

Chairman's Report for the period ended 31st March 2014

My annual report covers the period from September 2013 to 31st March 2014.

I begin my report once again on a note of continuing sadness that the health of our President, Peter Hurford, continues to decline - our thoughts and prayers are with Pat and the family.

Since the last AGM in September there have been some significant activities:

- The FCOCA Festival which we hosted was a great success and our ECA was able to make a donation to the FCOCA funds. This was well received.
- We also made a substantial donation to the Cathedral Choir Tour Fund.
- Our postal communications have been, and will continue to be optimised. We do not believe this will have an adverse impact on our activities because the majority of those receiving our communications by post have shown little or no interest in the Association. They will, however, remain a part of our historic records.

I am pleased that valedicted choristers of both choirs are joining the Association.

We have continued to publish Alban Notes on a quarterly basis and I am very grateful to Maureen Adams, our Honorary Secretary, for editing and generally improving my drafts. The circulation of Alban Notes and our other communications is now being restructured to reflect the proposed change to our membership categories. A special mailing list of 'friends' with whom we wish to remain in contact and invite to our events will be maintained – although they will no longer be classed as members – and an additional simple mailing list will be maintained so we can contact those whom we wish to attend our public events.

Looking to our forthcoming events:

Sadly a further Ex-Choristers' Camp at Luccombe has proved not to be feasible this year due to family commitments of Tony & Ros de Rivaz and the lack of a critical mass of potential attendees. We will look at another visit in 2015.

Members may recall that 2014 would normally have been our biennial reunion and choral evensong however Barry Rose is celebrating his 80th birthday on 24th May and there will be a special service of Choral Evensong on Saturday 14th June at which Barry will conduct the Canticles and Anthem. ECA members who sang or played for Barry have been invited to attend this service and sing with the massed choirs from St Albans, St Paul's and Guildford Cathedrals. Invitations have been sent out accordingly.

To balance this year's programme of activities for our membership it is hoped that the ECA will be able to contribute musically to *Music in Bloom* in September and the new committee will explore having some form of event in the autumn, maybe a buffet and service of Compline.

Our ECA Members' Year Book will be published in June and will be available free of charge to all members on request. This latest edition is being improved to focus on the ongoing musical achievements of some of our high profile and not-so-high profile members.

Finally, I should like to thank the outgoing committee for their tremendous efforts and encouragement since last September, particularly John and Maureen Adams who are not seeking re-election, and also Andrew Lucas and the Music Department, and Anna McCrum, Dean's PA without whose support our Association would find it difficult to flourish.

Thank you.
Malcolm Bury – Chairman
April 2014