

the
*colinton &
 merchiston*
 community choir



WE'RE BACK IN
 BUSINESS.
 COME & JOIN US !

NEWSLETTER

Here is your 4-page newsletter. You've perhaps read about the choir recently in the Colinton Amenity Association magazine or the Colinton News. This newsletter however is written especially for you and is well worth a careful read: when do we restart / what's the repertoire / is the Christmas concert really on a Monday / how do we book places at the *Come and Sing* ... Read on to find answers to all of these, and more !

Come and Sing

We, a little sub-group of committee members, are really rather pleased and excited to be organising this - our first Come and Sing Day. We assuredly hope you will join us for a blissful day - singing for sheer enjoyment! Why not bring along family and friends too.

Tim has put together a programme of beautiful classical choral favourites for us. There's more about the programme in Tim's contribution for the newsletter on page 2.

Places should be booked in advance.

For Booking instructions and further information please see the Choir website and Facebook Pages.

We have a new poster / flyer, designed in a more traditional style and highlighting the need to book in advance. The files are downloadable from the website. If needs be, would you please print off copies, arrange to have the poster displayed and give flyers to family, friends and any other contacts who may have an interest.

Here's to our very first Come and Sing on **9 September** !

we are a
 welcoming,
 friendly,
 non-auditioning
 choir, with a
 listening
 committee,
 seeking,
 through choral
 music, to
 enhance our
 own lives, those
 of concert
 attendees and
 those
 participating
 with us in choir
 events.

A message from Tim - see what's in store for us !

Hello all! I hope you have all had a good few months, and are looking forward to getting back to singing in September. I'm really excited about the choir hosting its first ever (so I'm told) Come and Sing Day. We will be singing through some of the most familiar pieces ever written for choirs, including a few we already know, like Vivaldi's Gloria (just the first movement!) and Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus. Handel's Zadok the Priest is famous not only as the crowning moment (literally) of May's Coronation, but also as a staple of countless TV advertisements, as is Orff's O Fortuna. Speaking of TV, Goodall's The Lord is my Shepherd might not be such a familiar title, but you might better know it as the theme tune to the Vicar of Dibley. And Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, of course, needs no introduction. It's a day suitable for those who have sung in choirs their whole lives, and those who never have before, so bring along all your friends and family.

Then, before we know it, we're on to Christmas music! The plan for this year is to sing Alan Bullard's A Light in the Stable and some carols for the audience to join in with. A Light in the Stable is a real gem; it is a complete telling of the Christmas story, with a mix of original music and some really creative and beautiful arrangements of traditional British carols. It is as enjoyable to sing as it is to listen to, and I think we'll have a lot of fun with it !

We are also welcoming back Jessica Leary, who sang so beautifully (and at such short notice!) in March's concert. She's fresh from a tour round Scotland with Scottish Opera, and I'm so glad she is joining us again.

Morley Whitehead, as ever, is our rock and anchor at the piano, and yours truly will be trying to keep things interesting, fun, and musical. See you in September!

Tim Coleman



We may have to wait till 2024 to sing A Light in the Stable - music hire is proving difficult.

Choir Finances

Given our post pandemic change of circumstances and arrangements, we've done rather well! Our subscriptions, together with concert income, for the year ending 31 July 2023 amounted to approximately £6,300 and exceeded our expenditure by £300. We have of course no comparative figures for last year.

With the rebirth of our choir and the need to engage the services of a new musical director from outwith Merchiston, the annual subscription was set at £90. Funds raised through concert donations and ticket sales were excellent and almost covered concert costs which, at Easter time included, of necessity, the cost of hiring the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School out of term time.

Other costs included the fixed costs of rehearsals and concerts, namely conductor and accompanist fees, hire of music, and various admin costs. We are grateful to the School, not only for the weekly use of the Hall but for the discounted rate for the Hall hire at Easter.

Your Committee proposes that the subscription rate remains the same for the 2023/24 session with, as before, a range of payment options:

- £85 (discounted rate) for the year or
- £45 for each of the autumn and spring terms or
- £30 for September, plus standing order payments of £10 per month from October to March inclusive.

If paying online: business account recognised name abbreviation - Colinton & Merch C C / 83-19-01 / 00132212. Please use surname and initial as reference.

We wish to record our thanks to Alistair Beattie, C.A. for his checking of the figures in the accounts.

Diary dates: points to note

Rather than rehearse 7.30 - 9 pm, we're 7.20 - 9 pm to suit you know whose bus times !

The Memorial Hall is unfortunately unavailable on Sunday evenings this coming term, hence the concert day change.

Rehearsals resume on
Monday
11 September at
7 for 7.20 pm.



We'll hold our AGM on
9 October
and take a break on
16 October.

On 23 October we'll
decamp to Craiglockhart
Church Hall for a
Rehearsal-cum-
Social.

Our Concert for
Christmas *is set for a*
Monday this year -
Monday 11
December.



The annual subscription
remains as it was last
session, a lot less in fact
than many other choirs.
We continue to offer a
range of payment
options - see facing
article.



Audrey
Dobson

Audrey, a founder member and for over 20 years choir Librarian, died earlier this year. Here we acknowledge, with sadness and gratitude, her musical talent, her commitment and her fulsome contributions.

Time for a Change - of Attire ?

Being a reborn, vibrant and dynamic choir, maybe it's time for us to think about a makeover to update our 'look', bearing in mind cost and ease of purchase.

Lots of choirs choose black as a basic colour, and in fact there's a choir with black and pink as their colour scheme. Even the men are included with black shirts and pink ties ! That's probably a step too far for us, but please have a think and share your ideas.

Our Online Presence

Our web presentations aim to reach two important audiences:

- Choir members and
- the general public.

The website will remind you of term dates, pinpoint the location of rehearsals and most importantly, if you find sight reading difficult, provide aide-mémoires for rehearsals via the learning links.

The general public may well enjoy the concert recordings and reading the concert reviews - all good publicity. Included also, of course, are details of how to join the choir !

While they do advertise forthcoming events, the Facebook pages provide more informal information on a variety of subjects: events of the day, the works we are singing and concerts, socials, and one-off events such as *Come and Sing* days.

Do give us your feedback - online ?

C&M CC and Jacqui

Last year, as a long-time member of the Watsonian Choir, I looked, post Covid, to join an additional choir that focused on classical music. It has been a real pleasure on a Monday evening to join Tim and his welcoming crew for warmups, lively interactions and... some singing.

The committee has made a fantastic choice in Timothy Coleman; his enthusiasm, skill, and patience in bringing together the choir's 'broad church' of singing experience has been a joy to engage with. From early rocky moments with Vivaldi's 'Gloria', to growing to deliver a challenging repertoire in March is testament to how well the choir has improved under his excellent tutelage.

It has been lovely to make new friends and broaden connections within the local community. A positive outcome has been the development of the 'Wee Singing Group' that aims to provide informal renditions for care homes in the locale, so that residents might experience the joy that music and singing can bring.

There was a magical moment for me and others as we ended our superbly blended rendition of 'Ave Verum Corpus' in March; thank you, Mozart, Tim, & Morley for bringing that moment to us.



admin@colintonchoir.org



www.colintonchoir.org

Find us on

