



In Harmony

The Marchington Singers' Newsletter

Number 16

August 2005

Dear Singers,

As your recently elected Chairperson, it falls to me to put together our traditional summer holiday newsletter, to keep you up to date with recent events and with things which have been (or may be) arranged for the future. The many members who attended our AGM on 20 July will already know about some of these, but I hope you will bear with me for the sake of the few who were unable to be there.

Committee

The new committee, elected at the AGM, is detailed in the display panel overleaf.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER at "Fox Hollow", 32 Stafford Road, Uttoxeter, commencing at 8-00 p.m. If you have any matters you want to raise in committee, please tell a committee member well in advance of the meeting.

Summary of the year ended 30 April 2005

From pretty well all aspects, this was a very good year for the choir. I feel it is true to say that all the concerts we performed were enjoyable for us, well received by our audiences and, unusually for most choirs, they were all profitable. This profitability reflects, amongst other factors, the magnificent efforts made by members in 'getting bums on seats'. Thanks are due to all who contributed to this effort.

We were also helped greatly by the generous grants and donations we received from many quarters, particularly those associated with the 'Armed Man' concert which most members felt was the musical highlight of our year. We in turn were able to make a number of charitable donations which included £275 to Katharine House Hospice, our Tsunami Aquabox donation and of course the massive contribution our 'Singathon' made to the village Tsunami appeal for "Houses for Sri Lanka".

So, a very good year for us, and one in which the hard work of all involved enabled us to generate an operating profit of £1104, which helps us enormously as we move forward into the next financial year. We start the year with some £2000 in the bank.

Year Commencing 1st May 2005

Our Summer Garland concert in Marchington Church was again both enjoyable and profitable and it has been proposed that we donate £175 to the Church funds.

Rehearsal Venue

For the second year running, the school have imposed a 10% increase in the charges they make for use of the school for rehearsals. The 2 year increase of over 21% leaves them in a very uncompetitive position when compared with quotes from other venues and it was therefore decided at the AGM that we should try out alternative rehearsal venues for a few weeks.

Diary

2005

Wednesday 31 August
Rehearsals Start
Village Hall, 8.00 p.m.

Saturday 10 September
Flower Festival Concert
St. Mary's Church, Uttoxeter
7.30 p.m.

Friday 23 September
Wedding at Norbury Church
Nr. Ashbourne 12.30 p.m.

Saturday 8 October
Oddfellows Concert
Oddfellows Hall, Burton
7.30 p.m.

Saturday 10 December
Christmas by Candlelight
Concert
St. Mary's Church, Uttoxeter,
7.30 p.m.

Sunday 18 December
Carols Round The Village
Start from Village Hall at
11.00 a.m.

2006

Saturday 11 or 18 March
Concert with Moira MVC
Uttoxeter Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.
(To be Confirmed)

Saturday in June or July
Possible Concert with Rus-
sian Pianist Tanya Hilton in
Uttoxeter.

October Tour to Majorca?

Therefore, the first three rehearsals of the new term will take place at the following venues - all starting at 8.00 p.m. SHARP.

Wednesday 31 August Marchington Village Hall
Wednesday 7 September St. Mary's Church Uttoxeter
Wednesday 14 September Marchington Village Hall

It is probable that we will also try out St Peter's Church, Marchington, but we are awaiting confirmation of that from the St. Peter's PCC.

Electronic Keyboard

Our existing keyboard is getting very long in the tooth, is extremely heavy and is frequently blamed for causing the extreme back problems suffered by its valiant custodian Ian Jones. Said custodian battles on with it in his uncomplaining way, but the committee have decided he ought to be put out of his misery. The local vets have refused to have any hand in our diabolical plan, so we have decided we have to fall back on plan B which is to purchase a newer, better and lighter model (of keyboard, not custodian!).

We have our eye on an instrument which we think will fit the bill and this has the additional benefit of being able to simulate a church organ. We have obtained a grant from Uttoxeter Plus towards the cost and are optimistic that a further grant, from the County Council's Local Member Initiative Scheme, will be forthcoming which will result in our having to find only about one third of the total cost of the instrument from choir funds.

If all goes well, we hope to have the keyboard within a few weeks.

Future events

Between now and Christmas we have three concerts and a wedding booked. And for 2006 we are planning a joint concert with Moira MVC, in March or April and in June or July a concert with Russian pianist Tanya Hilton. Both concerts will be in Uttoxeter Town Hall. Details are shown in the display panel on the front page.

Wendy is discussing with Caroline and Robert Ellis the possibility of a tour to Palma Majorca, during the October half term in 2006.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members for their hard work and success in the past year and of wishing you all continuing success and enjoyment in the year ahead.

David Warhurst

Next Rehearsal - Wednesday 31 August, Marchington Village Hall 8.00 p.m. SHARP

Please bring to the rehearsal on 31st August: Carols for Choirs I and II, Christmas Lullaby, Do You Hear What I Hear?, Noel, Jesus is Born, So Gentle the Donkey.

That will give us more than enough to go at to start with! A full list of proposed Christmas music will be available on the 31st.

Your Committee

The following officers and committee members were elected at the AGM on 20 July 2005

Chairman

David Warhurst (01889 563537)
pat.warhurst@btinternet.com

Secretary

Gill Williamson (01283 820407)
williamson@marchington92.freemove.co.uk

Treasurer

Tim Scott (01889 563570)
tim@raggedrobin.co.uk

Music Librarian

Marg Jones (01283 820581)
marg.jones@virgin.net

Committee Members

Linda Craske (01283 812857)
Chris Leedham (01283 820609)
Jenny Speed (01283 820412)

The Conductor and Accompanist are automatically members of the committee.

Conductor

Wendy Scott (01889 563570)
wendy@raggedrobin.co.uk

Accompanist

Rhoda Castle (01283 820486)

Co-opted Member - Publicity

Tony Fellows (01889 563060)

Rehearsals August & September All at 8.00 p.m.

Wed. 31st August

Marchington Village Hall

Wed. 7th September

St. Mary's Church, Uttoxeter

Wed. 14th September