**Nominee:** Anne Henderson

**Group Name:** Strathaven Choral Society

Strathaven Choral Society was founded in 1972 and has been a Making Music Member since 1975. It is a mixed voice choir, drawing its members from the local community and beyond. Repertoire includes classical music from Bach up to 21st century composers with a good sprinkling of more popular and traditional music and, of course, Christmas carols. There are normally two concerts each season with occasional extras. Membership is open to all who enjoy singing, regardless of experience or sight-reading ability, and the emphasis is on providing a welcoming and inclusive environment as much as achieving high standards of performance.

For well over a decade, Anne has been the beating heart of Strathaven Choral Society. First as Secretary then as Concert Secretary, her commitment, care, and calm leadership have been central to our success and continuity. She has gone above and beyond the typical expectations of a volunteer, not only managing the organisation of concerts, but also nurturing the spirit of the group through her empathy, generosity and warmth.

Anne’s organisational talents ensure that concerts run smoothly from start to finish. She secures venues, manages bookings, designs and produces concert programmes, and coordinates every detail behind the scenes, always with grace and good humour. She works closely with colleagues on the committee and is quick to express appreciation of their efforts. She is also alert to any opportunities for exposure of the choir to new audiences. But her influence goes far beyond logistics. She is the person who makes sure every member feels informed, included and valued as a participant, particularly through challenging times.

Anne embodies the spirit of Making Music. She inspires those around her, not just through what she does, but through who she is. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of recognition through the President’s Award.