

WENDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting 2025

Chair's Address

Introduction

- Wendover Choral Society is a significant asset for the local community. In the last year our performances have impressed not only our audiences, but also those who have performed with us. Colin, our organ soloist at our last concert, observed that we sounded like 'a bigger and better' choir. Sian Dicker's comment to me, when she emailed following our June workshops, was 'I hope you all know how good you are'.
- That has not happened by accident. It is the result of decades of commitment from members of the choir, its musical directors and accompanists, its committee members and its friends and supporters.
- I feel a responsibility to all of those people, to ensure that we continue to improve, and that we retain our local focus and friendly, welcoming culture so that the choir can remain an asset for the local community for decades to come.

Review of the year

- It has been a successful year. We rehearsed and performed our customary two concerts in December and May. We tackled increasingly ambitious music, building up to Poulenc's Gloria in the May concert when I think we surprised ourselves by mastering an intimidatingly tricky piece.
- We did a lot more than just perform two concerts: we said we wanted to involve ourselves more in local community events, and we did. We sang carols on Manor Waste; we sang carols in the King and Queen; we sang 40s songs at Stoke Mandeville's VE Day celebrations and we sang at the lighting of Wendover's VE Day Beacon.

Looking ahead

- I am sure that Kenton will continue to push us to improve. I am looking forward to hearing his thoughts for our next season.

- We need a few new members. I would welcome your suggestion for ways to encourage other singers to join us.
- We need some new committee members!

Concluding comments

- We have changed a lot, in the space of 18 months. We have changed our musical director, we have grown significantly in confidence and in the quality of the sound we make, and we no longer routinely lose a four-figure sum whenever we hold a concert. We need to continue that progress.
- I am enormously grateful to my fellow committee members, for their hard work and commitment and for tolerating me. And I am extremely grateful to Kenton for all that he brings to the choir: his inspirational leadership, his musical talent, his ridiculous hard work and his endearing belief that he can drag me and the rest of the committee into the 21st century in our use of IT.

Rod Ainsworth
July 2025