

# CHORUS

## The Winchester Community Choir *newsletter*

Issue 7, February 2010

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Dear WCC members, here we are in the grip of an icy winter but I hope your choir singing is keeping you warm on the inside! Read on for all the latest news in this, the 7<sup>th</sup> issue of Chorus.

### An especially warm welcome

To all new WCC members, we say, "Welcome". We like to think we are a friendly bunch but if you have any problems fitting in, either musically or socially, please don't suffer in silence but come and see one of the Committee members.

### Christmas crackers

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed taking part in our Christmas performances. We certainly raised a goodly amount of money for charities (over £2,000) and here is a picture of Wenda presenting the cheques for £620 each to KIDS and Winchester Churches Nightshelter. Money also went to the Mayor's charities and of course as aid to Haiti, for which many thanks for your

generosity. Steve Gapper took some super pictures of choir members over the Festive Season. Here are just a few of them. You can find others by following the link on our website.



### Space for Peace

Just like last year, the Space for Peace evening in Winchester Cathedral was a unique event. Some of you thought last year's peace vigil was more affecting and moving; others preferred this year's experience. Whichever your point of view, it is

certainly something the choir is proud to be associated with and it is clear from the feedback that members of the public who attended received it very warmly.



*Photo courtesy of Angus Beaton*

### Events to look forward to..

Approaching fast, just like the Spring we hope, is our get together with the Stanchester Quire. Members of the Quire will be travelling here to join us for song, sandwiches and supper on March 20th. Details will follow but the plan at the moment is to start at about 11.00am and finish after a short, informal performance for friends and family at about 8.00pm

### The Way through the Woods

We have already started learning songs for The Way through the Woods, the song cycle, with accompanying readings, which WCC will present on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at our usual venue, the United Church. Budding thespians among you should be sure to volunteer for the prose and poetry readings, which intersperse the music in this varied, arboreal programme. We are thrilled that Professor June Boyce Tillman (of Space for Peace fame) is writing an overture for brass instruments especially for the WTTW evening.

### Even further in the future..

Thinking ahead to 2011, we have an exciting event in the planning stages. Some time ago, the Committee discussed taking the choir up to a Community Choirs Festival in the Midlands. Feeling it was rather a long way to go, an alternative idea was mooted. Why don't we arrange our own community choirs' festival in Winchester?! This project is still in embryonic form but it should be a rewarding, if challenging, event for the summer of next year.

### Question Time

As the Committee welcomes receiving your comments, below is a question to which we would like your answers. So please, have a think about it and let us know via the questionnaire, which will be circulated at the AGM in May.

We would like to know if you welcome the occasional musical/social event, like Stanchester trip or the ceilidh last October. Or is it just not something that appeals to you? As there has been a smallish turnout at some of the events, we wondered if you would like us to continue with them or not? We look forward to reading your comments on the questionnaire.

### Lights, camera, action...

Now and again, we are asked by various news media if they can photograph and/or film or record the choir in action. Whilst we are always keen to promote the WCC, we are also mindful of your feelings on

the matter and really appreciate your co-operation in this. We will always give you as much notice of these filming/recording events as possible so anyone who objects can absent themselves but, as the Press does tend to do things at the last minute, please be aware the notice given may be rather short.

### Committee vacancies

A couple of our Committee members are stepping down at the AGM in May. Are you someone who would like to contribute to the way the choir is run and join the Committee? There's lots of work to do but we also have great fun, so don't delay; please speak to a member of the Committee if you are interested.

### 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.

May I also take this opportunity of reminding all WCC members, new and not so new alike, that we do ask you to come to 75% of choir rehearsals please. It is very frustrating for Sarah to have to re-teach songs for people who do not attend regularly (and also frustrating for the rest of the choir), most especially when we are approaching a performance. Thanks.

### Choir Chat Corner

There's lots of baby talk in this little section of Chorus. Many of you will have heard that Anna Tabbush, who has taken some rehearsals for us and led us at ChoirFest, recently had a baby girl. Here she is, the divine Imogen Rose.



### And baby made three.....

Not content just to get married last June, our wonderful ex-choir leader Freya Tabbush, (now Parles) has announced that she is expecting a baby in June this year. Let's hope she brings him or her into a rehearsal so we can all go "aaahhh".

Finally, those of you who remember Angela Mwandia, will be interested to see how young Simbule (Sim to his friends) has grown. A truly bonny, bouncing boy- isn't he gorgeous?



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

