



In Harmony

The Marchington Singers' Newsletter

Website: www.marchingtonsingers.org

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Chairman's Bit

So often, Wendy accuses me of being a man of few words. Or did I get that wrong? What does she expect from a Welshman with a captive audience? It's a national sport! However, suitably chastened, I shall restrict my introduction to the new Singers' year to three brief items – apologies to those who remained awake in the July AGM!

Jubilee Year: This proved to be a massively successful year, despite its costly implications. Our Celebratory Concert (which featured so many professional singers and instrumentalists), the Jubilee Dinner (which brought back many past members of the Choir), the



Welsh Memorial at Mametz Wood

Candlelight Concert (which brought so much praise despite illness reducing us by 50 %) and the tour to Belgium and France all merited the highest praise. All elevated the reputation of the Choir hugely and all gave us so much satisfaction.

Is it coincidence that invitations to sing have been received from Poland, London and Northamp-

ton or that members and Friends are actively pursuing possible tours in Austria, Scotland and Malta? **WELL DONE!**

Membership: At 51, membership numbers seem to be healthy but the loss of 5 Singers, permanently, and of a further 5 temporarily does put a considerable strain on our ability to do ourselves justice. If you know any singers croon an invitation to them to join us.

Finance: We are solvent - but both venue and music costs are rising. July's concert cost over £1,000 to stage and our next music purchase could cost £750. We have to staunch the haemorrhage - so subs will rise to £36 in the coming year and the Committee has been enlarged to set in motion fund raising activities, probably starting with a 50/50 Club in the ten weeks leading up to Xmas. Changes in the Constitution were approved at the AGM to enable these changes to take place.

As the tour, the dinner on the canal in June and, indeed, every Wednesday evening have shown, the healthy social spirit of our organisation is really admirable. Thank you all for this and especially may I offer our corporate thanks to those who do so much to make this possible – the estimable Wendy who masterminds our work so infallibly, her other half – our Treasurer, web site manager, events organiser and equipment supremo, Rhoda for her outstanding accompaniment and all members of our highly responsible Committee who so fully acknowledge the tenet "Things don't just happen; you've got to make them".

And finally thank you so much for my AGM present (*a bag of golf balls - Ed.*). Unfortunately no one will play with me as I carry my smart hessian bag round the golf course!

Peter

Diary 2010

Wednesday 8th September
New term starts at
7.30 p.m. sharp
Marchington Village Hall

Saturday 11th December
Annual Christmas
Candlelight Concert
at St. Mary's Church
Uttoxeter, 7.30 p.m.

Diary 2011

Proposed Spring Concert
in March or April.
Any ideas?
Please let Wendy know.

Saturday 9th or 16th July
Summer Concert
probably at Thomas Alleyne's.

Please put these dates
in your diary now!

Reminders

Music for 1st Rehearsal

See Wendy's notes for details. Please return **Londonderry Air** if you still have a printed copy.

Subscriptions

£24 due 1st September for the period until the end of April 2011.

On-Line Payment

You can pay your subscription on-line. See Treasurer's bit overleaf for details.

Conductor's Notes

Just in case you are not electronically connected, a brief repeat of my personal thanks to all for your singing this year. A tour, closely followed by a concert and a few days later by a wedding, certainly challenged us - and I'm sure we rose to the occasion(s)! The main thing is, I really enjoyed all of them, and I hope you did too - that's what it's all about.

Now then, money. My hand is up - it's my fault there's a three-figure sum in the 'music' expenditure column. Of course we - literally - pay the price of doing pieces rather than large classical 'works'. Personally I think we are a group of singers who tackle lighter music very well, and that's not to say the things we do are always easy - we know they're not! These pieces present us with a good mix of styles as well as a variety to sing each week, and some challenges as well. If we went down the road of doing classical works, although the scores could be loaned, I feel it would change the *raison d'être* of the Singers. Right, put the soap-box away.

But, hey, I've turned over a new leaf (temporarily, perhaps) and for Christmas we'll be *borrowing* some scores of a Christmas Cantata entitled 'Night of Miracles', which I hope you will enjoy. 'Messiah' it isn't! But a very singable and melodious 25-minute piece telling the nativity story in chorus, some solos, and a spoken narration. It's something different to present to our very loyal Candlelight audience - it may even stop them nodding off in the second half!

Just a quick referral back to the money situation - the £750 Peter mentions is a proposal that we purchase a collection of SATB 'Encores' in a book. Currently this expenditure is 'proposal' only - as always, nothing is set in stone! Several advantages here: we can dip in and out of the pieces, we are not photocopying, and for the price of the book we get 24 pieces. As you know, the average cost of a single printed copy is currently £2 (some are £3.75) and buying 50 gets expensive.

Please bring to the first rehearsal on Wednesday 8th September your Green and Orange Carol Books. If you don't possess these please let me or Ian know. I'm hoping to have copies of 'Night of Miracles' by then, fingers crossed!

Wendy

Treasurer's Bit

Annual Subscription: With all the comments about finance the last thing you want from me is more of the same! But I thought it would be useful to have an explanation of the changes to the annual subscription.

Last year (ending 30 April) we made a loss of £1,807. Whilst this was within the budget, for our Anniversary celebrations, it clearly cannot continue. The Committee therefore agreed to increase the annual subscription from £28 to £35. Then our Auditor (Reginald Wynniatt-Husey) requested we change the subscription year to match the financial year - May to April. Consequently, there would be an interim period (from September 2010 to April 2011) of 8 months or 2/3 of a year before the full annual amount would be due. So we rounded it up to £36 which is easily divisible by three. The amount due on the 1st September is therefore £24, and you won't pay any more until May next year, when the full annual amount of £36 will be due.

The Committee has also decided to withdraw the option to pay by terms, which was easy to monitor when we rehearsed at the school and were governed by school terms. If you have any queries on these points, or would like a copy of the 2009/2010 annual accounts please have a word with me.

On-line payment: You can now pay your subscription on-line:- account name Marchington Singers, sort code 40-45-38 and account number 11079972.

Two closing thoughts. We have 40 rehearsals per year; so each rehearsal costs members just 90p! In 2001 the annual subscription was £22.50. Nine years later it's climbed to £36 - an average increase of only £1.50/year. The Committee hope you'll agree that this still represents amazing value.

Your Committee

The following officers and committee members were elected, at the AGM on 21 July and will serve for the year to the end of the 2011 AGM.

Chairman

Peter Davies (01283 712582)

Email: peter@petmar7.co.uk

Secretary

Maggie Hatchard (01283 820207)

Email: maggiehatchard@aol.com

Treasurer

Tim Scott (01889 563570)

Email: tim@raggedrobin.co.uk

Music Librarian

Ian Jones (01283 820581)

Email: ian.jones32@talktalk.net

Committee Members

Chris Eales (01283 512810)

Email: c.eales@yahoo.com

Shirley Horton (01283 215296)

Email: shirleyswad@aol.com

Ruth Sibson (01335 330526)

Email: martinsibson@uwclub.net

Sheila Templier (01283 840688)

Email: stemplier@ukonline.co.uk

The Conductor and Accompanist are automatically members of the committee.

Conductor

Wendy Scott (01889 563570)

Email: wendy@raggedrobin.co.uk

Accompanist

Rhoda Castle (01283 820486)

Email: rhoda.castle@staffs.ac.uk

Tim