



Newsletter

Welcome to our anniversary season

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are raring to go next week when we start the new term.

Our summer concert was very well attended. Our thanks go to everyone who contributed and made a special effort to create the animal-themed food. I don't normally thank people individually but on this occasion some people worked especially hard – Anne who, despite her family commitments, organised the catering so successfully, and Alan, who took on the huge task of organising the event and then (with the help of his team) setting up and taking down on the day. Sadly, Derek couldn't accompany us on the night but Colin stepped in to find us a replacement and we are very grateful to Chris Harris and Jenny Dinnage for taking on the job of accompanying us at such

short notice.

We have plans afoot to do something special for Derek when he returns from his trip to Australia. As well as thanking him profusely for all his support, hard work and of course fabulous sense of humour and fun, we hope to recognise his contribution formally with a party to be held in October. More details will be available when the arrangements are finalised. We hope to see Derek in the ranks of singers next term.

Michael Aston, who currently works with Mark Beesley at 'Singing for Fun', has agreed to take over from Derek as our accompanist and will continue to play for us when Mark takes up the baton in 2017.

Plans for our 2017 celebratory concert are well under way and the subcommittee are busy

with the huge task of organisation, particularly the visit of our friends from Rellingen and a large number of returning former members.

Finally, we have now been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and, as a result, the committee has been reformed with seven Trustees (from our original committee members), each with specified functions. We would like to thank all the outgoing committee members who have worked so hard over the past year and stayed as part of the committee to support a smooth transition to the new CIO. There will be more on this as we approach our AGM.

Kind regards

Jen
Chair



Our Christmas Concert this year is to be held at the Community Centre on 10 December and John Marsh will be joining us once again.

The programme will include the song 'Sleigh Ride'. The history behind the song, and how it is linked to this lovely print by Currier and Ives, can be found over the page.

Dates for your diary

First Rehearsal Autumn Term	7 September
AGM (and rehearsal)	2 November
Christmas Concert—Crowborough Community Hall	10 December
Nine Lessons and Carols, High Hurstwood (tbc)	11 December
50th Anniversary Concert, Bach St John Passion—All Saints, Crowborough	8 April 2017

Just hear those sleigh bells jingle-ing ...

American orchestral composer Leroy Anderson had the original idea for *Sleigh Ride* during a heat wave in July 1946, at his summer home in Woodbury, Connecticut. Originally an instrumental piece, *Sleigh Ride* was first recorded by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra in 1949 and became the first purely orchestral piece to reach No. 1 on the Billboard Popular Music chart.

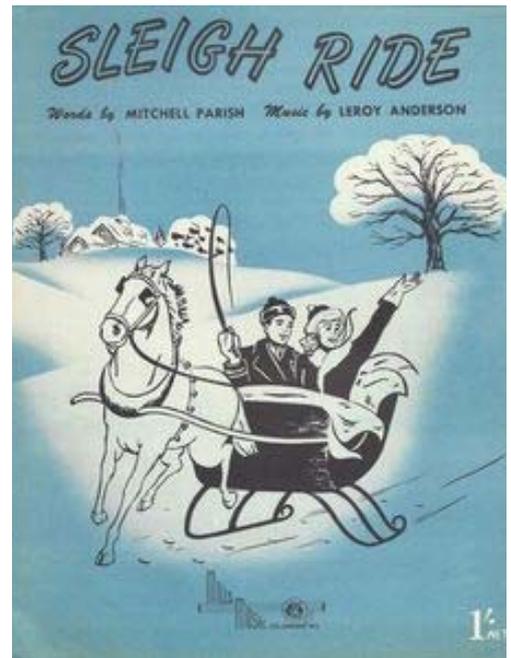
Clearly such a much-loved tune needed words, and in 1950 Mitchell Parish (a well-regarded Tin Pan Alley lyricist in New York City) added the lyrics about taking a sleigh ride together on a winter's day. The song became an instant Christmas Classic.

But like that other Christmas favourite *Winter Wonderland*, Mitchell Parish's words for *Sleigh*

Ride do not actually refer specifically to Christmas, but the colourful images of falling snow, popping chestnuts, and a wintry fairy land mean the song has become firmly associated with the festive season.

The lyrics also talk about the perfect ending to a perfect day, which will 'nearly be like a picture print by Currier and Ives'.

Currier and Ives were a print-making firm that specialised in publishing affordable hand-colored lithographs which it sold to the American middle classes. A classic example can be seen on the previous page. The company produced more than a million lithographs under more than 7500 different titles, representing some of the most iconic and popular American artwork of the nineteenth century.



100 Club latest

A warm thank you to all the loyal group of 100 Club members who contributed over £450 to choir funds in the 2015–16 season. The other half of the money raised was returned to members in prize money. We were able to offer 20 prizes this year and some people who have never won before added their names to the list of winners, others seem to have amazing luck (let us know your secret!).

We had 62 members for the 2015–16 season and it would be great if we could add a few new names to our list of members to make even more

money for the choir and to return to 100 Club members as prizes. As usual a sub of £15 buys you a number from 1–100, which is entered in each of our six prize draws during the season. Quite a few people buy a number for family members too – the more the merrier!

I shall be collecting the subscription (cash or cheques) during September for the 2016–17 100 Club season.

Good luck!

Joyce



CIO structure

Now that the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is in place, the Choral Society's organisational structure has changed. Instead of having a committee of up to 14 members, the Society is now administered by seven Trustees (all former committee members) who between them fulfil the roles of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and various other functions.

There are also a number of sub-committees covering Concerts, Publicity, Finance, etc. In the lead-up to the AGM, the Trustees will be seeking willing volunteers to join these committees, so if you can help by contributing your skills please consider joining one of the teams.

Next term's music

Anyone who still wants to collect their *St John Passion* ahead of the start of term is welcome to come and collect it and bring the £8.50 with them. Please let me know when you will be coming!

As regards the music for the Christmas concert, you will all need to buy a copy of the compilation *Merry Christmas Everybody* at a cost of £4.00. I hope to have these by the start of the term on 7 September so please come with your money ready! Pauly Totter has kindly agreed to handle sales for me for the first two weeks of term as I am away.

The other Christmas music is more

problematic in that some of you will have some of it and some not. I will prepare a number of lists for when I am back on 21 September and will ask you all to go and check at home what you have, and then sign up for any copy you need to buy. That way I will be able to buy to order and not have too many left over. I am sure there will be plenty to do for the first week or two with the *St John* and *Merry Christmas Everybody*!

Sheila

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AGM

Crowborough Choral Society hereby gives notice that in accordance with the Society's Constitution the AGM for 2016 will be held on:

Wednesday 2 November 2016.

www.crowboroughchoral.com

