



Patron: Samuel West
Music Director: Darius Battiwalla
Registered Charity No. 518073

Social Events Officer's report July 2011.

My first year as the Social Events Officer is at an end, an exciting year which has been dominated by the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Christmas was, however, my initial challenge as I had to make adjustments for the fact that we were, for the first time, having 2 concerts in the day. A huge benefit of this was having the use of the Memorial Hall for the intervals, especially when the sherry and mince pies were served, as it provided the opportunity for members of both the Chorus and the band to mingle. Janet once again donated a beautiful cake to raffle which, with member's contributions, covered the cost of the event.

The City Hall ballroom proved to be the perfect venue for our 75th Celebration which took the form of a concert, dinner and dance. 200 people attended including 19 of our friends from Bochum. It was wonderful that they were able to join us for our celebration and this was thanks to Janet Hoyle.

Reception drinks in one of the side halls, were followed by a short concert conducted by Darius. This was not uneventful and although singers were collapsing around us the show went on! (Thankfully neither of the people who collapsed was seriously ill). It was a joint concert with the Bochum Choir, the programme was varied and occasionally challenging, not least singing in German surrounded by native speakers of the language! A delicious meal was followed by speeches from The Lord Mayor, Councillor Sylvia Dunkley, Andreas Meier from Bochum, Trisha Cooper, and Julie. Julie was as eloquent in German as in English! The rest of the evening was left for socialising and dancing to the Silver Leaf Jazz Band. The help I received from the staff at the City Hall was invaluable and working with them seems to have helped to further develop relations there. I hope that we will have more opportunities for collaborative ventures in the future. From all the positive messages I have received I think the event was deemed a success.

I am so grateful to Angela as her excellent organisational skills have certainly made taking on this role much easier and her ongoing advice and help has been invaluable. I also wish to thank everyone who has supported and helped me during the year, the committee has given me lots of encouragement and often practical assistance but I have been particularly grateful that other members have also offered and provided much needed help.

I have enjoyed my first year in office and look forward to the challenges the 2011/12 season may bring although, dare I say it, it is unlikely to compare with the 75th anniversary!

Helen Kirk September 2011

