

# **DRYBROOK & DISTRICT LADIES CHOIR**

## **NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016**

Hello Girls,

What a wonderful Choir you are! Two special events in one week – the 2016 tour followed by The Margaret Rose Bursary auditions. Fab-u-lous! Events that help to shape our choir into the special choral group that Drybrook & District Ladies are.

Following a lengthy journey to Derby (it was the M5 and Friday evening traffic) we were treated to a Hallmark Hotel welcome. Saturday's outing in glorious weather to Tissington 'Well Dressing' was a real treat, as we ambled around the tiny village with its quaint cottages and buildings. Some stopped for a mini concert in the church, or tea in the village hall, but the highlight for me was listening to our choir spontaneously bursting into song in the tiny Methodist Church singing 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. It made the hairs rise on the back of my neck and at least one lady visitor was shedding tears as they sang. After yet more food, we went to Duffield to perform at a concert with The Dalesmen MVC, raising funds for two local Hospices. The audience was very receptive, the choirs on top form and we were treated to yet more food at the 'Afterglow'.

Arriving back at the hotel at 11.30pm, another adventure awaited us as the fire alarms were going off and the hotel was being evacuated. An elderly group that had arrived earlier were spilling onto the street in their nightwear, and poor Lin thought she was on a busman's holiday as she helped some of them away from the building! After the fire brigade declared a 'False Alarm' we were allowed to return to our rooms, only to hear them go off three more times. By now (apart from May who slept through it all), most of us were wide awake and drinking coffee, whilst a certain group of pink-coated Ladies partied on in the lounge, emitting raucous laughter that echoed through the stillness of the early hours! We were very pleased to catch up on missed sleep on the journey home, enjoying a break at Webbs of Wychbold on the way. The round we sing - 'London's Burning' - will always remind me of that adventure with a smile!

On Wednesday we held the Margaret Rose Bursary auditions. With Rhiannon Symonds unable to attend in person, we had just two candidates present – Lauren Thornell and Jack Lythaby. The judges selected Lauren as the worthy winner after she had shown them that she had made immense progress, having taken on board all the advice given to her last year. We look forward to seeing her again at The Bursary Concert on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 7pm at Forest Church, Drybrook.

### **REPORTS & REVIEWS:**

**Mitcheldean Church:** concert for Muscular Dystrophy raised a good sum for the charity, but it was soooo cold!! The organisers would like it to be an annual event, but we would expect changes in the programme if we were to be involved.

**Spring Fayre:** was – yet again – a great social event raising over £500 for choir funds. Thanks to everyone who contributed or donated in any way.

**Choir Meal:** at The Fern Ticket was a lovely meal, reasonably priced and great fun with the 'Secret Santa' presents. The staff appreciated our renderings afterwards and have consequently invited us back at Christmas. Thanks to Chris for organising it. Great Fun.

**Beth's wedding:** I don't think we have ever seen a bride so enjoy her wedding as Beth did. The day was perfect for her and her groom, the music lovely and the church decorated in lavender throughout. A lovely day altogether!

**St. George's Day Concert:** raising funds for Great Oaks Hospice on behalf of the FOD Lions Club. They kindly made a donation to The Margaret Rose Bursar Fund for our endeavours.

**Derby Tour:** well documented above. Derbyshire really is a beautiful county, and the cherry blossom trees were a picture to behold as we travelled. The weather couldn't have been better and the hotel accommodation was very good - the breakfasts like a main meal of the day. How did we manage to eat so much? We have to be grateful to Pat for travelling solo to join us in the concert on Saturday, and to the hotel for nursing her through her second day alone without us. I felt terrible leaving her behind, but was so relieved to know all was well on Monday. Phew!! We send a special thank you to Nick the driver, who managed to get that coach into the narrowest of places, and put up with all of us women for 2 days. Bless him.

## **COMING NEXT:**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 7.30pm Christchurch Church Concert** raising funds for the church. Please be there by 7pm if at all possible. Beautiful acoustics.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 7pm 18<sup>th</sup> Margaret Rose Bursary concert** Forest Church Drybrook. Starring our new bursary winner – Lauren Thornell. We will be providing refreshments afterwards and James Owston has agreed to come along and update us on his university progress.

**Weds in July: AGM**

**Weds in July: End of Term Party TBC**

**HAPPY HOLIDAY**

## **DIARY 2016**

**Weds 7<sup>th</sup> September - Resume practice**

**Weds 5<sup>th</sup> October Bethel Chapel Steam Mills 7pm** Concert for Chapel Funds

*SATURDAY in November – Festive Fayre*

*Possible Saturday to sing at Dean Neurological centre*

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm Drybrook Rugby Club** Christmas Evening for Breast cancer with mulled wine and mince pies

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December Ross Larruperz Centre 7pm** Concert for Ross Band Funds

**Weds 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.15pm Forest Church Christmas Concert**

## **2017**

**Weds 11th January 7pm** Resume practise

Fiona Woodroff was unavailable on June 11<sup>th</sup> to arrange a Tea Concert for Crossroads Care, so now we can concentrate on the new pieces for our July concerts. Keep singing!

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