

CALNE MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

The Presidency: Carole Browne

Calne Music and Arts Festival Society is a registered charity No. 276875

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

FOR THE 2012 AGM

Hugh Pilcher-Clayton, 25th January

Firstly, may I express my appreciation to Peter and Marigold Treloar, who stood down as joint Presidents last year, and to Carole Browne for taking on the role.

It is only through the commitment and hard work of a large number of people from Calne and the local area that it is possible to hold each year such a large undertaking as the Calne Music and Arts Festival. So may I thank everybody involved: yourselves as patrons; the Box Office staff from the Town Council; the ladies who provided the lunches; the stewards for the Art Exhibition; those who helped at the door for individual events; the bar staff; the amateur and professional artists and musicians; our sponsors, Calne Town Council, Bevirs Solicitors and Skylight Publishing; our collaborators, Calne Woodlands Camera Club, Calne Library, The Heritage Centre, The White Hart and Marden House; and the Committee itself, all of whom put in many hours throughout the year and during the festival.

I would especially like to thank Gordon Burns as Art Director, Maggie Garratt as Treasurer, Simon Parker as Music Advisor, Anne Davey as Patrons' Secretary and Glenis Ansell as Secretary. I am sorry to say that Sue Thornton has decided to leave the Committee and also, after many years service, Joan Woodman.

Overall attendance at the 2011 festival was down from the 2010 festival and the festival made a loss. Having said this, the quality of the Art Exhibition was, I believe, higher and there were some memorable performances. I would particularly mention the English and Italian Baroque concert given by Calne Choral, the Young Performers' Day on the Tuesday, the Dance Spectacular by The Lindsay Howard Academy of Dance, Cold Blows the Wind by New Scorpion and the concert of choral works by the Avebury Vocal Ensemble. For the second year running there was an Art Exhibition by primary school children in the library.

The Committee has already started planning for this year. Our main aim is to avoid making another loss and yet at the same time maintain the quality. We have decided to have the private viewing of the Art Exhibition on the Thursday and open the Festival with an Old Time Music Hall on the Friday. There will be no Street Entertainment. Highlights will include a showing of a film produced by Christopher Miles on the life of D H Lawrence, a violin recital by Georgia Browne, an evening concert by Marlborough College as part of a Young Performers' Day, a recital of Schubert songs and lyrical ballads by Wordsworth and Coleridge, and a talk on Pictures at an Exhibition followed by a performance of the work for a piano duet. We also plan to have evenings of folk music, jazz, and popular music.

Two possible new ventures are Music in Action - a series of workshops with students from local schools culminating in a performance of a work that they have helped compose – and a performance by a newly formed Calne Chamber Orchestra.

Finally, we are always looking for extra helpers, so if you can help in any way then please can you let one of the Committee members know.