



### All about us then...



It is a real achievement, isn't it, to have been giving concerts to the people of Tiptree and the surrounding area for the last 70 years. I'm sure those super people who started us off would have been delighted to hear us still singing today. The rehearsal venue has varied I

gather, starting in the Jam Factory Hall, then the old URC church hall, then Thurstable (that's the first one I remember), then back to the new URC hall and now in the URC itself. But wherever the venue, the aim then as now has been the same: to make good music together for the enjoyment of all. That's one tradition we do want to maintain!

Things have changed slightly from the early days though – for instance, the then President, Miss Clements, used to give a speech at the end of every concert (don't worry Ruth, there are no plans to revive that custom!) and of course the National Anthem was always played, as it was in cinemas and theatres at the time, which many of us will remember. And there were the odd 'incidents' too, like the person pulling the curtain falling asleep on the job, the leg of a bench folding unexpectedly, sending the men sliding decorously off the stage mid concert, and the rabbit who used to attend rehearsals with its owner! One custom that perhaps we could consider reinstating was the presentation at the end of the concert of a jar of Tiptree

jam to each of the soloists, a tasty treat to finish with, though perhaps it should be honey to soothe exercised voices!

Some of our members have sung with Tiptree Choral for a good number of years (I have discovered a programme from 1985 with Norman's name listed as a soloist – clearly just a youngster at the time!); it would be lovely to collect a few memories from the earlier days of the choir so if you have any stories please send them in!

### ...and now

And what about now, the 21<sup>st</sup> century Society? I'm absolutely certain that we all want: *"to see the choral society become what we all know it can be, a place for enjoyable music making to a very high standard, a place where both young and old can find friendship and fulfilment, a society that we can be proud of and would go to any length to promote and support. We must be people of vision and make sure that the society lives on for the next generation and continues to put on amazing concerts and helps many people of all ages to discover the joy of singing together."* This is Malcolm's vision and one that I'm sure we all share. We all have such a good time singing and socialising together and there must be people out there who are missing out! We want our Society to carry on singing, adding another decade and then another – such a fabulous image - and wouldn't welcoming more new members, Friends and Sponsors be a brilliant way to celebrate our



anniversary. So who do you know who might fit into any (or all!) of those categories? Let's all start asking friends and neighbours and see what we can achieve together. Jill and I would both be delighted to hear from you!

## Concert



This is going to be great isn't it! Such lovely music to sing and the pleasure of having an orchestra to perform with us too. Formal concert wear this time, so ladies in

long black and gentlemen in DJs please. As always, we will extend hospitality to the soloists and orchestra; hopefully between us we can provide a spread in the church hall to amaze and delight as we did last time. A list will be organised shortly - do hope you can help. Malcolm will let us know rehearsal times but for new members, this is held in St Luke's on the Saturday afternoon, followed by a break for tea before the concert begins at 7:30pm.

We will have a raffle again, with a Christmas theme I should imagine – haven't organised it yet! Helpers would be appreciated to sell and fold tickets on the night and if you'd like to make a donation, just let me know.



## Birthdays



When newsletters are thin on the ground, birthdays multiply! Many happy returns to those celebrating this term (apologies if I've missed anyone) from September to the end of December: Carol, Sue, James, Yvonne, Helena, Jenny, Geoffrey, Katie, Betty and Judith. (An

extra mention for Helena, who I believe had what's known as a 'big birthday' this year!!) I hope you all had/have a super time.

## Carol singing



There is no carol singing at Wilkins this year as you know – they have cancelled their Christmas Fayre this year because of their building works – but we are hoping to do a spot of carol singing in Tiptree village instead. The suggested date is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December in the morning – can you make that? It would be great to have a good turnout of members and give people who don't usually come to our concerts a chance to hear us, so please let me know if you can be there.

## Dates for your Diary

### 2015-2016

- December 5<sup>th</sup> - Gounod 'St Cecilia Mass & Vivaldi's Gloria' with The Kingfisher Sinfonietta
- December 5<sup>th</sup> – end of Autumn Term
- December 12<sup>th</sup> - carol singing in Tiptree village (tbc)
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Rutter 'Requiem' and Easter music
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - Prom in the Barn

### 2016-2017

- November 26<sup>th</sup> – Handel's Messiah
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas music and carols at URC

In relation to the Rutter, please can you let Jenny or me know if you have your own copy of the Requiem so we don't over order from the library.

Thankyou

Liz

19<sup>th</sup> November 2015