



Newsletter

Welcome to the new season

I hope you have all had a lovely summer (so far). Our summer event was a great success and the new format of having our 'audience' sit at tables worked very well. As always our thanks go to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it such an enjoyable evening.

The new rostrum got its first outing and once Colin got used to the overpowering odour of varnish he pronounced it as eminently suitable.

During the summer our committee has been working extremely hard behind the scenes, and plans for the celebratory concert in 2017 to mark our 50th anniversary and the search for a successor for Colin are all moving forward (see page 2).

I particularly want to mention the subcommittees

involved in this work. They are real un-sung heroes, and have done so much work. Little did they know what they were taking on when they were press ganged into it. Thank you one and all.

We are also working on re-designing our website to make it more accessible and easy to navigate for members and other visitors to the site. This is long overdue and I hope it will help us to attract new members to the choir, as well as keeping everyone up to date with what's going on.

There are many choirs around and keeping new joiners is important for the future of the choir so we have thought of a system mentorship for a few weeks for any new member, to make sure that they feel welcomed

and involved. Perhaps one mentor is needed per section, to introduce new members to others, answer any questions they have, and basically show them the ropes. I remember when I joined I was very nervous - it felt a little like the first day at school. I was lucky there was another 'newbie' sitting next to me, just as nervous, and we hit it off straight away. If you would be interested in being a mentor for your section perhaps you would let me know.

So until 9 September when we reconvene, I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Jen
Chair



Our 'Supper with Songs' was a big success, thanks particularly to Alan and his heavy lifting crew, Anne and Joyce and the catering team (and everyone who brought all the fantastic food), Brian's bar team, and Colin and Derek for getting the performance up to scratch. And, of course, thanks to everyone who sang!

Dates for your diary

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| First Rehearsal Autumn Term | 9 September |
| AGM (and rehearsal) | 21 October |
| Concert—Messiah (All Saints, Crowborough) | 21 November |
| Nine Lessons and Carols (High Hurstwood) (tbc) | 13 December |
| Easter Concert (programme tbc) | 19 March 2016 |

2017—a very special year

In 2017 Crowborough Choral Society celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its founding by Colin Moore. To commemorate this milestone for the choir we will be performing a very special concert on 8 April 2017, together with our friends from Rellingen and as many past members as are able to join us. The programme chosen for this landmark occasion is the great Bach St John Passion. The concert will be followed by a big party and it is hoped that the whole weekend of celebrations will be a fitting way to mark the fifty years since Colin established the choir.

Following the Anniversary Concert, after what will be fifty years of dedication to Crowborough Choral Society, Colin has decided to finally hang up his baton and entrust the musical direction of the choir to some-

one else's care. So, for the first time in our long history, Crowborough Choral Society will be in search of a new musical director. Never having had to undertake such a search before, earlier this year a special sub-committee began the not inconsiderable task of putting in place a robust process by which to advertise the post, and then select and interview prospective candidates. The intention is to then invite the shortlisted conductors to an audition where they can work with the whole choir, so that members can be part of the decision-making process and ultimately the final choice. It is hoped that, in this way, we will be able to secure the right person to continue to build on Colin's legacy and take Crowborough Choral Society forward into the future.



First page of the Bach St John Passion (1724)

Crucial AGM – from David McNab, Chair of the Succession Subcommittee

This year's AGM is probably the most important one we have ever had. Why is this so? Early on in our work, we appointed a specialist in charity law who informed us that we are currently an unincorporated charitable group of friends.

The committee, as charity trustees, and in certain circumstances the wider membership, are legally personally financially liable should we face a court case or fail financially. On our solicitor's advice we have recommended and the Committee has accepted that we should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

(CIO for short), the charitable equivalent of a limited company.

We are on a very tight time scale, as changing a standard charity into a CIO can be a lengthy process, but it must be complete before we can sign any contracts with a new musical director. The solicitor and the sub-committee have drafted a CIO Constitution, which is a complex legal document of 18 pages, but gives us all the protection that we need.

The CIO Constitution and the 'Rules' of the Society under the new structure are separate documents. The new 'Rules' will be formulated by the

Committee and put to you separately once the CIO structure is in place, but as we all hope to continue our mission to promote and advance public education in choral music we currently don't see them as being hugely different to those we have now.

The AGM in October will have the acceptance of the move to CIO status and the new Constitution on the Agenda. Under our current rules, any change of constitution has to be accepted by a two-thirds majority of those members present at the AGM.

The Committee, and the Sub-Committee, all urge you to attend and vote on the new CIO structure.

100 Club latest

Thank you to all 100 Club members for your loyal membership. Once again I shall be inviting all choir members to join the 100 Club for the 2015–16 season. The cost is £15 for the year, which entitles you to a number (you can buy several numbers for family members), which is entered for all six prize draws that take place during the year. Each draw has three lucky winners, plus one bumper prize at Christmas. The first draw will be on Wednesday 7 October. I shall be collecting the subs for this during September. Good luck!

Joyce

Next term's music

Scores of Messiah are available to hire at £3 each.

If anyone wants to buy one would they please email me at: geoffintheshed@angrove.org.uk before the start of term and I will get them to order so we don't have any wastage.

The cost to buy is £8.95.

Sheila



AGM

Crowborough Choral Society hereby gives notice that in accordance with the Society's Constitution the AGM for 2015 will be held on:

Wednesday 21 October 2015.

www.crowboroughchoral.com

