

Songbirds Newsletter - January 2022

Well, we have finally arrived at a new year and hopefully a step closer to normality (if anyone can remember that!). At its January meeting, Songbirds Committee spent some time reviewing what we, as a choir, had managed to achieve since returning to live rehearsals in mid-September. It was noted that attendance had grown over the months from the teens to the twenties and that we had been joined by quite a few new members - this in spite of keeping windows open whatever the weather and shortening our rehearsal time. We performed a 'concert' at our last meeting in December and although there were undoubted challenges, we really did produce some lovely harmonies. So, during these unusual times Songbirds has, as always, risen to the occasion.

Christmas 2021

As well as the musical performance, a big thank you is due to all Songbirds members for their contributions to, and support of, our Christmas event which raised £334. The raffle prizes were splendid thanks to the donations made by everyone, and the sounds of laughter coming from the 'throw a coin at the Christmas pudding' area were testament to the fun everyone had while raising money for Songbirds and Spectrum. The whole evening was delightful and there are some pictures now on the website to remind you of it. The answers to the rhyming words quiz will be at the end of this update. Some of those quiz clues were really challenging and copies of the quiz sheet must have circulated around most of Harborough District as I'm sure you could hear the 'whirring and fizzing' of the grey cells at times over Christmas!

Spectrum received its share of your fundraising work (£167) before Christmas and they sent us a very nice 'thank you' letter that also outlined how the money we provided would be used - see below:

Hi Liz

It was lovely chatting with you before Christmas and what a lovely surprise to hear from you about the funds you've raised for us, it was received safely in our bank account.

We really do appreciate it, as a small charitable organisation every penny counts and makes such a difference to what services we can offer to local autistic families.

We will put part of the money raised towards our lending library, where we buy books for parents and their children on an array of topics, but they are all autism focussed and quite often educational or helping them to learn how to explain an autism diagnosis to their child.

The rest of the money will go towards funding a family swim session this week which we are holding at the Leisure Centre for our families, which will be subsidised by Spectrum. This is really important for our families to get out and socialise as we unfortunately like most in the last nearly 2 years have become more isolated so social opportunities are really important.

So a big thank you from us all for raising these funds.

Best wishes

From Joy, Emma, and the Spectrum Team

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local swimming pool.
I gave him a glass of water.

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely restricted our opportunities to raise funds for Spectrum and Songbirds committee would like to suggest that Spectrum remains our chosen charity for the rest of 2022. This way we hope to be able to raise money through a social event at Easter, through our summer concert (see below) and our winter concert too.

Dates and Plans.....

Songbirds Committee met on January 11th to think about the year ahead and what plans it might be possible to put in place for 2022.

I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke!

We are all learning to live with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and to recognise that plans frequently have to be adapted or cancelled, but it's still important to have some plans in mind so... here goes:

After more than a two year gap we are daring to date a **Summer Concert for Thursday June 30th 2022** (our last concert was December 2019) and we very much hope it will include an audience!!

We will continue to work on the songs we already have in our folders as well as beginning to learn some newer ones over the next few weeks. Together these will form the programme for that summer concert.

Our rehearsal dates up to the Easter break will run from **Thursday January 13th** up to, and including, **Thursday April 7th**, with no break for half-term.

While Covid-19 numbers remain high, the plan is to continue to keep rehearsals to an hour but the committee is keeping a close eye on things and, as time progresses and (fingers crossed) numbers of Covid-19 cases reduce, we hope to return to the 7.30-9.00pm rehearsal schedule which will allow us valuable extra time to prepare for our concert.

Social Events / Fundraising.....

Easter event

After the success of our Christmas 'do' the committee would like to propose something similar with an Easter theme. So far we are hoping to have a raffle similar to the beautiful Christmas hampers but with a chocolate and Easter theme and perhaps the knitters out there might consider getting the needles warmed up to create some egg cosies or other Spring-time knits?! Perhaps an Easter-themed quiz and, if the Covid-19 situation permits, some nibbles. More detail to follow.

When the cannibal showed up late to the buffet, they gave him the cold shoulder.

Car Treasure Hunt

No specific date has been identified yet but the committee has commissioned Alison Roberts, when the lighter nights reach us and the weather becomes gentler, to organise another car treasure hunt. Everyone who took part in last year's event had a really good time and thoroughly recommends members to get involved this time around. It certainly makes you look at your surroundings in a different way (it also draws some quizzical looks from innocent pedestrians wondering why you have driven past them so many times!!).

Are people born with photographic memories, or does it take time to develop?

A Couple of Future Event Ideas to think about....

Before the onset of the pandemic, committee members had been discussing a range of social activities to place before members for their views and, at our first meeting in 2022 we revisited this idea and now would like to share two of the suggestions we came up with. Both would need planning well in advance and so commitment from members would be necessary in order for them to go forward.

A summer visit to Kilworth Theatre (with picnic) - This year's musicals are 'Carousel' and 'Half a Sixpence' and we may already be too late to make a block booking but if members are interested it can be explored and, if we are too late for 2022 there's always next year, if Covid-19 has taught us anything it is that plans have to be flexible!

A Christmas day out - to a stately home (Chatsworth for example) beautifully decorated for the season, atmospheric lighting in the gardens and lots of opportunities for festive food and drink throughout the day. This would be a coach trip and therefore the opportunity to bring a friend or family member with you.

You may have suggestions for other trips or events so please let us know. In the meantime, if you are interested in either of the ideas above please let a committee member know as soon as you can (particularly the summer outing) and, if there is enough interest we will gather further information - dates, costings, etc.

Rhyme Time Answers

1	A man servant in charge of a holiday home	CHALET VALET
2	Risk a walk in the countryside	RAMBLE GAMBLE
3	A quicker arriving sailing ship	SOONER SCHOONER
4	Bright pink hosiery	SHOCKING STOCKING
5	A cycling Scandinavian	BIKING VIKING
6	A less intelligent man of the cloth	THICKER VICAR
7	Water fowl from a home county	BUCKS DUCKS
8	A sweet-smelling tramp	FRAGRANT VAGRANT
9	Evil clergyman	SINISTER MINISTER
10	Superior correspondence	BETTER LETTER
11	Just a little orb	SMALL BALL
12	Final resting place for the professor	BOFFIN COFFIN
13	An invisible fowl	PHANTOM BANTAM
14	Floppy crustacean	DRAB CRAB
15	Enjoyable exercise	LIMP SHRIMP
16	A complacent insect	SMUG BUG
17	Malodorous footwear	SMELLY WELLY
18	Cask of liquid for a mythical animal	DRAGON FLAGON
19	Broader arachnid	WIDER SPIDER
20	Pinocchio told lies	NOSE GROWS
21	Just a small scare	SLIGHT FRIGHT
22	A more candid HSBC employee	FRANKER BANKER
23	Inebriated traveller	TIPSY GYPSY
24	A Dutch pimple	FLEMISH BLEMISH
25	A thinner classical dancer	LEANER BALLERINA
26	Any old two seater bicycle	RANDOM TANDEM
27	Swallow a soggy mass	GULP PULP
28	A damper monk's home	MOISTER CLOISTER
29	Persuade someone to play a trick	COAX HOAX
30	The biggest window	MAIN PANE
31	Sunday underwear	BEST VEST
32	Large toupee	BIG WIG
33	Evil duo	GRUESOME TWOSOME
34	A groovy watering hole	COOL POOL
35	Fed-up nobleman	BORED LORD
36	Strange facial feature	WEIRD BEARD
37	Not a big fishing vessel	SMALLER TRAWLER
38	Hirsute pixie	HAIRY FAIRY
39	Solid cooking fat	HARD LARD
40	Idle flower	LAZY DAISY
41	A tranquil agriculture site	CALM FARM
42	Dreary shellfish	DRAB CRAB
43	Distant twinkler	FAR STAR
44	Timid little breath	SHY SIGH
45	Lengthier eel	LONGER CONGER
46	Untamed youngster	WILD CHILD (or UNCOOUTH YOUTH)
47	Royal bird of prey	REGAL EAGLE
48	Tidy thoroughfare	NEAT STREET
49	Uncomplicated nun's attire	SIMPLE WIMPLE
50	Derisory cups and saucers	MOCKERY CROCKERY

51	What you get from the best grapes	FINE WINE
52	Chubby fish	FAT SPRAT
53	Drawn-out ballad	LONG SONG
54	Unusual item of furniture	RARE CHAIR
55	Flora-generated energy	FLOWER POWER
56	A snake cleaner	VIPER WIPER
57	Ancient treasure	OLD GOLD
58	An escaped gander	LOOSE GOOSE
59	Molten rock from Indonesia	JAVA LAVA
60	Badly behaved German car	ROWDY AUDI
61	Be welcomed by a spectre	GHOST HOST
62	Pretty little woodwind	CUTE FLUTE
63	Cook a reptile	BAKE SNAKE
64	Soggy vagabond	DAMP TRAMP
65	A cowardly chap	YELLOW FELLOW
66	Look in a mirror	SEE ME
67	Intoxicated American mammal	DRUNK SKUNK
68	Library thief	BOOK CROOK
69	Arid insect	DRY FLY
70	Misplace the brandy	LOSE BOOZE
71	A dismal 24 hours	GREY DAY
72	Hilarious currency	FUNNY MONEY
73	Not contrary, just frightening	SCARY MARY
74	From dusk til dawn on a plane	NIGHT FLIGHT
75	A tap on the head?	BRAIN DRAIN
76	Do this and turn around	HOKEY COKEY
77	An unbeliever's place of treatment	CYNIC CLINIC
78	The loft stays put	STATIC ATTIC
79	Recreation ground at night	DARK PARK
80	Wealthy spell-caster	RICH WITCH
81	Amazing quartet	AWESOME FOURSOME
82	Odd ale	QUEER BEER
83	Police bike in the 1970's	COPPER CHOPPER
84	Not a true sausage	PHONEY BALONI
85	Ding dong bell, pussy's in the well	SOGGY MOGGY
86	Less dirty big cat	CLEANER HYENA
87	Monstrous educator	CREATURE TEACHER
88	Out of bounds	NO GO (or BANNED LAND)
89	Senseless posterior	NUMB BUM
90	Item of footwear from Graceland	BLUE SHOE
91	Insect costing nothing	FREE BEE
92	Introverted 007	SHY SPY
93	Gleeful bloke	HAPPY CHAPPY
94	Wooden appendage	PEG LEG
95	Less expensive tumbling greenery	CHEAPER CREEPER
96	Magic spell to get you going	MOTION POTION
97	Eat a load of bananas	MUNCH BUNCH
98	Daft goat	SILLY BILLY
99	Less decorated footwear	PLAINER TRAINER
100	A cruise	SHIP TRIP