



*The community choir for Rotherhithe & Bermondsey, where local people come together to sing*

### **RBCS Chair's Report February 2016 AGM**

2015 was another happy year for the choir. The big events were performing Mendelssohn's Elijah and becoming a registered charity. Our profile in the community continues to grow among singers, audiences and events organisers. The essential ingredient is our Musical Director, Sue Heath Downey, who inspires us through many a musical adventure.

#### **Music**

Our music has ranged from high baroque (Bach's Christmas Oratorio) and high romantic (Mendelssohn's Elijah) to jazz (Chilcott's Little Jazz Mass), each a stretch in its own way, and delightful. We gave them our all and on concert day our performances were received enthusiastically, a marvellous reward for all our efforts.

#### **Audiences**

We continued to offer free entry to our concerts so as to attract a wide audience, who have given generously as they leave the concert, reflecting their enthusiastic support.

#### **Supporters**

We had generous funding from our patron Prem Goyal and anonymous donors which enabled us to pay for the orchestra and professional soloists for Elijah. St Mary's, St Peter's and St James churches continued to welcome for our performances. Time & Talents provided rehearsal space and many people gave support in kind. To all, heartfelt thanks.

#### **Publicity**

Audiences for amateur music are mostly friends and family and we do our best, with limited funds, to draw local people in too. We make best use of social media, free web advertising and paper flyers and posters, again with the help of choir members.

#### **Good practice**

The choir continues to be a member of our national association, Making Music, which keeps us up to date with good practice. At a Special General Meeting last November we adopted the new Making Music model constitution. Several committee members booked themselves onto Making Music events (free) to keep up with the latest thinking. We became a registered charity which enables us to claim gift aid and gets us free Google advertising.

#### **Committee members**

Many thanks of course to our enthusiastic choir committee members, Steve Hodges, John Hawthorne, Penny Barrett and Emily Clemo for their very positive and valued contributions, past and future. Particular thanks also to past committee members Dave Morrison and Ruth Kaye for all they have done for the choir and for their good cheer.

#### **And to come in 2016**

We are a community choir and aim to be a place where local people get a warm welcome and make music in a supportive, joyous atmosphere. The March 2016 concert will be hugely exciting, best-loved music, our enthusiastic orchestra, return appearances from our favourite soloists and the wonderful acoustic of St James church. We intend to make the rest of 2016 every bit as thrilling.

Clare Birks  
RBCS Chair 2015-16

*Registered charity number 1161053  
Supported by Time & Talents and Prem Goyal  
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