

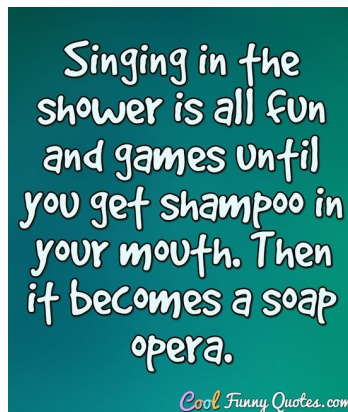
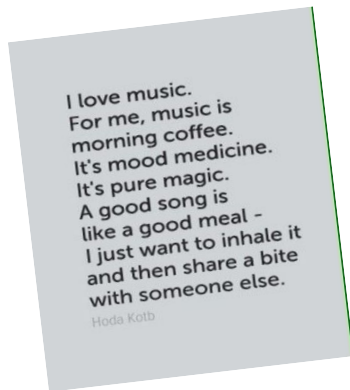
A Few Notes



Newsletter No 31

Hello everyone,

Here's to a wonderful Summer Concert and a fabulous time singing together during choir rehearsals throughout the term. Quotes to make you smile...



Harmoniously yours,

Jilly x

Annual Parish Meeting 10 May – Plaudits

At the invitation of Wing Parish Council, 34 choir members sang *The Rhythm Of Life* and *You Raise Me Up* at the commencement of the Wing Annual Parish Meeting on 10 May. Two audience members subsequently commented on Facebook:

'Just wanted to say you guys were brilliant tonight at the PC meeting. Hair stood up on back of my neck. Well done one and all!'

'Well done to the choir !! You all sounded fantastic and it was really great to hear you all and see the passion and enjoyment you clearly all have xxx'.

and the Parish Council posted:

'A huge thank you to all Wing Singers who started off the Wing Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 10th May 2018. You were all amazing. What a fantastic community choir we have in Wing!'

Financial Grant to the Choir

We are most grateful to the Wing Parish Council for its generous grant of £760 to the choir at the May Council meeting. This was the sum requested to cover the additional costs to be incurred by doubling the length of choir rehearsals from September, more details of which appear below.

Rehearsal Calendar – Changes

The following changes have been made to the choir calendar for June and July:

- Sunday 3 June – an additional extended rehearsal, for all voice types, has been added as part of the Summer Concert preparation, with the timings:

Doors open: 5:30
Warm-up: 5:45
Rehearse 6:00-8:15 with break 7:00-7:20
Doors close: 8:30

- Sunday 15 July – an earlier start for the rehearsal, with timings:

Doors open: 5:00
Warm-up: 5:15
Rehearse 5:30-6:30
Doors close: 7:00

Change of Choir Rehearsal Length

Given the overwhelming support at the AGM to the suggestion that the rehearsals be increased in length, your Committee has decided that, from the start of the new term in September, rehearsals will normally be for two hours, with a midway interval for announcements and refreshments. Thanks to the generosity of the Wing Parish Council, no increase in termly subscriptions needs to be sought this year to cover the greater costs incurred.

Unless altered for a particular evening, the revised timings throughout the year from September will be:

4:30pm open doors and set up
4:45pm warm up
5:00pm session 1
6:00pm tea break and notices
6:20pm session 2
7:15pm (prompt) finish rehearsal and pack
7:30pm lock doors

A detailed calendar for the choir from September 2018 - July 2019 is at the end of this Newsletter and the choir website has been updated.

Hit the Right Notes

Six ways to prepare for your singing performance:

1. **Do a vocal warm-up** to make sure that you're in the best possible position to sing; it will hopefully lift any pre-performance tension and reduce damage to the larynx or vocal chords.
2. **Avoid fizzy drinks and dairy products** before singing, as the acids in them can harm your throat. Alcohol will dehydrate you, so avoid it and make sure that you keep hydrated. Drinking gallons of water half an hour before you perform doesn't work – it takes a few hours for your body to get hydrated so you need to start early.
3. **Get a good night's sleep!** Nothing beats a solid, undisturbed night's sleep before a performance – give your body a chance to recharge and get the best out of yourself.
4. **Do vocal warm-ups that feel comfortable and easy.** It's tempting to push yourself too hard when you're nervous, but that never helps. Save the experimentation for your practice time!

5. If you have to wait somewhere in silence before you perform, **do deep-counted breathing**. It'll help remind you to control your breathing when you're performing and keep you calmer.
6. Remember that the audience is looking forward to your performance and wants to hear you do well – they're on your side!

GDPR – Membership Forms

Tremendous thanks are extended to all choir members from Lance Redler, our Choir Secretary. Everyone who sings regularly with us was really prompt returning the updated membership forms, so that we were compliant with the new data protection legislation well before it came into effect on 25 May. Those from whom no response was received to any of the numerous reminder emails sent out have been removed from the membership and email contacts lists, as they had to be. Did you know that the maximum penalty for non-compliance with GDPR is a massive €20 million...that has concentrated the mind of Club and Society Secretaries!

Choir Statistics

Some members will be interested to know that, since the membership list was adjusted as explained above, the choir consists of:

Women: 65	Sopranos: 30
Men: 22	Altos: 47
Girls: 9	Tenors: 7
Boys: <u>3</u>	Basses: <u>15</u>
99	99

Fundraising for the Choir

Do you remember that our choir is registered as a 'good cause' by EasyFundraising, from which our funds already stand to gain more than £500 that can be used for the benefit of all members? You can help to increase this with very little effort - and at no cost to you.

As examples, members have raised this money for the choir through EasyFundraising when changing their energy supplier, booking hotels, flights or holidays, insuring their car or home and doing online shopping (Amazon, John Lewis, Expedia, uSwitch etc etc). The trader donates a small percentage of what you have paid – it costs you nothing extra.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thewingsingers>
2. Sign up free of charge
3. Get shopping as usual - your donations will be collected by EasyFundraising and automatically sent to *The Wing Singers*. It couldn't be easier!

After that it's very straightforward – you just have to remember to visit the online trader via the EasyFundraising link each time you shop. Lance Redler or Claire Collier are willing to help anyone to get started.

EasyFundraising has to date distributed well over £20 million to more than 90,000 good causes.

Choir Calendar

The choir website www.thewingsingers.org.uk is always kept up to date, so if ever in doubt about when or where we are meeting, times etc., just take a look at the Calendar page, remembering that there are separate sections in the Calendar for 'Upcoming Performances' and 'Rehearsal Dates'.

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!).

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. Please don't contact Jilly direct unless it concerns your private tuition with her. Lance can also be contacted by telephone on: (01296) 681286 or 07769 942951. The choir website is: www.thewingsingers.org.uk.

27 May 2018

Choir Rehearsal and Performance Dates 2018/19

The
Wing Singers

Unless otherwise indicated, rehearsal timings from September 2018 are:

4:30pm open doors and set up
4:45pm warm up
5:00pm session 1
6:00pm tea break and notices
6:20pm session 2
7:15pm finish rehearsal and pack
7:30pm lock doors

2018

September

2 (tbc)
9
16 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.
23
30

October

7
14 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.

November

4
11
18 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm
24 (Saturday) Wing Parish Church Christmas Fayre
carols 1130-1215.
25

December

2
9 Wing Village Carol Concert(s). Afternoon and
evening. Times to follow.
16 Christmas (+ 'end of term soirée') - doors locked
8:00pm.

2019

January

6
13
20 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.
27

February

3
10 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.

March

3
10
15 (Friday) MK Festival of The Arts Choral
Competition. Time to follow (probably early evening).
17
24 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.
31

April

28 (followed by AGM).

May

5
12 (+ soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.
19

June

2
9
16
21 (Friday) Concert rehearsal at venue. Time to follow.
22 (Saturday) Summer Concerts. Times to follow.
30

July

7
14
21 (+ finalé soirée) - doors locked 8:00pm.

SUMMER BREAK