**CELEBRATIONS AGM 2013**

**REPORT BY JULIAN THORNINGTON FOR YEAR 2013**

2013 was a busy year for Celebrations. We continued, and built on, our programme of development for the Group and, as with last year, re-invested some of the generous donations we have received back into Celebrations.

The programme included another excellent session from Dainty Sue and the further work with the Theatre Company, Spare Tyre. Their outreach worker Dani, spent sessions working with the Group on acting and performance skills. Spare Tyre also invited Andrew B and Virgil Whale to spend the day on their Lord Mayor’s float. We also commenced our project with Lisa Shepherd, the Puppeteer.

2013 was the first year we have presented two productions in one year, a challenge! The first show was our first ever Panto, Cinderella, in February. The development of members’ acting skills was really reflected in this show, the costumes were fantastic and the bought in lighting just set the show off…will we do another Panto? Oh Yes we will! and then in December, a quickly put together, but most enjoyable, Christmas show. Both productions presented at Carlton, played to two sell out audiences and were really well received. The productions made a profit and a DVD was produced for the Panto. Also, as we have done for a number of years, we sang carols at the Carlton Fayre and we had an Xmas party with music provided byThe Shindig.

Our Membership has continued to increase, so much so that, any new members wishing to join will now need to go on a waiting list.

Thank you Members again for all your hard work. Your idea for the Panto proved such a good one. Thank you of course again to all the Celebrations Team for making 2013 such a successful year. 2014 has already begun with the big change of accommodation, some improvements in our admin, a brand new website and some exciting work on a new project. I think it will be another exciting year. Finally again our thanks to Carlton staff for the continued help they give us.

Julian Thornington 1st March 2014