



Chair's Report 2011

2011 has been another successful year for the London Saxophone Choir. We have consolidated our regular membership, supplemented by regular 'deps' and extra players. We have settled into our rehearsal location and we have been involved in more performances than ever, earning money for the Choir and putting us on a solid financial footing for the year ahead. Our repertoire has become ever more eclectic, from early music right through to 20th century and contemporary pieces.

Events

We ended 2010 with a formal concert which was well attended despite the bitter cold inside and outside. Once again, we were invited to perform carols at Sevenoaks Rugby Club though this had to be cancelled due to snowy weather, and we have been asked back again in 2011. During the year, we played bandstand gigs at: Golders Hill Park, Myatt's Fields, Ruskin Park (twice), Victoria Embankment Gardens and Epsom Marketplace. We also played for a festival at the South Bank and an inaugural music festival in Herne Hill, to great acclaim.

Future Plans

For 2011, we had hoped to have a rehearsal day in Central London to draw in new members but this has been carried forward. And we are also looking into playing further afield within the UK and abroad and an overseas tour is still a possibility. An article in the CASS magazine has helped raise awareness of LSC amongst players and we have certainly seen many new people come to try out playing with us. Perhaps another challenge is to convert more of them into regular members although we have almost always been able to put together a good ensemble of players when needed.

We are now in position to consider acquiring some commercially produced music to supplement our library and, possibly, a baritone saxophone to lend, should a member be willing to take up playing this instrument at rehearsals and gigs.

Thanks

Thanks go to the committee as a whole. Josie Aston handed over the financial reins to Michael Long this year and we thank them both for their hard work in keeping accurate records and looking after our funds. Sharon Moloney, our Secretary works tirelessly to make sure everything runs smoothly and her contribution goes far beyond her brief as secretary. We recently said 'farewell' to former Chair, Titia Rijpma as she left for New Zealand on assignment with her job. Titia has been a faithful member of the band since its inception and we all miss her a great deal, not just as Chair but as a saxophone player and as a good friend.

Thanks to our conductor, arranger, composer and musical director Roger Cawkwell for all the work you do leading us in rehearsals and concerts. You never cease to surprise us with interesting and challenging music and I don't think you have ever missed a rehearsal or performance. We really appreciate all you do for the LSC.

Steve Whiteley, October 2011