about 28 singers sign up for this, although there is still time to sign up if you are free!

On the whole everyone seemed very happy with how the choir is run and we had some great suggestions for charities for us to support at future concerts.

Over 80% of the choir said they were interested in half term social events and 88% in a singing weekend away; so these are things that we will definitely be looking at going forward.

A couple of things that were mentioned by a few people in the comment section, was feeling frustrated at the chatting that sometimes goes on whilst other parts are being taught and also communication between the committee and choir members. With regard to the latter, we have tried to rectify this by letting you know after the meetings what has come up and also trying to make sure that each section of the choir knows who their nearest committee member is if they have any questions or points to put forward. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lee-Ann who very kindly put the questionnaire together and collated the response.

One of the things we had hoped to do this year was a short weekend trip away in the UK, unfortunately, for a number of reasons, this didn't happen but instead we hosted our first Choir Sharing Day with The Phoenix Community Choir and The Stanchester Choir. Carolyn reminded us that this was the very thing that The Sarah Morgan Foundation was set up for and advised us to put in a fund application to help cover the cost of the event, we did this and the application was approved. This was the first event of this kind that we've undertaken but it went extremely well and was very well attended. Everyone that took part had a great day and I think I can safely say that it was a great success and something we may look at doing again on the future.

We still have a waiting list for the choir and it is an ongoing effort to try and find an alternative venue that works with regard to location, cost and acoustics so that we can accommodate everyone that wants to sing with us without having a waiting list.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the members of the committee, Margaret, Christine, Lee-Ann, Dee, Carol, Angela, Hilary, Sheila & Daphne for

their work and contribution throughout the year which enables our choir to run as smoothly as it does. Thanks also to Tony who stepped up last year to join us but as many of you will know has now left the choir as he and Sylvia have moved on to pastures new to be closer to their children – they will both be missed as have been with the choir from the start.

### **Closing remarks**

As always, the choir continues to go from strength and I would like to say thank you to all the members of the choir for their invaluable and continued support not only musically but also in making this a fun and enjoyable evening out.