



In Harmony

The Marchington Singers' Newsletter

Number 17

January 2006

Dear Members,

As we emerge from the festivities of Christmas and the New Year, let me start by wishing all members and their families and friends a happy and prosperous 2006. At the time of writing the last newsletter I think you were all aware that 2005 was going well for us, and I am pleased to be able to report that this trend continued up to the year end, and we can look back on a job well done. Perhaps a few words on some of the highlights of the second half of 2005 are appropriate.

We have now made use of our new keyboard on a number of occasions and I am sure most people will agree that it is a great improvement on the old instrument which was much less versatile and so **desperately** heavy to move around! And who would have thought, some years ago, that a box of "electronic gubbins" would ever be able to produce such a convincing simulation of a church organ? Our thanks are due for the donations we received which made the purchase of this asset affordable.

Our move from the School to the Village Hall went quite smoothly. The acoustics in the Hall are not proving to be the problem we anticipated, the facilities are certainly more than adequate and the Hall management committee have been most helpful and welcoming.

Christmas by Candlelight Concert

This resulted in great praise from our audience. Quite apart from an excellent all round performance by the choristers (in English, Latin and even Russian!), we were treated to some magical instrumental and vocal solo performances which added so much to the event, as did the 'Organ' to our chorus from Messiah. Thanks are due also to our catering staff and front of house helpers who helped everything to run so smoothly. Our profit for the event was £331 which was lower than the previous year, mainly because our audience was smaller as a result of 3 or 4 other events in the area on the same night. But nonetheless, a satisfactory financial result.

One audience member said she thought she had been to every Marchington Singers concert since the choir was formed and that this was the best performance ever! Alan and Sue Cattermole wrote to Wendy after the event as follows....."*Thank you so much for a delightful and atmospheric concert. 'O Magnum Mysterium' from the back, set the scene for a wonderful evening. The readings were varied and beautifully read - and the Bogoroditsye Dyevo was so lovely it was a shame to break the spell by applauding. Well done to everyone concerned!*

Carols Round the Village

This year we raised £213 (and €2!) for the charity Elimination of Leukaemia Fund and the ladies of the choir then provided us with a most enjoyable festive and warming lunch in the village hall to round off our musical year. Many thanks to the organisers of the lunch and to all who contributed food and drink to this event.

Joyeux Noël !

Wendy received this Christmas message, to pass on to the Singers, from Paddy Vidal-Hall. "*Thinking about you all. I hope the music is going from strength to strength. I'm sure it is! I still remember the choir and miss everything. Mark & I hit the high time this Autumn - we sang in Beethoven's 9th at the Madelaine in Paris. Love to you all, Paddy.*"

2005 Red Woolly Hats.....2006 Skimpy Trunks?????

As a result of the final paragraph of the following item, culled from the Guardian newspaper by Mary Barlow, your committee is considering a change of dress for our next round the village collection!

Diary

2006

Wednesday 11 January

Rehearsals Start
Village Hall, 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday 31 January

Charity Concert for
Pakistani Earthquake
Burton Albion Football Club.
Details to follow.

Saturday 11 March

Golden Wedding Celebration
Chesterfield. Coach leaves
Marchington Village Hall at
6.00 p.m.

Saturday 8 or 15 July

Summer Concert with Russian
Pianist Tanya Hilton
Uttoxeter Town Hall? Date
and details to be confirmed

October 23 to 29

Tour to Palma Mallorca
Further details soon

Saturday 9 December

4th Annual Christmas by
Candlelight Concert
St. Mary's Church, Uttoxeter,
7.30 p.m.

Sunday 17 December

Carols Round the Village

2007

August 2007

Wedding at Sandon Church,
near Stafford

Date & details to follow.

Our first engagement via our
Website!

Resplendent in Victorian costume, they certainly looked like carol singers. They weren't the most melodious but, at a push, they sounded like carol singers. But when a householder opened the door to the merry band of nine men and women, she was shocked to discover that they were police officers carrying out a drugs raid. Beneath their tall coats and cloaks were stab-proof vests and two women officers had canisters of CS spray in their muffs. Their friendly-looking hound was a sniffer dog.

PC David Harrison, who went on the raid in Weymouth, Dorset, said it was tricky to get close to the house without being spotted. "So we came up with the idea of dressing up as carol singers, as nobody would be suspicious - given the time of year." After five minutes rehearsing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' we went into action. PC Harrison said "None of us had particularly good voices but we were persistent. It wasn't until the third verse that the door was opened. The women who answered said she would give us a £ to go away. That was when we informed her that we were the police and went straight in."

*Dorset police are imaginative with under cover operations. In the summer, male officers donned **skimpy trunks** to patrol a troublesome stretch of beach.*

Next Rehearsal

We recommence rehearsals on **Wednesday 11th January at 8.00 p.m. Sharp, in Marchington Village Hall. Please bring the following music with you:-**

The **BLUE** 'Songs for Choirs' book, Ave Verum, Gaelic Blessing, Shenandoah and the Weather Forecast. That should keep us going (together with one or two new ones . . .) on that evening! A full list of proposed pieces for Spring/Summer 2006 will be available on the 11th.

Surplus Music

On the subject of music, Marg Jones, our music librarian, thinks that some members may have more than one copy of some of our repertoire and has asked if all members would be good enough to check through all their music stock and return to her any duplicate copies they hold. This may reduce the need to purchase too many additional copies now that the size of the choir has increased. If you find you have an original copy and a photocopy, please retain the original.

You should also make sure that all your music is marked with your choir number (obtainable from Marg) and that all other numbers on it are deleted.

Annual Dinner

Good News!! Marg Jones has kindly agreed to organise another annual dinner sometime in **June**. If you have any ideas on the venue please see Marg.

2007 Programme

Although we have a number of events planned for this year, we are always looking for events which will benefit **Singers'** funds. And so, if you come up with any ideas, please discuss them with any committee member so we can try to get something going.

Finally, I would personally like to thank all members of our committee for their readiness to accept the revised way of working and redistribution of labour we have implemented, and all members of the Singers for their ongoing support throughout 2005. Your efforts have been met with the success they deserve. Long may this continue!

Your Committee

The following officers and committee members were elected at the AGM on 20 July 2005 to serve for the year to April 2006

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 Members

Publicity ... Tony Fellows (01889 563060)
Uniforms ... Pat Warhurst (01889 563537)
pat.warhurst@btinternet.com

Notes