

Newsletter

Issue 16: October 2020



Autumn update

The clocks have gone back, the leaves are falling ... and the weather keeps changing! But we have some good news ...

Term dates

We're back on Zoom from 8.15pm on **Thursday 5 November to 10 December** (slightly later time).

Face-to-face rehearsals

After a successful trial F2F session last week, we are pleased to offer small group rehearsals – operating under carefully managed safety protocols.

The hall has a high ceiling and good ventilation, so we are confident that the risks are minimal. Numbers are limited to 20 and the committee will organise a rota and let people know which night(s) they can attend.

However, you need to make your own decision about whether you feel comfortable attending rehearsals in person. To help you decide, our safety measures and the way the sessions will be run are:

- Sessions will start at 7.15 and finish at 8.00pm
- Please do not arrive before 7.10pm so that we can limit the contact choir members have prior to the rehearsal
- When you arrive at the hall, please wear face coverings and queue up outside the hall, ensuring that you are standing 2m apart from the person in front of you
- We will put all the chairs out in the hall prior to your arrival spaced out at 2m intervals
- We will sanitise all chairs prior to your arrival
- We will allow one person into the hall at a time, taking the temperature of each person in turn
- After your temperature check, please sanitise your hands using the hand sanitiser provided
- Then find a seat in your section, starting from the back if possible
- Once seated, please keep your face covering on until we start to sing. Then please use a face shield instead of the face covering whilst singing
- At the end of the rehearsal, please put your face covering back on and stay seated
- We will ask the front row to leave the hall first, then the 2nd row etc until everyone has left the hall (with only be 20 people this won't take long)

- We will sanitise the chairs and put them back on their trollies
- Ann will not be asking us to sing loudly during rehearsals!

The slightly later time for Zoom sessions at 8.15 will allow Ann and Christine to get home in time!

Please let us know if you'd like to come along so that we can manage demand and ensure that everyone who wants to rehearse in person can have the opportunity to do so. Email:

threeriverscommunitychoir@gmail.com

What you can look forward to this term

With gorgeous music, specially recorded backing tracks, opportunities to contribute to recordings (for those that want to), our online sessions are a welcome chance to get together and sing. This last half-term we very much enjoyed singing:

- **Shenandoah** – an old favourite
- **There's a River Flowing in My Heart** - a beautiful four-part piece
- **Vivaldi Gloria** – another old favourite – lively and fun
- **Sweet Afton** - a traditional Scottish folk song

Over the next few weeks there will be some Winter/Christmas music to keep the spirits up. **Amid the Falling Snow** is certainly on the list along with **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**. We'll record one of the Christmas pieces so good news for anyone who wants to be involved in contributing to this.

Festive fun: Ann is hoping that those who would like to record will also be up for taking fun Christmas photos to go in the video. A good opportunity to get out your Christmas jumper, dust off those antlers and forage for mistletoe?

We will also have a **guest or two** dropping in to say hello and do some **singing with us!**

Subscriptions

Subscription fees for those attending sessions will be **£18** for the next 6 week term. Payment can be made by BACS online or by posting:

Paying online

Account: **62367080**

Sort code: **60-15-07**

Paying by post

 Please send your cheque to:

The Treasurer
Three Rivers Community Choir
Collaroy Cottage
Collaroy Road
Cold Ash
Thatcham
RG18 9PG

Join us on Zoom

Do join us for the weekly Zoom sessions if you can – it really is lovely to see familiar faces. If you would like help to get into the sessions or find out more, please let us know and we will find you a **Zoom buddy**.

Membership survey

Thank you to all who completed the survey. We had 53 responses and lots of useful information to help us plan ahead.

There were some lovely appreciative comments too, particularly in acknowledgement of the efforts that Ann, Christine and others have made to keep the choir going.

Here are some of the things you said ...

"I enjoyed seeing members and singing again."

"Felt connected to choir, fun and easy to join from home."

"Good to see **Apollo5** members from time-to-time - this was a treat!"

"It was lovely to be able to continue singing together and make contact with the outside world!"

"Great opportunity to record a song in parts with video accompaniment, almost as good as a concert!"

"Ann's leadership has been amazing and really put a smile on my face each time!"

"Liked the chance to revisit our old song repertoire and learning it this new way has helped bring them alive again."

"I just want to thank the entire team who made it possible for us to meet virtually. It made such a difference to my life during lockdown."

Do join us for either in person or on Zoom – we look forward to seeing you