

CHORUS

The Winchester Community Choir *newsletter*

Issue 9, November 2010

Dear WCC members, the Christmas spirit is galloping up on us now and, as we approach our "Christmas Cracker" concert, I welcome you to this edition of **Chorus**.

Nice to see you.....

At the beginning of this term 13 new members joined the choir, bringing our total number of singers to 100. On behalf of the choir, may I extend a very warm welcome to our newest members. I am sure you have already found your feet but if you haven't yet discovered our website, you will find all sorts of information there, including links to archive issues of this newsletter, a calendar of choir events and a gallery of photographs of choir events. www.winchestercommunitychoir.co.uk

You can also join us on Facebook (see the link on the website)

Tickets sales.... Over to you!

As we are talking about our concert, dear readers, we trust that you will do your utmost to sell tickets to friends, relations and colleagues, so that we have a full house and a wonderfully festive atmosphere on the night. The Committee does as much publicity as possible to promote our concerts, but in the end, it is the choir

members themselves who drive the tickets sales. So, you know what to do!

The New Scorpion Band

If you don't know much about our special guests on 7th December, let me enlighten you. The five members of the band are Tim Laycock, Brian Gulland, Robin Jeffrey, Sharon Lindo and Robert White and all are professional and respected musicians. A typical New Scorpion Band concert will contain a mix of traditional songs and ballads about love, the sea, work and war, interspersed with lively gigs, polkas, hornpipes, reels and marches. Sounds like we are in for a treat! If you want to see more go to <http://www.new-scorpion-band.com/homepage.html>



Giving is receiving...

After what is sure to be a wonderful concert, we look forward to finding out how much money we have made for our chosen charities. This Christmas, we are collecting

for the *Winchester Live at Home Scheme* and *Friends of the Family*. Both concentrate on home life; the first helps older people to stay in their own homes by providing support and friendship. *Friends of the Family* is a support group for vulnerable women and their pre-school children. To find out more about these charities, here are links to their websites: www.wlahs.org and <http://friendsofthefamilywinchester.org.uk/>

Suffer the little children...

Our other Christmas engagement is singing at the Naomi House children's hospice "Light up a Life" carol concert at the St Cross church. Those who did this last December will remember what a moving and delightful experience it was to sing in that beautiful church and for such a good cause. Your friends and family are welcome to come to the service, which is free but a donation to Naomi House on the night would be welcome.

Yummy money!

Most recent recipients of funds, raised by the choir at The Way through the Woods concert, were Honeypot and

Gingerbread and here is a picture of the cheque presentation. Both Catherine from Honeypot and Valerie from Gingerbread were delighted to take away £470 for their charity. It may be a modest amount but for a small charity it really makes a big difference. To quote a well-known slogan: "every little helps".



A time for giving.....I often look around at rehearsal and think how fortunate we all are to be able to come to St. Lawrence's each week and sing our hearts out. It gives us all such pleasure and, at this time of year particularly, it is good to share a little of our good fortune. So, if you can, please consider joining the group of us who will be singing at Abbots Barton residential home on Saturday 18th December. It will only take half an afternoon of your time to spread a little of the Christmas cheer around a room full of elderly and frail people who really love to hear us sing. See you there?

Summertime, and the singing is easy.....

You will remember Elena Winch! Who could forget her energetic and exciting workshop at the

beginning of term? Well, the good news is that we have secured her services as one of the 4 workshop leaders who will be teaching us - and our guest choirs - in the first ever Hampshire Community Choirs Festival (HCCF) which will take place on June 11th 2011. Brainchild of Sarah Morgan and others, the Festival will bring together choirs of all shapes and sizes to enjoy the workshops and mixing with other community choirs. The event will start at 10.00am and finish around 9.30pm so it's a good thing it's a Saturday so we can all recover on Sunday! The 3 other workshop leaders are Lester Simpson, Carolyn Robson and Helen Porter. Read more about all of them in the next edition of **Chorus**. In the evening session after a buffet supper, which is included in the ticket price, (£10 for WCC members) choirs can perform on their own if they wish or just join in with the grand finale which will be a song all choirs have learnt beforehand. We will give you further details as plans are made but after Christmas we will be asking for a firm commitment from those WCC members who wish to participate in the Festival, so please consult your diaries. You can keep tabs on how the HCCF is developing by clicking on this link <http://www.winchestercommunitychoir.co.uk/hccfestival.html>

New Treasurer

We are really grateful to Claire Hollick for stepping

into the breach and agreeing to become our new Treasurer. Thanks Claire!

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 Chat Corner

It's a little while since we had a baby to coo over but here is 3-month-old Eloise, daughter of former WCC leader Freya (neeTabbush) and her husband Chris Parles. Isn't she just gorgeous and I am sure I can see something of Carolyn in her! If you are reading this,



Freya, we would love to meet young Eloise in person and sing her a lullaby. Hint, hint.

Councillor Hutchison



Just in case you haven't heard, we have a new Winchester City Councillor in our ranks. Robert Hutchison was elected in October to serve the St. Paul's ward, Winchester and is the founder and former Chair of Winchester Action on Climate Change. Many congratulations Robert.

Master Cox

After four years of hard work, many missed rehearsals at choir, Steve Cox can finally put MSc after his name, having successfully passed his dissertation and viva with flying colours. Well done Steve!

And finally.....

Jean Forster writes about an incident, which took place on the evening of our cheque presentation. "The two representatives arrived in good time and stood at the back awaiting our setting-up to be completed. In came a man in walking gear. He went straight to

the front of the church and put something on the dais and walked back so I asked if it was an offering (as at harvest). 'No', said he, 'I'm coming back'. And he did. He walked confidently to the front, pushed our stand out of the way to give himself enough space, laid down a 'mat' the size of a cushion cover, knelt down and prayed, finishing standing hands together, head bowed. He admired the building, asked our two visitors to close their eyes, make a wish and rub the 'lamp/coffee pot' he was holding. They looked very doubtful but did as asked. It turned out he had met one of them as she was on our way to us and when she mentioned she was on her way to a church had followed her. In explanation of what we were doing, I said we were presenting cheques to two charities. 'Charity', said he and rushed over to them who were now in position at the front. He opened his wallet and handed it to one of them to take what she needed. She took the wallet but I don't know what she took. It looked quite full, though probably not enough to fulfil the needs of a national charity. Then, out he went on his way content with his encounter.

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.

