



## Recent Social and Fundraising Events

### Soup and Puds : Saturday, Nov 9th 2013

A very successful 'soup and puds' lunch was held in the Methodist Church Schoolroom on Nov. 9th. It was well supported by choir members and friends and raised £210. Some very exotic soups were on offer as well as lovely 'puds'. Many thanks to all who came along to support the event, and especially to Cynthia (East) who organised the whole thing. A willing team of helpers worked hard in the kitchen and made the mutual decision at the end of the session that they wouldn't give up the day job to go into catering after all. Too much like hard work! Thanks to all!

### Table Top Sale November 23rd Towcester Town Hall

We took a stall at this event, selling handmade items very kindly donated by choir members. Some beautiful things were sewn, crocheted, knitted, carved and crafted and the stall was weighed down with very attractive goods. Despite the relatively low attendance by the public (a quiet Saturday in Towcester, poor weather and hard times) we sold a good selection of our stock, making £137. Although this does not reflect the vast amount of work put in by choir members to make the items (similar things seen in craft shops at astronomical prices!), we were not too disappointed with the result and have a few things left over to sell at a later date.

Thanks to those choir members, and also to Alan, Gillian, Jane, Barbara and Margaret who all worked so hard on the day.



### Royal Albert Hall Sunday Dec. 1st 2013

A busload of singers from TCS, Heyford and Brackley set off on Sunday, Dec. 1st to join with The Really Big Chorus to sing The Messiah from Scratch at the Albert Hall. It was a wonderful sing – a couple of thousand singers from choirs from all over the country combining to belt out the familiar choruses. An amazing sound in a lovely setting.

There was no rehearsal, but, as ever, Brian Kay, the principal conductor of TRBC, drew everyone together superbly and

managed to wrangle a full orchestra and a huge choir. No mean feat! It was a very satisfying experience and the bus journey was very easy and stress-free. Highly recommended. Many thanks to John (Maleham) for organising it all.



### TCS Christmas Tree 6th – 8th December 2013

As part of the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival, TCS decorated a small tree on the theme of Proverbs and sayings. We decided to try to find a musical/singing quotation if we could and finally settled on, 'Those who wish to sing always find a song', attributed to Plato. Jane (Causebrook) did a wonderful job of decorating the tree with gold and silver musical notes, treble and bass clefs, bells and angels. The overall standard of the trees on display was very impressive. Many thanks to Jane.

A big thank you to everyone involved in the social and fundraising events of the last few months. Our next event is a Cream Tea afternoon in June. If you would like to help, or have any ideas for activities please let me know! I would be very grateful.



**Chris John**

## Top Ten Tips on “How to be the perfect singer”

- 1 Never disagree with your choral director (as if we would!)
- 2 Never be late for choir practice (goes without saying right?)
- 3 Never get a cold (achoooo!)
- 4 Never forget your pencil (Helen is always asking us to take notes)
- 5 Never have beans for lunch (can't think why not? Anyone?)
- 6 Never have a different score from everyone else (singing the right music always helps!)
- 7 Never get the giggles (especially in a concert!)
- 8 Never book your holiday on the date of your concert (common sense!)
- 9 Never pretend you know your words & notes (I'm sure Helen will notice if you don't know what you are singing)
- 10 Always agree with your choral director (always!)

Taken from [www.choraline.com](http://www.choraline.com)

**Ruth King**

### Raffle Prizes Appeal

If you have any unwanted raffle prizes, unused gifts left over from Christmas etc. the choir would be very grateful for donations towards the summer and Christmas raffles. Anything new, large or small is welcome. Any items for men, women, children, house, garden, kitchen, we can put them all to good use. Don't wait for a specific appeal; it is actually easier if we collect them on a drip feed basis throughout the year whenever you have something to donate. Please let Gillian or Chris John have anything you would like to bring along. We are also looking for nice baskets and boxes to make up themed hampers.

Thank you for your support of the choir and it's fundraising.

**Gillian Griffith-Porter**



## Reminder

Firstly thank you to all of you for replying and heeding emails or reminders about music, as that helps enormously. This is a reminder about music that is handed to you for concerts. Music that belongs to another choir ie loaned to us from Northampton Library, must be returned ASAP after the concert. Please make sure that I cross you off on the list or I may be chasing you at some point. Please ensure you have rubbed out any markings as we can be fined. If for any reason I am not around please hand to Margaret Shelley or Chris Templeman and ensure they make a note of your returned copy.

I am aware that some of you have TCS copies which do not have your specific choir number on them. This may be because we do not hold sufficient copies of that particular title. Keep these unless I contact you about them as we may use them again.

We are also trying to lend copies to other choirs as a means of a small income so again I may require you to bring specific copies in. All this becomes difficult to keep track of copies but I know I can rely on you all to help in this.

My contact details are as follows

email address is [kcrippon@btinternet.com](mailto:kcrippon@btinternet.com) tel. no. 01327 3533114

Address 45 High Street, Greens Norton, Northants NN12 8BA

Thank you **Enid Rippon**

## Towcester Choral Society and the Internet

This is an update on our web site and the online fundraising that has taken place.

Newer members may not be aware that our society has its own web site which can be found at: <http://www.towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk>.

**Fundraising:** Do you purchase anything via the Internet? If you do then you can help us with our fundraising. Instead of shopping direct with your chosen supplier, you can go to them via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/towcestercs>.

This selects Towcester Choral Society as your preferred 'cause'. You must register as supporting TCS and then we will then receive a cash-back as a result of your purchase.

There are some 2000+ online shops who are registered with 'Easyfundraising'. It seems that the most popular for our members are 'John Lewis', 'Amazon', and 'Ebay'.

Tell your friends too, anyone who buys on the internet can choose 'Towcester Choral Society' as their cause. Why not add <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/towcestercs> to your favourites **NOW**. Don't forget you must register with 'Easyfundraising' first and then log on to the site before going shopping to ensure we get the cash. Why not change your search engine too and help TCS?

Go to <http://towcestercs.easysearch.org.uk/> and save the entry and use it instead of 'Google' or any other search engine.

Since we became members, £356.67 has been raised from our activities.

Although more than 50 members have internet access only 24 have registered with Easyfundraising so far and hopefully all buying or at least searching?

Activity is assessed on a 3 monthly basis and there will soon be an additional £40.60 in our bank account as a result of our activities from October to December 2013, we get funds 3 months after the end of any quarter.

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

**Royston King**

IT Manager

E-mail: [g8chk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:g8chk@yahoo.co.uk) or [webmaster@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@towcesterchoralsociety.org.uk)

**ABC Midlands Region Singing and Education Day**  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
The Coton Centre  
Tamworth

As a very new member of the choir I was a little concerned about attending this day, but I need not have worried. It was really enjoyable and a very good way to get to know members in the group but also to learn.

The coach journey was comfortable and interesting (except for the huge amount of litter by the side of the A5). When we arrived a quick refreshment and then straight into a warm up session with Julian Wilkins. After the physical warm up we then sang some gospel music – four melodies we all knew well, great fun but also practising singing different parts in unison. We all felt very motivated and cheerful to move into the next session with Paul Spicer to start the Faure Requiem, beautiful music which many there had sung before but still needed some work to get it to work. I knew the work but had not sung it before but with TCS colleagues beside me it worked well.

After coffee and a quick look at the exhibition we were back working with Julian and accompanied by a string quintet who had also only just seen the music. I cannot remember the names of the pieces we sang but they were not well known and were challenging, but also allowed for some improvisation which was both amusing but another learning exercise. A cheerful lunch followed when TCS members caught up with old friends and then back to sing some short works by Britten. The session was not overly welcomed before it started but we agreed they were interesting and worth singing, although as one colleague said she would not go out of her way to want to sing them again!! Tea and then back to sing the rest of the Faure with Paul conducting and Julian on the piano. We managed the whole piece and a repeat of the first part by the end of the session. What impressed me was how talented all the organisers were, singing, playing the piano and conducting, but ensuring the whole day was really well organised, and that attendees were well looked after. I would certainly go again when the opportunity arises.

**Christina Edwards**

**Velvet Brass Concert**

Choir members will remember singing 'Hymn to the Fallen' from Saving Private Ryan with Velvet Brass at last year's summer concert. Don't miss the chance to hear this great brass ensemble again.

Velvet Brass Concert will be held on 25th April 2014 at St Peter & St Paul Church, Maidford at 7.30 pm with refreshments in the Village Hall.

Tickets, price £10 (£5 for children aged 16 and under) can be obtained from Ian Brown (01327 860909) or John Pike (01327 860742.)

**Mary Brown**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2014 Season

Saturday 5th April Rehearsal at the United Reform Church, Abington Avenue, Northampton, 3:30pm

Saturday 5th April Concert at the United Reform Church, Abington Avenue, Northampton, 7:30pm

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April Dress rehearsal, Towcester Church, 6:30pm

Thursday 10th April Pattishall Good Neighbours Club, Pattishall Parish Hall, School Road, Astcote, NN12 8NN, 2:00pm

Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April Concert, Towcester Church, 6:30pm ready for 7.30 pm

Saturday 21st June Midsummer Music Festival, St Lawrence TBC, Time TBC

Monday 23rd June Spring Concert Rehearsal, Towcester Town Hall, 6:30pm til 10:00pm

Tuesday 24th June Spring Concert, Towcester Town Hall, 7:30pm (Church for Warm Up 6:30pm til 7:30pm TBC)

Friday 27th June Spring Concert, Towcester Town Hall, 7:30pm (Church for Warm Up 6:30pm til 10:00pm TBC)

### SUMMER BREAK

Saturday 11th October Workshop, Town Hall, Time TBC (will be all day)

Saturday 8th November WW1 Commemoration Concert with Towcester Studio Band, St Lawrence Church TBC, Time Evening

Monday 8th December Christmas Dress Rehearsal, Towcester Town Hall, 6:30pm

Tuesday 9th December Christmas Concert, Towcester Town Hall, 7:30pm

Friday 12th December Christmas Concert, Towcester Town Hall, 7:30pm

### EXTRA dates for your diary

Wednesday June 18th, Cream Teas, 2pm at Towcester Chantry House  
Saturday November 15th, Soups and Puds, 12pm—2pm at Towcester Methodist Church

**Cynthia East**

## TOWCESTER CHORAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014

<u>Post</u>	<u>Post Holder</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Chairman	Margaret Hawkins	01604 751454	margaret.hawkins6@btinternet.com
Secretary	Ann Ward	01327 860165	itinerantlady@aol.com
Treasurer	John Maleham	01327 860558	j.maleham@btinternet.com
Stage Manager	David Coppock	01604 859645	david.coppock@tesco.net
Publicity Officer	John Pike	01327 860742	pike_jh@hotmail.com
Librarian	Enid Rippon	01327 353314	kcrippon@btinternet.com
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