

REPORT ON THE 2014 YOUTH CHOIRS' COMPETITION

by Felicity Hill, Organiser

Leith Hill Youth Day....., I cannot believe 10 years can go by so quickly so what a fabulous year to finish on! The largest youth day to date with 31 choirs taking part, of which 8 were new to the festival plus several "returners". Sadly 4 choirs were turned away as not enough hours in the day!

Anyway, it was a busy day and audience numbers and takings reflected this. As ever the audience flow through the hall was a worry but worked although there was the occasional build up in the foyer, but not for long.

The standard of singing was again a privilege to hear - solos through to 4 part harmony, one choir made up of 4 and 5 year olds through to the largest number of entries in the older age classes, including 2 young men's choirs. The choice of music was broad and varied with very little repetition this year.

The adjudicator Catherine Beddison was in my opinion, spot on and personally one of the best I have seen. She was positive while constructive and her warm ups were very entertaining and challenging - especially the penguin song! She was very impressed by the standard and the number of choirs taking part. So much so I believe she may be entering a choir next year.

As ever the day is a success with the aid of lots of volunteer helpers for which I am very grateful.

Thank you for all your support, beautiful flowers and kind words of thanks. There have been a group of faithful stewards that I have been able to rely on for which I have been extremely grateful but in particular, Barbara Christopher has been a fabulous side kick. Thank you!

I am delighted that Heather Cordery has taken over the helm. I know the youth day is in excellent hands. Not only has Heather helped as a steward but also taken part as a leader of a school choir. She therefore she knows what the festival is about, and where the pitfalls and highlights may be! (Sorry Heather!!)

I really hope that next year the LHMF choir members will continue to support the festival and Heather (as I will) and that we as a festival will continue to nurture the singers of the future.

Once again many thanks for every one's support. It has been a privilege and a real pleasure to be part of the youth day.

Felicity Hill
Organiser (outgoing)