

ALTON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT to 31 August 2007

**Registered Charity Number: 1107683
(Registered 18 January 2005)**

OBJECTS: “To advance public education appreciation and involvement in the art and science of music by providing a forum for promoting and improving ensemble playing in all its aspects and by the presentation of public orchestral concerts and other events as the society through its committee shall from time to time determine.”

LIST OF TRUSTEES (as at 31 August 2007)

Christopher Leggett	Chairman
Barbara Dawkins	Secretary
Rachel Pritchard	Treasurer
David Budd	Principal Conductor
Graham Cross	Conductor Laureate
Mac Newton	Leader
Ellie Rivers	Membership Secretary
Sarah Main	Publicity
Jennifer Burns	‘CODA’ Editor
Chris Collins	

Bank: Lloyds TSB Bank
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Charity Correspondent:
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Signed:
(Chairman) (Treasurer)

Date:

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

CHARITABLE STATUS

The Annual Report for the year ending 31 August 2006 was sent to the Charities Commission. Recent changes in Charity Legislation mean that this process will be simpler in the future.

Although the list of Trustees at 31 August 2007 is correct, two resignations have been tendered to take effect at the AGM – Ellie Rivers and Chris Collins. During the year Lindy Wiltshire also tendered her resignation. We thank them all for their considerable efforts on behalf of the orchestra. It is pleasing that we will have nominations for two new Trustees at the AGM – Les Packett and Alison Stickland.

No payments were made to any of the Trustees, except for the reimbursement of legitimate payments incurred by them on behalf of the Orchestra.

ENSEMBLE PLAYING

The membership of the Orchestra remains steady at around 50 players. The standard of playing has again improved and under the baton of our new Principal Conductor, David Budd, the orchestra has had a busy year of concerts and engagements. Separate sectional rehearsals have enabled the string section and the clarinet choir to entertain at a reception in Alton for their new twin town, Pertuis.

PUBLIC CONCERTS

In October the orchestra performed its first concert with a professional soloist in Alton Maltings Centre, playing largely British and contemporary music as part of the national 'Listen Up!' initiative. The event was a great success musically, stretching the orchestra to new heights, and established a new audience for orchestral music in the heart of Alton. We are grateful to the Lottery Fund for a grant of £1000 under their 'Awards for All' scheme that enabled us to take this huge step forward.

Two identical Christmas Concerts were held in December in conjunction with the Alton Choral Society and 'Ancora' ladies choir - one in The Church of the Good Shepherd, Four Marks and the other in Alton Maltings Centre.

In March the orchestra visited Chawton Primary School performing a joint programme of music with their pupils that was much appreciated by the staff and audience.

At the request of Alton Town Council, the orchestra performed 'Last Night of the Proms' in the public gardens before an audience of several hundred people. The traditional music, flag waving and singing of the second half of the programme was preceded by two longer pieces and Alton Community Choir also sang several Hampshire folk songs in each half. The concert was a musical success, and David Budd's first 'solo' concert, but the sound system and lighting will need improving when it is repeated next year. We are grateful to Alton Town Council for covering the orchestra's costs in staging the programme, as well as organising and promoting the event.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Collections at the orchestra's concerts have enabled around £2000 to be raised for local charities in the past year.

Two editions of the orchestra's magazine, CODA, have been published and have been made widely available in Alton as well as distributed to members of the orchestra. It has been useful in raising awareness of the orchestra and in recruiting new members. We are pleased with the new look of the magazine under the editorship of Jennifer Burns.

Through the Twinning Committee, contact has been made with municipal officials and a musical group in Pertuis, Alton's new twin town in Provence. During the forthcoming year we will be investigating the practicalities of a musical exchange.

The recipient of the annual award for a major contribution to the orchestra will be announced at the AGM.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Trustees have now organised a rolling annual programme of concerts and events. The list at present includes:

Christmas Concert in the Alton Maltings Centre	Sat 15 December
Invitation to perform at St Lawrence Primary School	(Wed) March 2008
Concert for Alton Maltings Centre Open Day, with soloists	Sat 17 May 2008
'Last Night of the Proms', Public Gardens, Alton	Sat 12 July 2008
Christmas Concert in the Alton Maltings Centre	Sat 13 Dec 2008

POLICIES

The Charity has limited funds and operates with minimal reserves. As such, the trustees do not consider it necessary to formulate an investments selection strategy other than by operating through a bank account that pays interest.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRUSTEES

The Charities Act 1993 requires the Trustees to prepare annual accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As part of our Partnership with Amery Hill School, a designated Music College, we gratefully acknowledge the rehearsal facilities the school provides for us. We also thank Alton Town Council and Alton Maltings Centre for their support of the orchestra.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to the Trustees of Alton Concert Orchestra for their hard work in contributing to all the exciting initiatives that have taken place this year, and to all the members of the orchestra for their dedication to playing and enjoying music.

Chris Leggett
Chairman
Alton Concert Orchestra