

First 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.

1. Thanks first to Brian for his expertise, enthusiasm and hard work. It has all been enormously appreciated for the last 27 years and we shall miss him.
2. An enormous thank you to all the committee members; Fiona Dickson, Louise Gray, David Lee, Janet Phillips, Kate Sisum and Shirley Williams. Every one of them gives up their time for us and they are all doing a fantastic job.
3. Rosemary Longhurst 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 looks after our web site in the most efficient manner so that it is always completely up to date. The web site is a great source of information and has not only gained us new members but was also very helpful when recruiting for a new musical director.
5. Patrick Kalaugher and the loyal band of helpers work hard to put up and take down the staging for our concerts. Not being able to use the staging in January because of unfortunately timed building work in the church made us all appreciate the great importance of the staging.
6. Christine Adams and Stephanie Summers who run our very successful fund raising bring and buys.
7. Angela Marshall for not only unlocking the church before practices, but also for waiting patiently to lock up again at the end.
8. Riki Nelmes for her help with banking.

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

We are delighted that John Lloyd Langston has agreed to join the committee to fill our one vacancy. He is proposed by David Lee and seconded by Kate Sisum.

Next I would like to make a plea for a few more people to join our band of workers.

If you are **not** a committee kind of person but **would** like to help there are still three tasks that we would love you to take on.

1. The committee think that it might be sociable to have a cup of tea or coffee together on the occasions of the two bring and buys, but we need a team of two or three people to take on the organisation of this.
2. It would be good to have two people to organise our annual social.
3. Because I can no longer lift chairs I would be very grateful if someone could take on the organisation of the seating on the Saturday morning of the two concerts.

Divided up like this none of these tasks would take an enormous amount of time but help with them would take some of the pressure off the committee and it would be good to have the involvement of more members. Please do come and talk to me if you are interested or if you know of anyone who is not here tonight who might be interested.

Because of the two major changes we are about to undergo, i.e. a new conductor and a new practice venue, the committee decided to have a special meeting in which to have the time to do some radical thinking about all aspects of the Choral Society. Our normal meetings are taken up with day-to-day organisation and we felt that we needed to take a good look at all of our practices. We had an excellent discussion and I need to tell you now about one of the results.

In the past members of the choral society have sometimes talked to an individual committee member with an important concern which needed consideration by the whole committee and sometimes in a very quick timeframe. Now in an effort to improve efficiency and timeliness, we are going to institute a new practice. In future if you have major suggestions or serious concerns, please do not tell a committee member but put them in writing to Kate, either as an email, or as a letter. She can then instantly (via a group email) circulate the letter to all committee members for their consideration. There was an instance last term where a member felt strongly about something, took the trouble to write down their concerns in a very logical way and we were able to deal with them effectively. This worked much better than a verbal message.

Details of this new policy will be in the next newsletter, and so will some of our other ideas. So the message is; please be sure to read your newsletters. Thanks to Peter's efficiency those of you who have a computer can access the most recent newsletter at any time on our web site.

Now some news about sponsorship. We would like to thank the Mexican for their sponsorship over many years for which we are enormously grateful. We would also like to thank Brian for setting it up. This sponsorship is now coming to an end, but happily John Fowler of Eagle Investments has agreed to sponsor us next year to the tune of £250. In return we will present John and his wife with tickets to our concerts and an acknowledgement on the back of our programmes. If any of you have connections with any other businesses in town, which you feel might be prepared to sponsor us on a similar basis, please can you let me know.