

Tiptree Choral Society Newsletter No. 33

Making music together since 1945



We've enjoyed the smiling yellow daffodils and the crocus and are still enjoying the last of the bluebells. They have been stunning this year haven't they, a soft mist of blue beneath the trees as though a

magic paintbrush has been at work (remember those books, where you just needed a brush and some water?). From my few days away, I can tell you that bluebells are still blooming in northern woodlands, together with daffodils in some places, and looked just like the picture above.

Prom in the Barn

There are 5 weeks left until the Prom in the Barn on June 25th so here are a few reminders of what we need to do, which I hope, will help new members.

First, don't forget to bring a chair to sit on – it really is a barn! We all need to be aware that the section of the barn that the choir uses has a drying floor, which means it consists of strips of metal mesh between wooden slats. Of course, we mustn't damage that so chair legs need to be placed on the wood not the mesh. For the same reason, flat shoes need to be worn – absolutely no stiletto or narrow heels, though wedges are ok.

Even when it's been a warm sunny day, it can grow quite cool during the evening so you may want to bring a wrap of some kind for while you are sitting listening to the Band. We don't wear black, in fact anything but! Ladies, long dress or skirt/trousers and top in colours of your choice; gents, summer trousers and short-sleeved shirt, plain not patterned please, but your choice of colour. No cropped trousers or shorts from anyone – think Last Night of the Proms! We will decorate the Barn from midday – if you can help, please turn up.

Birthday Greetings



These are our 'Spring into Summer' birthdays from April, May and June - we wish them all many happy returns and hope they had or will have very happy fun-filled days: Malcolm and Karen, Tom (May the force be with you!), Sandra and

Beverley, Gill and Jill, Jan and Ruth K.

We don't send cards, unless we know it is a 'special birthday' (usually one with a zero on the end!) but if you've not had a birthday mention, it is probable that I don't have your details. I know there are some members who prefer not to give this information but if you'd like to be included in an

informal mention, just let me know your date of birth – you don't have to include the year if you'd rather not!

Things you may never have thought of!

I was sent a list of alternative meanings to common words the other day and thought I'd share a few:

Barbecue (n.) a long line of plastic dolls

Benign (adj.) what you will be after you are eight

Castanet (v.) to go fishing

Dreadlocks (n.) fear of canal holidays

Example (adj.) much thinner

Hurricane (n.) a motorised walking stick

And have you seen this? It's how pianists dry their socks – David take note!!



Goodbye Jean

It was so sad to hear this week of Jean's death. I was placed in her care when I first joined the Choral Society and she reassured and supported me so kindly through those early, uncertain stages. She was a stalwart of the choir for a great many years and as an organist as well as a singer, could sing

many works with little reference to the scores, she knew them so well. Jean loved gardening, cryptic crosswords, teaching and cricket, a game she'd played in her younger years and continued to follow. She always watched Wimbledon too. She would sometimes tear the crossword out of the paper and bring it with her to rehearsals and work on it while we waited to start singing. She was happy to share but I'm afraid I wasn't much help to her! She taught way past the usual retirement age and could still be regularly found in a Reception classroom throughout her 70s. In latter years, she would say 'This will be my last concert', but in reality, she only stopped singing with the choir when she became unwell and subsequently moved to Dedham. She was a lovely lady and the Society was very fortunate to have such a loyal member for so many years. Our sincere sympathy goes to Jean's family and friends.

Dates for your Diary

2015-2016

- June 2nd - no rehearsal (Essex schools' half term)
- June 25th - Prom in the Barn with Essex Concert Band
- June 30th - Social (tbc)
- July 7th - AGM and end of summer term

2016-2017

- September 8th - Autumn term starts
- October 27th - no rehearsal (Essex half term)
- November 26th - Handel's 'Messiah' at St Luke's
- December 10th - carols and Christmas music at the URC; end of Christmas term
- January 5th - Spring term rehearsals begin

Liz

21st May 2016