



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 19**

30th September, 2014



Dear Friend

Since I last wrote. The sad death of Sue Freeman left Mairi Moulton as caretaker until the election of Kendall Harding at this month's AGM. We wish Kendall well, taking the Chair in her first Committee post. We will remember Sue for her kindness and dedication, for establishing the Chamber Choir and for inspiring the popular choice of Scott Farrell, as our Director of Music. What a wise choice that has turned out to be!

Despite the difficult task bequeathed by Roger Sayer, and demanding Cathedral duties, Scott, with support from Gavin Williams, did a wonderful job with Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. The performance earned accolades from a number of experts who were in the audience. Among them was our local celebrity composer, John McCabe, who had come in his wheel-chair, especially to hear us sing a work too-rarely performed.

Our next concert, on Saturday 8th November, in the St Georges Centre (map overleaf), is a performance of Brahms' beautiful German Requiem, in Brahms' own language and piano setting, for four hands. Such an authentic link to the music of this great composer is particularly poignant. We first performed one of his works *The Song of Destiny* in 1885, during our 13th year of existence and 12 years before the composer's death. So he was truly our contemporary. We are joined by singers from Cobham Hall School, who are enjoying rehearsing with us (as we are with them).

Please do your best to attend and encourage others to do so. Unlike Cathedral concerts, we will lack the "passing trade" that swells our audience and your support will mean a great deal. There is a wealth of information on the website (address below; just select *Concerts & tickets* or *Friends*). There you will find notices of future concerts and a flier for the next one. I will mail a flier for Friends who are not on e-mail.

Friends help greatly to sustain the RCS in this, our 142nd year as a premier Choral Society. I believe that, under Scott's direction, we will reach new heights of excellence with imaginative programmes and an affordable budget. Thank you for your continuing friendship and concert attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm

Malcolm Moulton, Friends' Secretary

SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

This is a reminder that Annual Subs are due on 1st October and should be paid either by cash or cheque direct to the Treasurer, Chris Clemence, or on-line to the RCS account (details are on the website).

Benefit and subscriptions are unchanged since last year.

If in any doubt, please contact me.

*Upcoming concerts, as published by our Webmaster, Mary Burslem
(See also her RCS website and the RCS Annual brochure)*

Ein deutsches Requiem

Saturday 8th November 2014, 7 pm

Rheinberger: Cantus Missae

Rheinberger: Abendlied

Brahms: Ein deutsches Requiem (piano duet version)

James Wilkinson, Bass

Claire Innes-Hopkins, Piano

Linden Innes-Hopkins, Piano

With the Cathedral Choir and pupils and staff from Cobham Hall School

Conducted by Scott Farrell

St. George's Centre, Chatham

