

# 07/04/2008 Choir Notices

## Fame at last

The TCS has been called 'pioneering' for its ABC experiment, and 'Making Music' is going to feature the project not only on its South West region website, but also nationally. Ha! We're ready for our close-up now, Mr de Mille!

Rachel Levay, the MM local development officer, wishes to attend our July concert and talk to some of the ABCs, so no quitting before then, thank you kindly.

## ABCs – gentle reminder

Please do remember to throw 50p into the pot when you fetch your coffee/tea. The freebies are over!

## News from the Committee Meeting

Two important things to tell you.

### 1) Amberley Carol Concert

The history of this event is that Sandra Tucker and husband Rev Mike Tucker staged the evening as a fund raising event for the society. All we had to do was rehearse, turn up, sing, drink wine, and eat mince pies. All the organisation was done by Sandra and her Church committee.

However, there are three main issues:

- we have had problems with providing a balanced choir; last December we were barely adequate in numbers. We know it's a busy time of year, but enough of us should be available. Some let us down by backing out at short notice.
- some of us feel under-rehearsed.
- as a fund raising event for the TCS, it actually only cleared a fiver, when our rehearsal costs were taken into account.

It is, however, a lovely and thoroughly enjoyable evening; one to which many of us look forward.

To address balance/numbers: the committee has decided to change the approach, and henceforth treat the Carol Concert as an *integral part of our season*, but it remains Amberley's show. It is now a part of our rehearsal budget for the year, and it will be a case of opt-out, not opt-in. (We know that it overlaps with Oriana, but we hope that some Orianas will still wish to join in.)

To address rehearsal time: we have introduced extra rehearsals - DIARY DATES: 24 November, 1 December in Dursley, Tues 9 December at Amberley, concert Thursday 11 December.

To address the ticket sales: Sandra and her team will start promoting this locally a little earlier. We also need to play our part and encourage family/friends to buy tickets.

We are also looking at inviting a local charity to work with us to mutual benefit; it is Christmas, after all.

The committee hopes that this will meet with your approval and support.

## 2) The AGM and our Society Rules

Two issues have prompted the committee to review the Governing Document (rules) and the timing of the AGM.

- Historically, the AGM has been held in November. The financial year runs Jan-Dec, so the accounts presented have never been the final version. Your Treasurer would like this to change.
- At the 2007 AGM, there was confusion over procedure when an amendment was taken from the floor.

It is therefore proposed to move the AGM to a March date to allow audited financial reports to be presented.

With reference to advice and templates provided by the Charities Commission, your committee has prepared a document outlining proposed changes to our rules, and guidelines for general meetings.

Any such changes require a vote at an AGM. An AGM will therefore be held after the coffee break at the July 14<sup>th</sup> rehearsal, to approve the audited 2007 accounts, and to consider the proposed changes to rules etc. (These will be printed and distributed to all members well in advance.)

It may seem odd to call this July meeting an AGM rather than an Extraordinary GM, but we cannot allow more than 15 months to elapse between AGMs. From November 2007 to March 2009 would be 17 months; so a July 2008 AGM gets over this problem. If there are any experts among you in charity law and administration, DO make yourselves known. We'd love to hear from you NOW, rather than at the meeting.

This may seem rather a bore to some of you, but we have legal responsibilities here. If we get this right, it will help all future Trustees (committee members). Remember: it could be *You!!!*

Enough. On to happier things.

## Up to full strength

With luck, we should be at something approaching a full house this week. We should make a cracking noise. Cracking as in fab, not as in shattering glass...

As Bruce Forsyth might say,

Kee-ee-ee-eep Singing!