

Newsletter

03 December 2016

Just a few notes and reminders as we hurtle towards the festive season and our **Christmas concert on 15th December 2016 at Shaw House.**



Focus on: Christmas carols

Christmas carols evolved from pagan rituals associated with Winter Solstice.

The word 'carol' is used to describe a dance or song of praise and joy - sadly the dancing seems to have been abandoned! Carols were sung throughout all seasons - not just at Christmas.

Despite varying popularity over the years, the custom of singing carols at Christmas has endured. This is, in part, due to early Christians adopting the practice as they did other pagan traditions.

Not all carols are religious, some just use the Christmas theme to retell folklore.

It is hard to identify **the oldest carol** as the format has evolved over the centuries. A Roman Bishop reputedly asked for 'The Angels Hymn' to be sung in Rome in 129 and Francis of Assisi is credited with developing the tradition of Christmas songs in Italy, France, and Germany during the 1200s.

A Shropshire chaplain named John Awdlay listed 25 'caroles of Cristemas' in 1426.

Oliver Cromwell put a damper on Christmas celebrations and carol singing when he came to power in 1647 although carols were still sung in secret. The Victorians are credited with the resurgence in carol singing in the UK.

Early Latin versions of carols that we still sing today were first printed in 1582. These include old favourites such as 'Good King Wenceslas' and 'Good Christian Men, Rejoice'.

Want to know more?

See [The History of Christmas Carols](#) and [Wikipedia](#).

Christmas Concert: 15th December 2016

Rehearsal on 8th December will be at 7.30pm at Shaw House

Pre-concert rehearsal: from 6pm on 15th.

First concert (public): Doors open 6.30pm, performance at 7pm - tickets available from Shaw House (Tel: 01635 279279)

Second concert (family & friends): 8.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies served from 8pm.

Dress code: Black with red/green accessories.

Order of songs in programme:

- Gaudete
- Myn Liking
- O Holy Night
- Rejoice and Be Merry
- The Colours of Christmas
- Joy to the World
- Thirty Second Fa La La
- Winter Wonderland

The audience will be invited to join us to sing a few well-known favourites such as Silent Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem and O Come, All Ye Faithfull.

Dates for your diary

Spring term **5 January – 6 April 2017**

Half term – **16 February 2017**

Wishing you very happy Christmas and look forward to more singing in the new year