

WIMBORNE CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2018/19

"Music is the literature of the heart: it commences where speech ends"

Alphonse de Lamartine

Each time I sit down to write another of these newsletters I have no idea what I am going to say. (You probably think 'Well, we gathered that, you didn't need to tell us!') I look back over the year and wonder what happened that is worthy of mention. Well for a start, there were three Concerts.

In December the Minster looked beautiful as the candles glimmered to light our *Carols for Choir and Audience*. It all looked very serene. Behind the scenes earlier in the day it had been anything but! Suffice to say that following a series of misunderstandings we nearly had no candles at all. However it was all resolved, and we were able to sing our carols, plus Bob Chilcott's *Gloria* and *Canite Tuba*, by Nigel Edwards and listen to the wonderful Avon Brass Quintet. I must mention too that once again we were impressed by the beautifully

co-ordinated lighting and extinguishing of the candles, performed with such aplomb by Georg Schad and Chris Weedon.

We had planned to sing carols outside Wimborne Library for Save the Children, but unfortunately the weather was bad and we were rained off. I think this is the first time in many years that this has happened.

Our concert in the spring, 'Two Requiems for Passiontide' was well received. Michael Haydn's *Requiem* is not heard too often but is beautiful and Fauré's *Requiem* is always a favourite with both choir and audience.

This was followed in the summer by Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*. Once again we had the pleasure of being accompanied by Wimborne Chamber Orchestra and were treated to three very special soloists. Jevan McAuley made his first appearance with us as bass soloist, and we hope to see him again many times in the future. Jaqueline Foan was, as usual, a superb soprano soloist, while tenor Mark Milhofer found time in his extremely busy schedule to sing with us once more. We are so lucky that his mum is one of our altos!

As you know, we were hampered by the fact that there was a wedding in the Minster so it was very late before we could get the platform erected and begin the Tutti rehearsal, but thanks to the many hands who helped where needed and your patience, we got through without too much delay.

I was unable, for the first time, to be at the Coffee Morning in March. However, it all went extremely well, and was supported by members who enjoyed coffee, cake and a browse through the items for sale, while some left with a wonderful Tombola prize! My thanks to all those who set up the event so successfully.

Once again we held our Summer Buffet at Horton Village Hall, and I have to thank all those of you who turned up to lend a helping hand setting up, and the people who made tea and coffee and the ones who stayed to help clear up. It made such a difference. Also thank you to Matthew and his team from CaterFirst who provided us with a lovely buffet meal.

As you will see from the Agenda, we have a few proposed changes to the Committee.

For a while now, **Jean Harvey** has been doing two jobs, Front of House and FWCS Secretary. **Sophie Milhofer** has agreed to take over the FWCS post while Jean will continue as Front of House. Thank you to Jean for looking after the Friends so well.

Brian Gibbs has volunteered to take over the post of Secretary from **Mo MacDonnell**, who has worked hard to fit it in with her very busy schedule. This will be confirmed at the AGM.

Jim Kirk will be handing over the post of Tenor/Bass Voice rep. to **Roger Quinton Jones**

And finally, **Roger Ball** will be standing down as Treasurer, to be replaced by **Jim Kirk**.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say a special thank you to Roger, who has handled the role of Treasurer so brilliantly over the last years. It is a very responsible job but he has always kept us on the financial straight and narrow and leaves the role with our finances in a very healthy position. However, more than just being Treasurer, he has been a treasure and I want to thank him personally for all the support he has given me. He has often acted as a sounding board for many of my queries and worries and while we may not always have agreed on solutions it has been good to have him there as a sympathetic listener. Thank you Roger.

Jim, you have a big set of shoes to step into, but I know you will take on the role with enthusiasm and drag us into the world of 21st Century technology! I am sure our financial dealings are going into a safe pair of hands.

Now an exciting piece of news. We have been thinking for some time of holding another Come and Sing day, for the choir but also open to the public. I am delighted to tell you that Bob Chilcott is coming to run such a day with us. However, so full is his diary that we have had to book him for **27th February, 2021!** Nevertheless, we have already made a booking with St Nicholas Church in Corfe Mullen and in the summer I shall know what music we will be studying. Once we have numbers from you, the choir, which I hope will be almost all of you, we will be able to begin advertising to the public in the autumn.

<i>Dates for your Diary:</i>	December 7 th 2019	Vivaldi Karl Jenkins	Gloria The Armed Man
	March 28 th 2020	Mozart Durufle	Mass in C Minor Requiem
	June 27 th 2020	Mendelssohn	Elijah

For Wimborne Music Society information please contact Chris on christopher@joyofmusic.co.uk

Carol Singing, Coffee Morning and Summer Buffet dates still to be confirmed. I will produce the Schedules as soon as possible.

It now remains for us to look forward to our next concert. If you have never sung the Jenkins before you are in for a treat, especially when you hear the Last Post echoing from the Baptistry. You will be glad to hear that we can do our Retiring Collection as before, and this year it will be for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulances.

So, we have reached the official end of our Choral Year and it has been a good one. As usual I have to thank Chris for everything he does behind the scenes choosing music, contacting soloists and accompanists and all his work keeping us in good voice. We are so lucky to have him as our Musical Director. My thanks, of course, to the Committee for all their work and support, and to all of you, the members of our Choral Society. Thank you all.

And finally.....

‘There are two golden rules for an orchestra: to start together and finish together. The public doesn’t give a damn what happens in between.’

Thomas Beecham

‘Sometimes, if you begin to sing in a half-hearted mood, you can sing yourself up the ladder. Singing will often make the heart rise.’

Charles Spurgeon

‘When you’re singing you’re using extra muscles and it requires a lot of exercise and breathing. You can’t do that if you’re a sissy. If I have

any fitness advice for people I’d tell them to sing more! It’s good therapy too.’

Willie Nelson

Happy singing!

Marion