

A Few Notes



Newsletter No 23

Notes from Jilly

What a fun filled and fulfilling year this has been for our fabulous members! Thank you to everyone for your commitment and efforts during the Sunday rehearsals and the performances.

I am extremely proud to be the Musical Director of such a unique and amazing Community Choir. We have come so far and no one can deny that we are on a very exciting journey; I am really looking forward to everything we are going to do together as *The Wing Singers* in 2017...hold on tight!

As for the Autumn term, you will have noticed that it included a couple of late notice/unexpected activities (Christmas Fayre and RAF Halton):

Soirée – 20 November: this was our first event of this type and I was delighted that this went so well, with choir members creating an encouraging environment for those who performed, some of them as soloist singers for the first time and others as new instrumentalists. Thank you to those first timers, who gave memorable performances that were inspirational to us all. Hopefully we'll have even more of our choir performing to us at the next soirée!

Carols at All Saints Church Christmas Fayre – 26 November: a big thank you goes to more than 30 members for taking part at the Christmas Fayre at very short notice, singing *a capella* and without a pre-performance 'run through'! Lots of compliments were received and there was quite a buzz around the village the following week. We have already asked the Vicar if we could make this village event a firm booking for us for this year; we wait to hear.

RAF Halton Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw – 2 December: I hope that you felt it was an honour and a most memorable experience to be invited to perform at RAF Halton - to the largest audience that we have faced, in the biggest room we could have imagined - despite challenges with poor lighting and sound (Jim is on the case for next time!). We were invited to perform at this Christmas party at the very last minute – and we did it with confidence and style – we should be very proud of ourselves. The diners were thrilled and we certainly added 'Christmas spirit' to the occasion with our enthusiastic and lusty singing.

Christmas Carol Concert at the Village Hall – 11 December: the whole concert oozed polish and professionalism, with 84 members of the choir performing. The solos, ensembles and choral items were brilliant, with Vicky and Valerie our very vivacious 'Fabulous Fairies' adding that extra 'je ne sais quoi' 😊. Undoubtedly we'll be having another Carol Concert for the village in December this year, perhaps reintroducing a raffle and charging for entry.

Over 60s Christmas Lunch – 15 December: our final event was of course singing carols at the Christmas lunch for the Over 60s Lunch Club, run by Sue Nightingale, which was heartily enjoyed by the lunching members, who joined in the singing with great enthusiasm. I know that some of our choir members took time off work to sing with us, which was much appreciated.

Finally, thank you all for your gifts to me that were a lovely surprise and presented with such kind words at the end of the Carol Concert; the voucher was a real treat for me to enjoy spending...the bouquet was absolutely stunning too (thank you Helen Jeffers)! Now its time to concentrate on 2017 and everything musical that awaits us.

Carol Concert – 11 December

The total takings at the Carol Concert amounted to £215 (£127 from refreshments and £88 from the family tombola), regrettably some £85 less than last year. A decision had been made not to charge for refreshments, but instead to ask for donations; this was clearly not a complete success. From the nett proceeds of the evening, £62 will go to Wing Charities and £62 to choir funds.



Carol Concert 'Under the Christmas Tree' in Trafalgar Square, 20 December

In another 'first' for *The Wing Singers*, Margaret Redler, Peter Clay, Ian Hancox and Lance Redler sang carols, as part of a combined choir, for an hour in Trafalgar Square on 20 December.



29 January – *The Wing Singers* at the Musicathon

Sunday 29 January sees the return of the 12 hour live music ‘Musicathon’ for charity at Wing Village Hall, from 9am-9pm, organised as before by Jill Neenan. For scheduling reasons, *The Wing Singers*’ singing time in the Musicathon will be slightly later than normal, probably from 5:30-6:30, but we do hope that members of the choir will drop in at the Village Hall at other times during the day.

25 March – Spring Concert – Help Needed

Our Spring Concert takes place on 25 March in All Saints Church, Wing, to which entry will be by ticket. The advertising will give the telephone number and email address of the person holding the tickets, from whom they can be bought.

Would you be willing to be our ticket contact? If so, please tell Lance Redler.

Choir Folders

Many members still have choir folders, as they were in frequent use during December. Sheila and Mike Samuel would be grateful to have them returned at the next rehearsal on 8 January (please don’t remove your names from the inside back cover).

Phew!!

If you felt overwhelmed for the first two weeks of December by the number of emails you received from Lance on a variety of topics – just think what he felt! Each message that’s sent to all members means creating and sending four separate emails, with 30 names in each. There were four separate occasions over two days when *Yahoo!* blocked him from sending any more messages (even a reply to one person) for a couple of hours each time; it suspected that the frequency and quantity of messages being sent indicated possible spam!

Do You Like the Way that the Choir is Run?

Do *you* like the way that the choir is run? What pleases you? What doesn’t?

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

*Happy New Year wishes are sent to all
choir members and your families.*

Our first rehearsal in 2017 is on Sunday 8 January!

Choir Contact Details. Email messages for Jill Neenan (choral matters), or Lance Redler (membership and general administration), should be sent to 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.

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