

Ashendon Voices

Ashendon Voices has had an exciting year! In March, we took part, as we have done for several years, in the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs. This is always a pleasure for us. There are five or so choirs in each concert, and (I think) five concerts in the day. Choirs sign up for this very popular event months in advance, and Jane Smith, the organizer, plans each concert to give a variety of musical styles and genres, and choirs come from far and wide to take part. There is always a newly composed work for us all to sing together, and it has done us good to stand on a stage and give our best! Each year we gain in confidence, and I am always proud that we acquit ourselves so well! The meal afterwards is a welcome chance to relax and share our success with our 'other halves'!

A new departure for AV was to host our own concert in Ashendon Church. This involved a considerable amount of work for choir members, both on the musical side (learning enough music to provide an interesting and enjoyable programme and rehearsing fairly intensively and, in the run up to the BIG DAY with our amazing pianist, Andrew Melvin) and the practicalities of hosting an audience (advertising, selling tickets, entertaining our guest musicians, the Chandos Ensemble) and many other important tasks. Our guest musicians were very impressed with the tea provided for them, and the interval snacks were, I'm told, second to none!

We also sang for the Memory café, and at the Christingle service.

We have also been very happy to welcome three ladies from outside the village. Jean, Melanie, and Helen have brought with them their experience and enthusiasm and are learning our ways of doing things! We are delighted that we are attracting non-Ashendonians to our group. With our emphasis on health, enthusiasm and being open to try different kinds of music, everyone can develop at their own speed. We sing anything from religious music to pop!

We are planning our second concert. Due to take place on Saturday, July 6th, in Ashendon church, this will raise funds, as we did before, for a charity. Last time we were able to donate around £750, which is a real achievement. Please save the date and come and support us! There is such a mixture of music that you will find something to like, for sure! This time, we will be supported by a brass group, and we are looking forward to performing to a full church.

We are also hoping to invite some men to join with us to sing some extracts from Handel's Messiah. Watch this space...!

More details are available from fiona.m.jacob@gmail.com If you would like to join us or find out how to get tickets or could offer help with 'front of house', please get in touch!

Fiona Jacob