

DRYBROOK AND DISTRICT LADIES CHOIR

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2023

- Sat June 10th 12:45pm: Dilke Hospital 100th Anniversary Celebration – last one as the hospital is closing next year. Choir to sing for about 20-30 minutes.
- Wed July ? (tba): '70th Celebration meal' – time and venue tbc.
- Wed July 26th: Final rehearsal before August Break
- Wed Sept 6th 7pm: Choir AGM followed by rehearsal
- Sat Sept 30th 7pm: St Mary's Church Ross-on-Wye Concert with Drybrook Band and MVC
- Sat Oct 14th 7pm: Cinderford Methodist Concert for 'Teens in Crisis' with the "The Ukes uv Azzard" Ukelele Band
- Sat Nov ? 11am: Festive Fayre at the Bandroom

Dear Ladies,

"I love this choir – it's much more than singing together" – just one of some delightful comments we've had from our lovely members. How we missed choir during lockdown, which seems ages ago! A time that was life-changing for so many people and so many choirs across the nation. We met on Zoom to chat and eventually sang together, sitting feet apart in masks, croaking through warm-ups with voices that had been silent for months – and just for one hour! It's nothing short of a miracle that we've managed to get 'our sound' back again – thanks to the perseverance of Linda, Andy, Teresa and your good selves! So well done – keep up the good work and hope we'll never see Covid 19 lockdown again.

We love to perform for an audience and seem to do so well once we're in our uniforms with good folk listening to us. Our hard work over the past months has paid off so "onwards and upwards" as they say.

REPORTS & REVIEWS

2022

- Thurs May 20th: Westbury Court – as ever, a joy to sing for the residents in the week prior to the home closing down.
- Sat May 22nd: Howe Caple Church Wedding – our first performance after lockdown at Sinead and David Meek's wedding on a glorious day with welcome refreshments at Howe Caple Court on the lawn.
- Wed June 1st: Ruardean Hill Baptist Church Concert, with Mathern MVC, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. £341.50 raised for DEC.

Sat Sept 24th: Christchurch Harvest Concert – an appreciative audience and lovely refreshments.

Sat Dec 3rd: Old Rectory, Longhope – singing carols for the residents.

Wed Dec 14th: Drybrook Memorial Hall Christmas Concert with Drybrook MVC had to be cancelled as conditions were too icy to be safe. We hope to rearrange for Dec 2023.

Sat Dec 17th: Mitcheldean Church Concert with Drybrook Band – in Arctic temperatures that meant we had to sing in coats, scarves and gloves ... Brrrr! A kind donation appeared in our choir bank account.

2023

Sat March 25th: Bandroom Choir Spring Fayre was yet again a successful event, raising funds for choir – over £450 raised – THANKS to everyone who donated, helped and ran stalls on the day.

Wed May 3rd: Tutshill Church Coronation Concert with Mathern MVC. £680 raised for youth charities. Thanks for raffle prizes donated.

Sat May 6th: Hearts of Oak Coronation Day Celebration singing in the rain (literally!) but great fun for the village.

May 19th-21st: DERBY TOUR! Concert with the Dalesmen at Christchurch, Belper on Sat 20th. A brilliant weekend away with incredibly sociable company, a very amiable coach driver and great accommodation. We enjoyed good food, great weather and had a chance to discover the city and cathedral. The concert went well and The Dalesmen provided scrumptious refreshments afterwards. The weekend was rounded off with a visit to Webbs of Wychbold, on our homeward journey, where we sang in the carpark and thanked Linda, Cherry and Andy for organising us all so well.

- Please don't forget to let Miriam (01594 541112) know – in advance if possible – if you are unable to attend a rehearsal. It enables us to organise choir practice without delays – thank you.
- Well done to Mary who raised over £400 pounds through her sponsored walk in aid of Breast Cancer Research. She thanks everyone for their contributions.
- Margaret Rose Bursary: we are hoping to get this up and running again soon. We will need to raise more funds in order to make a worthwhile donation to any recipient. If you have any thoughts or ideas about the Bursary, please let Linda know. Two of our previous winners, Alice Earll and Alex Kirk, have returned to the Forest this summer to perform in concerts (details on our website).

Enjoy your summertime!



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