

Chairman's Report 2013  
by Robin Morris

**Forty years on, when afar and asunder  
Parted are those who are singing to-day  
(Harrow School song)**

IT is presumptuous to look ahead to the next 40 years. On the other hand there is a continuous commitment to the City and much still to be done. So we must be optimistic about the future role of the Trust and its ongoing existence.

The highlight of the year for me was the celebration at the Guildhall to record the 40 years of the foundation of the Civic Trust. Accompanied by the Mayor, Councillor David Brown and led by Alex Bailey carrying our banner, a large number of members and guests processed from Southgate Street to the Guildhall. The whole event was preceded by a service of thanksgiving at St Mary de Crypt.

I see no harm in a little self-congratulation occasionally. After all you have much to be proud of. The whole event was a great success due in large measure to the organisation of John Lovell.

From my angle I express my thanks and appreciation to all of you for the presentation of the splendid engraved claret jug. I will endeavour to show my appreciation by keeping it in constant use which should not prove to be too much of a chore..

I have also been encouraged this year by the support shown by members of City Council, to our activities including amongst others, our Mayor David Brown and his wife Joanne, Paul James and Pam Tracey. It is good to have this close relationship (just as long as we do not get too cosy!) Thank you also to our MP Richard Graham for his support particularly, his efforts in relation to History Week.

Pat and I went to the Ecclesiastical Carol Concert at the Cathedral just before Christmas at which members of staff and local school children entertained us with traditional seasonal music and song. It was a great occasion and a tribute to the individuals who organise what is now an annual event. Very well done to everyone concerned.

The Carol Concert is only one example of the involvement of Ecclesiastical in local charities and other affairs. The Trust owes a great debt of gratitude to our sponsor and members of their staff who give their time and efforts to us throughout the year. We are so grateful to Ros Midlecote, Carol Gilbert, April Douglas and her team for all their help at meetings and in the production of the newsletter.

The year 2011 was the year of the Golden Jubilee and the Trust was able to mark the event with the installation of the Curfew Bell and the erection of the Flagpole at St Michael's Tower after an absence of fifty years plus. I was walking down Eastgate Street some days ago and I took great pride in seeing the Union Flat flying over the centre of the City.

As you will all be aware we have reclaimed two Rudhall Bells (1710) for display in the Tower. This is in large part due to the generosity of one of our members and his wife and we

are so grateful, Marilyn has arranged for the bells to be sandblasted and waxed. They are going to be a wonderful exhibit when complete particularly for the youngsters. Gloucester really has got its heart back!

The year 2011 was also the year when Gloucester Day, the History Week and the Heritage weekend seem to have matured into a Gloucester Festival which hopefully will form an integral part of City life.

I think it us such an important part of promoting our heritage. I have been following with interest the investigations into the burial site of Richard III. This would make perhaps, a tantalising subject for an evening during History Week.

As always I am thankful to all, of what you do for our County City.