



Registered charity No. 277374

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Now that Workshop is well under way, I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming back 'old' members as well as those of you who are new to Workshop. Many thanks to everyone for their patience with logistics over the first few weeks; I know that there were one or two issues which needed ironing out but Saturday mornings now seem a good deal calmer! We have a membership database of over 300 people and the buzz and energy around is obviously being generated by many, many people! I hope that everyone has settled in to their various classes and are enjoying the tuition and ensembles offered by our tutors. If there are any problems please don't hesitate to mention them to me, either on a Saturday morning or call me on 01480 432956.

EVENTS

Workshop Choir singing with Balsham Singers, Saturday 17 December 2011

In a new departure for Workshop, the choir are going to be joining the Balsham Singers to sing a couple of pieces at their Christmas concert in Balsham Church at 7.30 pm on 17 December. One of these is 'Sleep' by Eric Whitacre, a magical piece which will sound fantastic with the larger choir. We have been practising this (among other things!) for nearly a year and are really looking forward to performing it.

Other items in the programme include Bairstow 'I Sat Down' (with Workshop choir) and the beautiful George Dyson Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis, as well as pieces by William Mathias and lots of carols, some of which will be audience participation. Tickets are £7 (£6 concessions) to include mulled wine and mince pies. Available from Balsham PO or contact Linda Whitebread at lindawestern2001@yahoo.co.uk. Do come along and support us!

Burwell House Weekend for Singers and Folk Fiddlers, 13 - 15 July 2012

Following three previous hugely successful and enjoyable weekends at Burwell House for fiddlers and singers, we are holding another next July. (<http://www.burwellhouse.com>) The idea is that you can play, or sing, or do a little of each. This is also a brilliant opportunity for people who would like to do some singing, or folk fiddle, but can't make the regular Saturday sessions.

You can either stay at Burwell House, or be non-resident (although the informal evening sessions in the bar are not to be missed!) The weekend starts with evening meal on the Friday and finishes after an informal concert at about 4 pm on Sunday. Tutors are mainly people you know and love from Workshop, together with Sue West who is returning as one of the choral conductors, and John Rawles who is coming for the first time to help with the folk fiddles. John enjoys playing Scandinavian and French, as well as British, fiddle music. His main interest is playing music in a style that encourages people to dance - so should be fun! The choral repertoire will be equally varied, in keeping with previous years.

Cost: around £125 for full board and tuition - to be confirmed when we know final numbers. Email Gill Haughan gillhaughan@hotmail.com or Linda Whitebread lindawestern2001@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested. Places can be secured with a £15 deposit made payable to 'Duxford Saturday Workshop' and given to Gill or Linda. We'll have registration forms available early in the New Year. Do come and join us if you can!

WORKSHOP ENTERTAINMENT - 24th March, 2012

Many of you will be familiar with the format of this event, but for new members, it's our major fundraiser of the year and provides an almost unmissable opportunity to see your tutors and fellow workshop members as you've never seen them before! As it is Workshop's 40th anniversary this year, the theme is a review of music, comedy and the arts in general with a specific focus on Workshop events and people over the last 4 decades. Expect chorus numbers, bands, sketches and plenty of audience participation. All this with a licensed bar and an interval repast, who could say no?! Watch out for more news about this event, and please do let me know if you have a burning desire to take part, but would rather not 'tread the boards' - we also need help with choreography, catering, stage management, bar and publicity etc etc.....!

SCHOOL ISSUES

For all members, please be aware that children should be supervised at all times!!! They should not be allowed in classrooms without an adult present. Problems are thankfully rare and we have generally a very good relationship with the school. I'd like to keep it this way! Thank you.

PHOTOCOPIER

We are currently reviewing who should have access to this machine, as it does have a tendency to be somewhat temperamental, (not helped by a slightly damp room and paper which sticks together!) For now, as a general rule of thumb, ADULTS ONLY should operate the photocopier, preferably TUTORS, and if you get to the machine and there is a problem DO NOT TRY TO FIX IT! Please let someone on the front desk know and we'll get it sorted. Rummaging around in the intestines of the photocopier has at times done quite a lot of damage. More of this exciting topic anon....

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

If you are on email, you should be getting fairly regular emails from me, including this newsletter. If you are not, please let me know ASAP as I do like to think that a few trees are saved each time I communicate with the membership! However, if you need to reply, the email address shown below is more reliable as I check this more often....

DOOR REGISTERS:

Please ensure that you are conscientious with regards to initialling against your name each week. I'm afraid that a tick won't do for as well as a fire record the register forms part of the audit trail for Gift Aid. Many thanks to all of you who have completed a Gift Aid form, please see Arwen or Hazel if you have not yet done so **and do let us know if you are no longer paying tax.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Workshop Entertainment	Saturday 24th March 2012	7.30pm
Children's Music Theatre "Treasure Island"	Saturday 30th June 2012	5pm
Instrumental Audit	Saturday 1st September	10am
Registration 2012	Saturday 15th September	10am

Arwen Gilbert (Director)