



CHAIR'S REPORT 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 13th February 2010

I would like to begin this report by saying what a real pleasure it has been to be the Chair of City Synergy over the last year. I have been a member for a number of years and have always felt so welcome. The committee of City Synergy has been guided by its membership and will continue to listen in order to provide activities sought by its members. I would now like to reflect on some of the things we got up to during 2009.

The year began with a late Christmas Party at the Lord Nelson. This helped to brighten and warm the month of January. To see this month out we were given a delightful theatrical recitation of a couple of short stories by Brian Kellett at Chris and Jonathan's. In February we went to the Odeon Cinema to take in a film, "the Curious Case of Benjamin Button". With the addition of Audio Description many visual aspects of the film were enjoyed by all.

One of the activities during March was a visit to the SeaLife Centre. It was a fascinating time as our guide told us about the wide variety of Sea Life which surrounded us. Then, keeping with the theme of the day we went for Fish and Chips on the pier. April was a busy month with a trip to Chichester, a storytelling evening and a visit to the Fabrica Exhibition.

Amongst other activities in May was a relaxing Sunday afternoon in the Pavilion Gardens. June brought us a day-long trip to the Isle Of Wight. We travelled by train to Portsmouth. I thought the

hovercraft trip to the island was real fun and it appeared from the laughter that others thought the same. We visited Osborne House, Queen Victoria's island retreat. The guided tour around the house was a real hands on experience, just ask Colin. Another highlight of June was the Take Part Festival of Sport. City Synergy arranged for three tandems to ride from the King Alfred to Preston Park. When in the park we joined up with a cycling club called VC Jubilee and offered tandem rides around the cycle track. VC Jubilee brought a fixed wheeled tandem. These type's of bikes have no breaks and therefore gave an added element to a ride around the track and I'm so very pleased to say that we suffered no casualties. We also had a stall in order to provide information about our group.

In July, members and volunteers transformed themselves into bats and joined the Brighton Carnival. The weather was kind and the atmosphere was full of colour and sound. Madeira Drive was teeming with life. Our procession made such an impression on the judges that they were awarded "Best Small Band". I am thinking of putting them forward for "Britain's Got Talent".

In August, we visited Eastborne. On this day, there were two options for our members. These were either to see "Singing In The Rain" at the theatre or to sit on the beach to watch such aircraft as the Lancaster Bomber, the Euro Fighter and of course, the Red Arrows at Eastborne Airborne. Both provided a very entertaining time. A visit to Lewes in September for the Harvey's Brewery Tour and another visit in October to Harvey's Bringing Out The Old Festival were popular. Of course, you shouldn't jump to any conclusions about our membership in regards to this popularity.

Also in September we began a once a month midweek lunch. This was well attended and so we aim to offer this on a regular basis. November brought a trip to Southwick for lunch which was

followed by a walk. There was also a pub evening plus a midweek lunch. December was very full with Christmas celebrations. Our Christmas lunch this year was held at Saltdean Tavern and was very well received. There were two opportunities to sing in the build up to Christmas with the Singing For Pleasure Concert and Seasonal Singing at the Charles Napier pub. The Christmas show at the Theatre Royal was Peter Pan and as usual this was well attended.

Before I close, I would like to sincerely thank all of the committee members and volunteers as they are the ones that do the hard work to keep our unique group functioning. Thanks to their skill and determination to identify and secure sources of funding and create opportunities to raise money, City Synergy will continue for the foreseeable future.

I am also very grateful for the support I have received from the committee over the last twelve months so that I could sit in the chair. Well, you know what I mean. Lastly but certainly not least, I would like to say that I believe that one reason why City Synergy has such a loyal membership is due to the close friendships and mutual support that exist throughout our group. So thank you all. Actually there is one more thing. If you are not already a member or a volunteer, why not join us as we would very much welcome you. Our chief objective is to enjoy ourselves.

Keith Turner (Chair)