

Ashendon Voices

Report to Ashendon Annual Meeting, April 2022

Formed in 2018, Ashendon Voices, (so far, female group) has managed to defy everyone's expectations! As (almost) none of its members had ever sung regularly before, we focussed at first on having fun and enjoying social time together. Quite soon, we found we had improved so much that we started to contribute to church services.

In 2020, we took part in the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs for the first time. The memory of our success and the bond we have between us kept us going through most of lockdown. You may have heard us warbling in each other's gardens, and in the church, with all the doors open! We are very grateful to the church 'team', who made it possible for us to meet throughout the winter months, so that we were able to sing at the Christingle service.

On March 5th this year, we, once again performed at the BFoC. Some of the music we sang was very challenging, but we managed to perform a collection of songs in a number of diverse styles. Our rendition of 'From a Distance' was very moving. We had chosen it months ago, but it turned out to be very poignant, especially in the light of the situation in Ukraine.

Singing received a very bad press at the start of the Covid pandemic. Thanks to a 'super spreading' event, singing was blamed for transmitting the virus and was all-but banned. A lot of choirs had no option but to sing via Zoom, and the like. We were so lucky to be able to find spaces in our village to meet safely. As I write, none of us have (yet) had Covid. Perhaps, at least in our case, the health and well being benefits of singing in a choir have been more significant than we knew?

We hope to be able to 'Sing for the Queen' at the village jubilee celebration, and we are tentatively planning a possible concert later in the year.

Fiona Jacob