

## **Sue Kalaugher at the AGM, July 4, 2011.**

We have had an extremely successful and also very eventful year. Last September we started meeting in a new venue with a new conductor. The new venue seems to me to be working very well and we have made some beautiful music with Laurence; which has received excellent reviews. The committee wanted to trial a change in concert dress but the experiment was abandoned after one concert because of distress amongst both choir and audience members. However I would ask you all to look at the concert dress worn by other choirs, both on television and in real life. I have been keeping a watchful eye for over a year and have not seen a single choir dressed just in black and white. Maybe in another few years the committee could consult members again about introducing just a little colour into our dress.

Next and most importantly I want to thank by name the many people who help run the Choral Society so willingly and cheerfully. Without their input our music making would grind to a halt - and after all, the enjoyment of choral music is the goal for all of us. Many thanks to all the following:

1. Laurence for making Monday practices and concert days such a pleasure
2. An enormous thank you to all the committee members; Fiona Dickson, Louise Gray, David Lee, John Lloyd Langston, Janet Phillips, Kate Sisum and Shirley Williams. Every one of them gives up their time for us and they have all done a fantastic job.
3. Rosemary Longhurst who works closely with Janet on the publicity front and puts in a great deal of time designing our excellent programmes and posters and printing our tickets. Not only do they look wonderful, but also her hard work saves us a significant amount of money.
4. Peter Brain who looks after our web site in the most brilliant way so that it is always completely up to date. The web site is a great source of information for all of you who can access it and is also a port of call for new members.
5. Patrick Kalaugher and the loyal band of helpers who work so hard putting up and taking down the staging for our concerts. I think that we would all agree that having the staging is enormously helpful. Please do try and come to help with this if you possibly can. It is not putting the staging together that needs a team of about a dozen, but getting it out of the crypt of the church. It has to be lifted up a spiral staircase. This is not a problem with enough people because it can be passed from one person to the next without anyone moving their feet. However unless the team is big enough it is not safe to even start on this task.
6. All who help with the chairs on the Saturday morning of the concerts.
7. Christine Adams and Stephanie Summers who have run our two very successful fund-raising bring and buys, or is it brings and buy? Anyway, their efforts and your excellent "bringing and buying" raised about £250 last year.
8. Shirley Williams for opening up the church every Monday, and David Lee for locking up again.

9. Beryl King for cheerfully and efficiently organising the hot drinks for bring and buys and for tonight. And thanks to her helpers.
10. Riki Nelmes for her help with banking and for negotiating with the party venue.

I would like on your behalf to express our very great appreciation to all these people.

I am happy to announce that we will be asking for your approval in a few minutes for the candidates for new chair and treasurer-elect. Sadly we have no candidate for the job of secretary so this post will be vacant from September. I would urge anyone who feels they could possibly help with this to talk to Kate and she could tell you what is involved. It would be very good if someone would come forward during the summer so that we have someone to take over in September. Kate will give lots of support and information to the new person.

I would like to express special thanks to John Fowler of Eagle Investments who sponsored us this year to the tune of £250. He originally agreed to do this for two years so we are hoping that we will have his support next season as well. If any of you have connections with any other businesses in town, which you feel might be prepared to sponsor us in any way, please can you let the committee know.

Thank you all for coming tonight.