



Winchester  
Community Choir

## CHORUS

### The Winchester Community Choir *newsletter*

Issue 6, September 2009

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Hello to all choir members. I hope you are enjoying your summer break and not missing your weekly choir rehearsals too much. Choir starts again on September 15<sup>th</sup> but in the meantime, here is the latest edition of Chorus, so you can keep up to date with all the WCC news.

#### Welcome again!

If this is the first time you have received your emailed "Chorus", you must be a new choir member! We hope you are finding the choir fun and fitting in well.

#### Performances past

We enjoyed being part of the Winchester MayFest again this year, giving our all in a concert on May 15<sup>th</sup>. With the events we already have planned for March and June next year - read on to get all the gen - we are considering not take part in the 2010 MayFest but no firm decision has been made yet.

#### Sing for Water West

Although we decided not to participate in this event as a choir, Sandra Thibault did take part and here is her report on the day. "On

27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Tim Kent and I, with Southampton's Big Splash Choir, joined 600 singers from around the West and beyond for the Big Sing at the Amphitheatre, Bristol Harbourside for WaterAid. Everyone had learnt the same seven songs over a short period of time - a diverse mix encompassing classic pop, gospel, sea shanties and world music. Each singer is asked to raise sponsorship, and along with donations made on the day, the total raised so far is over £22,000. It was a gloriously sunny day, enjoyed by all and a great day out. The next WaterAid event is at The Scoop, Southbank on 13<sup>th</sup> September."

#### Events coming up.....

##### The Mayor's garden party

As you already know, some of us are singing at the Mayor of Winchester's garden party on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Master's House in St. Cross. Proceeds from the party will go to the Mayor's chosen charities, which are Trinity Winchester and Emmaus Hampshire, both of which represent the homeless and the issues surrounding poverty and poor housing. If you have any friends or family members who would like to come to the garden party - and hear us sing! - please apply for tickets. Details were on the email flier you received recently, or you can buy tickets on the day at the gate.

The party starts at 3.00pm and finishes (with a flourish!) after our performance at 6.00pm.

## Performances future.....

### A guest conductor....

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, we are delighted that Lester Simpson, one third of the a capella trio Coope Boyes & Simpson, will lead our rehearsal. If you don't know about the band, I can do no better than quote a Guardian review. "Their songs deal with social and environmental issues and the words are clever and sharp. The harmonies are in the folk-country tradition, with a twist that mirrors the barbed lyrics." I am sure Lester will make it a very interesting evening for the choir - a real treat for us.

### Stanchester: the return match!

Those of you who enjoyed the away day (and most of the night!) at Stanchester will be pleased to know that we have arranged a return visit on Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2010. It will be our turn to play hosts and make the Stanchester Quire feel as welcome as we did when we visited them. Please put the date in your 2010 diary.



### The Way Through the Woods

Sarah writes, "On June 22 2010 the choir will once again be working with Craig Morgan Robson in a performance called "The Way Through the Woods", an anthology of songs and words all about (you've guessed it) trees and woodlands, their facts, fiction and folklore. We will be working on songs for the show after Christmas (mainly traditional songs which I have arranged specially for the production) and there will also be opportunities for those who have thespian ambitions to undertake some of the readings. In addition to the performance, we are organising a small but very select exhibition of art and craft work which links with our theme of wood, and we will also be having a stand for the charity Tree-aid, [www.treeaid.org.uk](http://www.treeaid.org.uk) a forestry based development charity which enables communities in Africa's drylands to fight poverty and become self-reliant, while improving the environment. Watch this space for more information."



*A performance of The Way through the Woods at Whitby Folk Week 2008*

### Space for Peace

The choir will be taking part in Prof. June Boyce Hillman's "Space

for Peace" chants in Winchester Cathedral again next year. The date is Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and those of you who were there earlier this year will know what a very uplifting and effecting experience it was. We will be learning our chants after Christmas and look forward to joining other choirs to make the cathedral resonate with peaceful music in the depths of winter.

### An October Fest

Don't forget the celidh on October 17<sup>th</sup> in the village hall in Itchen Abbas - details next term.

### Choir Chat Corner

For those of you who remember Mary and Mike Gray, you will be delighted to hear that Mike has become engaged to a lady called Karen, who works for Crisis, the homeless charity. After Mary's tragic death in 2007, Mike made a new life for himself in South London and it is great news that he has found happiness.

Talking about weddings, Freya Tabbush, our co-choir leader until July 2008, married Chris in June this year. Sarah attended the celebrations and said it was a wonderful occasion. Here is a picture of Freya, with her mother Carolyn, (who is also one third of CMR) taken by Sarah. What a moving study of mother and daughter on a very happy day.



### Ozzie visitors

You know how occasionally we have people wandering into St. Lawrence's while we are rehearsing (drawn presumably by the heavenly singing!) One evening last term, Jean Forster found herself sitting next to an Australian woman who was visiting Winchester, and with her friends had heard us as they wandered by and came in. She told Jean that she sang in a choir back home and was missing it while she was in the U.K. Well, not for nothing is the WCC known as an open access choir, so our Antipodean guest joined in with a few songs before she left, feeling much happier.

This newsletter is edited for Winchester Community Choir by Catherine Hahn. If you have photographs we can use in the next issue please email them to: [chahn@btinternet.com](mailto:chahn@btinternet.com). Suggestions for stories should not be emailed direct. Please discuss beforehand with Catherine at the next Choir session.

