

DRYBROOK & DISTRICT LADIES CHOIR

NEWSLETTER MICHAELMAS 2016

Hello Girls,

Welcome back after the summer break. The swallows have flown and soon the clocks will go forward an hour to give us an extra hour lie-in. There's something special about the autumn – the beautiful colours of the trees in the forest, the darker nights enabling us to see the stars in the sky, blackberry and apple pies, the smell of chutney cooking, clearing out the flower beds and winter digging the veg. patch. Time to think about planning for Christmas perhaps?? Well, Linda and I have to meet every summer holiday to decide on our Christmas programme, and I never get tired of it – as you well know! This year, the plan is to sing at three residential homes in the area, Dean Neurological Centre in Gloucester as well as performing at 3 events. All dates and times are below in the diary.

We look forward to 2017 when the National Association of Choirs (NAC) is coming to Gloucester and the choirs from our Region in the NAC are expected to give a concert for the members. Gloucester Cathedral is to be the venue on Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm, and we will be joining with the ladies of the Wide Valley Singers, in Gloucester, to perform 2 songs, as well as performing on our own. We will arrange a couple of practise sessions together in the New Year, as both our choirs meet on Wednesdays. Other choirs involved are Bluemoon Harmony (mixed voices choir) and male voice choirs from Churchdown, Dursley, Forest of Dean and Cirencester. The plan is for all choirs to sing some pieces together, so that should be an interesting evening.

The concert at Bethel in October has been cancelled. The Chapel is having some work done and it would be better to go there after it's completed.

REPORTS & REVIEWS:

Christchurch Church: concert celebrating 200years of worship was a very special evening with lots of angels on display. It was good to hear Keith's poetry again in Forest Lingo. A lovely venue in which to sing.

Bursary Concert: always a special event for us and it would have been good to see more people in the audience to support the youngsters. It was our 18th Bursary and the winner was Lauren Thornell who performed on percussion and piano. She was so grateful to receive the award and will use it to travel to Switzerland with the National Youth Orchestra. Well done Lauren! The presentation was made by last year's winner, James Owston, who brought along his jazz group to play for us. He put his last year's Bursary award towards the purchase of a new double bass, which he obviously adores! £270 was raised for next years' Bursary. Thanks to you for the super refreshments afterwards and special thanks to Wendy for the unique cake.

End of Year Party at Pats: What a special evening and an opportunity for us to see Lin off to the Philippines. (The latest news is that a tornado is due to hit there just before she lands!!) We thought we knew the songs until Linda tried the first few bars on us. Grand food, a fabulous setting and a super auction too. All in all - a good time was had by all. Thank you Pat and please can we come again?

AGM: The usual thanks were given to Linda, Barb and committee and reports. Just one amendment to the Bursary Constitution – that all candidates must attend the audition in person on the day. **Committee:** Chair: Chris Fisher; Secretary: Teresa Roach; Treasurer: Linda James; Vice Chair: Miriam Taylor; Committee members: Christine Turner, Christine Televantos, Helen Hamer, Joy Webb, Maggie Powell, Rose Smith, Sara D'Arcy

Wedding: at English Bicknor. The sun shone for them after the rain. A Scotsman being wed to a Welsh lassie – and the bridesmaids danced to our music. The highlight for me was seeing the tiniest kilt imaginable being worn by a baby boy just a few weeks old.

BETHEL CHAPEL CONCERT CANCELLED

COMING NEXT:

Sat 22nd October 2pm Foxes Bridge Day Centre: Crossroads Care Tea Concert for dementia sufferers. We had exceptional care for Dad from Crossroads Care during his last weeks, so this will be special for me. They are a non-profit making charity that do wonderful work with needy people in their own homes.

DIARY 2016

SATURDAY in November – Festive Fayre

Sat 26th November 7.30pm Drybrook Rugby Club Christmas Evening for Breast cancer with mulled wine and mince pies. Michelle would like us to sing from 7.30pm until 8pm. Serve food from 8 until 8.30pm. Then Salvation Army Band to play afterwards.

Sat 10th Dec Ross Larruperz Centre 7pm Concert for Ross Band Funds

Weds 14th Dec 7.15pm Forest Church Christmas Concert

Sat 17th Dec 2pm Dean Neurological Centre: Christmas Tea concert. Coach to be arranged.

Mon 19th Dec 2pm The old Rectory Longhope, followed by –
3pm Townsend House, Mitcheldean

Weds 21st Dec 2.30pm Euroclydon Nursing Home Drybrook.

2017

Weds 11th January 7pm Resume practise

Friday 7th April Bursary deadline

Sat 22nd April 7.30pm Gloucester Cathedral, NAC Concert. Coach to be arranged

Weds 3rd May 7pm Bursary Auditions

Sat 27th May 1pm English Bicknor Church Wedding: Matthew George to Sarah Louise Watkins

Possible concert for Forest Church 200yrs

Personally I want to thank all of you who have sent kind messages of condolence on the passing of Dad. He was 98 yrs old and his dementia had deteriorated over the last months, so it was a happy release for him. Marion and I were so pleased we were able to look after him at home for so long.

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