

## **Chairs report to Bishopwearmouth Choral Society AGM 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

It was good to have a normal year after covid disruption. We enjoyed three excellent concerts, all different, all successful.

We also tried a number of new things last year. We had our first performance at the Fire Station with our "Sondheim Side by Side" Concert. Although the level of preparedness from the Fire Station for our rehearsal day was disappointing, the concert itself was excellent. With a really good response from an enthusiastic audience.

We had our first student through our Student Singer Programme whereby promising new singers (who may take singing as a career) work with us through rehearsals and in concerts and in return we provide professional singing lessons.

We were delighted to have Bradley Cheswick to play Beethoven's Violin Concerto which mixed choral and instrumental pieces to great effect.

We have agreed a new fee structure £125 per year, which now covers our annual running and rehearsal costs. Our accounts are transparent and shared with the society. We also have the same 25% increase for patrons. We are very pleased and deeply grateful, to have accepted generous donations from members and patrons. Thank you.

In the coming year are that we hope to be combining with a children's choir for part of our Christmas Concert. We look to have an extra coffee morning to raise funds and we will continue with our recruitment drive for new members. We were delighted to welcome five new members at our first rehearsal of the year.

Martin Richardson is taking a responsibility for marketing this year. Please feed him with items for the press and social media.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the dedication of our singers, and our outstanding professionals, Eileen Bown and David Murray. We produce quality musical concerts of a very high standard for ourselves and the public. We do it because we love it and long may it continue.

Please talk to the committee. We are open to ideas which will help the Choral Society to flourish. The society is all of us.

Last but not least: This is our **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year**: We are the longest continually operating Choral society in the North East region and we will be celebrating in Style. Check our website for details, [www.bishopwearmouth.co.uk](http://www.bishopwearmouth.co.uk).

Enjoy the year ahead.

Mike Foster (Chair: Bishopwearmouth Choral Society)