

Songbirds Bulletin - Christmas 2021

Well, **Songbirds**, what a roller-coaster ride the last 20 months have been for everyone, but finally we have broken out of our Zoom solitary confinement and are now, with care, singing together again! Since we restarted live rehearsals in late September our numbers have steadily increased and we have also welcomed new members into the choir over the last few weeks.

Well done to everyone for sticking with it, coping with all the strange and sometimes frightening experiences we have faced (Zoom, for example), and congratulations to us also for making or consolidating our friendships within the choir - since the easing of lockdown groups of us have met up regularly for coffee and a chat and have kept in touch electronically as well. All this has helped us to re-establish our rehearsals successfully and leads the committee to believe that Songbirds should be aiming for a **Summer Concert** in 2022. We are even confident enough to suggest a date for your diary - **June 24th 2022**.

With that June date in mind we propose to restart rehearsals after Christmas on **Thursday January 6th 2022** to give us as many weeks as possible to get ourselves 'performance ready'.

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? *Stick with me and we'll go places!*

Christmas Concert - for us and by us!!

Our last rehearsal before Christmas is on Thursday December 9th and the committee is planning a 'bit of a do' where we can sing some Christmas songs and carols to get us in the mood and raise some funds for ourselves and our current local charity - Spectrum Autism Group, a Market Harborough based support group for parents and carers of children with autism.

This would be an evening for the choir only (hence it's 'for us by us') given that there is still need to employ Covid-19 safety measures at the moment.

There will be quiz sheets for sale on the night £1 each - perfect to keep everyone mentally stimulated over the Christmas period - also ideal to put inside Christmas cards and send to friends so that they can be mentally stimulated too!! Answers will be provided in the post-Christmas Newsletter.

There will also be an opportunity to win a gorgeous home-made Christmas pudding - you will need a supply of pound coins and good, accurate aim to be in with a chance!

We will be drawing the Raffle** at a mid-point in the evening.



Please wear a hat for the event (preferably Christmassy and preferably home-made but not exclusively so... it's entirely up to you.); the more outrageous the better!

Although there will not be food (or at least only the teeniest of nibbles) or drink on offer - you might like to bring a small bottle of something **non-alcoholic** (*sorry those are the regulations of our landlord*) so that we can toast each other on the evening and wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas.

The committee plans to make recordings of one or two songs and take some pictures so that these can be put on the website.

* We need your help please - to create a hamper you would be proud to win! We are looking for anything that will make an exciting hamper raffle prize - chutneys, jams, savoury biscuits, nuts, crisps, sweet biscuits, non-alcoholic drinks, chocolate (basically anything that keeps safely at an ambient temperature and will fit in a hamper). All donations very gratefully received - bring or send them to rehearsals up to December 2nd (if you are not currently attending but would like to contribute just let a committee member know and we will arrange collection).



Artist's impression
Not to scale

* We are raffling off a Christmas Hamper as well as a blanket that Wendy crocheted last year and a seasonal plant - all to raise money for our choir and our charity. Rather than sell raffle tickets in the usual way we are asking for members to take part if they possibly can, and pay for 'tickets' electronically - paying money directly into the Songbirds account. Each raffle 'ticket' will cost £1 and the committee is hoping that members will purchase more than one! Your name will be placed in the hat once for every £1 ticket you purchase. For example if you buy £5 worth of tickets your name will be entered 5 times, if you buy £10 of tickets your name will be entered 10 times etc. Three winners will be picked out from a hat on the evening of December 9th).

What do you call a scary looking reindeer? A cari-BOO!

We hope as many of you as possible will take part in the raffle as we have had no opportunity for quite some time to raise any funds for our charity or towards our own overheads. It's been a tough time for many groups and charities as they have been unable to raise money in so many of the usual ways.



You can purchase 'tickets' by paying the money into our account and the treasurer will then ensure your name(s) go(es) into the hat.

Account details are: **Songbirds Ladies Choir, Sort Code 30-95-47, Account Number 15686668**. Make sure you include your name in the reference so that we know who you are.

Tickets are available now and can be bought up until Thursday December 9th. Please be as generous as you can for Spectrum and Songbirds.

What happened to the elf who stole a calendar? He got 12 months!

Outline Programme for December 9th

- 7.15 Arrivals and maybe spend some money!!! (Quiz sheets; win a Christmas pudding; admire the Raffle prizes)
- 7.30 Songs and Carols
- 8.00 More opportunity to maybe spend some money
Drawing of the Raffle
- 8.15 Songs and Carols
- 8.45 A toast to Songbirds, Christmas and Next Year!

Merry Christmas Everyone

PS - Bunting - If there is still any bunting out there please could you let us have it as soon as possible?