

FAKENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

SUMMER
NEWSLETTER
2021

President: Sarah, Countess of Leicester

A message from Roger



I ended last year's report with the words "we hope to see you sometime soon. In the meantime, stay safe, keep smiling and remain cheerful." One year on I hope you have been able to stay safe, keeping smiling and remain cheerful. With all legal restrictions removed (as I write this) we wait to see what happens.

Like many people, organisations and buildings, because of the restrictions I missed out on a milestone event. In October 2020 it was 70 years since I first joined a church choir. I had just moved to a church junior school in Stamford, Lincolnshire and one of the teachers, also being the choirmaster of St Martin's Church, was on the lookout for potential recruits. So just before my 8th birthday I found myself learning to sing hymns, psalms, canticles for matins and evensong as well as anthems for services and special occasions.

As a young member of a large choir, being regularly surrounded by choral and organ music set me off along the path of a love of church music for the rest of my life. I'm sure many of you reading this will have followed a similar path. When I think of the hundreds of services and concerts I've sung in, the huge number of composers, the different choirs - some big with many friends sharing the tenor line, some so small I was the only tenor, what a wonderful contribution this has made to my life!

So far I've not mentioned the one person vital to achieve this. From the talented organist and choir master who started me on this journey, I was only able to keep singing because of the skill and dedication of many musical directors. All had their own abilities, approaches and interests. I can't thank them enough for all they have done. As I said earlier, I'm sure many of you will be the same and my train of thoughts so far will take you back to all kinds of musical reminiscences.

"How do you review a year that really never happened"

We jump forward to August 2021. How do you review a year that 'really never happened' musically? What I can do, and am very pleased to do, is thank those who did so much to give you, the members of FCS, some singing despite everything. So thank you to the Committee who did not take a year off, but worked even harder on your behalf. Special thanks to Tracey for keeping everyone in touch. Gill and Barbara for questionnaires and overseeing safety. To Rosemary, a sort of spider in the centre of the web. To Gill managing the finances - just try to think how tricky it has been trying to budget and plan. To Colin for his technical work week by week, trying to keep us together on Zoom, and Sue and Tim overseeing the music scores. Of course, all this work would have been useless without the input of Mark and James.

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Tea or Coffee? Cheese Board or Dessert? Look out for the quick fire questions and answers dotted through the newsletter. You might just be surprised at the answers!



Mark - from room to Zoom



Looking back over the past twelve months it is amazing how much we actually managed to achieve. Using Zoom has enabled us to keep together as a society and it has meant that many of you have been able to sing on a regular basis.

September saw us have our first Zoom rehearsals working on the Schubert Mass in G and motets from European Sacred Music. I've always been asked how I thought the rehearsals went and I always have to say that I have no idea! One of the disadvantages of Zoom is that you can't hear what anyone is doing so it is impossible to know how progress is going. We did, however, spend the first half of the term working on all of the Schubert Mass and several motets. After the half term break we then started using 100 Carols for Choirs to take us up to Christmas. The carols varied in difficulty with the most challenging being Walton's What cheer? I hope that the carol singers enjoyed the opportunity of singing various carols in Fakenham.

January saw us starting the Vivaldi Gloria and some more works from European Sacred Music including the larger scale Beatus vir by Monteverdi. Towards the end of the term we added some of the Passiontide motets. The Vivaldi was unknown to many of you so it was good to work in some detail on this piece.

ROGER CONTINUED:

I'm sure for an MD or accompanist taking a rehearsal without seeing the choir in person, but more importantly, not hearing a note they are singing must have been frustrating beyond measure. Did Victoria sound as Victoria should or was it more like an off-key Stravinsky? What about Vivaldi? All, or at least some of it, was revealed when on the 8th, 15th and 22nd of June we met in St Peter's garden to sing - socially distanced, but in person. At last Mark and James could hear us! As a result of James's technical skills we were able to Zoom the rehearsal for those who wished it. We all felt much better! Despite the cold on the 22nd (ear muffs and bobble hats were seen in some quarters!) this was a wonderful way to end the the type of singing year we all hope we never have to experience again.

For April we started with the Puccini Messa di Gloria and some of the more well-known works from ESM. The Puccini is not the easiest of pieces and it was good to have the time to work in detail on this mass setting. At the start of June we took the opportunity to revise several of the pieces which we had worked on during the year with a view to rehearsing in the open air. This duly happened for three Tuesday evenings and it was wonderful to have you singing together for the first time in over a year.

What of the future? Hopefully we will be able to start rehearsals indoors in September and work towards an exciting Christmas concert. I do hope that all of you will feel comfortable enough to return and make music together again.

A huge thanks to James for his sterling work during the year. Having worked on over 30 rehearsals we actually met in the flesh for the final three rehearsals of the year! Hopefully we will be together for all the practices from September. An equally large thank you to the committee who have valiantly kept the show on the road. And thank you to all the members who have logged on to Zoom every week and kept singing in the privacy of their own homes.

I am writing this just after having done two semi-staged performances of Orpheus in the Underworld with North Norfolk Chamber Opera which several members of Fakenham Choral Society perform in. It was wonderful to perform to a live audience and I know that we all look forward to that magical experience for the Society later in the year.

Mark



So thank you to all FCS members who have stayed with us, to Mark and James, and to the Committee, for all your help, support and encouragement.

I will end as I ended last year - "we hope to see you soon", to get back to singing together, putting on concerts and socializing, but please be assured we will only do this in a safe way - no risks will be taken.

If you have any comments, thoughts or ideas about things to do with FCS, please let us know. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the holiday, but keep safe, keep smiling and keep cheerful.

ROGERS' QUICK FIRE Q&A

- My desert island essential? **A sun hat**
- Beethoven or Britten? **Beethoven**
- What annoys you most? **Technology taking the place of human contact**
- If you had to choose one, would it be a starter or dessert? **Dessert!**
- Good news or bad news first? **Good first - maybe?!**
- If you had to learn either Russian or Chinese, which would it be? **Russian**





LIBRARIANS

There's not a lot to report as we near the end of our tenth year as librarians, since it's not been possible to borrow from the Norwich library - which has, we understand, just restarted. However, thanks to the society's own modest collection and the generosity of Mark and Gresham's we've been able to source enough scores to keep our Zoomers supplied.

In fact, one of our enduring memories of the past year is meeting up with fellow singers in Tesco's car park to pass on copies of Puccini's *Missa* and *European Sacred Music* - discreetly sealed in brown envelopes - catching up with news as we did so. It was a real treat to see you all and a very unorthodox way to conclude our stint as librarians.

As we prepare to step back from our duties may we encourage anyone who feels they might be able to help to contact Tracey or another member of the committee. It may be that the role the two of us carried out could again be split up between several people. For example, there are distinct responsibilities in sourcing copies and keeping records, storing and transporting scores, and distributing and collecting scores at rehearsals and concerts.

Finally, can we emphasise that 'librarianship' really can be fun. Thanks to accepting Fiona Thompson's invitation all those years ago we had an accelerated introduction to our fellow singers and felt instantly at home and welcomed. Singing with FCS has been both a privilege and a delight. Long may it continue!

Sue & Tim

Did you know.?

BUYING YOUR OWN SCORES FOR THE 2021/22 SEASON WOULD SET YOU BACK NEARLY £60!

TIM'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- Radio or TV? **Radio**
- Jazz music or folk? **Folk**
- The last great book you read? **JK Galbraith: The Affluent Society**
- Home made beer or wine? **Wine - plum or birch sap**
- Karl Jenkins or John Rutter? **John Rutter**
- Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?
Invisible - more places to go for walks in Norfolk!



Sue's Musical Biog

Due to piano lessons at a very young age, I learned to read music more or less at the same time as I learnt to read. I started singing in my Edinburgh primary school. As the only English girl in my class, I cannily chose 'Ye Banks and Braes' as my audition piece to get in.

Later, some of the happiest times at my boarding school were singing in the choir. I decided to sing alto then and have remained singing that part ever since. We entered, and won, the local music competition helped by our music teacher opening her jacket at the start of the piece. Pinned to her blouse was a sheet of paper that simply said 'SMILE'!

At the age of 16 I gave up piano and singing but going to university in London gave me endless opportunities for opera and concert going. I'd grown up listening to and loving opera so being near Covent Garden and the ENO was just wonderful. Then when Tim and I got together he introduced me to the glories of choral music.

In 1982 we moved from London to a village just outside Cambridge and before long I was invited to join the little group of singers that got together every year for the Christmas carol service. This led directly to taking part in the annual Gilbert and Sullivan productions. For these a local barn was turned into a temporary theatre which we shared with the resident farmyard rats. A few members of the G&S Summer Theatre then decided to form a choir to put on a serious choral concert once a year. So a small choir was formed with a brilliant Welsh director and I discovered the exhilaration of choral singing. Once our children were old enough not to need babysitting, Tim also joined the choir (although I never did convert him to Gilbert and Sullivan).

“Pinned to her blouse was a sheet of paper that simply said 'SMILE'”

When we moved to Norfolk in 2010, we immediately joined FCS and have continued to love discovering new works and singing again old favourites. And finally, after over a 40 year gap, I have started playing the piano again, although still not as well as when I was 16!

SUE'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- Where is your 'Happy Place'? **At home on a Friday evening with a gin & tonic**
- A pint of real ale or a glass of wine? **A glass of wine**
- What was the last thing you purchased? **A pair of walking shoes**
- Which would you choose - x-ray vision or magnified hearing? **Magnified Hearing**
- Scrabble or Monopoly? **Scrabble (even though I never win!)**
- What would be your weapon of choice? **A water pistol**



'WITH THANKS' TO OUR FRIENDS OF FCS

Stephanie Walsh - Member Secretary, Friends of FCS

It has been such a comfort to know, over the past 18 months, that waiting in the wings for our re-emergence as a choir has been our wonderful group of Friends. During this unusual period, we have received encouraging messages of support from them and many have even paid their subscriptions despite knowing that there would be no actual concerts to attend. Their kind donations have been much appreciated and have helped to fund our ongoing expenses. We would like to thank them all for their generosity and continuing interest in the choir.

We are very much hoping that it will be safe for us to start rehearsing in September and are all looking forward to welcoming the Friends to our concerts once more.

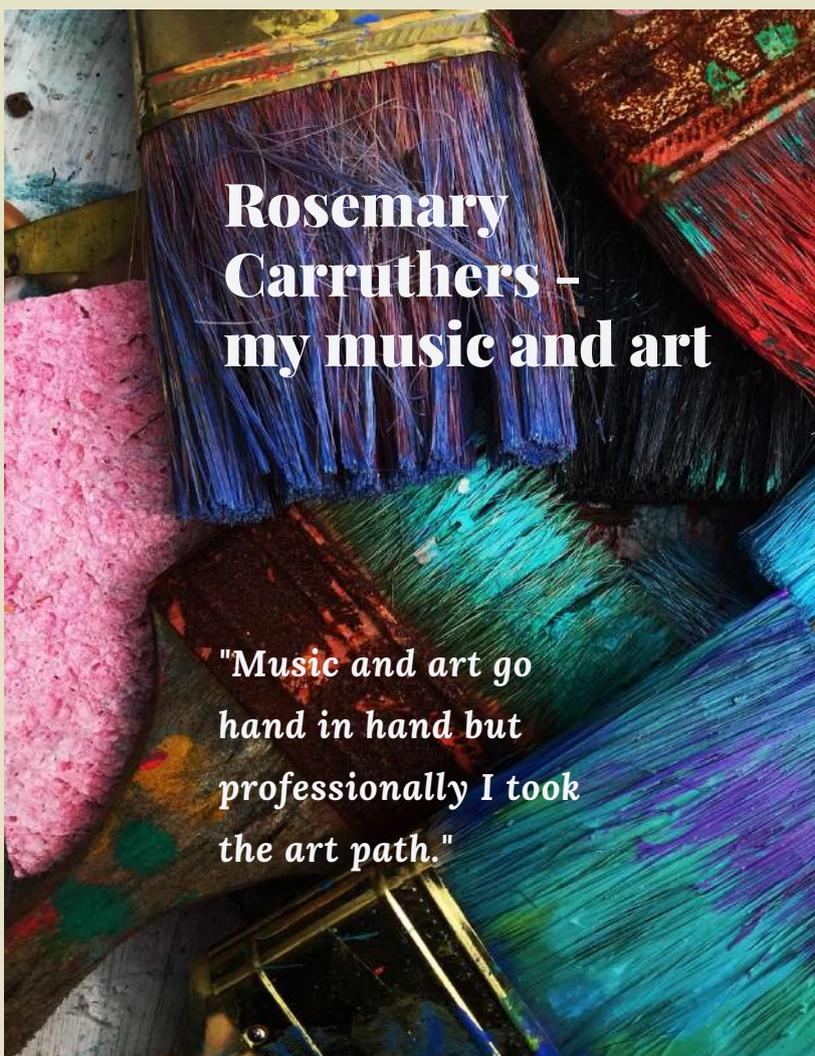
It would be lovely to welcome some additional Friends for the coming season, so if you know of anyone who would like to support FCS in this way please encourage them to join. The annual subscription remains £20 for a single and £35 for a joint membership. Friends enjoy early priority booking for tickets, reserved seating, a free programme, a complimentary drink and nibbles (Covid restrictions permitting) at our Friends' pre-concert reception and an invitation to the FCS end of season Garden Party.



Moreover, in future, any retiring members of the choir who would like to join the Friends Association will have a special discounted joining subscription for their first year of membership: for a single member it will be £15 instead of £20, a couple where both are leaving members will be £25 instead of £35, or £30 if there is one leaving member plus a non-singing partner.

Prospective Friends can contact me directly or you are welcome to ask me for a membership form on their behalf at choir rehearsal.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.



Rosemary Carruthers - my music and art

"Music and art go hand in hand but professionally I took the art path."

I was brought up in a very musical and artistic family so I guess some of it had to rub off!

My great grandfather was a solo cornetist in Cornwall and my grandfather played flute and piccolo in the Royal Marine band. My granny was awarded the OBE for services to music during the first world war, she ran concert parties and musical groups for all of her long life. My mother was a brilliant pianist and accompanied a choir and played in small chamber groups. My father was a very talented amateur artist, loved music and as a boy sang in St Pauls, Knightsbridge choir.

I went to school and art college in Canterbury. My school was near the cathedral so we sometimes attended the services there. Music and art go hand in hand but professionally I took the art path. I showed in London galleries and elsewhere for many years, also taught and ran my own private art classes for adults for 25 years. Sadly my health let me down and I had to give it up 7 years ago.

I was Artist in Residence at the York Early Music Festival and worked in the Minster and several other very interesting churches. Music and art, fantastic!

I have sung with various choirs in Norfolk going from a contralto to a soprano on the way and I sing with Holt church choir. I joined FCS in the early 1980's!! So must be one of the longest serving members! Poor old gal! Looking forward to singing again.

From our Treasurers

The past financial year to the end of June has been inordinately difficult. Lockdowns, COVID restrictions and fears for individual health meant that we were unable to meet in person until June. It has been a time when planning has been impossible and gazing into a crystal ball has not been entirely helpful either! The accounts for the year show a loss of nearly £3000, not unexpected given the circumstances. An £8000 reduction in subs has been a major consequence of the COVID crisis, and we are fortunate to have been supported by donations from many members, and by some of the Friends.

The need to keep the society functioning via Zoom has meant that we continued to pay the fees of our MD and accompanist, as well as our recurring costs such as insurance and administration expenses. The stalwart members who have been continuing to sing via Zoom and pay their subs have been the mainstay of the choir and are due thanks from us all.

Our reserves have been depleted but are still above the £10000 level set by the committee, and we are extremely fortunate to have gone into the pandemic with a good amount in reserve. However, as our membership will be reduced in number for the forthcoming year we know that our income will be reduced, and it is always a fine balance between subs income and the costs of concerts. Add this to the continued uncertainty of the progress of the COVID pandemic and it is clear that this will be another problematic year in planning for the future of the society.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the choir in such difficult circumstances for us all.

Gill & Barbara



Sponsorship Outlook

Before the first lockdown in March 2020 our sponsors had generously contributed £2100 towards FCS funds for 2020.

FCS is most grateful to them as these funds, together with the support of our members, left FCS in a very fortunate position financially compared to many other choirs. FCS finances have been robust enough during this unprecedented year to pay our ongoing expenses and now, as we come out of the covid restrictions, for the committee to plan for our 2021/22 season. It just goes to show how important and vital to the choir's continued well being finding sponsorship is.

We will be once again looking for sponsors to support our 2021/22 season. But as many companies and businesses have been badly affected by the Covid 19 restrictions, it is possible that some will not have the spare capacity to sponsor FCS.

So we would ask members to help find sponsors for the coming year. Sponsors can be either companies, businesses, shops or individuals, who might be willing to support FCS and our music making in Fakenham. We have an FCS sponsorship package with all the information if you know someone to pass this on to. Any suggestions preferably accompanied by a contact name and contact details, would be welcome.

Rosemary

Subs for 2021/22

- These remain unchanged at £126 for the season payable in full whether singing in all terms or not
- Subs can be paid in full in September
OR
£63 in September and £63 in January
- Payment deadlines are by the end of September (or September and January)
- We recognise that this may be difficult for some members. To be fair to everyone the process below will be followed (which will be confidential) –
 1. Requests for a different payment frequency must be in writing at or before the start of term in September
 2. A copy of a recent and relevant benefit letter should be included (e.g. Pension Credit). If this does not apply, a reason for the request should be given
 3. Each case will be reviewed by the membership secretary and a treasurer and a response provided within one week
 4. Any ad hoc payment arrangements will be set out in writing and signed by the member

MUSICAL HORIZONS....

our 2021/22 programme, soloist opportunities & more

Balancing repertoire in uncertain times

You can't have failed to notice the issues being experienced by professional arts groups as we emerge tentatively from Covid's shadow. 'Pingdemic', enforced isolations and audience reluctance to return to enclosed venues has seen a number of West End shows already postponed.

This is no less true for Fakenham Choral Society and something your Committee, with Mark's help, has had to balance when deciding on our programme for the coming season.

The budget, prepared by Gill and Barbara, has had to be based on 'best endeavours'. Will we have lost some members in the past 18 months? Can we expect any new membership enquiries? How big an audience will we see? We've done our best to gauge your thoughts with two surveys, but times are still uncertain.

But we hope you'll agree that the upcoming season is full of interest and excitement. A bit of constraint at Christmas to see how many tickets are sold, a tentative summer concert accompanied by just double bass and piano, balanced with an exuberant splash in spring with a large orchestra and professional soloists.

This careful balance has some benefits too, opening up opportunities for members as we ask for soloists from within the choir for our Christmas concert.

AUTUMN

First few weeks:

Get back to singing with pieces from European Sacred Music & get ahead with Puccini 'Messa di Gloria'

Christmas Concert Programme:

Britten: A Ceremony of Carols (SATB)

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols

A selection of other seasonal pieces

SPRING

Puccini: Messa di Gloria

Poulenc: Gloria

SUMMER

Shearing: Songs & Sonnets

Rutter: Birthday Madrigals

Chilcott: Aesop's Fables



Soloists
A Ceremony of Carols:
2x sopranos, 1x alto
Fantasia on Christmas Carols:
1x baritone (tenor or bass)

Wanted

Please email Tracey for more info and to volunteer thompta49@gmail.com

Coffee
Break.

			2		1	6	7
		6	1		9	4	
	2				6	8	3
		1			5	3	6
		5				4	
7	4		3			5	
4	6		8				7
	1		7		4	6	
5	9	7		3			

ROSEMARY'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- Tea or coffee at breakfast? **Coffee**
- Describe yourself in 3 words. **Out-going, organised (mostly!), optimistic**
- Alice in Wonderland or Robinson Crusoe? **Robinson Crusoe. Even as a child I never liked Alice in Wonderland**
- Crossword or Sudoku? **Crossword. Brian does the Sudoku and he's good at crosswords too!**
- If your pet was named after the last thing you ate, what would it be called? **Sunday Brunch (or very strictly, the last piece was Poached Egg on Toast!)**
- My most treasured possession is? **My wedding ring, which is an old family heirloom and has been used by several generations**



Come & Sing 7th May 2022

After over a year of isolation, no singing together in person, no family or social gatherings, no concerts, it does seem a bit strange, not to say very daring, to be talking about a Come & Sing Day for 2022!

Let's Celebrate!

A C&S day is the antithesis of everything the past year has thrown at us - a social gathering, singing together, an informal concert! So with all the caveats that we know we should observe, let us look forward to celebrating the power of music and especially the fun and enjoyment of singing together, as it is something we have all hugely missed over the past eighteen months.

Bearing in mind people may be more reluctant now to meet up in the winter months when cold, flu and Covid bugs are particularly active, I have looked at possible spring dates with Mark and James. We have settled on Saturday 7th May. Venue depends on availability but we have provisionally booked Fakenham Parish Church, which has plenty of space, can be well ventilated, singers can spill out into the garden during breaks and it is central to the town for lunch!

Music - well there is a wealth of that to choose from! We hope to make it a day of celebratory music marking not only a joyful return to singing but also the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. So some pieces from the Coronation Anthems, the Coronation Mass and other similar music will all be considered

It would be great to have your support for this celebration event. As usual we will have a charity element, but the day will principally benefit FCS, with publicity for the choir and forthcoming concerts as well as much needed financial help towards our depleted funds .

Put the date in your diary now!

Rosemary



It seems strange to be talking about Christmas in August, but I'm pleased to say that FCS will again have a tree at the Christmas tree festival in Fakenham church (COVID permitting). This will be the 21st festival and it is scheduled for **25th November to 2nd December**. Although the event is only a minor fund raiser, it is a good opportunity to publicise the choir and concerts as in normal times it attracts thousands of visitors.

A condition of our participation is to provide a minimum of ten hours assistance, helping with kitchen, refreshments, stall, raffle, tombola, and general stewarding. Time slots are 10-12 am, 12-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8 pm (12:00-7.30 on Sunday). There are also set up and clearing slots on 23rd Nov and 3rd Dec (9-12). If you are able to help in any way with this I would be very grateful; please let me know as soon as you can with your preferences (if any) for dates/times/task. We are also asked to provide some tombola prizes so I will be asking for these in September!

Gill



GILL'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- The last great book you read was...
Into the Fire by Elizabeth Moon
- What word or phrase annoys you most?
Whatever!
- Chocolate or cheese?
Chocolate (I hate cheese!)
- Natural History Museum or V&A?
Natural History Museum
- Marmite - love it or hate it?
Hate it
- Good news or bad news first? **Difficult one...good news!**



DIY
Singing
Masks

If you're handy with a sewing machine, here's a YouTube link on how to make your own singing mask. Thank you Pat for sharing this....

https://youtu.be/8UNTP-m_K4E

Coronavirus Crisis – Update from last year's survey

Last year, I wrote about the results of the electronic survey that FCS carried out to find out what Members required before returning to rehearsals. This year, I'm going to review how the Committee responded to that survey and the changes that have taken place in what has been a very difficult year for almost everyone.

The response rate to the survey was 95% – which was brilliant. There was a desire to get back to normal rehearsals but also, sensible wariness about contracting COVID-19. The survey showed the vulnerability of so many people in the choir. The average age was over 69 years (a year later, it is now over 70). A quarter of FCS Members had health conditions that increased their vulnerability and several lived with people with severe health conditions.

As a result of the survey and of sensible Government restrictions, we started Zoom rehearsals in September. It had been hoped that Mark could have had a small choir with him at these rehearsal – it would have made things much easier for everyone – but, unfortunately, this was not permitted. About half of the choir attended at least one of the rehearsals; I was one of them. It wasn't the same but Mark and James did brilliantly considering the difficult conditions under which they worked. Like several others, I found it more difficult to learn when I couldn't hear other people singing the same part. And I must admit that I cheated a little by having a keyboard in front of me so that I could help myself out by playing the difficult bits. But I did learn and was surprised that I improved a little every week.

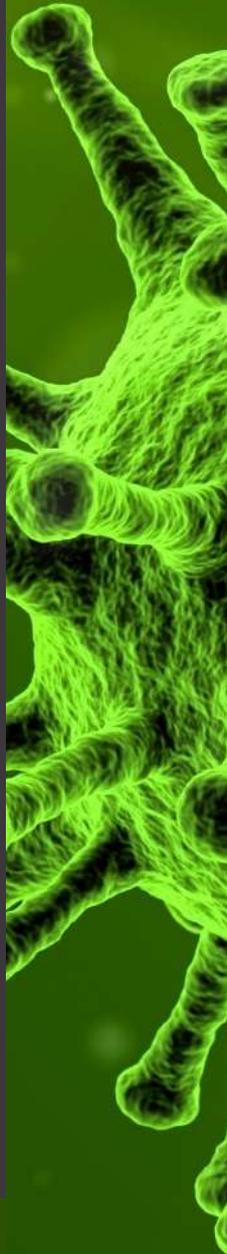
Many people in the survey had said that they would not be willing to go back to in-person rehearsals until they were vaccinated. In January this year, as COVID cases soared, vaccinations began – but would take some time until the majority of Members would be offered their first jab and a further three months until they received their second. By now, almost all Members should be fully vaccinated; unfortunately, there are a few who are unable to be vaccinated.

So, at the end of the summer term when Government restrictions allowed outdoor rehearsals with thirty people, the Committee invited fully vaccinated Members to three outdoor rehearsals in the Fakenham Parish Church garden. Although the group had to abide by strict rules with respect to social distancing and wearing masks before and afterwards, the rehearsals were a great success and enjoyed by all. They also demonstrated how much Members had learned at the Zoom rehearsals and by practising on their own.

The Committee is now thinking about how we can return to in-person rehearsals in September. It is too soon to make definite plans because, again, COVID cases are soaring and are expected to rise still further as a result of easing of Government restrictions. In the last survey, several people said that they would not return to in-person rehearsals until the R rate was below one. At the time of writing this, the R range for England (and for North Norfolk) is between 1.2 and 1.5 and the latest growth rate range is +3% to +7% – not good. Another reason for delaying plans until late August is because we will need: up-to-date information about any Government restriction; the latest from our insurers (Making Music); and news about the efficacy of vaccines over time and with any new variants. At present vaccines are less than 100% effective and it is not known the extent to which fully vaccinated people can catch COVID without any symptoms and pass it on to others.

If conditions permit, we will get back to in-person rehearsals in September. And you can rest assured that the Committee takes your health and safety (and that of the community in which we live) very seriously indeed and that we will carry out a full risk assessment and ensure that our rehearsals are as safe and fulfilling as possible.

Barbara



The current position

- Thank you to those who responded to the most recent 'temperature check'
- About 70% of members replied
- There was a keen desire to get back to singing together, but some clear Covid mitigations you'd like to see
- These have been discussed by the Committee and, together with a robust risk assessment, will form a plan to see us return safely to face to face rehearsals

We will be in touch before the start of term to provide an update on what to expect

RECRUITMENT

please don't skip this bit -
we really do need your help!

Some committee members are already doing two or more jobs and it would be very good to spread the load around a little more so one or two people are not overloaded all the time.

You're Invited!

We need members who would be willing to take over some of the roles completely

Librarians

Without librarians to seek out and borrow music members will have to purchase their own scores for every concert

We need members who would be willing to be deputies and know how things work in case of illness or accidents. This would be particularly useful for setting up for concerts, eg the staging, keyboard, lighting and electrics.

Sponsorship

Seeking out potential sponsors, approaching businesses and individuals with the FCS Sponsorship pack and follow up the approach. Without sponsors the cost of concerts is borne by the membership subs and increased ticket prices

We need members willing to store some items owned by the choir, for example boxes of music. The choir also owns lighting equipment, the concert keyboard, speakers and accessories, orchestra lights, all of which are used at concerts. It would be good to spread this around more so that it is not just stored and transported each time by just one person. It would also make members much more aware of what has to be transported to and from every concert and what setting up for each concert actually involves.

Grants

There are grants available from all sorts of sources but it needs someone to research what is available and what is applicable to the choir and to follow them up. Lack of grants means the cost of concerts is borne by membership subs and increased ticket prices

All the jobs outlined can be done by two people working together and dividing the work between them.

None need to be on the committee but they can report to the committee as necessary

Publicity

Liaising with the local press, newspapers, magazines for concerts or other events. Making sure publicity is distributed to church magazines and other local publications and websites. Social media in its many forms. Lack of publicity means fewer people hear about FCS and its concerts which in turn leads to smaller audiences and fewer members

All are vital roles to the choir and without them there is a knock-on effect to your membership in increased costs.

Please contact any committee member with your offer of help. Thank you

If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Our new constitution and what this means for you

If you remember, earlier this year, we held a brief meeting via Zoom to adopt a new constitution.

Historically it hasn't always been easy to attract members to join the committee. And equally, it's not always been easy to leave the committee when it would put additional pressure on those remaining.

'Too many cooks' or 'Many hands'? As highlighted earlier, we'd like to be in the realms of 'too many cooks', but sadly not. We also know that not all of the current committee will stand for re-election at the next AGM.

The new Constitution sets out that at each AGM a third of committee members must retire. Although they can stand for re-election, the term is time limited to a maximum of 3 years.

So, is this your opportunity to help drive Fakenham Choral forward after such an unprecedented period?

The committee meets about twice a term and is involved in all aspects of running the Society. Do you have skills from work which might benefit the choir?

Please don't sit on your hands - step forward and help shape the Choir's future.

The power of Social Media

From a simple
FaceBook post, we
got this...



A Fakenham choir is celebrating after meeting in person for the first time in over a year, despite continuing uncertainty about when they can hold sessions indoors.

Members of Fakenham Choral Society joined together in their first in-person rehearsal in 15 months on June 8, having spent the past year taking part in sessions over Zoom.

Around 30 members joined together in the town's parish churchyard to sing. Rosemary Dear, vice-chair of the choral society believed that when May's lifting of Covid restrictions came around, the 70-member strong choir could meet in person, inside a venue, with the recommended number of the safe capacity.

Mrs Dear is hoping that they can all sing together inside once they return later this year. "We would very much like to be able to meet the full choir in person without the social distancing because that would enable us to put all our members together without any restriction on numbers,"

"Being inside is critical because I can't see us being able to hold outside singing sessions, come October."

Despite the uncertainty of what choirs will look like when they return from their summer break, Mrs Dear said singing together in person was a great experience.

"It felt wonderful, just to be able to hear other singers around you. At the end of the evening, there was a huge sense of enjoyment and relief that we actually managed to put together."

Fakenham Times 11th June 2021



COLIN'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra hours? **Hate to even think about not needing to sleep!**
- Jazz club or folk club? **Jazz club**
- Verdi or Vivaldi? **Vivaldi (apart from the Verdi Requiem of course)**
- Alive or dead, 3 famous people you'd invite to dinner. **JS Bach, Brian Johnson and Raymond Blanc**

LOUISE'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- My guilty pleasure is... **Science fiction films**
- Alive or dead, 3 famous people you'd invite to dinner **Sandy Toksvig, Susan Calman, Giles Brandreth. What a fun evening that would be!**
- Carmen or Les Miserables? **Carmen**
- Book or Kindle? **Books, although I did download a lot of books to my iPad to read during lockdown**
- Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible? **Fly**



More musical mayhem



Answers a foot of page

- In which year was Poulenc's 'Gloria' first performed?
1956 1958 1961
- In Aesop's Fables, complete the story title.
'The Goose and the...' Pheasant Swan Eagle
- Puccini loved technology. Which inventor was his good friend?
Thomas Edison Alfred Nobel Samuel Morse
- Where was George Shearing born?
Chelsea Battersea Bermondsey
- John Rutter was educated at the same school as which other famous composer?
John Tavener Malcolm Arnold Harrison Birtwistle
- The Royal Albert Hall celebrates which birthday this year?
125 175 150
- In Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols', which instrument provides the accompaniment?
Harpsichord Guitar Harp
- Which composer was related to both Charles Darwin and Josiah Wedgewood?
Parry Holst Vaughan Williams
- Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' is sung at the end of the Messiah. True or False?
- Bernstein's 'Chichester Psalms' was written in which language?
Greek Hebrew Latin

MARK'S QUICK FIRE Q&A



- Mountain or ocean? **Ocean**
- If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra hours? **Read**
- Master of every musical instrument or fluent in all languages? **Fluent in all languages**
- Gilbert & Sullivan or Flanders & Swann? **G&S**
- Oysters or sausage & mash? **Sausage & mash**
- Toccatas - Bach in D minor or Widor? **Widor**



SCHUBERT	ROSSINI	TELEMANN	RACHMANINOV
BRAHMS	HANDEL	LISZT	VIVALDI
HAYDN	SCHUMANN	BACH	CHOPIN
VERDI	SHOSTAKOVICH	WAGNER	STRAUSS
MAHLER	TCHAIKOVSKY	DEBUSSY	MENDELSSOHN
MOZART	BOCCHERINI	BEETHOVEN	PAGANINI

JAMES'S QUICK FIRE Q&A

- My top travel tip is? **Keep an extension cable with extra sockets in your suitcase. The sockets in hotel rooms are always in the wrong place and never enough!**
- My guilty pleasure is... **Chocolate (far too much) or something sweet straight after dinner**
- Master of every musical instrument or fluent in all languages? **Fluent in all languages!**
- Would you rather have a pause or rewind button on your life? **Rewind - so much to learn from**
- You're at the seaside. Ice-cream or fish and chips? **Fish and chips...before the hot sugared donut**
- Toccatas - Bach in D minor or Widor? **Widor if Bach in F major isn't an option!**





TERM DATES 2021/22



**All concerts at
Fakenham
Parish Church**

AUTUMN

September: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
October: 5th (AGM), 12th, 19th (NO REHEARSAL 26th)
November: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
December: 7th. CONCERT 11th (5.30pm)

SPRING

January: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
February: 1st, 8th, 22nd (NO REHEARSAL 15th)
March: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd. CONCERT 26th
(NO REHEARSALS March 29th and April 5th / 12th)

SUMMER

April: 19th, 26th
May: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
June: 7th, 14th. CONCERT 18th



*Don't forget to tell us if you've moved
or changed email address!*

KEY CONTACTS

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