



CHOIR NEWSLETTER

November 2009

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY

Chairman

Mark Elliston

Welcome. Our new season is now well under way and I trust everyone's enjoying the wonderful music we're rehearsing. The season got off to a good start with our second Open Rehearsal of the year which brought in 25 singers from around the county to come and give it a go with us. My thanks go to those of you who encouraged these singers to come on the night and good luck to them with their auditions! Our AGM took place the following week and once again I thank you for electing me as your Chairman for the season – an honour and a responsibility particularly as we are laying plans for celebrating our 150th anniversary in 2011 which really will be a festival occasion !

New Committee Officers. At the AGM a number of new officers were elected on to the General Committee and I would like to welcome them on board and wish them well in their roles.

Marketing Secretary	Patrick Aydon
Patrons Secretary	Anne Renshaw
Social Secretary	Sue White

100 Club. Following Frank Davies's decision to step down after 16 years of running the 100 Club, I am very pleased to let you know that Janet Harvey has kindly agreed to step in and carry on running it. If you are not already a member of the 100 Club, or if you are a new member, I urge you to join – we make a draw twice a season with a number of winning cheques paid out to lucky members, but more importantly the 100 Club brings in almost £1000 pa into the Society coffers.

Raffle. I'm very pleased that our weekly raffle is going well, my thanks go to Louise Remedios ably supported by and Margaret Renney. Please support them when you arrive. The raffle tickets are 20p each or £1 per strip. If you have any offerings or any prizes that you can donate, these too would be most welcome, particularly with the Christmas Raffle coming up soon !

Website. The Society's website www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk is a mine of information about what's going on in the Society so do refer to it when you can – we try to keep it updated as often as possible. Hopefully we will have no repeat problems with the severe weather we experienced last season which resulted in one (and almost two) cancelled rehearsals. If there's any doubt about weather etc, we will endeavour to post a notice on the website and then I ask you to notify friends and others who don't have internet access.

Amazon. If ever you're buying goods online, why not order via the Amazon link on our website (and tell your friends to as well). Amazon will pay WFCS a percentage of each sale! Once again this all helps with our general fundraising and it all adds up !

Finally... We have an exciting programme of concerts this year, starting off with two beautiful works, Duruflé *Requiem* and Scarlatti *St Cecilia Mass*.. Please do your utmost to sell tickets for these concerts, it is not only a financial necessity but it's also a lot more exhilarating to perform in front of a full, or nearly full house!

Season 2009 / 2010 Concerts

Just to remind you, our concerts for the current season are as listed below.

- **Saturday 14th Nov** *Duruflé Requiem and Scarlatti St Cecilia Mass*
- **Saturday 12th Dec** *Handel Messiah*
- **Saturday 19th Dec** *Joy to the World (Cathedral Arts)*
- **Saturday 20th Mar** *Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony & Strauss Four Last Songs*

Albion Lodge, Christmas Carols**Sue Spackman**

Once again Colin and Andrew Darwent have invited us to take a choir of between 20 and 25 to sing at this Residential Home in Hanley Swan on the last Monday before Christmas, 21st December. These are always most enjoyable evenings commencing with a short rehearsal at 6.30 p.m, followed by about 45 minutes of carols before a very good buffet supper with the residents, their families and friends. They are also a good chance for choir members to socialise themselves. Colin Roy has, once again, kindly agreed to lead the choral group. I shall be putting out a list after the half term break for those interested to sign. This also raises funds for the W.F.C.S. as the Darwents make a generous donation.

Social Events

Now that we have a Social Secretary on the committee again I'm glad to be able to tell you that two events have been booked already for next year. The first one is a **Quiz Night and Supper on Friday, 26th February at Powick Village Hall**. This promises to be a night of fun – so put your thinking caps on and book yourselves in! Details to follow and tickets will be on sale early in the New Year. Our next event will be a **Coffee Morning and Plant Sale** to be held on **Saturday morning, May 1st** at the **Guildhall** in Worcester High Street. Do spread the word and bring your friends as well, we expect a high turnout and would like some volunteers to help on the day.

Message from the General Secretary**Lesley Bellerby**

Please remember that the most important element of our concerts is our musical standard. To maintain it you need to have attended at least 75% of rehearsals to be able to sing in the concert itself. The final decision as to who performs in a concert always lies with our Conductor and you will need to discuss this with him before a space can be allocated on the platform if too many have been missed or if for any reason you are unable to attend the afternoon rehearsal on the day of the concert.

Also important is our standard of presentation. In these difficult financial times it is even more vital that we present a professional and pulled together image to our audience. It does more than a little to set the standard of expectation. Everyone should now have had a copy of the revised Concert Procedure and Chorus notes. In future these will be issued for each performance... Please do take time to prepare yourself and read them through, particularly with regard to line-up in the Chapter House so that we can leave the Chapter House on time.

Librarian**Joan Willis**

All borrowed music must be returned to our Librarian by the night of the concert. If for any reason you find that you are unable to sing in the concert then please return your music as soon as possible and at the latest at the last Monday rehearsal before the concert. If you cannot bring it or send it via a friend to a Monday rehearsal then it can be delivered or posted to her home address. If you have any problems returning your music then please contact our Librarian.

Every Choir member must have a WFCS folder to be used during concerts. These are issued to members on receipt of a £5 deposit, which is returnable when the member returns the folder on leaving the Choir. If you are a new member then please see our Librarian to obtain your folder.

On the Grapevine

It's nice to share good news when we hear it and I discovered recently that Margaret Renney (Sop) celebrated her Golden Wedding anniversary with her husband John, in August, so congratulations Margaret, from all of us at WFCS !

Committee Contacts

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