

## The Heath Singers

The Heath Singers originated from the Flackwell Heath Evening Women's Institute music group led by the late Beryl Crunden. I joined the group in January 1969 and in February Beryl asked me to become its leader. I rushed out and bought a music stand and my life was changed from then on.

Our first public performance was in September 1969 and for this occasion the girls made themselves mini dresses in bright coral pink crimplene. We had been determined to get away from the usual black and white uniforms of choirs, but we hadn't bargained for the sight of trembling knees! We reverted to long skirts a year or so later. During the early 70's we took part in several local pantomimes by the Heath Players Theatre Group as well giving concerts and entering local Festivals and occasionally winning them.

By 1973 the group had so expanded that a decision was made to amicably sever the ties with the WI and to work solely as an independent choir without affiliation to any organisation, and that is how we still work today. Although based in Flackwell Heath members come from as far afield as Medmenham, Stokenchurch, Speen, Burnham and Marlow for the weekly rehearsals. We have been fortunate in always having excellent accompanists. Margaret Deam played for the choir for thirty years, and our present pianist Alison Harding joined us in spring 2001 and is a wonderful support to us all. Much of the success of the choir is due to the musicianship of these two ladies.

Over the years the Heath Singers have given many concerts raising thousands of pounds for local charities, supporting in particular, Wycombe Hospital and its Scannappeal, the P.A.C.E. centre, Mcmillan Nurses and the Iain Rennie Hospice.

To celebrate our 35th Anniversary in 2004 we made a successful CD - a few copies are still available! As we go into the summer concert season 2006 the Choir is at full strength and ready for new venues and events. Although, invariably, the membership changes over the years, the same love of singing, sense of humour, and friendliness unites this group and the village should be proud to be home to such a unique choir as the Heath Singers. I am very proud and honoured to be their Boss Lady!

## Peggy Woolhouse

Pam Gresswell adds - "In recognition of the significant fundraising by The Heath Singers, Peggy has been invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July, so needless to say the Heath Singers are extremely proud of their Boss Lady! "Chosen the hat yet Peggy?""