



## **Val Weston B.Ed Hons, NPQH**

Val has a passion for bringing people together to sing, to create a sense of belonging, to have fun and make lifelong friends through music.

She has been conducting groups of Musicians for over 40 years, starting with ensemble groups and choirs whilst still at school.

At College she sang with Bulmershe Girls Choir, with Gwyn Arch CBE, and regularly conducted this group.

Since starting her teaching career she has conducted for the Swindon Young Musicians and as Young Voices conductor she took a choir to perform to represent Swindon at the Millennium Dome in 2000. She conducted Beginners and Intermediate Wind Bands for 20 years and managed the Saturday morning school for 10 years.

She worked with the Janice Thompson Performance trust for 12 years conducting the Adult group, Concert Choir and Trust's Concerts. The Concert Choir were finalists in the Music for Youth competition 2006 and the opera Little Man in a Tall Hat was an ensemble finalist in 2007.

Val conducted Swindon Orpheous Choir, Swindon Youth Opera and Swindon Opera Chorus at different times in her career.

In 2011 she was one of the founder members of the Big Sing Thing community Choir in Swindon.

During 2017 she has been working with the Aldbourne Community Singers, initially just running a workshop but now as their conductor.

During her teaching career Val has been an Advanced Skills Teacher for Music in Swindon. As part of this role she was responsible for the Choral Festivals for Infants, Juniors and a mixed session for Christmas enabling nearly 50,000 children over seventeen years to make music together.

2018 sees Val accepting the invitation to return to the Bigsingthing.