

## A Few Notes



### Newsletter No 19

#### Notes from Jilly

Well done, congratulations and THANK YOU to all singers who have performed as part of our choir this month at the Party in the Park, All Saints' Church Service and/or the Overstone School Fête. What a busy musical time it has been for all involved! As the Musical Director, I am thrilled with the consistently high standard of our performances; I feel really proud when I conduct our wonderful choir.

Our Funds. For a number of weeks, Lance has been encouraging us to help raise money for the choir with the Waitrose community token system and the Vale Lottery. He has had my full support for these initiatives and, later in this newsletter, you will see the latest discovery that he has made to raise money for us – and this will cost *you* nothing! Our plan is to separate income from all these sources and use it, for instance, to go towards supplementing the costs of coach travel (especially for our younger members) and paying for the hire charges for the Concert venue where we will perform our Spring Concert 2017.

Outlook for Next Term. My plan for next term's Sunday rehearsals is:

- 4:45pm: Start rehearsal promptly with the Warm Up.
- 5:00pm: Full rehearsal with accompanist.
- 6:00pm: Notices.
- 6:10pm: Tea, coffee, biscuit(s)...and a chat.

Workshops (one per term). I would very much like to hold a workshop each term, entirely separate from our rehearsals and open to all our members. These would have a theme or focus on a specific musical genre, such as: Musical Theatre, Sacred, Opera Choruses, Folk, Barbershop, Madrigals, Rock and Pop. Inevitably, because we would need to hire the Hall and have an accompanist; this would not be covered by our normal subscription, so there would need to be an additional charge.

Theory Sessions. I do plan to hold the occasional theory sessions for those who would like to attend, covering facts and guidelines on specific pieces in our repertoire. Details will be issued in due course.

Voice Recordings. Hopefully there will be recordings of each voice part (for our main repertoire) on our website by the beginning of the September term. These do take time to plan and record, especially for the male voices, but everyone should be able to benefit from them.

A Suggestion from Jilly. I thought it would be fun - perhaps once a term - to have an 'After Rehearsal Soirée'. This would be *your* opportunity to sing a solo or duet, whilst a supportive crowd of choir members just sits back and relaxes, enjoying a cuppa and a cake at the same time. What do members think about this idea? Do let me know.

*Jilly*

#### Funding for the Choir – Free!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop, to business travel, to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for *The Wing Singers* to grow our special activities funding?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Halfords, Aviva, thetrainline.com and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join. Go to the new '**Funding**' page of our website and click '**Support us Now**'.
2. Shop. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
3. Raise. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to *The Wing Singers* for no extra cost whatsoever!

As a really easy way to see what to do, look at the short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwHxVdUtJjo>

Donations really can be collected on just about everything - think holiday bookings, taking out insurance, weekly grocery shops, downloads from iTunes and even ordering a takeaway!

There are no catches or hidden charges and *The Wing Singers* will be really grateful for your donations. So far this site has distributed over £12.6million to deserving causes.

Thank you for your support - and please ask your family and friends to support our choir by also shopping online this way! See if any of them can persuade their company to order office supplies, train tickets, hotels etc this way and raise funding for us!

#### Funding for the Choir – Vale Lottery

We are very grateful to the purchasers of Vale Lottery tickets, from which we have already started to receive some income. If each of these tickets is bought every week using Direct Debit, the choir will have received in the order of £260 in 12 months' time – that will go a long way towards subsidising choir events away. Do buy tickets if you are able to! Good luck in the Vale Lottery [www.valelottery.co.uk](http://www.valelottery.co.uk) to all ticket-holders - you could win the top prize of £25,000!

#### Musical Events in the Area

Members may remember that *The Wing Singers* is now registered with Making Music, a charity that supports music groups throughout the country. It is through Making Music that we now have our insurances and through whom we pay our Performing Rights royalties.

The Making Music website is [www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk). This lists many helpful resources that members may be interested to see and, in particular, the page called EVENTS allows anyone to search for musical events happening within a chosen time period and within a specified distance of a postcode. We will in future be listing our concerts on this website.

#### UK Music Day

Four members of the choir were able to take part in the UK Music Day event in London at lunchtime on 21 June: Heather Wright, Julie Ferguson and Margaret and Lance Redler. Members of the other two choirs represented there, on hearing that we were from a relatively new village choir, said '*So it's just a small choir, then.*' They were astounded to learn that our average attendance has been 72 at each rehearsal! The Making Music report of this event said:

*'Tuesday 21 June marked the 4<sup>th</sup> UK Music Day, part of a worldwide tradition of celebrating music making in all its forms. Across the country, musicians gathered to put on performances, workshops, open rehearsals and much more.*

*We had our own Music Day celebrations with choral events at three iconic locations across the UK. In London, 30 singers from Making Music member groups gathered in the shadows of City Hall and*

*Tower Bridge for an open air workshop, with vocal leader Janna Goodwille. In just under two hours, singers from Vision Choir, Include Choir, and The Wing Singers learned six songs from scratch to performance standard, entertaining local office workers on their lunch break as they rehearsed. Passers-by stopped to listen and were encouraged to join in – at one stage the choir included 20 children on a school trip, four German tourists and the security guard!’*

The official Making Music photograph taken early in the proceedings shows Heather (in the red top) as part of the soprano group.



### Refreshments at Rehearsals

We are very grateful to Hazel Price for becoming the refreshment team leader and to those who have offered to help her.

### Comments/Suggestions/Ideas

Jill Neenan would welcome comments, ideas or suggestions about the choir from any members. Ideally these are made via our email address, but a note to her is equally acceptable (praise is also welcomed of course!).

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Choir Contact Details. Email messages for Jill Neenan (choral matters), or for Lance Redler (membership and general administration), should be sent to [wingsingers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wingsingers@yahoo.co.uk). Lance can also be contacted by telephone on: (01296) 681286 or 07769 942951. The choir website is: [www.thewingsingers.org.uk](http://www.thewingsingers.org.uk).

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