

CHORUS

The Winchester Community Choir *newsletter*

Issue 8, July 2010

Dear WCC members, the last edition of Chorus was written when it was absolutely freezing cold and snowing. Now, thank goodness, the sun is shining and it is gorgeous outside. So, in harmony with the weather, may I offer a very **Warm welcome** to all recently joined choir members. We are happy to have you on board and hope you enjoy all choir activities. We have lots of ways to help you fit in. Here are some of them: firstly, please visit our website at www.winchestercommunitychoir.co.uk and there you will find lots of information and photos, plus links to archive issues of this newsletter "Chorus", so you can see what we have been up to before you joined. We also produce CDs of songs we plan to sing at concerts so you can practice at home, in the car or even walking down the street with your MP3 player!

Any Answers?

Well, yes there were lots of answers to our questionnaire, distributed at the AGM in May. Thank you for your comments, we have digested them and here Paul writes about the changes we plan to implement. "Thanks for the

good response to the choir survey. There were some excellent ideas, which we will take up. Firstly we will add to the website; perhaps you have already seen the photos from WTTW or delved into the Chorus back numbers? We are booking some guest conductors to address the desire for some variety in material - see the article later on in the newsletter. Sarah has kindly agreed to record all the verses of the songs she puts onto CDs for us and she and Sandra will work together to provide a more varied repertoire. There were lots of compliments for Sarah, Wenda and Sandra, and people seem to be happy with the way things are going. We aim to keep that up and please most of you most of the time! Do continue to tell us what you think and let us know if you have anything for Chorus."

The Way through the Woods

And what a way it was! As Sarah said, rehearsing for a concert can sometimes seem tedious and never ending but when the finished product is as good as our performance of The Way through the Woods, then surely all the hard work is worthwhile? The church was full - despite Wimbledon and the World Cup competing with us - and the audience seemed enchanted by the unfolding story of trees and woodland. I don't know about you but I was completely blown away at

the array of talent we have in the choir, not only in terms of singing, but the expression and articulacy you put into the readings was superb. Perhaps we should also form a dramatic company? Thanks again to all who took part; I hope you feel very pleased with yourselves. You can find pictures of the evening, and the dress rehearsal, taken by our resident paparazzo Steve Gapper, by copying and pasting this link into your browser or on our website but here are a couple of my favourites. <http://picasaweb.google.com/105611569735775739258/WCCWayThroughTheWoodsRehearsalConcertJune2010?feat=directlink#>



Giving is receiving...

The Way through the Woods concert raised a goodly sum of money for our three

charities; Gingerbread, Honey-pot and Tree Aid. We are waiting to hear the exact figure from the Theatre Royal, but early in the Autumn term we will invite representatives of the charities along to a rehearsal to receive their cheques and tell us a bit about what they do.

Guest conductors

We are delighted to have three guest conductors coming to rehearsals over the next few months. The first is Anna Tabbush who will be leading us on July 13th. For those who don't know her, Anna is sister to Freya (our co-conductor until 2008) and with Nonnie, they make up the Tabbush Sisters, a fabulous a capella trio. In September, we will be welcoming Elena Winch as our guest conductor and here Sarah tells us about her. "Elena Winch is an inspiring community choir leader who currently leads Lingmara Choir in Wiltshire. Elena comes from New Zealand, and has a vast repertoire of world music including Cuban, Polynesian and Maori. She is a very dynamic musician, and we are guaranteed to have a lively and exciting session with her." Then, in either February or March next year we have arranged for Lucky Moyo to come and give us a workshop. Lucky has been at Choir Fest (more on that further on) several times and specialises in African music so we should have great fun at that rehearsal.

WCC on Facebook

Miranda has set a Facebook page for the choir and she writes, "A reminder to all you social networkers out there - the Choir is now on Facebook, do take a look and encourage any of your friends and family who supported us in Way Through The Woods (or who may like to come at Christmas) to go on the site as well. Leave us your comments and click on the 'Like' button to receive choir updates and chat.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Winchester-Community-Choir/112448708778537?ref=ts>

This is one of our choir colours.....

And if you are new to the choir and are not sure what "choir colours" are, here are the guidelines. For performance wear, there are 2 categories: **black**, and sea colours - i.e. anything from **sea blue**, through **aquamarine**, **turquoise** and **jade** to **sea green**. The code guidelines are as follows: Bottom half: **BLACK** (trousers, skirts, dresses). Top half: **Black** or sea colours. If black is used for the TOP half, members might like to add a touch of sea colour, in the form of a scarf, tie, cravat, jewellery. But this is not obligatory; black on its own is fine too. All colours and black should be **PLAIN**, not patterned please. Glossy or shiny fabrics look better under lights so go for the gleam! WWC is not a formal choir but

we do like to look **SMART** when performing, out of respect for our audiences

Choir Fest 2010 (well actually it is now SingFest!)

Some of you will know about Choir Fest but for the others, it is a weekend spent in the beautiful countryside near Farnham, learning lots of new songs and socialising. Brave souls can relive their Scout or Brownie days and camp; wimps can travel to the ground both days! It is a great way to increase your circle of singing friends and learn some new songs. The dates this year are the 4th and 5th September. Check out the website for details.

<http://www.communityvox.org.uk/singfest.html>

Practise makes perfect

This is a good place to remind all WCC members, new and not so new alike, that we do ask you to come to 75% of choir rehearsals please. If you know you will not be able to come to more than one or two rehearsals per term, please have a word with a Committee member. We are quite friendly and understanding you know! Thanks.

Choir Chat Corner

Did anyone hear one of our choir members on the Today programme last month? Well, Gavin Smart was interviewed on Monday 16th June at about 7.20a.m. and a sharp-eared member of the Committee heard him

talking very knowledgeably about the budget cuts and changes to the planning system in the housing sector. Well done, Gavin.

Have your say!

It was great that in our questionnaire so many of you said you enjoyed reading Chorus and found it useful. But, it would be even better if you, the choir members contributed stories and/or photographs for future editions. So, if you have an idea about something you want to share with the choir, please come and have a chat with me at a rehearsal.

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.

