**Chelmsford Singers Newsletter No 1 November 2023**

Jonathan Weymouth our new Chair writes:

I was honoured to chair my first Annual General Meeting of The Chelmsford Singers on the evening of the 7th November 2023, having been elected some six months earlier at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

The meeting was well attended by Choir Members and thanks to all the excellent preparation by the members of the Committee we were able to get through the business of the meeting very smoothly and move onto the informal social event which followed which was enjoyed by all present.

The most important matters which were settled included the electing of Nicholas Alston as our President and although not able to attend he was welcomed mostly warmly by all the group. Nick’s impressive CV has now been posted on our website and he has declared his intention to involve himself with the Choir and help whenever he can. Following some long needed redrafting and updating by our Secretary Martin Burchett, a new constitution was also agreed.

The Choir Members were made aware of the Committee’s determination to enhance the Choir’s reputation, profile and presence within Chelmsford and beyond and they were encouraged to actively participate in achieving this. In this way we can ensure that it continues to grow and attract both new members and increase audience numbers which is vital to its continued success.

The main focus looking forward was the Choir’s Centenary in 2027 and to mark this with a truly memorable celebration.

However the main message to  everyone was to enjoy their singing whether learning parts at home, in rehearsals or performances. Participation in singing and presenting concerts has been shown to improve both physical and mental health. Everyone was encouraged to promote the Choir’s aims which are “an appreciation of all types of choral music and to improve, develop and maintain education in the art and science of music in all aspects.

In conclusion, the whole of the assembled group, expressed their wholehearted gratitude to James Davy for his brilliant service to The Singers over many years and hoped that he could in some way retain his connection with us in the future following his decision to leave his post at Chelmsford Cathedral.