

WIMBORNE CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
2010/1011

“You are the music while the music lasts.”
T.S.Eliot

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A warm welcome, all of you, to this, our latest newsletter. Last year I wrote about the fact that I had reached the end of my six years' tenancy of the Chair. However, you were kind (or foolish?) enough to vote me in for a further three years, for which many thanks. (I think!) At the end of nine years I think you will probably have decided that that's quite enough!

Throughout the past year we have performed quite a variety of music. Last December's concert saw the rather unusual combination of Bach's Christmas Oratorio with Hiawatha's Wedding Feast, followed in the spring by Bach's St John Passion. This was a triumph, with many people, including members of the orchestra and our musical director saying it was the Society's best performance ever! You can imagine my disappointment, then, that this was the only concert since I joined WCS in which I have not been able to sing. Is there some significance here.....? Our final concert of the year, a combination of English Choral Music, including Parry, Stanford and Vaughan Williams, proved popular and drew in an audience of around 180, which is very good for the summer when numbers are generally lower. However, this was not enough to offset the high cost of the orchestra and hire of the music which, combined with other increasing expenses, resulted in a big loss.

As always, a big thanks goes to Chris for his skill in guiding us through rehearsals and giving us the opportunity to achieve something so fulfilling and worthwhile.

At Our Christmas Concert we once again took the opportunity to have a Retiring Collection, which this time was for Dignity in Dementia, based in Lulworth Ward in Poole Hospital, and which raised £214.00. This year our Retiring Collection will be for the Leaf Charity, a local charity to help those with leukaemia. Its founder was diagnosed with leukaemia just after the birth of her son, and started the charity a little later to help others in a similar situation to herself. I hope our audience will be as generous as usual and provide them with some much-needed funds.

We have become quite in demand as carol singers and last year we once again raised money for Save the Children. Our first venue was in Waitrose where we proved very popular with the Friday-morning shoppers and where we were very happy to receive hot chocolate and mince pies courtesy of the management! What a treat: singing inside in the warm **and they fed us!** The following morning saw the hardier of us on the Minster

Green (no pies this time) where we once again sang for Save the Children. The combination of the two days raised around £300.00, so well done and thank you to all who took part. (See *Dates for your Diary* for this year's carol singing.)

Other musical ventures for some of us this year have included taking part in the annual concert in the Royal Albert Hall, when, as part of The Really Big Chorus we sang Carmina Burana. With Bournemouth Symphony Chorus we were well represented in a Random Act of Culture when we sang Hallelujah! beneath the fly-over by Bournemouth Pier, much to the surprise of passing holidaymakers and locals alike. Unfortunately we did not do Stourhead's Festival of the Voice this year, but maybe 2012 will see a return to the garden for us in this lovely event.

Our main social event of the year was the New Year's Dinner in January, which this year coincided with Burn's Night and so we were treated to some Scottish songs from Ken Palmer. (He had threatened to wear the kilt but for some reason this didn't happen and I'm not sure if we should be sorry or not?) Along with entertainment from other members of the Society we enjoyed a good meal and very pleasant company and my thanks to all of you who support this event.

Sadly, Susan Gibson no longer sings with us so we were unable to enjoy, for the first time in many years, our usual summer Garden Party at High Hall.

In March we held our Coffee Morning in Church House and I'm really pleased that this time it was well supported by members. Thank you to all who came along, even for a short while.

We are very good at raising money for others and that is something of which I am very proud. However, we need to realise that we also have to be aware of the importance of raising money for ourselves. Our only guaranteed income is our Subscriptions and Gift Aid (at the moment.) Loss of members for varying reasons over the past couple of years has hit us hard. Don't forget a loss of just five members currently represents a loss of at least £300.00. Our other sources of income: ticket sales, hire of The Armed Man and Haydn Requiem, bric-a-brac sales and raffles, buying from Amazon via our website, these are all variables. None of them bring us guaranteed amounts and in the case of the hire of music we can't even be sure that it will happen at all although we have been very lucky so far. Also, High Hall used to bring us in about £300.00. That's gone. You may well think I nag you about ticket sales, attendance at events such as the dinner, coffee morning, even the AGM but they all bring us a much needed boost to our funds. To keep WCS going in the way we wish we all have to be prepared to put in a bit of extra effort in whatever way we can. Perhaps you have a brilliant idea for a fund-raiser, in which case please let us know, but failing that, your support really does matter.

Having mentioned the hire of The Armed Man and Michael Haydn Requiem I'm pleased to tell you that 50 copies of The Armed Man spent a week last October with the Hutton and Sheffield Choral Society then from November to the end of March 85 of them were at Cambridge University with the Danesborough Chorus. Meanwhile Durham Choral Society hired all 100 copies of the Haydn from February to May and in December 70 copies will go to the Lancaster Singers for 3 months. Finally, Bournemouth Symphony Chorus is hiring 93 of our Armed Men for the Big Sing on 25th September.

As you know, we use our legacy fund to promote a Workshop every other year. We are currently trying to finalise arrangements with Gavin Carr of the BSC for our 2012 Workshop. However we are having some problems because of his schedule. We will let you know when something has been decided.

You may wonder, having read my comments on our need to boost funds, why this is necessary when we still have our Legacy Fund. This money was left to us by Celia Sutton, a former member of the Society, with the provision that it be used for the promotion of extra events such as workshops for the benefit of members, and not in the everyday running of the Society. We have managed that money carefully. By using it for workshops which, while free to all of you, bring in money from guests and by funding the purchase of the Armed Man and producing the Haydn scores we have managed to make it last.

<i>Forthcoming Programme:</i>	Sat. 3 rd December 2011	Bach: 'B Minor Mass'
	Sat. 24 th March 2012	Fauré: 'Requiem' Duruflé: 'Requiem'
	Sat. 16 th June 2012	Rutter: 'Gloria' 'Te Deum'
	December 2012	Handel: 'Messiah'

<i>Other Events for your Diary:</i>	Sun. 25 th Sept	BSC Big Sing
	Sat. 5 th Nov.	B Minor Workshop
	Fri. 9 th December	Carols for Save the Children Waitrose 10.30am
	Sat. 10 th December	Carols for RNIB Dolphin Centre 11.00am
	Sat. 28 th January 2012	New Year Dinner

For Wessex Singers and Wimborne Music Society

visit www.wimbornemusocsociety.org

or contact Chris on christopher@jovofmusic.co.uk or on **01202 882083**

And now, as another choral year ends, my thanks to the Committee, to Chris, and as always to all of you for your support and hard work during the past year.

And finally, a few observations....

'A painter paints pictures on canvas, but musicians paint their pictures on silence.'

Leopold Stokowski

'Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without'

Confucius

'My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it and you simply take as much as you require.'

Edward Elgar

'Music is well said to be the speech of angels.'

Thomas Carlyle

And less prosaically but so true:

'I worry that the person who thought up Musak may be thinking up something else!'

Lily Tomlin

Happy singing!

Marion