

A Few Notes



Newsletter No 33



Hello everyone,

During this last term we've covered a very varied repertoire, including preparation for the Carol Concerts and the unaccompanied carols during the Christmas Fayre in the Parish Church. We've also been joined by a number of newcomers and have seen friendships develop and grow between members, which gives me much joy as the social aspect is a very special element of our choir.

It gave me great pleasure to conduct our choir at the Carol Concerts and I was extremely proud of our choir's performance. A high standard was achieved and the audience feedback was very positive, commenting on the very polished singing, the excellent diction, the lovely harmonies and a repertoire that included something for everyone. Thank you for the effort that you all made.

For 2019 we can look forward to performing once again at the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts choral competition on Friday 15 March, and of course our two Summer Concerts on Saturday 22 June in Wing Parish Church.

In the meantime, during our coming rehearsals I plan also to support those members 'new to singing', aiming to improve their score-reading and skills for singing in a choir. It is important that they enjoy the rehearsals and performances, growing in confidence and not feeling uncertain or overwhelmed. Joining any established choir as an inexperienced newcomer can be daunting – we do understand!

Thank you all for your commitment and enthusiasm, without which our choir would not be the success that it is.

Here's to a happy and harmonious 2019!

Love... *Jilly* x

Carol Concert Donations

We are delighted to say that from the nett proceeds of the two Carol Concerts we were able to send £200 to each of our three chosen recipient groups:

Ladybird Parent, Baby & Toddler Group
Wing Youth Club
Wing Day Care Friends

From the management of Wing Youth Club we have received the following letter:

'The members and volunteers of Wing Youth Club would like to express our warm thanks for the generous donation of £200 towards our running costs. When told of your generosity, the members made the attached 'Thank You' card and all who were in attendance signed it (with varying amounts of embellishment). Please pass on to The Wing Singers our appreciation.'



And on the Wing Village Facebook site, Kealy Gavillet posted:

'Hi, I'm the Club leader at Wing Youth Club and wanted to personally thank you for the money you donated to us. We are sincerely grateful and will spend it wisely.'

The Chair of Wing Day Care Friends acknowledged receipt by writing:

'On behalf of Wing Day Care Friends, please accept our sincere thanks for the donation of £200 received from the nett takings of the two Carol Concerts held by The Wing Singers – also for your very kind comments about our Group. We are delighted to have been one of the three beneficiaries this year.

I know that a tremendous amount of work goes into arranging these fundraising events, and I have heard what a great success the concerts were and they are obviously well supported and much appreciated.

Please pass on our grateful thanks to everyone involved and may I take this opportunity, on behalf of WDCF, to wish The Wing Singers, their families and friends a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy 2019.'

Rehearsals and Membership

We hope that members have felt both the personal and choral benefit of the double-length rehearsals that were introduced from September. The majority of members have been able to stay for the whole rehearsal and our average attendance since the start of term has been 66, compared with 59 for the earlier part of the year. Numbers have of course been boosted by the new members who have joined us during the term.

Soirées

The more recently-joined members may be uncertain about the concept and purpose of our soirées. These were introduced by Jilly to provide an informal opportunity for any choir member to perform something of their choice, amongst friends and without pressure. Past events have included a number of 'first solo' and experienced singers, an experienced violinist, a student pianist and student flautist, poetry readings and a comic recitation or two. Some have been confident 'party pieces' and other performers have been very nervous. It is the taking part that matters – there is only ever one 'first time' and new volunteers are always welcomed!

Fundraising for the Choir

Our choir is registered as a 'good cause' by EasyFundraising, from which our funds already stand to gain more than £654 (much of which has been received already) 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. EasyFundraising has to date distributed well over £20 million to more than 90,000 good causes.

One of our members has raised over £220 for us just by shopping this way – including online shopping, insurance, car tyres, package holidays, holiday travel and hotel bookings; another member has raised more than £130.

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. Please spread the word to families & friends.

Lance Redler or Claire Collier are willing to help anyone to get started.

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.

*Happy Christmas
Everyone!*

21 December 2018