



MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear choir member,

I'm really sorry that in all the circumstances this probably isn't going to be an "uplifting" Newsletter, but it is important that you're aware of the decisions that the LWFC Committee took at its meeting on Monday evening.

You'll have seen from the message that Shirley Lynch has sent, that we've had to cancel all the rehearsals organised for this term, and the planned concert. We discussed other options such as online group singing, but in truth it wasn't considered feasible. However, if there are groups who can come up with a cunning plan(!), we will of course let you know.

We are very aware of how much our members will miss not only the music, but also the social aspect of our rehearsals, and what we did agree, was that should the current situation change and restrictions be lifted, we would do everything possible to put something together in maybe late June or early July, but at the moment it's obviously very much a "waiting game"

If we're not able to meet earlier, our autumn term rehearsals are planned to start on **Monday 7th September**. We haven't had an opportunity to discuss the full repertoire with Jeff yet, but Dawn has been able to extend the hire of the "Opera Choruses", so those could perhaps form the first half of the concert in December, and be followed by some seasonal pieces. Given the popularity of "Jerusalem" on Saturday, I'm guessing that it would probably be very popular to include some more audience participation. Whatever happens, we'll be sure to have a jolly good sing!!! I'm sure that if at all possible we'd also be arranging our annual Christmas Dinner.

We're aware that some of you have already gone into voluntary or forced self-isolation, and we want you to know we're thinking of you all, and that we will be of whatever help we can over the coming weeks. Thankfully all the Committee members aren't in the Over-70 category, and they have offered support to anyone who needs it, for any reason. Karen has very kindly offered to be the first port of call, and her mobile number



The best advice that is being given at the moment is that we should get out into the fresh air whenever possible. Spring is just around the corner, and getting out of the house is so beneficial. I'm sure that as long as we "keep our distance" it'll be fine to arrange to meet a friend, or friends, for a walk. We probably won't be able to go to a pub or café, but a picnic sounds like an exciting prospect! It would be really good if people shared their ideas, which can be sent to me at sclaridge31@gmail.com.



Similarly, I would be able to provide contact details, but that would depend on the person(s) agreeing that I release the information.

Also, you may have seen the announcement that for the foreseeable future, the National Trust are opening all their grounds, free of charge.

THE TOUR

I'm really sorry to say that regulations being what they are, we won't have a final decision on the feasibility or financial aspect of our tour until 10 days before the due departure date, i.e. 18th May. The Tour Committee has done absolutely all it can in its dealings with the tour company, but of course everyone who has travel plans is in the same boat (no pun intended!), and it's too difficult to second-guess what will be happening in a couple of months, and in particular what the UK Government's direction will be. Rest assured that we will give you all the information as soon as we get it.

If we aren't able to go to Ypres as planned, we will do everything we can to arrange something for next year. We're very aware of how important our social events are in terms of forging friendships, as well as the company they provide.

As a final note, please do everything that you possibly can to keep well, and the Committee members join me in saying that we all look forward to seeing each other again as soon as possible.

Sandra

PS – a very pretty small square cushion in duck-egg blue and cream check was left at the concert. Would anyone like to claim ownership thereof?