

# Songbirds Newsletter - June 2021

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Hello everyone,

Welcome to the June edition of the Newsletter - most of which is about dates over the summer - so here they are (followed by some details).

Opportunities to Sing:

- Thursday June 24th - Final zoom session before the summer break.
- Thursday August 5th - Let's Sing! Singing together out of doors.
- Thursday August 12th - Hopefully a live rehearsal or, if that is not possible, there's always zoom!

Other Important Dates:

- Sunday August 8th - Car Treasure Hunt.
- Thursday July 15th - AGM to be held on zoom.

## The Details

### **Final zoom before summer - Thursday June 24th**

Thursday June 24th will be our final zoom session before the break. Instead of going into sectional rehearsals, since this is our last zoom for a while (if not for ever?!), we will stay as one group and use the time to sing through all of the songs which we have been focussing on since Easter. These same songs are the ones we will then have the opportunity to sing in harmony when we get together out of doors in August.

To refresh our memories, here is the full list:

1. Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
2. Here Comes the Sun
3. Carole King Selection
4. The Colours of My Life
5. Sound of Music / Popular
6. Mary Poppins
7. Lean On Me
8. Another Op'nin' Another Show

*What - it's almost the end of our summer term???!  
Yes indeed - it just seems to have 'zoomed' past doesn't it?*

### **Songbirds Outdoors - Let's Sing! Thursday August 5th in Charlotta's garden.**

This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together and sing with each other live for the first time in more than a year. Faye and Jane will be there to conduct and accompany you and we hope to run through all those songs we have been rehearsing on zoom over the past months.

At the time of writing we have just heard that the proposed changes to lockdown regulations planned for June 21st are to be delayed until at least July 19th. Given the uncertainty and the ever changing landscape, this outdoor singing event is being organised on the basis that Step 4 (an end to social distancing) may not have happened. If the situation changes we will review the arrangements accordingly.

If you are coming to the, '**Let's Sing!**' event:

- Charlotta's address is: 26, Swingbridge Street, Foxton LE16 7RH
- Arrive for 6.30pm (we aim to finish by 8.00pm).
- Don't forget your music!
- If you want to sit down, bring your own camping, or other chair.

- We need to remain at least a metre apart from each other but can also wear a mask if this increases confidence.
- Bring your own drink of water - or any other drink!! However, a toilet will not be easily available!
- We can be sociable of course but maybe not too sociable - sorry, no hugs.

Sorry if it sounds as though we are trying to squeeze every last drop of fun out of the event but until the government updates its requirements for community choirs this seems to be our only viable and safe way forward - we hope to hear of changes to these restrictions in the near future.

*I keep sneezing and singing 'My Way' by Sinatra - I think I may have crooner virus!*

### **Sunday August 8th - Car Rally**

One social event we have been able to put a date to, is a car rally / treasure hunt on Sunday August 8th. This is an event for up to 12 cars at £5 per car regardless of numbers in the car - so you can invite family members and friends along to help.

Alison Roberts and her husband have devised a number of clues which competitors have to solve and then photograph on a mobile phone. It is NOT a race as cars will be set off at intervals so that they arrive at different points along the route at different times. Alison and her husband will meet us at a pre-arranged end point (could just be a local public house!) to collect our evidence and declare winners.

It sounds like a fun way to spend a few hours on a Sunday afternoon, so do register your interest with Kay as soon as possible - email [mKay1202@gmail.com](mailto:mKay1202@gmail.com)

More details will be available nearer the time.

*Racecar backwards is just racecar, but racecar sideways is very dangerous!!*

### **Judith's Open House Invitation**

At our May zoom meeting Judith very kindly offered her garden for the kind of get-together we have enjoyed there, summer upon summer (until Covid-19 came along). This has always been one of the highlights of our social calendar and, as soon as we are able, we hope to take Judith up on that wonderful offer - it would be lovely to do this in late summer or early autumn if the lockdown restrictions are lifted in time to allow us, before the weather turns cool and the nights begin to draw in. We hope to be able to choose a date, with Judith, as soon as it becomes possible.

Watch this space.....

### **Annual General Meeting - 7pm Thursday July 15th on zoom.**

The Committee is proposing that the AGM is held on Thursday July 15th at 7pm. The AGM was deferred in 2020 because of the lockdown we were experiencing but, since lockdown circumstances have not changed significantly over the last 12 months and since many of us have become quite proficient in the use of zoom, it was felt right to hold the AGM now and embed a new committee in plenty of time for the start (fingers tightly crossed) of live rehearsals.

Four committee members are standing down this time, which potentially leaves four spaces to fill so please think hard about whether you might be able to stand as a committee member and support the choir that is so important to us all.

The constitution currently requires us to have a committee of between 8 and 10 members but, having discussed this at length, current committee members believe that this number could be reduced if non-committee members were prepared to offer occasional support in the running of the choir. For example - selling tickets, organising refreshments, liaison with our chosen charity, organising social events - each of these could all be taken on by a willing choir member (or more than one of course) who would not have to sit on the committee.

If this idea appeals to choir members then a proposal to make a change to the Constitution will be prepared for the AGM which will allow the number of committee members required to be reduced - perhaps to a minimum

number of 4 or 5. There is probably no need to decide on a maximum number. On the other hand, if there are four choir members who are interested in serving on the committee alongside the four who are 'standing' for re-election, no constitutional change would be necessary.

Please give this some consideration and share your thoughts with your sectional representative by the **end of June**. Please give an indication of whether you would be prepared to serve as a committee member or equally, let your section rep. know if you do not wish to belong to the committee but would take on occasional responsibilities at the request of a committee member.

Sectional Representatives -

Soprano 1	Mandy	email <a href="mailto:mandystott@aol.com">mandystott@aol.com</a>
Soprano 2	Martine	email <a href="mailto:martine1960@gmail.com">martine1960@gmail.com</a>
Alto	Charlotta	email <a href="mailto:charlotta.hickie@hotmail.com">charlotta.hickie@hotmail.com</a>

If you are interested in being part of the committee it is useful for you to know that our plan, currently, is to keep most of our committee meetings on zoom (even after we resume live rehearsals). Zoom meetings, we have found, are more focussed - and therefore shorter - and do not require anyone to have to travel to a meeting. Zoom has streamlined our meetings.

Do talk to your sectional representative or any other committee member to get a sense of what is involved in being a committee member.

Below is a list of roles and responsibilities which the committee covers, some of these are shared across more than one committee member and some are one person's sole responsibility. Committee members all work cooperatively and supportively together - just like the choir!

- Chair (or shared role of chair)
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The above 3 roles / responsibilities are the absolute minimum requirement for a committee to function.

- Membership
- Admin. / Reception
- Website / Publicity
- Music - Organising, Distributing, Ordering, Liaison

The above 4 responsibilities are substantial and ongoing; these would probably be taken on by a committee member - perhaps with the support of a non-committee member.

- Charity Liaison
- Social Events
- Church Liaison
- Health and Safety
- Sectional Leads
- Concert Organisation

These final six are 'as and when' responsibilities which, it is felt, can reasonably be taken on by non-committee members who haven't the time, or simply don't choose, to be part of a committee. The current committee believes that, if there are insufficient nominees to the new committee at the AGM then the positive way forward (as described above) would be to reduce the size of the committee but share out roles and responsibilities more widely across choir members.

Please do give some thought to all of this - it is about trying to find the best way of keeping our choir singing, performing, fundraising and, above all, enjoying the whole experience but it is nevertheless, essential that our choir has a Songbirds Committee in order to continue to function within its constitution.

Can I also ask that you do your very best to join the zoom AGM - the Constitution states that we need 11 members in attendance to be quorate. Could you let your representative or a committee member know if you can attend so that a zoom link can be forwarded to you?

Summary of actions for AGM - **by the end of June:**

1. Give feedback to your representative or a committee member - **would you stand as a committee member?**
2. Give feedback to your representative or a committee member - **could you offer your time and skills to assist with occasional tasks without being a member of the committee?**
3. Let your representative or a committee member know that you will **attend the AGM.**

Secretary: *"Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb..."*

Treasurer: *"Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb..."*

Chair: *"And that concludes the AGM of the Allotment Owners' Association!"*