



BROMYARD CHORAL SOCIETY

Autumn 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to all members, both new and old, to an exciting new year of singing!

NEW BCS SWEATSHIRTS

The change of the Society's name a couple of years ago means that the logo on the sweatshirts made some years ago is out of date. As previously announced we are proposing to produce new ones with the new logo design; please be prepared to say at the AGM on Tuesday whether you will be buying one. Robert will hopefully have a firm price available by then, and possibly even a sample of the colour proposed. The more takers in one go, the more the chance of being able to negotiate a bulk discount, but late comers at full price will not be excluded!

"COME AND SING" MESSIAH: SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2015

Part of the object of this event . apart from enjoying ourselves . is to attract other local people to join in for the day and try and interest them in joining the choir on a longer term basis, because we can always do with increasing the numbers. We will rehearse the work over the coming weeks in order to give a strong lead to others who haven't sung much and may not know the music other than from listening to it. Please think who you might be able to persuade to come along and take part on a %from scratch+basis, and take flyers to distribute as widely as possible. Applications are already reaching Patsy from the adverts you will have seen in *Off the Record*.

ELGAR'S *THE KINGDOM* FOR CHRISTIAN AID: SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2016

(Please note the changed date since the spring newsletter . it was in the end not possible to book the Cathedral for 7th May as originally planned.) Plans are taking shape and Ledbury Choral Society are now wholeheartedly behind the project. As with the Verdi *Requiem* we want to involve additional singers to boost the chorus, and the chamber choir of Hereford Cathedral School will also be taking part. Joint rehearsal dates will be announced when we start rehearsing *The Kingdom* (soon after the *Messiah* event), and we will set about publicising the performance widely once we are in to 2016.

FUNDRAISING FOR HANDEL'S SOLOMON – SPRING OR AUTUMN 2017

We now have some £1,300 in hand towards this planned performance, but with a likely budget of £7,000 or so we need to raise probably three times more. It is not unreasonable to use a modest part of our reserves from time to time towards an expensive production, provided there is then a period of retrenchment to build funds up again; but the important word is 'modest'. The subject of fundraising is therefore on the agenda for the AGM for general discussion. We need to tap in to private donations, since internal efforts such as raffles can only go so far. Having said that, we are planning to start a weekly 'bottle top' raffle for a prize donated each week. Please support this!

OTHER UPCOMING PERFORMANCES ETC

We are hoping to arrange carol-singing visits to one or two local village churches as Christmas approaches, to raise the choir's profile outside Bromyard itself.

The Music Sub-Committee will be convening soon to consider the programme for the autumn 2016 concert, and for the other slot in 2017 (the Society's Diamond Anniversary). If there are particular requests then please make them in writing to Lindsey Taylor in the near future. But please bear in mind Richard's wise comments at last year's AGM (available on the Reports page of <http://bromyardchoral.co.uk>) about the accompaniment, and soloists, needed for particular items. For obvious reasons we want to keep these two concerts within a relatively modest budget.

There has been a suggestion that some members would appreciate the chance to convene and carry on singing through the summer, and this will be raised at the AGM. All views welcome!

There was no support for a singing tour to Bromyard's twin town in Normandy when the subject was raised in the spring newsletter. Organising a tour takes a lot of work and there needs to be enthusiasm from the whole choir before any proposal can sensibly be developed.

Since we sang the work a couple of years ago you may like to note Ledbury Choral Society's 'Come and Sing' Mozart *Requiem* next Saturday 12th September. Details from <http://www.ledburychoral.btck.co.uk/Calendar>, where you can also download an application form.

COMMUNICATIONS – WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The present BCS website is hugely out of date and we are working on a brand new site which can be kept up to date more easily. Sarah Davis has kindly volunteered to

maintain this when it is up and running, and in addition to run a Facebook group and a Twitter account for BCS. The hope is that all these avenues combined should bear fruit both in expanding our audiences and hopefully in recruiting new members. But this will depend on being able to post lively material on a regular basis, and Sarah has pointed out that one of the most effective ways of doing this is to with up to date (and periodically changing) photographs, and video clips, of the choir's activities. Again this will be on the agenda for the AGM; if anyone has thoughts on the concept then now is the time to ventilate the matter.

COMMUNICATIONS – MEMBERS' CONTACT LIST

Currently email circulars to members need to go through Patsy, who as Secretary keeps the contact list up to date. The suggestion has been made that this list (email addresses and phone numbers) could usefully be made available to all committee members; if there are any objections to this please say so.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The level of subscriptions for the coming year will be formally set at the AGM; the Committee is not recommending an increase this year from the £75 for singing members set for 2014-15 (associate members £15). Subs should be paid as soon as possible . cheques made payable to Bromyard Choral Society to be handed to Tudor please. The discounted rate for *new* singing members joining in January or after is proposed at £40.

SITUATION VACANT

Finally, Tudor has given advance notice that he wants to pass on the mantle of Hon. Treasurer with effect from the 2016 AGM. We need a volunteer to take over from him then, and ideally to shadow him for some time before the transition. If you think you can help in this regard please speak direct to Tudor in the first instance.