

DRYBROOK & DISTRICT LADIES CHOIR
NEWSLETTER NEW YEAR 2017

2017

WEDS 11th January 7pm Resume Practice

WEDS 1st March 7.15pm Witcombe Village Hall, Gloucester to
visit Wide Valley Singers Gloucester for joint rehearsal

Friday 7th April Bursary Deadline

WEDS 19th April 7pm Wide Valley Singers to visit us for a joint rehearsal

SAT 22nd April 7.30pm Gloucester Cathedral NAC Concert

WEDS 3rd May 7pm Bursary Auditions

SAT 8th JULY 7pm Forest Church Bursary Concert

SAT 2nd DEC to sing 7.30 – 8pm Drybrook RFC for Breast Cancer

Dear Ladies,

A very Happy New Year to you all and I hope you enjoyed your Christmas break. Christmas was a busy time for the Choir this year with four concerts – Breast Cancer at Drybrook RFC, Ross Band, Forest Church and The Dean Neurological Centre in Longford – so thanks to all who were well enough to attend. I want to thank especially those of you who managed to attend the Residential and Nursing Homes to sing for the elderly, because it brings so much pleasure to those who cannot come to hear us sing. I know that Linda, and many of you along with myself were particularly heartened by our visit to Longford, and we hope to plan a visit them again this spring or summer.

As usual, Linda and I met over the holiday to set the new programme in place. We have been in contact with Tim Evans, the MD from Wide Valley Singers with whom we will be sharing a programme at Gloucester Cathedral on the 22nd April for the Annual NAC concert. We have changed one song in the programme so the new details are below. There will also be four Male choirs taking part and we hope to have copies of the music that we will all be singing together at the end very soon.

Sadly, we have heard of the deaths of two of our oldest members, Dorothy Wilkinson and Nell Lardner, who were both residents at Townsend House. The choir was represented by members at both of their funerals in the village.

It is a well-known fact that to keep the grey matter alive as we get older, we have to do something new – learn a new language or take up a new hobby, join a choir or learn a new piece of music – so, as well as practising for April, a few choir members and Linda have ear marked some new music for us to consider this year. I knew you would be thrilled!

REPORTS & REVIEWS:

Breast Cancer Concert at Drybrook Rugby Club: Michelle was over the moon to raise the fantastic sum of £1,600 for Breast Cancer on the night. She had such great support from everyone that she is enthused to organise another this December – on the 2nd. With a super supper, the Salvation Army Band and the Breast Cancer Rep., the whole evening was a success.

Wendy's Christmas Cake: Special thanks to Wendy for her beautifully decorated Christmas Cake. The Cake Raffle raised almost £50 for funds and I know her home-made mince pies were all gobbled up first at the Christmas concert! (Bet Kevin had a couple in his pocket!)

Dean Neurological Centre: This Afternoon Tea Concert is so special and not just for us. It is special for the residents, the staff and the families who need our support. We consider this a real privilege and very humbling to take part in some small way in bringing our music to them, showing our appreciation for the care they have for the patients. To support Sheila, Alex and Tracey and their families in this small way is the least we can do and we hope to visit them again in the spring or summer. Our music touched one resident who was paralysed from the neck down after falling. He hadn't been out of his room for weeks, heard us singing and asked to be wheeled out in order to listen. He asked us to sing 'Good King Wenceslas' which we did and he then asked for the words. You see, 'Music speaks where words fail'.

Nursing Homes: We were able to fit in visits to four residential Homes this Christmas - The Old Rectory Longhope, Townsend House, Euroclydon and Westbury Court. We were well received by them all and thrilled when so many joined in with the familiar Carols and songs - gentle reminder that music is the last thing to disappear in the life of dementia sufferers. It's always a privilege to sing around the corridors of the bed ridden residents, and very poignant for me when my friend in Townsend House was in tears on hearing us sing Away in a Manger.

COMING NEXT:

Weds. 1st March 7.15pm PRACTICE at Witcombe Village Hall Gloucester (Coach times tbc)
The whole programme was printed on the Christmas Newsletter; the alterations are in bold below.

1st Half: DDLC & Wide Valley - **All in the April Evening** & This Little Light of Mine (Tim conducts)
2nd Half: DDLC on own - An English Country Garden & Sing a Song of Sixpence
DDLC & Wide Valley - All I have to do is Dream & Super Trouper (Barb Conducts)

Finale: All singers together: You'll Never Walk Alone, Jerusalem, National Anthem

**N.B. DDLC Rehearsals will be 6.45 – 8.45pm for Sectional Practices.
The others to arrive for a 7.15pm start**

Jan 18th Sops	Jan 25th Seconds	Feb 1st Altos
Feb 8th Sops	Feb 15th Seconds	Feb 22nd Altos

March 1st DDLC go to Witcombe Village Hall for joint practice at 7.15pm

Mar 8th Sops	Mar 15th Seconds	Mar 22nd Altos
Mar 29th Sops	April 5th Seconds	April 12th Altos

April 19th 7pm Wide Valley visit us for a final rehearsal.

Sat April 22nd Concert at Gloucester Cathedral.

Linda and I are very concerned that, weather and illness permitting, we have as near to 100% attendance as possible for this term. We have been disappointed at the percentage of absences during last year and we sincerely hope that for this prestigious event DDLC will go the extra mile.

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