



Chairman's Report 2017 – 18

Membership at the end of our summer term had dwindled to 30 singers although currently (October 2018) it stands at 41. We were all greatly saddened at the death of Jon de Wit who died in June 2018. His spirited contribution to Faringdon Singers which included his cello playing and his humorous asides will be sorely missed. We were pleased to sing the psalm chosen by him at his funeral in All Saints church. We are delighted that Pam has returned to us after an absence due to knee surgery and John's illness.

Our choice of music during the year ending in July has as usual been varied and challenging. The Christmas concert in Faringdon on 10th December (Handel's 'O praise the Lord with one consent') had to be cancelled due to heavy snow after we had performed in the Methodist church in Shrivenham, accompanied by John Ridgway, on the previous evening. The Spring concerts on 17th and 18th March included Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man' and the Requiem by Maurice Duruflé, which was particularly challenging. The concerts were in All Saints Faringdon, and at St. Michael's in Cumnor. Our organ accompanist for both concerts, Roy Woodhams, managed to drive undeterred and unscathed through falling snow in both directions from his home in Surrey. Jon de Wit provided a cello accompaniment for Dinah Loasby's solo for the Pie Jesu in Duruflé's Requiem. At the end of the concert in Cumnor Terence's 80th birthday was celebrated with the presentation of a cake made for the occasion by his daughter in law, and the singing of 'Happy Birthday'.

A choral evensong, accompanied on the organ by John Ridgway was sung in Sparsholt parish church on 13th May. The introit was 'If ye love me' by Thomas Tallis, the canticles were sung to Walmisley's setting in D minor and the anthem was 'Like as the hart' by Herbert Howells.

Our summer concerts in Faringdon Corn Exchange and The Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall in Uffington were on a much lighter note – Trial by Jury (Gilbert and Sullivan) and Captain Noah and his floating zoo (Flanders and Horowitz). These had originally been planned for the previous summer but cancelled due to Terence's indisposition. On this occasion Terence accompanied both works himself, whilst conducting – no mean feat! Our summer term ended with a supper at the Barber Rooms in Faringdon, and my sincere thanks to Pam, who once again made the arrangements for this most enjoyable evening. A presentation was made to Terence on having been the Musical director of the Singers for 25 years - since 1993, although it must be added that he had been accompanying Faringdon Singers since 1979.

We have made use of the Oxfordshire library service as well as our own library, and the occasional purchase of scores. My thanks to Janet and Carol for arranging the library loans then collecting, distributing and returning the scores after erasing any pencil inscriptions. All solo parts during the year past have been 'in-house' except for Ben Beurklian-Carter who sang as the despotic Usher in Trial by Jury.

The Autumn term, ending as it does with the Christmas concerts, seems to be the most popular. Some regular singers take a term out for various reasons and we are always very pleased to see them return. Try if you can to fit Faringdon Singers into your busy lifestyles, and to keep us informed of impending absences. I would urge all members to keep an eye and ear out for potential new singers – please let me or Sjoerd know if you have been contacted by possible singers.

Monies raised for charity at concerts :

Christmas 2017	Methodist Church, Shrivenham	Church funds + Shelter	£100+£135
Spring 2018	All Saints church, Faringdon	Helen and Douglas House	£?
	St. Michael's church, Cumnor	Church improvement project	£315
Summer 2018	Corn Exchange, Faringdon	Faringdon new children's centre	£130
	Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington	Sobell House, Oxford	£400

Finally I would like to thank Terence for his unswerving dedication, all committee members for their hard work and support during the past year, and of course, all you singers!