

EXMOUTH CHORAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER –CHRISTMAS 2011

Our first subject must be – CONGRATULATIONS to Laurence. He is far too modest to mention that he has been awarded his Masters degree in Choral Conducting awarded by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, in the summer.

For those of you who were not able to attend the AGM you can read Sue's Chairman's report on the website. Obviously we gave enormous thanks to Sue for steering the Society through many significant events, not least of which was the appointment of Laurence. We are thrilled that June Hallett agreed to take over the Chair. She wishes to thank everyone for making her so welcome as Chairman and emphasise that she will always be available to deal with any concerns members may have. She also expresses thanks to Kate for her help and efficiency. However, we REALLY need to get a volunteer from the ranks to take over the role of Secretary. June cannot be expected to do both roles but Kate has been Secretary since 2005. It is not healthy for anyone to be in the same role in any Society for too long. Please consider if you could take over, especially if you are already tremendously busy! If something needs doing it is usually those who are most busy who volunteer to do even more.

We welcome and thank our new "Part Reps" – Julia Silverwood for the Sopranos, Sue Turner for the Altos, Kate for the Tenors and Andrew Odber for the Basses. Although they are not Committee members we really value their feedback. Do let them know if there is anything that you think would make singing easier, the choir more sociable or welcoming for new comers etc.

A couple of other things from the AGM to keep you up to date: the increase in subscriptions to £45 came from the floor, the Committee having recommended a smaller increase. In an attempt to increase ticket sales we have not increased the price of advance tickets, they remain at £10 and we have lowered the price at the door from £13 to £12.

Also on the financial side the "Bring and buy" in November was the best yet, making a total of nearly £180. Many thanks go again to Christine Adams and Stephanie Summers, also to Beryl King and, well, everyone. It was evident that many members were helping out where and when needed. Please put aside your unwanted Christmas gifts and items that are in good condition for the next Bring and Buy in the Spring.

On the social side, we hope that you will sometimes join us in The Powder Monkey after rehearsals. Numbers have dropped off and it is not as regular an event as last year, but if even one member suggests it, usually a group joins in. All members are really welcome. We definitely want it to be open to all, not a clique.

As you are aware the building works in Glenorchy Church will prevent us being able to use it for our Monday evening rehearsals in the New Year. We have found a good alternative in the Baptist Church, which is on Victoria Road, between The Strand and Imperial Road. The closest car park is the one by the sports centre, on Imperial Road. We anticipate that we will be rehearsing there until the concert in May.

It was a shame that we had to cancel the planned choral workshop in May this year. It became obvious that we did not get out the publicity in time. Several choirs had already stopped meeting after their Spring concerts so they could not distribute the information to their members. The Committee agreed that we would postpone it for a year, carrying over some of the arrangements. It will take place in Holy Trinity Church, which should be a lovely

venue. Mary Tuckett and her team will also provide catering for a lunch as well as the refreshment breaks. We hope this will be an extra draw. We will need lots of support from this Society both in specific roles but certainly to swell the number of participants.

Last thoughts and heartfelt pleading - "Please try to find more tenors". The shortage is becoming of great concern. Also when the concert approaches we must have volunteers to help erect and remove the staging, including a volunteer to take over the supervisory role that Patrick Kalaugher has so ably undertaken in the past. Many thanks go to him. He did a fantastic job writing the instructions and spending hours actually on the job. Since he is now no longer able to sing with us it is quite understandable that he wants to "hand on the baton".

Meanwhile we wish you a very Happy Christmas and, hopefully for us and the whole country, a more prosperous New Year.

Dates for your diary:

19 th December	Last rehearsal of the term
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9 th January	First rehearsal of the term NB in Exmouth Baptist Church, Victoria Road, Exmouth
4 th February	Concert (Bach – "St John Passion")
6 th February	No Rehearsal (break after the concert)
13 th February	First rehearsal of new programme (New members, please)
20 th February	Rehearsal (even though it is half term)
9 th April	No rehearsal – Easter Monday
5 th May	Concert (programme – probably Rutter's "Sprig of Thyme" and Mozart's "Coronation Mass")
14 th May	Social event – no details yet
19 th May	Exmouth Choral Society Choral Workshop – Fauré "Requiem" (OUP edition) in Holy Trinity Church
2 nd July	AGM (venue unknown at present)

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