



Newsletter

Welcome from the Chair

What a brilliant summer concert! Well done everyone! I entered the term with some trepidation about the music, but Mark's enthusiasm and the fabulous melody lines, including some sung by the basses, won me over. I, and the audience members I spoke to, thought that we performed the music really well and sounded wonderful.

Thanks also to those who planned the excellent supper afterwards and to you all for providing it. This helped make the evening even more special. The capacity audience meant that we managed to have a surplus on the balance sheet against this concert

too. This is a rare occurrence and certainly appreciated by the Trustees!

On the topic of Trustees, come the AGM in October, the choir will need at least two new Trustees to remain within our constitutional obligations. Please think hard about standing and supporting the choir in this way.

The coming term is a really important one. We are singing sections 1, 2 and 3, plus the final chorale, from JS Bach's *Christmas Oratorio (Weihnachtsoratorium)*. We will be joined in our performance on 23 November by members

of our twin choir, the Rellinger Kantorei from near Hamburg, and singing with them is always a great joy. (Please see Alan Crook's piece over the page regarding their visit.)

Please encourage any of your friends, family or anyone else you know, to come along to rehearsals and join us in singing this great work.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you all for our first rehearsal on 4 September.

Keith
Chair



Photos: Nigel Cassford



Dates for your diary

First Rehearsal Autumn Term	4 September
AGM (and rehearsal)	9 October
Bach Weihnachtsoratorium (with Rellinger Kantorei), All Saints, Crowborough	23 November
Carols by Candlelight, High Hurstwood	8 December

Derek Watmough MBE

We are sorry to record the death of Derek Watmough, who died peacefully on 30th July in Crowborough Hospital. He had been cared for there for a short time following a period of illness at home. Derek was a wonderful musician who had a long association with Crowborough Choral Society.



After a teenage spell as a violinist with the National Youth Orchestra, Derek graduated in Classical Languages and Music from the University of Durham. On becoming a teacher, Derek taught music in High Wycombe, Tunbridge Wells and at Beacon in Crowborough.

Locally he was music director of Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society for 30 years as well as holding the same post with Mid-Sussex Sinfonia and conducting the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra.

He was a much sought after pianist, performing with Sussex Camarata and the Little London Trio. In 1992 Derek was awarded the MBE for services to music.

Derek was the accompanist to CCS for over fifteen years. His style as an accompanist was legendary. Often, if a section of the choir was adrift, he would reinforce that line from the piano whilst seemingly still playing the

full accompaniment! His dry wit and gentle humour were a huge part of his friendly character and will be long remembered.

Derek supported the choir in so many ways. He took rehearsals when required, sang a faultless tenor line in performances and joined the choir on our singing holidays.

Serena Kay, a CCS Patron, in sending her condolences to the choir, said 'I am so sad to hear this news. Derek was a very special human and musician. I have such happy memories of rehearsing and performing a recital with him in Crowborough.'

All of us will have different memories of him as a musician, teacher and friend. He was a pillar of musical life in the area and will be sorely missed.

Keith



100 Club

I am very pleased to report that 100 Club members have made over £460 for choir funds for the 2018–19 season. Many thanks to everyone who generously helped to raise this amount towards financing our concerts. This allows us to employ quality soloists and orchestra members to perform with us, which we always appreciate.

The 2019–20 season begins in September and I shall be collecting subs of £15 for the year (cash or cheques welcome). If you are a new member of the choir we should be so grateful if you would join us. The £15 sub gives you a

number from 1–100. This is then entered into the six draws which take place during the year, with a total of 20 prizes. Half the money subscribed to the club is returned to the members as prizes and the rest is added to choir funds at the end of the year. It is a great way to support the choir, as well as helping to boost funds. If you're an 'old member' hopefully you will be keen to join us again!

See you in September.

Joyce



This term's music

Unfortunately it has been impossible to source hire copies of the Bach *Weihnachtsoratorium* which we are singing this term.

Copies will therefore be available for purchase only at the subsidised price of £10.00.

Sheila



Visit of Rellinger Kantorei

As you may be aware, at the November concert we shall be joined by a group of singers from our twin choir in Rellingen, near Hamburg. As they sing parts of the Christmas Oratorio every year, they will be a valuable addition to our numbers.

They will, of course, need somewhere to stay, and traditionally some of our members have offered to put them up.

Numbers are 17 and counting, of which some are couples. Some have regular hosts, others are coming for the first time.

Please let me know if you can accommodate one or two guests for the concert weekend. Many thanks.

Alan Crook



AGM

Crowborough Choral Society hereby gives notice that in accordance with the Society's Constitution the AGM for 2019 will be held on:

Wednesday 9 October 2019.

www.crowboroughchoral.com