

**Alvechurch Community Choir
Newsletter 13 February 2018**

We had a lively session at the Social Club last night, with a good turn-out considering several of you are otherwise committed on those days. Before the session we had a committee meeting, notes from which follow below.

Linda left her Kindle there and wonders if anyone from the choir picked it up at the end. It is in a blue flowery case. If anyone has it, please ring Linda on 07792 932347 – remember not to reply to this email.

Mike reminded us about the performance at Rous Lench on 10 March (see last week's newsletter) and Pat Riley offered some tickets to an orchestral Rock event at the Albert Hall on 1 May

Next week we will be at the Swan for our half-term singalong. Please note the end of term one on 26 March is to be switched back to the Crown as they will still be open and are keen to welcome us

The committee meeting covered a lot of ground (as you will know if we kept you waiting!). Among the items were:

- Laurence to prepare and lead at Droitwich on 6 May. Mike to prepare and lead our two songs and other hymns for Sue & Roger's wedding on 19 May. Picnic in park on 27 May to reprise Droitwich songs.
- Mike hopes to set up workshop with Beth for 16 June (fallback date 23 June). This will be a day's singing workshop followed by performance. Beth leads workshops on singing with a Georgian influence, rather like the Spooky Men chorale, which some of us remember fondly from a previous workshop.
- Mike will ask Themba for a workshop date later in year as he is busy with his own singing career currently. For those of you who don't know Themba Mvula, he led us for a time, sometimes with his then wife Laura, and was very good at improving our singing techniques.
- There will be a discussion session for first hour of 16 July, similar to last year's
- The end of year session on 23 July will be at BGCC similar to last year if available
- There is a possible performance at Avoncroft on 25 August will mean a rehearsal on 20 August
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Longer term planning (suggestions from ELS Trustees/ last year's membership discussions) which will be discussed further at the AGM

- A further event with other choirs, possibly an Alvechurch Choirs event to include Cantare, Church choirs, the Schools, in the autumn. Suggestion that it be a Concert for Peace and tie in with the end-of-WW1 commemorations
- We may be invited to perform with Wythall again
- Possibly working with Village Hall over making more of the Christmas switch-on (opening for drinks and singing after Lounge closed), the Pumpkin Festival and any fund-raising activity they may do
- Possible theme evenings when there is no rehearsal pressure (eg foreign language songs) – maybe asking members to volunteer to lead on contributions
- Drawing up a brief contract with an acceptable range of donations for when we work with commercial organisations who profit from our activities (e.g. BG Tea Shop)

Spending suggestions for the coming year (suggestions from ELS Trustees following members' request to use some of our savings) –

- Publicising a bursary/fee waiver for people temporarily or long term unable to pay £4 a week – e.g. carers, unemployed, young people – as part of our inclusive mission
- Paying leaders for sessions where no sub is paid, (performances and pub sessions) a flat fee to cover all direct & indirect expenses
- The events mentioned above

Have a good look at these as they will be part of our activities this year.

I am attaching revised schedules for the periods up to April and August

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