

CHORUS

The Winchester Community Choir *newsletter*

Issue 10, March 2011

Dear WCC members, At last Spring is really in the air after another long, cold winter. We have kept ourselves warm these last few months by our wonderful singing but hopefully we will soon be able to cast off the woolly jumpers. Hurray!

Welcome to everyone

We don't have any new choir members to say Hello to this term as, with almost 100 of us, the choir is well and truly full, and we have a long waiting list (see later). However, the warm welcome to this edition of Chorus remains the same and I hope you find it interesting and enjoyable.

A Christmas record!

Did you all see the recent photograph of our cheque presentation in the Chronicle? If not, here it is, and I think we should all be very pleased with what was a super concert and an amazing sum of £1,755.40, which we raised for charity last Christmas. By the way, we asked our audience for some feedback and those who did take the time to fill in a form all said "Yes" to the question "Would you buy a CD of Winchester

Community Choir?" Food for thought?



and the bottle of bubbly goes to..

Mrs Chevis of Winnal! As an incentive to fill in the feedback form at our A Christmas Cracker concert, we offered a bottle of champagne to the first entry drawn out of a hat. I delivered the fizzy stuff to Mr and Mrs Chevis and they were absolutely delighted. They have a friend in the choir and since attending their first WCC concert with a little trepidation, they have been to each of our performances, and even came to the Space of Peace vigil. Now they are confirmed WCC fans!

Space for Peace 2011

Sarah writes about the event on January 27th. "Enthralling, absorbing, inspirational; all words that find their way into numerous descriptions, but rarely so justified as in the case of "Space for Peace". This multi faith event is the

brainchild of Professor June Boyce-Tillman (University of Winchester), and brings together representatives of numerous faiths, together with a host of singers from choirs from Hampshire and further afield. It was a privilege, as always, for us to sing in Winchester Cathedral, (reinforced by voices from Petersfield and Andover choirs) and everyone there appreciated the chance of participating in this very special and moving event."

Coming up.....

Our next big event is..

The Hampshire Community Choirs Festival (HCCF), which is being organised by the WCC committee. We hope that the Festival will be a great success and perhaps the first of many? Breaking news is that we are now fully booked with 330 singers taking part. 52 are WCC members and the rest are from 12 other Hampshire choirs. It promises to be a brilliant day.

Flaming June.....

June will be a busy month. First is the HCCF on June 11th and then we are having an Open Evening at our

regular Tuesday rehearsal for those people on the waiting list who would like to come and sing with us on the 21st June. As some of you will remember, waiting to join can seem interminable so we try to keep those waiting patiently for a place happy and involved by inviting them to workshops and open evenings. There are 62 people on the list at the moment, so we look forward to meeting some of them in June.

June's swansong will be....

welcoming a guest conductor on the 28th. Some of you may have heard of Cat Kelly, who is an inspirational teacher and musician. She leads *Rising Voices*, which is the Oxford Folk Festival's community choir. In her workshops, she draws from a wide range of traditional and traditional-style songs: from English to



African, Aborigine, Hungarian, Swedish and more. The nature of these songs is such

that they can be sung simply in unison or overlaid with improvised harmonies and rhythms. Sounds great!

Drum roll.. ttttrrrrr

I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed our evening with Lucky Moyo in early February. He was so different from anyone else we have had as a guest conductor and taught us 2 super songs. I just wish we could have heard a bit more of his drumming!

Keep watching this space!

Please would you make sure that you keep checking the WCC website for news and information as it is constantly being updated. Also, to save money and paper, we ask that you print off copies of all new songs so that you have them with you at choir rehearsals. We will email those who have internet access with important and/or urgent news so please check your email regularly too so you don't miss anything!

Early days remembered..

In the first days of the choir, even before there was a Committee or a regular conductor, great help was given to the WCC by Sam Blakey. Founder member, Jean Forster, takes up the story. "After two taster sessions, we asked the question, 'how about some publicity?' A journalist was needed to craft an article for the Chronicle. Enter Sam Blakey. A busy mother, whose husband was often working away, Sam had no time to join a choir herself but she wrote an article, which at our first Committee meeting was reported to be proving a good source of



recruits. Sam is going to live in Singapore where her husband is working now so it felt right to say a big "thank

you" for the help. Indeed, some of you might be members of the choir because of that article, published on May 13th 2005 entitled "Newest choir strikes immediate chord".

Third time lucky...

It was bizarre that our informal concert for the residents of Abbots Barton should be cancelled twice: once because of the heavy snow in December and then because of a nasty tummy bug at the home in February. So, it's third time lucky as we have a date to sing there on Saturday May 7th at 2.30pm. Fingers crossed!!

Our Charities list policy explained...

Over the last 6 years, the choir has raised nearly £9,000 for local charities, all of which were suggested by choir members. We are keen that you keep your suggestions coming but thought we might broaden the scope of our giving by including national and

international charities too. With your approval, we plan to run two lists of charities: one for local (i.e. Hampshire) charities; and these would be the recipients of funds raised at our concerts, which is of course by far the majority of our "income". The second list would include the other charities, to which we could donate on an add hoc basis from sources such as the Winter and Summer Sings or other miscellaneous choir incomings.

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 Suggestions for stories should not be emailed direct. Please discuss beforehand with Catherine at the next Choir session.

