

Cantores Dominicae

Update members newsletter

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Silver Song Club	1
Chairman's letter	1
Coming Home	2
Marion Gambrill	
Letters	2
Hiwatha's Wedding	3
Ted Harrison	
Pirates of Penzance	3
Facebook	3
Dates for your diary	4

Information:

Chairman
Jan Galbraith
01304 813579

Secretary
Jenny Raper
01233 503686

Treasurer
John Vincett
01233 641217

Update & Website Editor
Maddy Scarre
01233 840961

Weddings Co-ordinator
Folders
Judy Abate
01303 862358

Music Librarian
Helen Lipton
01303 840839

Concert Manager
Vacancy

Publicity
Trish Winter
01233 813860

Membership Secretary &
Rehearsal Refreshments
Sandra McKen
01303 862697

Welcome!.....

I was happily travelling to work a few weeks ago, the sun was shining and all was well with my world, when out of a side turning a van turned out in front and smashed into my car.

My car can be repaired, my whiplashed neck is not as bad as it was and my nerves have settled down to normal once again.

Needless to say I have spent a lot of time resting and reflecting, in particular how fragile life is and how we should value more what we have. Thanks to those for caring and sending me nice messages.

As some of you have not got a computer or access to the internet we have decided to display - 'dates of up-coming events' on our notice board. Last year some members missed events and we don't want this to happen again.

Do please check this out regularly.

Thank you to our retired Vice President and a returning long standing member for your contributions to this newsletter, it's really nice reading your thoughts about the choir. Also Ted Harrison's reminiscences of his very talented Grandmother and Hiawatha's Wedding make very interesting reading.

Maddy Scarre

Chairman's Letter

Dear member ...

Here we are in the Spring time again! Quite a lot of us thought it would never come, but nature came up trumps, and the Spring Concert is upon us. We have made up the rehearsal time lost to the snow, thanks to everyone's willingness to work hard. So thank you all.

You will remember that I advised you I am not standing for re-election at the AGM in November and asked you to think about my successor.

That seems a long way ahead, I know, but so far there has been no indication from anyone willing to sit in the chair. I thought I should concentrate your minds a little by telling you that I am not changing my mind, and that means that we need a new chairman.

Please think about it.

SILVER SONG CLUB

Silver Song Clubs are held at Age Concern, Everist Court, Lyminge on the last Friday of every month.

Everyone joins in with a range of musical activities including not only singing but also playing percussion, using hand chimes and gentle chair based exercises.

Most of the songs will be familiar to everyone involved and many are used because of their power to evoke memories. A session will last 90 minutes, divided into two sections with a refreshment break in the middle.

Members of Cantores are encouraged to attend these Clubs as volunteers. The Silver Song Club is rewarding and enjoyable for all concerned and as Cantores benefits financially your participation would be much appreciated.

Club dates are as follows:-

26 March, 30 April, 28 May, 25 June & 30 July.

Further details from Gillian Heywood

Do you think you could take on this responsibility for a few years? Can you think of someone else who you think would carry out the role?

I do think that everyone in an organisation should expect to take on some of the tasks which help to keep the wheels turning. Perhaps we should ask everyone to expect to serve on the committee for, say, three years. Cantores will not survive without leadership.

Your Choir Needs **YOU!**

We are looking forward to our summer concert on Saturday 10th July in Lyminge Village Hall. This will be a scratch performance of Pirates of Penzance, so please tell any singers you know who would like to join in about it.

We will be rehearsing from 14th April and will welcome anyone who wants to join us for the season, especially Pirates and Policemen! It should be a lot of fun.

Jan Galbraith

ALBERT HALL TRIP

The Albert Hall Trip is now booked and music scores have arrived.

There are 3 spaces left on the coach.

If you know of anyone who would like to join us and either be part of the audience or spend the day in London and have an easy ride there and back, then please contact me.

Call 01233 840961 or send me an email
maddyscarre@hotmail.com

Face Book

Created by Nic Evenette

Cantores Dominicae is now on **Facebook!**

For those of you who have not discovered the wonders of this social networking site signing up is simple. Just go to ***www.facebook.com*** and follow the instructions to set up an account. For those Internetons amongst us who already have a Facebook account, simply type *Cantores Dominicae* in the search box and the page will come up, and then click the 'join this group' button.

You will be able to post any messages on the page wall to share with all the members. Please be aware that these messages can be seen by **everybody**, not just members of the group.

Encourage friends and family to join and support the group, and then we'll have a nice little Cantores family online!

LETTERS

Dear Friends

It has now been 7 months since James died and I would like to thank you all so much for your support over this difficult time. Your phone calls and letters have helped me cope enormously. The number of people attending James's service was quite overwhelming but very comforting to know what a well respected and loved man he was.

Two of my gorgeous grandchildren have decided to hold a concert in James's memory. No doubt you all knew how much James loved singing and acting and they have chosen pieces from his favourite musicals; what a wonderful idea from children so young (they are just 6 and 9).

They have got the local paper coming and have set up a Just Giving site; all the money pledged is going to Macmillan....they have already raised £250 in just one day.

If you would like to donate to this charity, please follow this link:
www.justgiving.com/katieandharry

Thank you once again for all your support. Please always feel free to pop in to Oak Cottage; I do enjoy the company.

With thanks

Ann Nichols

Coming Home

by Marion Gambrell

About three years ago, having sung with Cantores for over 10 years as member, Secretary and then Membership Secretary, it was extremely hard for me to decide to leave the choir for personal reasons.

I joined another local group who sang far less inspiring songs 'just for fun' so as to keep my voice in but missed the challenge I always found in Cantores' repertoire.

Having been told of a new Musical Director I felt perhaps I was able to return and I'm so glad I did. The welcome I got, now over a year ago, was overwhelming. I really felt I had come home and was amongst family again

When both my parents died last year, the support I received from so many friends at Cantores helped to sustain me through such a difficult time and so, for this, I wish to thank you all - long may Cantores remain the supporting group it has always been.

Unfortunately, due to my absence during the Autumn Term, I felt unable to sing in either of the Carol Concerts but I did attend the one in Elham Church and enjoyed listening for a change. Under such awful conditions, it's a wonder anyone sang at all but, with steaming breaths you all rose to the occasion, well done. Yes, there were some shaky moments but, for the most part, the diction was good and you looked as though you were enjoying yourselves which is half the battle.

Tuning could have been better in places but, in such a cold church, this was no surprise. The prose items were a welcome addition to the programme and the sung items made for a diverse evening.

Variety is the spice of life it is said and, now looking forward, what could be more of a variety than Olivet to Calvery plus Hiawatha's Wedding Feast?

Thank you for your friendship, fun, the exercise for both body and mind plus the challenge of learning new material - I wouldn't miss Cantores now for all the tea in China!

Dear Friends,

I thought I was slipping out of the side door, leaving the party in full swing - but you obviously noticed!

Your very sweet card prompts me to say a word about why I've gone and to thank you for enjoyable music-making and friendship over twenty-odd years. It's no criticism of Cantores - quite the reverse. It seems to me that the choir has returned to that friendly music-making that was its hallmark from the beginning and, after some blips, is now safe in the hands of an excellent leadership, both musical and administrative.

So, why leave? Because Mike and I are both now retired and cramming in as much travel, theatre (matinees are often on Wednesday), walking and general hedonism as possible - and it is a long haul from Bilting to Lyminge.

My hearing, too, has deteriorated. But I haven't stopped music-making altogether and have re-joined a larger group close to home, where it doesn't matter if I have long absences or don't hear the notices or page numbers.

Yes, I shall be keeping a close eye on Cantores - I love the website and regularly open up to see what's going on. And I shall certainly be at your concerts from time to time.

And there will always be a very warm welcome at Napoleon Cottage if anyone is passing - so long as we're not away hedonising!

With much love, Roz

'You shall hear how Pau-Puk-Keewis Danced at Hiawatha's wedding.'

by Ted Harrison

As soon as I heard the first chords and we started singing, the memories flooded back. It is strange how music can spring to life again in one's mind, even after laying dormant for nearly 50 years.

My memories were of my grandmother playing the piano. She was over 80, frail and arthritic and yet at the keyboard she could produce such grand and evocative music. As a young woman she had been an outstanding pianist. Today perhaps she would have been a BBC young musician of the year. In her youth the 14 year-old Maisie Graham was the talk of late Victorian Edinburgh society when she played Beethoven's Emperor Concerto at the Usher Hall.

Hiawatha was a favourite piece with her grandchildren and looking back it must have been a piece which gave her particular pleasure. She and the composer, Samuel Coleridge Taylor, had been students together at The Royal College of Music in London.

She reminisced very little about her days as a student. Perhaps she would have said much more had I asked, but it never occurred to me to quiz her, and she died when I was 13.

I remember once finding her Royal College graduation certificate on the top of a wardrobe. I wish I had found out more about it. She must have been one of the first women to have been allowed a qualification from a major institute of higher education.

Her fellow students included Holst and Vaughan Williams as well as Coleridge Taylor. I did ask her about Holst, who was quickly dismissed. 'A horrid young man,' I think were her words. I don't recall what she said about Vaughan Williams

On the other hand Coleridge Taylor had clearly been someone she liked. Perhaps as two outsiders they empathized and talked together.



Holst and Vaughan Williams led the in-crowd – the brash and confident young men – who monopolised attention.

Coleridge Taylor, although clearly an outstanding musician and much admired by their teacher Sir Charles Stanford, was not one of them.

He was illegitimate with a white mother and black father who abandoned him and his mother to return to The Gambia.

Coleridge Taylor never fulfilled his promise. Some called him the African Mahler, but he died young – at the age of 37 – and is mostly only remembered for the one work – Hiawatha's Wedding.

My grandmother too never fulfilled her prodigious talent, but for different reasons. As a young woman she became profoundly deaf. All my conversations with her were shouted into her primitive deaf aids.

For the last 50 years of her life she heard no music at all. Yet her musicianship never left her. Like Evelyn Glennie she somehow sensed music and at the keyboard, even as an old lady with arthritic hands, she held her grandchildren spell bound. Her fingers moved with astonishing precision as she took the 3rd movement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata at lightning speed.

To hear Hiawatha again is to remember those times, watching my grandmother play.

I only wish now I had been of an age to know the questions to ask her about her time studying alongside 3 of the most celebrated composers in the repertoire.

SCRATCH CONCERT

Saturday 10 July

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Cantores Committee thought it would be a great idea to hold a scratch concert -
you know like they do at the Albert Hall!



We would like to interest people to come and rehearse with us especially if they are men
as we need lots of Policemen and Pirates!

I think we have a plenteous supply of village maidens...

If we get females - OK, we won't send them away!

Please all do your best to recruit singers for this special event

The plan would be to ask for £5 on the day for the casuals
but probably to ask the one-termers for just the hire of the copy.

Outline programme is 2pm rehearsal and 7.30pm concert.

More details will follow in due course ...**WATCH THIS SPACE**



LYMINGE SCHOOL ~ REHEARSAL DATES

2010	First day of term	Last day of term
Spring Term	Wednesday 6 January	Wednesday 24 March
Summer Term	Wednesday 14 April	Wednesday 14 July

HALF TERM REHEARSAL NOTE: We will be rehearsing through half terms from now on as we have the Methodist Hall as an alternative venue. If there are any changes to this you will be notified but in the meantime please check website regularly.

MARCH

Spring Concert
Sunday 28 March
7.30pm at The Methodist chapel, Church Road, Lyminge
Music : Hiawatha's Wedding Feast and Maunder's Olivet to Calvary

MAY

Albert Hall Event
Saturday 15 May
Please see website for more details or speak to Maddy.

JULY

Summer Concert
Saturday 10 July
Pirates of Penzance – details on page 3

AUGUST

Weddings
Friday 6 August
Saturday 14 August
Saturday 28 August
Lymnpe Castle - more details will follow in due course
More details will follow in due course
More details will follow in due course

Please speak to Judy Abate -Weddings Co-ordinator for more information about the weddings

MUSIC:

There is a really good site on the web for members to download rehearsal files, with each piece broken down into its separate rehearsal parts www.thehoopers.demon.co.uk

Please speak to Chris Lohan for more information



ORGANIST WANTED!!

To play at Elmsted Church particularly for their monthly Evensong.
Please speak to Maddy for more information – or call Ann Nichols