Ashendon Voices 2026

Ashendon Voices continues to thrive. We meet most Tuesdays from 2.30 - 5.00pm – ish! When everyone is there, we number between 12 and 14 members and are very pleased to welcome ladies from Cuddington and Brill, as well as from our own village. The choir has been going for ten years or so, having survived Covid. During that time, when we were allowed, we would be so happy to congregate (socially distancing) outside a member's house and sing 'Happy Birthday'. Later on, we sat on deck chairs in each other's gardens – we wanted so much to sing together.

Since then, we have performed annually at the Beaconsfield Festival of Choirs. Each choir is allocated a 15-minute slot, which is just right for us. We enjoy listening to the other choirs too and usually manage to fit in a cake/glass of something etc around our singing.

We regularly sing in St Mary's church, here in our village. We have a substantial repertoire of Christmas carols to offer, and we enjoy the run up to Christmas as it involves performing most of our favourite carols.

When we feel we have enough repertoire, we put together a programme and plan a concert. We have performed three concerts so far. The most recent was at the end of March. We sang a variety of music, including 'A Little Jazz Mass' by Bob Chilcott. It was very challenging, but most satisfying to perform. I was extremely proud to lead the choir as many compliments were showered on us at the end.

We always invite other musicians to join us at our concerts, as we would struggle to fill a programme on our own. This year, Andrew Melvin, our fantastic pianist, brought his wife, Shima (a professional harmonica player), Clive Pearce (bass guitar) and Chris Gater (flute) to join us. They really joined into the spirit of the evening, joining us in our, now traditional finale, 'Sing Gently' by Eric Whitacre.

As the 'icing on the cake', we raised over £300 for the Lewy Body Dementia Association.

As I am the choir leader, it's natural that my focus is on the music. But the choir is so important to us all. We support each other, enjoy each other's company and a good laugh from time to time. Members have taken on roles, such as banker, tea maker, biscuit/cake provider, and we are aware that by using (and paying for) the Village Hall, we are helping to sustain this building, which is so central to our village life.

If you would like to know more, contact Fiona Jacob ***fiona_jacob@hotmail.co.uk*** or just turn up (with biscuits!!!)