

# TOWCESTER

## CHORAL SOCIETY

June 2011

TCS first Easter Concert on Palm Sunday at St Lawrence Towcester



It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through this year, perhaps it is because we have been working so hard under the inspiring direction of Helen! Our Easter concerts required much hard work, and we also made a good start on the programme for the June concerts. We seem to be becoming a choir of potential solo artists with the encouragement of Helen to “have a go” and really use our voices!

All the soloists at Easter did very well, and I think some even surprised themselves! The Milton Malsor Concert went really well, a relief after the problems in St. Lawrence Church. Sadly one of your editors will be absent in June, a pressing engagement for a hip replacement operation. The programme promises to be very entertaining, and it will be a pity to miss it. As ever, we thank those who have contributed to this newsletter, and we wish you all a relaxing summer break.



### From the Editors

*Len and Ann Holder Tel: 01327 352647 Email [len@holder7.co.uk](mailto:len@holder7.co.uk)*

### Two Quotes about music from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

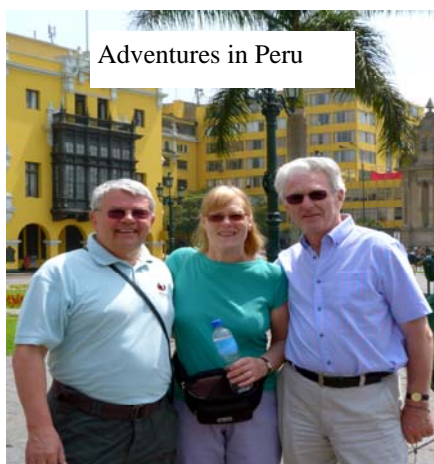
“God sent his singers upon Earth, With songs of sadness and of mirth,  
That they might touch the hearts of men, And bring them back to Heaven again.”

“Such songs have power to quiet the restless pulse of care,  
And come like benediction that follows after prayer.”

Rehearsal for TCS second Easter Concert at Holy Cross Church, Milton Malsor



Adventures in Peru



ABCD Sing Day at Tamworth



Tenors Hard at Work in Rehearsal





**REMARKS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN**

By the time you read this, the Spring concerts will be almost upon us. The Town Hall as usual on 7<sup>th</sup> and an expedition to the sticks a week later. We enjoyed the post Christmas concert party in the Town Hall so much that we intend to hold another one this year to give us some time to socialise. Any friends who have travelled with you will be welcome to join us. Once again, refreshments for the audience will be served in the interval. The mulled wine went down very well so we shall serve wine again, though unmulled this time.

This year, the AGM will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June. I appreciate that some of you will be on holiday, but please attend if you can. Always glad of an excuse to eat and drink, we shall be having our usual refreshments and chatting afterwards.

Looking forward to next season, in response to popular request, we shall be holding a workshop on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, in the Town Hall from 1000 to 1730. Suitable for both beginners and those with some experience, the workshop will look at some points of music theory (whatever is a minor third?) and tips for reading music, as well as practicing some techniques to improve our performance – rather like an ABCD day, only home grown. When we've gone through the programme, we will have half an hour's break before we perform a short, free concert. This will enable us to show off what we have learnt to friends and family and the concert will also be open to the public. The cost will be advised soon, but it won't be huge. This promises to be a really worthwhile day and members of other choirs will be invited to attend. It is also open to any friends or other contacts you think might be interested. Fliers will be available shortly.

Margaret Hawkins

**ABCD SINGING DAY 2011 at TAMWORTH**

Wow, what a hard working day we had this year! The leaders were all excellent, but the music was hard going, and needed much more time to work on it and make it enjoyable to sing. I wish I had known the Rossini Messe Solennelle, and I must buy a CD so that I can listen and really enjoy the beautiful music. David Lawrence was a charismatic leader, whose warm ups were similar to those that Helen puts us through every Tuesday. He emphasized that every member of a choir should take responsibility for their own performance, and not to follow the Conductor, but be with him or her. He also talked about awareness and telepathy between singers and the Conductor. The Singing by Numbers Suite by Bob Chilcott was chosen because it was written for the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of ABCD, Midland region, in Birmingham in 1995, and this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The music is lovely, but very challenging for such a mixed bunch of singers, and I certainly felt that rushing through in a short time did not result in anything like a reasonable rendition at the end of the afternoon, although Amy Bebbington worked hard to give us some appreciation of the piece. The work that Ula Weber did with the sing up group was excellent. The group consisted of youngsters and and their leaders, and their performance of three songs was beautiful, both in content, and in performance.

We were sorry that one of our group, Barbara Evans, was taken ill at the start of the journey from Nether Heyford, but fortunately an ambulance was in the vicinity and able to take her to hospital for immediate treatment. She was in our thoughts all day, and we are pleased she has made a full recovery. *From Ann Holder*

**Towcester Choral Society and the Internet**

We now have 14 TCS members who have registered on the internet with Easyfundraising and specified TCS as their preferred beneficiary of funds from purchases (<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/towcestercs>.) Over the three months, January to March 2011 £16.79 has been raised. John Maleham should be receiving a cheque shortly. Although I can see some information of money spent, I cannot see who has actually been buying and what was purchased. However one member spent £196.94 which meant £3.50 for our coffers. Another member bought something for £279.99 which raised £2.80. Well done. So far £87.45 has been raised by TCS members.

As well as buying via Easyfundraising, you can help by changing your search engine to Easysearch at, <http://towcestercs.easysearch.org.uk/>. Save the entry and use it instead of 'Google' or any other search engine. Once you have registered all searches mean a little cash for TCS.

Members who have advised us of an email address will be receiving regular emails from us. If you are not receiving anything, may be we don't have your email address, or perhaps it's changed? Please check with the treasurer on the details that he has.

Keep buying and even if you are not buying keep searching with Easysearch.

Royston

Tenor & Bass Representative

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Or [webmaster@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk)

**SING FOR SPRING with the Heyford singers**

Len and I spent a very enjoyable evening listening to the Heyford Singers, which has a sprinkling of TCS within its ranks, and a sprinkling of TCS among the audience. Mary's "other" choir has grown in number and stature since it's beginnings under her guidance, and as she said, "they sing with enthusiasm and excitement". Amazing Grace sung a cappella was beautiful, and the dynamics of The Sound of Silence were impressive. It was good to hear the piano duettists, and one of the pieces they played, the Arrival of the Queen of Sheba reminded me of the weddings of our daughters, who both chose this dramatic piece for their weddings. The elderly organist for Katherine said, "yes I'll play it, but I can't guarantee that I'll be able to play all the notes!" The much younger confident organist for Alison said "it is a long piece, and I shall play it all, she'll just have to walk up the aisle slowly" which she did, but was still standing for a while waiting for the end! The humour in the concert was provided, as usual, by Tony Wright. The language of the computer age will never be the same after Tony and Alan Watson's Computer Speak about a blackberry, orange, a date, apple, eggs{x}box, apple eye pad and Wii will never be the same! In the second half Tony's two poems, one about getting old, and the other romantic had the audience laughing until they cried! Mary had put together a very varied and entertaining programme, and the after show party rounded off a very enjoyable evening. Thank you Heyford Singers.

*From Ann Holder*

Librarian's News

Most of you know who I am, Enid, the Librarian. I would just like to put into writing some important points to remember for everyone, but especially for those who are new to the Choral Society. I aim to give everyone the required copies for the next concert. However not everyone is there when I give them out, new people join so it is not always easy to keep track of everything so please bear with me and just ask if you need a copy. I should be able to let you have one. Regarding copies: we don't always have the right number for our members and this sometimes requires people to wait a while.

Everyone should have a number and those copies that are held by the Choral Society should have your own personal number in the corner on an inside page. However if we borrow copies from the Library, as we did for Faure's Requiem, there will not be **your own personal number inside** but another number from the lending library.

After every concert I will be collecting in Library copies **immediately** as these have to be returned as soon as possible. If you have put pencil marks in [as Helen likes us to] please try to rub them out or I have to do it or alternatively we pay £5 per copy for the library to do it. Here I must say it was pleasing to see many members sitting in Milton Malsor church rubbing out! It was much appreciated by me.

Towcester Choral Society copies will be either kept by you or by the Society. We are awaiting further cupboards to replace an existing one and add another one and when these arrive I will be asking for most of your music to sort it and then we will start again.

Can I just end by saying thank you to those who have helped me give out or sort music this year, either voluntarily or by request. This helps me enormously. Unfortunately I shall be away for the first two Tuesdays at the beginning of the 2011/2012 year so Margaret Shelley will be giving out music and I would ask you to help her in the same way.

The reason I will be away then is I am walking the Coast to Coast path over a fortnight from Robin Hood's Bay to St. Bees. I thought maybe some of you might like to sponsor me, to aid our Funds at Towcester Choral Society. I shall have a form to be passed around during the next few weeks. Thank you and enjoy the summer. *From Enid Rippon*

**TCS Dates for your diary: ;**

- Tues 7th June Spring concert Towcester Town Hall 7-30 pm
- Mon 13th June Spring concert dress rehearsal Whittlebury 7-30 pm
- Tues 14th June Spring concert Whittlebury 7-30 pm
- Tues 21st June Towcester Choral Society AGM 7-30 pm
- Tues 13th September TCS Rehearsals recommence after summer break
- Sat, 17<sup>th</sup> September, TCS Choral Workshop in the Town Hall from 1000 to 1730