



# In Harmony

The Marchington Singers' Newsletter

Website: [www.marchingtonsingers.org](http://www.marchingtonsingers.org)

Number 27

January 2011

## Happy New Year!

Now that our website is being visited by choirs all over Europe, especially the east, we thought it would be good to respond with a simple New Year greeting! There are no prizes for guessing the language, but we thought we ought to start with the Chairman's native tongue! Blwyddyn Newydd Dda, Prosit Neujahr, Bliadhna Mhath Ur, Bonne Année, Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku, Feličan Novan Jaron, Buon Capo d'Anno, Sretna Nova godina! Did you recognise the Esperanto phrase?

## Christmas by Candlelight



Here are a few of the many comments we've received from both audience and Singers. There are more on the website [www.marchingtonsingers.org](http://www.marchingtonsingers.org).

*"What a delightful concert! Excellent, excellent and excellent!"*

*"One of the best concerts I've ever been to! Just didn't want it to end."*

*"The selection of music was very good and I was impressed by the dynamics. There were several items I hadn't heard before."*

*"Lovely evening - one of the best. Still singing it on the way home!"*

*"... the best Christmas concert we'd done since I joined the Singers. The soloists & narrator were brilliant and I really enjoyed singing Night of Miracles."*

## Chairman's Bit

It really is so warming to begin 2011 with so many positives about our choir! Such hard work during past months by many of our members has resulted in so many plusses – a marvellous workshop day in November, a wide range of venues from prison to Primary School to Old People's Home, an improving financial situation particularly arising from the 50/50 Club, the Christmas Concert, raised subscriptions and due recognition in articles in the National Association's magazine, Uttoxeter Voice and The Post and Times. The tremendous Candlelight Concert in December and the rich praise that it properly attracted provided a great climax to the term; testimony to your commitment and quality and to the leadership that we have all enjoyed from 'her at the front'.

It has been so good also to welcome Delia, Judith and Julia to our ranks and to see them settle in so well. John Darlow hopes to take his place in the bass section in January and we have indications that four other ladies could be joining us then! And wasn't it good to welcome Chris back. We'd hardly had time to notice that he'd gone but what a boost he has provided for our under-subscribed tenors! It was also good to see Pat and David in the audience at the Candlelight Concert. We have missed them in their long term absence and wish them continuing recovery.

The initial term of our 50/50 Club has been an unqualified success thanks to Ian and Ruth's hard work and to your support. It has provided a bit of fun and a gilt edged investment for Maggie!! The last two draws of this round will take place at practices on January 12 and 19 and, after a couple of weeks break, the second round will begin. Please continue to give your appreciated support - otherwise we shall have to return to raffles!

The future? January's Committee meeting will hopefully advance investigations into our proposed 2012 Tour and we shall be able to put before you choices with regard to dates (The Queen's Anniversary has caused a possible

## Diary 2011

**Rehearsals Start Again**  
Wednesday 12th January  
7.00 p.m. for glass of wine  
before we start at 7.30 p.m.

**Saturday 19th February**  
**Chrissie Smith's**  
**Mum's 90th**  
Small group requested to sing  
at her party at the  
Dog & Partidge, Tutbury.

**Saturday 7th May**  
**Invitation Concert**  
Marston Montgomery Church

**Saturday 9th July**  
**Summer Concert**  
at Thomas Alleyne's.

**Saturday 10th December**  
**Christmas by Candlelight**  
Concert at St. Mary's Church  
Uttoxeter

**Please put these dates**  
**in your diary now!**

rethink), destination, flattered by invitations to eight different countries we have now decided that this is the consequence of Tim's blow by blow account of the Belgian Adventure on our website rather than our quality! Though we have been asked to sing in the NAOC Regional Biennial Concert in 2012! At this stage we shall ask about your possible availability so that a decision can be taken in terms of the viability of the exercise.

And, finally, may I offer you all my deepest thanks for your support for The Singers, the Committee for the huge amount of unseen graft that they put in on our corporate behalf, the very high proportion of the choir who muck in so readily in tidying up weekly (not weakly!) and at events and, above all, may I wish you and your families a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year.

We meet again on January 12 (at 7.00 for 7.30) as we have some wine to drink thanks to Becky and Rob's generosity and our inability to put it all away at the concert. Batteries – with at least 2 hours life in them - will be on sale at the bargain price of 25p/bag of 25!

*Peter*

### Conductor's Notes

More warming thoughts - well, at this point in time (freezing fog, freezing noses, freezing cars) we can do with a bit of warmth! Weren't we lucky with the weather at the time of our Candlelight Concert . . . and speaking of that event, I'd just like to echo Peter's sentiments: you deserved every moment of the applause that took place on the night - and plenty since. It was a really rewarding experience for me to be 'her at the front'!

You'll see from the Diary 2011, on the front page, that our Summer Concert is booked for Saturday July 9th. **PLEASE** put this in your diary now, and I would ask you to think twice before missing any rehearsals immediately prior to this date. But - we all have to have a life! And I know sometimes unforeseen circumstances mean that people feel under-rehearsed leading up to a concert. So I just want to reiterate that I am always ready to help, to go through bits you're finding tricky - hopefully before we are right up against the date of a concert, though!

Our theme for the Summer Concert will be 'Across the Pond', focusing on music from the USA - Spirituals, barn raising songs, folk tunes, plus a bit of popular and show music as well. As Peter has indicated, we will be fitting in some other events as well between now and the summer concert.

Would you please bring to rehearsal on .. er, what's the first date in January? Oh yes, the 12th (nice long holiday this Christmas) your Green Folk Songs for Choirs Book, the Blue Songs for Choirs book - and search among your music for - yes, it's back - I Bought Me A Cat! We can then see who possesses a copy and how many we would need to top up. We can also make a start on a four-part arrangement of Moon River (that Audrey Hepburn, she was so slim) and California Dreamin' (Mommies and Poppa's - she wasn't quite so slender . . .) which I hope you will enjoy.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and look forward to a harmonious 2011. See you on the 12th, with a drink and a battery to keep us going! Happy New Year!

*Wendy*

## 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)  
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### Treasurer

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### Music Librarian

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### Committee Members

Chris Eales (01283 512810)  
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Shirley Horton (01283 215296)  
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The Conductor and Accompanist are automatically members of the committee.

### Conductor

Wendy Scott (01889 563570)  
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### Accompanist

Rhoda Castle (01283 820486)  
Email: rhoda.castle@staffs.ac.uk

## Reminders

### Music for First Rehearsal

See Wendy's notes for details.

### Night of Miracles

The following numbered library copies have not yet been returned...

**1, 10, 13, 20, 34, 39, 49, 51 & 55.**

We know and you know if one of these belongs to you! If it does PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE bring your copy to the first rehearsal. If we don't return all the copies to the library we will have to buy new copies to replace them! This is such a waste of Singers' hard earned money!