

## **BARKING TYE COMMUNITY CHOIR – Annual Report 2015**

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The Choir has enjoyed yet another very successful year with 27 members from Barking and the surrounding villages. We rehearse weekly for most of the year and aim to give at least two concerts or public performances.

We are still a ladies' only choir. This is not from choice – tenors and basses seem to be reluctant to join us for some reason! However as most community choirs are for mixed voices (that is sopranos, altos, tenors and basses), we are rather proud to be different.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July last year we sang at Battsford Church's Centenary Service. Then on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August we took part in the Caravan Club Brass Band's 'Last Night of the Proms' at Ringshall Village Hall. This was an outdoor event, held on probably the coldest evening of the summer, but we sang with great gusto from under our blankets and waved our union flags. Whether or not we were actually heard by the audience above the sound of the brass band is debatable but it was all good fun.

In contrast, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July was a lovely warm evening for our annual concert, which was held at Great Bricett Church. Entitled 'Memories', the Choir's programme featured songs from the last forty years or so. There were also several vocal and instrumental solos. This year we chose to divide the proceeds between the charity 'The Friends of the Ferns' and Great Bricett Church. 'The Ferns' supports adults and children living in Suffolk who have experienced sexual violence and abuse recently or in the past.

All choirs are in great demand for carol services at Christmas. This year we sang at Barking Chapel and Barking Church and also performed some Christmas songs to a very appreciative audience at Barking Hall Nursing Home.

We were delighted to be invited to sing at the Community Council's '1950s Evening' at the beginning of December and several members of the Choir took part in the very successful pantomime 'Wind-up in the Willows' in February.

All in all, a very eventful year and one in which the Choir has grown both in confidence and skill. We are very much looking forward to our concert in Barking Church on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, entitled 'Strawberries and Cream' (a clue to the interval refreshments!) and in aid of the church and Macmillan Cancer Care.

The Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings in the village hall and new members are always welcome to join us.

Sandra Reynolds  
April 2015