

Welcome

A warm welcome back to our regular members, those returning after a gap and, especially, to our new members. I have taken over the task of compiling the newsletter as part of my new role as General Secretary following Helen MacNab's well deserved retirement from the post! Thank you Helen for all that you have contributed to the smooth running of RTWCS and for the generous gift of your time in service over many years.
Hilary Weston

Website

Keeping up with the times and modern technology we would like to bring you more current information primarily via our website www.rtwcs.org.uk. News items will also be posted on our RTWCS noticeboard which is located in the foyer to the rehearsal room at St John's Church hall. There is some interesting archive material in the Members' section and a link to a note on the latin text of the Verdi *Requiem* with translations kindly contributed by Richard Gosling under the heading *Notices*.

Verdi Requiem

This is our showcasing concert of the season which will be performed at the Assembly Hall on 9th November 2008. We will be performing with the East Grinstead Choral Society, four professional soloists, an orchestra of over 50 musicians including 4 trumpeters playing within the auditorium and, of course, a Verdi drum for the percussionist to create the earthshaking atmosphere of the *Dies Irae*.

Dress for concert

To create the sombre atmosphere of this magnificent piece of choral music the dress for ladies is black full length sleeve blouses and black long skirts or trousers. For the men it is smart black shirt with collar and buttons, plus bow tie and dinner suit. As the concert is on Remembrance Sunday would all participants please wear a poppy on the left.

Pink Party pounds

The Pink Party hosted by Moira McMillan made £410. Cancer Care have thanked the group for their generous donation of £205, and RTWCS is also £205 richer!

Wanted – horsebox or similar

To minimise unnecessary expenditure for the Verdi concert – with estimated costs of nearly £16,000 – our Orchestra Manager Barbara Maw would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to provide a means of transport for the Verdi drum which we will be hiring for the concert. This is a very large drum which will not fit into a car, even a Volvo estate! If you are able to help out please contact Barbara (soprano) at any rehearsal or online at jothandba.twells@virgin.net

Subs reminder

2008–09 subs of £90 for the season are now overdue. There is a reduced rate for under-25s of £25. The money goes towards paying for our rehearsal venue; our Musical Director and Accompanists' fees; concert publicity, venue hire, orchestra hire etc (supplemented by ticket and programme sales). The subscription represents around £2.60 per 2 hour rehearsal.

Please see our Treasurer Michael Selway before or during rehearsals to settle up – you are welcome to pay in two installments if you like, £45 is due now, and £45 in January.

Annual dinner

Following the success of the last two years' Christmas function we plan to hold this season's Annual Dinner on 10th January 2009 at The High Rocks, just outside Tunbridge Wells. Watch this newsletter for further details.

Advanced notice of Summer Sing

To while away those idle Monday evenings in the early summer of 2009 we shall be rehearsing for a less formal concert to be held at the beginning of July. This event is open to all members of the choir plus any newcomers for a small fee to cover rehearsal venue costs etc. If you know of anyone who hasn't joined the Society yet but who is thinking of it please do involve them. Rehearsals start Monday 11th May, probably at Vale Royal again, with a proposed concert date of 4th July. More news later.

Line reps

A new season brings a few changes to this organisational aspect of the choir. The tasks of line reps are to act as primary contact point for any member of that voice who is unable to attend rehearsals and wishes to make this known, and to help new members of the choir settle in. The 2008 – 09 line reps, who are also members of the committee, together with their deputies, are:

Sopranos:

Suzie Duke; deputy Ann Greenfield

Altos:

Olivia Seaman; deputy Victoria Joyce

Tenors:

Peter Norgate; deputy Alan Spencer

Basses:

Richard Gosling; Deputy Clive Steward

Their photos and telephone numbers will shortly be displayed on the RTWCS notice board.

Gift vouchers

We will be going ahead with the issuing of gift vouchers for forthcoming concerts which will be available before Christmas. Please watch out for updates on the precise way this will be unrolled.

Constitution

RTWCS is a registered charity and so all members may read the constitution which is currently displayed on the *The Choir* page of our website: www.rtwcs.org.uk. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to have a hard copy please ask me for one.

Contact details

The membership of RTWCS is constantly changing in terms of new addresses, phone numbers, email addresses etc. So that I can make sure that you are all included in any future information distribution I would be most grateful if you could provide me with your details – name, address, telephone number, email address. These will be kept within the circle of the officers of the Society and not disclosed to any external party. You can email me on hilary.weston@homecall.co.uk or scribble them down on a piece of paper and give them to me at a rehearsal. Many thanks.