



## Members' Newsletter, September 2014

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Dear Members, Dear Prospective Members,

We had a great finish to our 2013-14 season, including the three concerts in the Festival week, which all went down well with the audiences, and the very happy Garden Social Evening courtesy of Anne and Roland. Mich says she was pleased with our singing in the Summer Concert, especially the unaccompanied pieces! Something to live up to!

So now, it's a great pleasure to welcome you all back to our first rehearsal of the new season at 7.30pm on Monday 8 September. As you have probably learned already from Mich's recent letter to you, we are in for an exciting term, which will culminate in our own Winter Concert on 13 December, at Hutton Union Church. The programme is:

Charpentier: Messe de Minuit

Elgar: The Snow

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

Some of you have responded to Mich's search for soloists for the Charpentier and the Vaughan Williams, and she will be holding auditions in the second part of rehearsals on 8 and 15 September.

**Workshop:** Do book in your diary now that we are holding an *all-day Workshop at the Belli Centre, South Weald on Saturday 22 November, led by Mich*. There will be Christmas songs to sing, and some work on the Christmas concert programme. This is for you, members and for your friends who would like a day of singing, so do bring them along. They might also as a result want to join the choir for the concert!

**Subscription:** You'll be pleased to know that Committee has decided we can hold our annual subscription rate at £100, which includes hire of music. This is a recommendation to AGM, which will be held on 29 September, after which your subscription will be due.

**Our Website:** Do look at the refreshed home page of our website. Using the photo which Richard took after our summer concert, (thank you, Richard!) we are sending a new message

of an invigorated choir, which really welcomes newcomers. Your cue to bring that friend along who always wanted to sing!

**Quiz Night, 27 September.** You'll be pleased to know that the Brentwood Festival Committee is holding another fundraising Quiz Night on 27 September in the Cathedral Parish Hall, commencing at 7pm. Please see Liz when she is back on 15 Sept, or you can e-mail her to wait her return. She has already secured table for our members. There are no tickets: pay at the door and bring your own food and drink.

Looking further ahead, we are holding our **BCF joint concert in the Cathedral on Saturday 21 March**, which is likely to include the Durufle Requiem.

The Essex Choirs Festival, with whom we sang Elijah in the Drapers Academy in 2013 are performing the **Verdi Requiem** in the same venue on 2 May 2015. Having sung this so recently, and our rehearsal time already being full, we have decided not to take part, but if you wish to join as individuals we shall make arrangements for you to do so. For the time being no action is required.

You will find a **full rehearsal schedule for 2014-15** at the foot of this letter, subject as always to changes as we go along.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on 8 September,

With good wishes  
David, Liz and Robin

*You may be interested in....*

**Choral Workshop with Will Todd** on Saturday 13 September in Southend High School. He will explore some of his recent choral works, including My Lord has come, excerpts from Mass in blue, Come down O love divine, etc. Contact me for an application form.

**Ingatestone Choral Society** invite you to join them to sing in their concert in Ingatestone Parish Church on Sunday 9 November (Remembrance Sunday), when they are performing **Elgar's Spirit of England, and Andrew Wright's Requiem**. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in Ingatestone United Reformed Church. I can put you in touch with them, and give you further details.

Robin