

DRYBROOK & DISTRICT LADIES CHOIR

NEWSLETTER NEW YEAR 2019

DIARY DATES:

2019

SAT 16th FEB 2pm: Dean Neurological Centre, Longford. **Coach leaves Bandroom 1pm**

SAT 2nd MARCH 7pm: Cinderford Methodist Church Concert with Forest Singers – led by Sarah Waycott and based in Drybrook. Charity tbc.

DATE for SPRING FAYRE in the Bandroom

SAT 11th MAY 7pm: Holy Trinity Drybrook: **BURSARY CONCERT** with Lydbrook Training Band

WEDS 12th JUNE 2.30pm: 'FAME' the Musical at Bristol Hippodrome. Possibly no choir as some will be on the Grindles trip. Prices: Concessions £39 and Adult £54

WEDS in SEPT AGM

SAT 5th OCTOBER 7pm: Venue TBC 2nd Bursary Concert with Lydney Traing Band

W/E 1st 2nd NOVEMBER: Choir TOUR to Carmarthen

REPORTS AND REVIEWS

Autumn Concert Mitcheldean: Entertainment with 'The Ukes of Azzard' raised over £200 for Great Oaks Hospice.

100 Years WW1 Celebration Concert at Ruardean Hill with Mathern MVC, with poignant music and fun, raised £260 for the charity 'Warchild'.

The Margaret Rose Bursary: £500 each has been awarded this year to two Training Bands – Lydney and Lydbrook . Concerts will be arranged in 2019 to raise funds for the next Bursary.

Festive Fayre: held in the Bandroom, raised over £500 for choir funds. A huge thank you to everyone who donated or helped in any way.

Age Concern Concert: Always a pleasure to sing at Cinderford Methodist Church which has fabulous acoustics. Thanks to everyone involved and the 'Ukes of Azzard' again with over £250 raised for the FOD branch of Age Concern.

Forest Church Xmas Concert: Having had to cancel last years' concert because of snow, it was good to be back raising funds for the local Church at this special celebration. With MC. Kevin, Drybrook village providing music from the school, the Male Voice Choir and ourselves - as well as Cinderford Band - the church roof was proverbially 'raised' . Thanks to those who provided mince pies for the 'afterglow'.

Old Folks Homes: Some of the most important events in our calendar are the visits to those elderly people who cannot get out to hear us sing. This year we visited 'The Old Rectory' Longhope and 'The Laurels' at Huntley and were able to sing to some who were bed-bound.

Co-op Cinderford: A last minute invitation to sing carols at the Co-op in Cinderford on the Saturday before Christmas Day saw over 20 of us singing our hearts out for the merry customers. Some joined in; others stopped to listen and some threw coins in the bucket in appreciation. We were thrilled to raise over £150 and have received an invitation back to sing before next Christmas.

Dear Girls,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. We have had a busy Christmas this year singing at many different venues and events and I want to thank all of you who recognised the commitment to the choir and attended as much as possible. As many of our members were really poorly, our numbers were quite low on occasions, but you stepped up to the mark and we were able to have a good balance in sound wherever we performed. Thank you all.

This year we have lost two members: May from the altos and Jackie from sopranos. Sadly, May has decided to retire from Choir after a lifetime of singing. She joined way back at the beginning in 1954 so she has 'done her bit' so to speak and we wish her well in her cosy retirement as she is the last of the original members to leave choir. We are also sad to lose Jackie who has found difficulty in fitting choir into her work commitments. Our best wishes go to both of them and we hope they continue to enjoy music in its many forms. On a brighter note we are pleased to welcome Carol into the seconds and Jan into the soprano line and we hope they will both enjoy singing and making music with our choir. We could really do with a few more singers, so if you know of anyone please invite them along.

Back in the Autumn, we were delighted to watch one of our Bursary winners, James Owston from Cinderford, on BBC4 TV, performing as a finalist in the '2018 Young Jazz Musician of the Year'. He didn't win this year but gave a very good performance. Many of us thought that the accompanist for him played too loudly so that the sound of James' double bass didn't come across as well as it might have done. Nevertheless, it was a tremendous accolade for a young man, who loves his instrument so much, to perform before the very best in the country. For him to gain such recognition from those who know a good jazz musician when they hear one was proof of his ability. He attends the Birmingham Conservatoire and the choir sent him good wishes for his success. As he had always had to borrow a double base instrument, he used his Bursary Award to help pay for the cost of his own instrument. Well done James – we are very proud of you!

Allison and Chris have been busy organising a Tour for us this year on the 1st weekend in November. Our contact in Wales is Carmarthen MVC who will arrange the concert on Saturday 2nd Nov. We will be travelling on Friday evening, singing at a concert on Saturday and singing again – hopefully – at Aberglasney Gardens on the way home on the Sunday. As this goes to print, we don't have the final details but watch this space. It can be daunting going to 'The Land of Song' to sing but, if we go with a good heart, fine voices and aim to have fun, we will enjoy ourselves. Let's hope we steer clear of the bugs that hit us this year.

It just leaves me to remind you about the SNOWLINE – so important if we have to cancel choir for any reason. Please ensure that everyone on your section of the SNOWLINE gets the message. We don't want people turning out on inclement nights after the decision has been made to cancel.

Happy Singing in 2019

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