

January 2017 NEWSLETTER



As 2016 takes its final curtain call let's have a quick year in review of some of the highlights – celebrating our fifth birthday in July with that fabulous medley of our five years' work and singing with Blake at the South Holland Centre in June. Then of course there was not one; but two television appearances; Eggheads and the Twelve Days of Christmas Crafting! Packaged with the many smaller performances and the sterling charity work we've been involved in it certainly has been an eventful year and I am looking forward to what opportunities the New Year brings. I would like to thank you all for your encouragement, support, kind words and love of my "little choir" – it is so gratifying to see what we have achieved and how far we have come together. Also a thank-you to the Friends of Committee for their sterling work supporting the choir and providing some great social opportunities – well done and thank you!

Dates

For most groups the Autumn term B sessions ended early in December so we've had quite a break; but we will be starting again next week beginning on 4th January with the Deeping session.

As **2nd January** is a Bank Holiday the session scheduled for Bourne is **cancelled**; therefore the Bourne Spring term A will be five weeks duration and termly membership will be £25.

Show choir begins on 15th January at Northborough Village Hall and there are spaces available for new members who want to join - please email me or have a chat if you are interested. Anyone is welcome to come along for a trial session which costs £5.

This year I am intending to focus the work of show choir to bring it back to the original purpose for which it was created - I have had feedback from some members that it feels like "just another session" so I will be addressing that to raise the energy and numbers – if you're wearing hats on SC days – hold on to 'em ladies!

There is, and always has been, an expectation that show choir members will take part in performances so I really, really hope I see improved levels of sign up for concerts this year without having to send out desperate pleas because numbers are low – to be frank it's a little demeaning and I really don't like doing it. Learning material is available on the website to help you practice the pieces so that we don't spend valuable show choir time repeating work that we have already done.

The full schedules can be accessed from the members' page using the link below:

<http://www.handfulofharmonies.co.uk/members/>

Harmonies Spring Term A Fees

The following options are available:-

Pay As You Go

£20 for four sessions wherever you prefer to attend with no expiration date.

<i>Termly Membership</i>	£30 per term six sessions at any location – this card expires after 6 weeks.
<i>Premier Membership</i>	£40 per term; attend as many sessions as you wish at any location. This card expires after 6 weeks.
Show Choir Membership	£5 per session Pay As You Go or £50 one off payment (saves £10) per year.

Payments can be made by cash or cheque payable to “A Handful of Harmonies” to the bursar at weekly sessions; online in the shop section of the website (small administration cost applies), or BACS to sort code 09-01-28 A/C No 02424607.

Please quote your surname and first three letters of your location as a reference when using BACS e.g. SPA (Spalding) DEE (Deepings) BOU (Bourne).

Performances

Langtoft’s Got Talent 10th Anniversary Show 10th February at 6-30pm

Please keep checking the website for new performance opportunities which are added as they arise; <http://www.handfulofharmonies.co.uk/concerts/>

Dates for your Diary

Christmas CD We are in the process of agreeing a date to record our third CD which will be a selection of Christmas songs – this will probably be towards the end of February with some rehearsal dates beforehand.

Gospel Workshop following the success of last years’ workshop we have booked Gospel Touch Choir for Sunday 21st May 2017 – more information to follow nearer to the time.

Show for Sue II (working title)

We are hoping to put on a show similar to last year to raise money for Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall with a Provisional booking of 16th September – you might wish to note this date; more information to follow.

Friends of A Handful of Harmonies

Please see the “Friends” noticeboards on display at weekly sessions for information about forthcoming events and have a chat to your representative if you want to get involved. Alternatively you can find out more on the “Friends” tab of the website.

So as we look towards 2017 I can only thank you again for your continued support, contribution to sessions, performances, activities and the regular feedback that I receive from many of you. It’s hard to believe that this germ of an idea has developed into a thriving choir powering well into our sixth year.

Andrew xxx

“I still believe music is one of the greatest gifts God gave to men.”

George Michael Singer/songwriter (1963-2016)