

Snowdown Choir News.

These pages contain articles drawn from some of our recent newsletters.

The 75th Anniversary Concert. 13th Nov. 2004.

Unlike the 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations, our 75th involved singers and musicians from the local community. Two concerts were staged at The Aylesham Community Project, one in the afternoon featuring the choir of Aylesham Primary School, together with The Peace Choir and instrumentalists from Der Bruderhof Community in Nonington, and an evening concert featuring our choir and its soloists. The afternoon concert was a real delight and the enthusiasm of the school children and the young people from Der Bruderhof was very infectious. The choice of programme and the quality of performance was excellent and the afternoon finished on a high note with a combined choir of all the youngsters and about twenty of our singers performing a number of pieces under the direction of Paul Rogers and Aileen Dickson. The evening concert, before a large audience, was very well received, with twenty items from the choir and solo spots by Richard Richardson, Geoff. Cornelius and Paul Rogers. The choir's offerings had been carefully chosen by Michael Lewis to reflect the great traditions of male voice singing. After the concert, the choir's new President, Gwyn Prosser, cut the birthday cake before addressing the Choir and its guests. The evening ended very convivially with cake and wine. It's the first time we've staged a concert in The Community Project since its redecoration and a number of choristers and members of the public have passed favourable comment on the ambience of the surroundings and the fact that refreshment facilities were available throughout the day. This venue will almost certainly be used for more of our concerts.

Christmas Issue 2004.

Silver Song Clubs.

The Sidney De Hann Research Centre for Arts & Health, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College has developed music programmes for older people which are especially aimed at people who might be socially isolated.

The aims of the programmes are t-

- Support and maintain physical, mental and social health and well being,
- prevent or delay loss of independence,
- develop and sustain positive relationships.

These programmes will be delivered by forming Silver Song Clubs in different localities and volunteers from a number of Choral Societies are being asked to assist in running these clubs, in return for contributions to choir funds.

The members of our choir are delighted to have been invited to take part in this very worthwhile venture and have already had a training session, prior to helping in a series of meetings of a Silver Song Club in Aylesham, in the New Year.

Christmas Issue 2004.

Summer 2005.



The Silver Song Club at Eastry Court, Aylesham is now well established and twenty five people attended the June meeting. The club now meets regularly, once a month, on a Saturday morning between 11 and 12.30. and all are welcome.



The club facilitators are Paul Rogers and Aileen Dickson at the piano, and their humour and rapport with the people present has added a new dimension to the proceedings. It's been very noticeable in our last two meeting that everybody now sings and participates and it's great to see those present enjoying their singing. The half-time break for tea and biscuits gives everyone an opportunity to socialize and our choir volunteers usually close the proceeding with a song or two from our repertoire. The choir has promised to be involved in this, very rewarding, venture until, at least October 2006, but it would be nice if the club could become a permanent fixture in the life of the village.

Our Fame is Spreading.

It's surprising where you can hear our music being played these days. We've had an e-mail from Teresa, who worked for a while as a children's tutor in a deprived area of Chicago. Some of her children were from Hispanic families, and one family was in her car whilst she was playing our last CD, 'Take Me Home.' They said that they really enjoyed the music, so Teresa got them their own copy. This is now played regularly, in their home, to friends and family.

There's also a lady who drives around Madrid with our music playing. She played our 'Rhythm of Life' cassette so much that she wore it out and had to send for another copy. Fortunately for her, our more recent recordings are on cd and these are more durable.

Spring 2005.