



Members' Newsletter

July 2015

Chair: David Brice 01277 221422

davidpbrice@aol.com

Vice Chair: Liz Biebuyck 01277 233271

lizbiebuyck@googlemail.com

Secretary: Robin Derbyshire 01277 651689

rmderbysire@btinternet.com

Dear Members,

This letter is being written following our very successful **Summer Concert** – a Night at the Theatre - and another very enjoyable end of Session Garden Party, but as we are digesting the sad news that our conductor **Mich will be leaving us at Christmas**.

We were delighted on Saturday 27th June, even a little taken aback, as the audience rolled in and queued for tickets. They were clearly in the mood to enjoy, and to play their singing part in a rousing and exciting musical evening. The soloists Mich had found gave us marvellous pleasure and entertainment, well one a little less than the others, and we, the choir, sang with extra spirit, and more assuredly than at rehearsals. We confirmed that we have soloist material in our membership, and the quartet who sang Brightly dawns our Wedding Day were dreamily clear and delicate. Della's accompaniment, as always, held the singing confidently together. In Mich we have a conductor who manages musicians and audience with equal skill.

It was the perfect evening for our end of session **Garden Party** two days later. Warm thanks to Roland, our ever genial host, and to Ann who having done the behind the scenes preparation work slipped away for a quieter evening!

Mich made it clear as she spoke to us at the party about her departure, and in her formal letter of resignation, that she will be leaving on the friendliest of terms with the Society members, in order to give more time to her family. That members felt the same way about her was expressed in the off the cuff, rather dazed but heartfelt responses they made to her announcement. It remains for us now to make the most of the remaining weeks of the partnership we have created with Mich, as we prepare next term for our Cathedral concert, and for our Christmas concert.

Our Rehearsals begin again on Monday 7 September, firstly for the Mozart Coronation Mass, and the Howard Goodall Requiem for the 21st century 'Eternal Light', which we sing on 21st November in the Cathedral.

Joint rehearsals for this concert will be held in the Cathedral on

Wed 30 September

Tuesday 13 October

Monday 16 November.

Secondly for our **Winter Concert in Hutton Union Church**. The date for this is now **Saturday 5th December**, *in place of the previous date (12 December) which clashed with another event at the church.*

Mich has already been busy with arrangements for this concert, and has announced that Bluebirds (a choir of young people aged 18 and under) have agreed to take part. Bluebirds rehearse and perform at Hutton and Shenfield Church so already have a local following. You can see some photos of them at:

<http://www.brentwoodgazette.co.uk/Bluebirds-songs-start-celebrations/story-18135130-detail/story.html#1>

They will sing approximately 15 minutes of music in each half and probably sing some pieces with us. As we know from previous experience the participation of a choir of young people in our concerts adds something extra and makes the evening more special.

Please note two more forthcoming events for your diaries:

Saturday 10 October. A Quiz Night in the Cathedral Parish Hall in aid of the Brentwood Choirs Festival, which is the organisation which puts on joint choral concerts in the Cathedral, including the Concert on 21st November (see above).

Saturday 28 November: BCS 'Have A Go' Evening in Cathedral Parish Hall. A parade of members' talents in aid of Society funds. More details later.

In conclusion, the Officers want to assure you that they are already in search of a suitable successor to Mich, from January 2016, and will keep you informed of developments.

Wishing everybody a very happy holiday season, and looking forward to greeting you all back on 7th September, and to welcoming any new member whom you may introduce.

Yours sincerely,

David, Liz and Robin