

BARKING TYE COMMUNITY CHOIR – Annual Report 2013

The choir was formed in April 2011 and comprises 28 singers from Barking, Battsford, Great Bricett, Ringshall, Willisham and Stowmarket. We meet every Tuesday evening in the Barking Village Hall, with occasional rehearsals in Barking Chapel.

We now have our own accompanist, which leaves me free to direct the choir. The piano makes a regular journey to the Village Hall each week from my house in Tye Green.

In May last year we joined with the Stowmarket Combined Churches Choir in a fund-raising concert for Christian Aid and later in the year we performed in Barking Church at a concert with the Barking Handbell Ringers.

We were invited to sing at Battsford's Jubilee celebrations, where we found ourselves, together with the long-suffering piano, singing in the middle of a field. An interesting experience but we had a very enthusiastic audience!

In July we embarked on a very ambitious event – singing at the Royal Albert Hall with about 2000 other singers from all over the country in performances of 'The Armed Man' and 'Gods of Olympus' by Carl Jenkins. The composer himself was in the audience. We hired a coach with the Stowmarket choir, leaving Barking at the crack of dawn and returning in the early hours. It was a fantastic day and we are most grateful to Barking Community Council for helping us with the cost.

Christmas was a very busy time for us with carol services at Battsford, Great Bricett and Barking Chapel. We also entertained the Stowmarket Stroke Group, sang at the WI party and provided some of the entertainment for Barking's 1960s Evening (complete with mini skirts and kinky boots!)

At the moment we are rehearsing for a concert which we will be hosting at Great Bricett Church on Saturday 20th July. It is to be in aid of the Suffolk Air Ambulance and interval refreshments will be provided by the WI.

As always, new members are always welcome.

Sandra Reynolds
25.4.2013