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Robin

This Newsletter had been fully drafted prior to receiving the sad news of Robin's death on 28th July. I thought long and hard about whether to change fundamentally the piece on his retirement. In the end I decided not to.

Robin's Retirement Party



I am more pleased than ever that we were able to share this one final occasion with Robin and Stephanie. It meant a lot to both of them and they enjoyed the evening immensely. It also gave a lot of you the opportunity for a chat with Robin – something that is even more special now.

I know they went away to Dartmouth for a few days using the gift of hotel vouchers and this was also a success.

It was very sad to see Robin in such poor health but I think we gave him the best retirement send off that we possibly could under the circumstances. You were amazingly generous with your contributions for his gifts and we had a total of £445. This was mostly spent on hotel vouchers but we also bought the Book of Memories and the celebration cake from the proceeds. I do hope you all saw Steph's letter of thanks that was circulated by our secretary.

Chairman



Come and Sing Day

I am really looking forward to this on 17th September and I hope a lot of you have signed up to attend. It is an excellent opportunity to do some in depth work on a piece that I am sure is new to most of us. It is also a chance to attract singers from other choirs or those who enjoy singing but are not currently with a choir. It will hopefully be a real opportunity to sell our choir and recruit new members. We must do our best to be welcoming and ensure that non F & B members enjoy the day as much as we do.

Enjoyment reminds me of cake! I would be so grateful if everyone who is attending can bring a cake contribution on the day I'm sure that will get us off to a good start.

Please bring your cake on a plate and already sliced – this will make life so much easier and we will be serving it at morning and afternoon breaks.

The Committee will be doing a lot of the organisation but this is a big event and we will need **extra help**, especially setting up in the morning (probably around 9a.m) and clearing up at the end of the afternoon. If you are willing to help, do let me know by email benfield549@btinternet.com or 01252 737004.

Return your booking slips as soon as possible – don't wait until the restart in September – and sign up your friends!

General Choir Matters

CONCERT DRESS

It was noticed that there were one or two lapses of standard, especially amongst the men, at the May concert. Please make sure that you are wearing the regulation red bow tie and a

dress shirt with a plain front. One or two coloured cummerbunds are also appearing. I think if you really feel the need to wear one it has to be black. Also can all jackets be unfastened. There is a mixture of fastened/unfastened at the moment, which is particularly noticeable on the front row of men. Whilst this seems very petty these things do get noticed (and commented on to the Chairman at the end of the evening) and we want our audience to concentrate on our musical performance without any distractions, minor or otherwise.

MUSIC HIRE

Just a reminder that it your individual responsibility to make sure you have booked your music for each term. The librarian helpfully puts out lists for us all to sign up to either hire or buy the works to be sung. If you have not bothered to put your name on the list there may not be a score for you – do not be surprised and DO NOT blame the librarian. In the future Calum is keen that we should all (literally) sing from the same hymn sheet! If you already have your own score for a work that is to be sung, please make sure it is the same edition as the one to be used. Hopefully there will then be less time wasted on finding the right page, rehearsal letter etc.

Equally it is your responsibility to hand in any hire scores at the end of a concert. If scores are returned late to the music library a charge will be incurred that the Committee will not hesitate to pass on to offenders.



SEAT RESERVATIONS AT CONCERTS

At recent concerts in St Thomas' there has been a proliferation of unofficial reserving of chairs. Audience who then make the effort to come early find the area they want to sit in is completely unavailable. The only reservations should be those made by the Friends' Secretary for those Friends attending a concert. These are very obvious as they have a name and in future will also have the choir logo. Any others will be removed!

Voice Reps

These are being re-introduced from September. They will be a first port of call for any queries/concerns you may have and if they cannot deal with the issue it can be referred on to Committee. A big part of the role is in welcoming new members, introducing them to others in their voice section, helping them find somewhere to sit etc. This is a valuable role that backs up the work of the Committee. There will be 1 rep for each section as follows;

Soprano	Mary Grocott	01252 793930
Alto	Sallie Wheater	01252 710930
Tenor	Robert Tilley	01252 338178
Bass	Mike Cubitt	01252 722233

New Season

The Committee were extremely grateful to Calum for standing in at such short notice after his appointment last March. It was not ideal for either him or the Choir but we got through without any major disaster. I hope you all saw the review of our May concert which I thought was very positive and encouraging.

We now move forward and I know that Calum starts to see us as 'his' choir from September. There will inevitably be some changes but so far everyone has been remarkably receptive and willing to work really hard with Calum. I'm sure this will continue. We have a really interesting mix of works to sing next season, some of it unfamiliar and challenging but I'm sure the choir will rise to that challenge. I am particularly looking forward to the shorter, more modern works in the November programme. Full details are in your trifold leaflet.

Subscriptions for next season will be;

Individual	£93
Two family members	£161



Publicity

There will be a two week display in Farnham library entrance from Monday 13th August where the trifold with next season's programme can be picked up along with flyers for our Come & Sing day on September 17th. Anyone interested should know that flyers for filling in can be printed out from our website www.farnham-choral.org.uk, which I hope everyone with a computer has included in their favourites list. We placed an advertisement in the Surrey Festival Choir's programme for their performance of Brahms' Requiem in early July and our secretary has emailed details to some 25 neighbouring choirs. As usual we are inserting free items in Round&About, VantagePoint and the Surrey Ad.

David Brown

I am sad to say that one of our basses, Paul Holden, died in late June. Paul was a lovely man and always a very willing helper on concert days. We shall miss him and all the neighbours he regularly brought to concerts from his home at Clare Park. I (Chairman) and several others represented the choir at his funeral on 1st July.
