



Newsletter

From the Chair

Well done! We did it! What a fantastic team effort we made to deliver a superb anniversary concert, with Colin leading us for the last time. The wonderful party that followed was the ‘icing on the cake’. A sincere thank you to everyone from the bottom of my heart. Those who contributed to what became known as the 2017 Subcommittee, the Trustees and our wonderfully supportive members have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our 50th Anniversary.

There were so many wonderful highlights this weekend, but some smaller special moments stuck in my mind. Wasn't it wonderful at the end of the Saturday rehearsal when Colin's daughter Charlotte and his granddaughters, Josie and Florence, applauded? As Colin, who had no idea they were there, turned and saw them he was almost overcome. In the concert, the seven-year-old girl who sat in the VIP seats with her grandmother throughout the performance was Rosie, Serena Kay's daughter,

who point blank refused to go home! The friendly handshake between Colin and Mark on the stage at the party was a positive link between our first fifty years and the future.

Our Patron Serena sent us this message: “It was such a huge privilege to be part of this momentous occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all the great musical performances over the years and to realise the far reaching influence that Colin has had. From a personal point of view, it is always like coming home when I join you in Crowborough; the choir feel like my extended family and there is no greater way to make music.

“In the rehearsal during *Ruht wohl*, I turned round and looked at you all and everyone was unified by Colin's direction and the music. There was no way of telling which country people came from, or their singing background, it was just the ultimate musical and emotional experience. Saturday was so special, particularly with the Rellinger Kantorei and past

members taking part. All these strands being pulled together as a rich tapestry made me deeply honoured to be just a small thread within it. To think that Colin has given fifty years of musical inspiration and direction to the choir is mind-blowing for me.”

I think Serena's words sum up everything that I want to say.

We now move into a new era, looking forward to working with Mark, and taking part in the Crowborough Community Festival on 13 May and then discovering the delights of Monteverdi! The Festival is a wonderful opportunity to recruit new members. Our performance is our shop window on what we do and we need to make it as attractive as we can.

I wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all on April 19th for our first full rehearsal with Mark. We only have nine weeks this summer term before our concert!

Keith
Chair



Dates for your diary

First Rehearsal Summer Term	19 April
Crowborough Community Festival Choral Day—Workshop and Concert	13 May
Midsummer Monteverdi—Concert at St Denys Rotherfield	24 June
Autumn Concert – Date and venue tbc	25 November

A new chapter

First of all, can I just say how honoured I am that the choir selected me to be your new Musical Director – it really is a huge privilege to work with a choir with such a long, distinguished history and a committed and dedicated membership.

Colin is owed a debt of gratitude for leading the choir for the past half a century. I am looking forward to taking over the baton (literally and figuratively!) and taking the choir on the next phase of its development. I have really enjoyed working with you over the past few weeks, helping Colin with the preparations for the St John Passion. It was lovely to hear the results of all your hard work in the concert. It was a genuinely moving and hugely enjoyable performance.

I have also been busy preparing the music for the Monteverdi concert on 24 June – it promises to be a great concert, with some beautiful late

renaissance music to sing – operatic, sacred and secular. The music and learning tracks will be available shortly. I look forward to seeing you all on the 19th!

The choir will also be participating in the Crowborough Community Festival Choral Day concert on the evening of 13th May. This is a great opportunity for the choir to sing in front of other choirs from the area, and to a new audience. The aim of the day is to encourage more people to sing and join choirs in the locality.

There are also a couple of vocal workshops on the day – one in the morning, run by me, as an introduction to singing. If you want to revisit your vocal technique, and learn more about how your voice works, come along. I would also encourage you to invite friends, neighbours and relatives who are maybe interested in singing, but don't know how.

Let's get Crowborough singing, and maybe get some more members for the choir!

In the afternoon, the wonderful Alexander L'Estrange will be putting singers through their paces learning a couple of his compositions. This is a great opportunity to have some fun singing with some new people, led by this inspirational, charismatic and talented performer and composer.

It promises to be a great day, and I would encourage you to put the date in your diaries now. Details on how to book are on the leaflet that accompanies this newsletter.

I am excited about working with you all, and embarking on a new phase in the illustrious history of Crowborough Choral Society.

Mark



100 Club news

After Easter, we have our final draw of the 100 Club season. We have had 17 lucky winners so far – just three more to go.

Once again there has been a broad spread of lucky 100 Club ticket holders. This year our Treasurer has been fortunate enough to have his number drawn twice. Could this be due to his prudent investment of money, the fact that he holds the number one or just pure luck?!

I am of course going to say prudent investment and urge everyone next 100 Club year to follow his excellent example!

Good luck to you all in the last draw of the series in May.

Kind regards

Joyce



Next term's music

All the music for the Monteverdi concert will be available in a booklet, which Mark has prepared. This will cost around £5 to buy.

For the Festival concert on 13 May you will need scores for *Messiah*, Vivaldi *Gloria* and Bach *St John Passion*, so please bring these to the first rehearsal if you have them. Copies of *Messiah* and *Gloria* will also be available to borrow.

Sheila



More pictures!

