

## Eltham Choral society - Annual Report 2014-2015

Name: Eltham Choral Society  
Short name: ECS  
Registered Number: 1023904  
Principal Address: 12 The Close,  
New Barn,  
Longfield,  
Kent, DA3 7JA  
President: Sir Willard White  
Vice Presidents: Clive Efford MP, Nicholas Jenkins  
Musical Director: Peter Asprey

### **Objects of the Society:**

The object of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Society, through its committee, shall determine from time to time.

### **Trustees:**

Rod Tutt	Chair and Programme Consultant
John King	Joint Vice-Chair, Treasurer & Webmaster
Rae Broom	Newsletter Editor and Social Media Administrator
Paul Edwards	Concert Venue Manager and Assistant Rehearsal Venue Manager
Martin North	Meetings Secretary, Concert Catering Manager
Fiona Gardiner	Joint Vice-Chair & Secretary
Valerie Seaton	Librarian and Assistant Social Secretary
Gillian Smith	Programme Co-ordinator, Posters, Programmes etc
Maggie Watson	Publicity Co-ordinator and rehearsal break manager
Richard Whitfield	Rehearsal venue manager

### **Report:**

#### **Chairman's Report**

At the end of our recent Singing Day, there was a lovely moment when two of our former Musical Directors, Miriam and Nick, were photographed together with our present M.D. Peter. It prompted me to reflect on the way that ECS has evolved and developed over the years.

From an Evening Institute class to an independent charitable organisation, ECS has built on its reputation as a non-auditioning community choir. Traditional concerts, joint ventures with other groups using talented young soloists and instrumental accompaniment, are regular features of our schedule. Biennial tours abroad are now well-established, and the commissioning of new works continues, as funding allows. Singing in and for the local community remains an important aspect of our agenda as does the encouragement of young people musically, illustrated particularly with our Young Composers Competition in 2012, and subsequently with Anita's bursary.

The on-going development of the Choir over the years has depended upon the commitment of its members and the hard work and dedication of the committee. To ensure this continues, we do need to fill the existing vacancies on the committee – PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING.

Thanks as always to Peter and Charles and to all those who contribute in any way to the smooth running of the Society. We look forward to another busy year – enjoy your singing.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Financially, 2014/2015 has been another good year for the choir. We have spent some £24,500 on a range of activities promoting choral music, which is our prime purpose under our constitution. We have subsidised all four concerts promoted this year to a total of some £6,600 but the accounts show a deficit over the year of only £3,600. We will continue to use our balances to promote concerts in the future.

Apart from the concert subsidy, the main outgoings continue to be professional fees and there is general agreement that the choir receives superb value for money from our talented team. The move to much more comfortable accommodation for our rehearsals has significantly increased the cost of our rehearsal venue but subscriptions remained the same this year and this is largely thanks to the unceasing efforts of our fund-raisers and the substantial numbers of singers on roll. Refreshment sales also contribute a significant regular income. In spite of this, inflation does take its toll and a prudent rise in subscription has been approved for next year. This is the first rise in subscription since 2006/7.

The other major contributor to stable subscription rates continues to be the HM Revenue & Customs in the form of income tax rebates for those choir members who pay their subscriptions through Gift Aid. This is a painless method of contributing to choir funds. Since HM Revenue & Customs introduced "Gift Aid" in April 2000, replacing the covenanting arrangements, almost three quarters of choir members have felt able to sign up. On current financial forecasts, the committee feels that finances and prospects are healthy for the foreseeable future but, given the increase in rehearsal venue costs and the gradually increasing costs overall due to inflation a rise in subscription for year 2015/16, the first since 2006/7, was proposed to the AGM and accepted at £105 per annum, £39 per term at the early payment rate or £110 per annum, £42 per term at the late payment rate.

The Committee of Eltham Choral Society  
October 2015