

An anthem for Hillingdon

Hillingdon Council's Music Hub brought together more than 300 community singers and performers of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds to create the first multimedia performance of original material themed around Hillingdon.

The concert project called 'Anthem! a borough sings...' explored and celebrated the history of Hillingdon and its residents, all drawn from their real life experiences both past and present.

Lyricists and songwriters created original songs which were performed by children from participating schools and several community groups, with special guests being the RAF Marching band for the finale in front of the Mayor of Hillingdon.

Cllr Richard Lewis, Cabinet Member for Central Services, Culture and Heritage said: "This innovative project has been a long time in the planning. We hope that the Arts Council of England can judge that Hillingdon Council can deliver fabulous musical activities for its residents and continue to fund our lively music programme with all the benefits that community singing brings."

Suzy Davies, Singing Co-ordinator for Hillingdon Borough and Anthem! producer said: "I couldn't be more delighted with Anthem! a borough sings.... What we all achieved together was very special indeed. I'm particularly proud of all the schoolchildren who took part. They were an absolute credit to their teachers, themselves and their schools. Each and every one of them sang their hearts out - which is exactly what it was all about. The full audience standing ovation at the finale said it all!"

The evening culminated in a performance of the Hillingdon Anthem. This was newly composed for the project with lyrics inspired by the Borough's coat of arms. It was sung by all the participants, accompanied by the Central Band of the RAF.