



Whitley Women Community Choir

Director of Music: Gilly Love MBE

We meet in **St Andrew's Church**,
Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton, NE25 8LU

Wednesday 7:00 – 9:00pm
and Thursday 10:30a.m - 12:30p.m

Contact us: email: whitleywomen@googlemail.com

Website: www.whitleywomenchoir.org.uk

Phone number: 07542 524345

A fee of £60.00 is payable in advance at the start of each term
- by cash or cheque.

Please make cheques payable to "Whitley Women"

New Members If you are joining after the start of term fees are pro rata for the weeks remaining.

We do not meet during school holidays

Welcome to Whitley Women

This community choir for women's voices began in January 2009 and currently has over 120 members. We strive for equality and consensus. Whether you have sung on the stage at the Albert Hall or just in the bath, this is the right group for you. As a community choir we hope to make everyone feel welcome. We meet in venues that are accessible and the Support Group tries to ensure that everyone feels valued as a member.

We hope to leave sessions exhilarated – and feeling “better” than we did when we arrived. We hope to feel a sense of achievement – no matter how small – and a real will to improve and extend our vocal talents for ourselves and also for the group as a whole.

Since the choir started – it has continued to grow. We have moved to larger venues and now hold three meetings each week to accommodate the number of women wanting to sing.

There is a support group of volunteers which aims to ensure that the choir runs as smoothly as possible. We are a non-profit making organisation. All subscriptions are used for the general running of the choir, subsidising small groups / workshops / performance materials / residential weekends etc. Despite regular increasing overheads we strive to keep fees as low as possible.

The repertoire and rehearsal programme is the same for all sessions and the groups come together to rehearse for performances. Choir members sign up to attend a specific session but, once you are a member, you can vary this if necessary.

There are also opportunities for anyone wishing to sing in smaller groups or to work on slightly more challenging material or signed song. There are different workshops throughout the year as well as periodic residential events.

The choir has a number of qualified first aiders. If you have a qualification – please let us know. If you would like to be a first aider for choir, we can arrange to send you on a first response course.

In the event that a rehearsal is cancelled we will endeavour to contact members ahead of their arrival at the venue. Due to the large number of choir members messages will be sent to you by text to your mobile phone, as a message on the on the choir mobile phone and website. Please ensure we always have your up to date contact information.

If you do not have a mobile phone it is your responsibility to nominate another choir member to inform you of any changes

Choir fees, currently £60, are payable at the start of every term. Anyone joining, and wishing to see if the choir is for them, can pay £5 at the start of their first session. If returning, they need to settle the balance at the next choir session. Enrolment forms are available on the register table

Risk Awareness, Safeguarding and Data Protection

The choir operates within the framework of a risk management policy which considers the safety of choir members in the practice premises and also external venues that we visit always endeavouring to take the necessary steps to keep us all safe when we meet.

We also have a safeguarding policy. Our designated Safeguarding Officer within choir is Gilly.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are the directive that governs how we handle and store information about you. We will collect only that required to operate the choir and this is held on a database. We have one volunteer who maintains this for us. This enables us to access information about you for communication and emergency situations. We also take photographs of the choir at events, some of which will appear on the choir website or be used in promotional material. If for any reason you would prefer not to be included in these photographs, please have a chat with one of the co-ordinators or Gilly.

How the Choir works

Our website (address above) is very active and is a place where you can check out the latest information on events, plans and see lots of choir photographs.

For performances we wear black / dark coloured bottoms and a plain blue top with sleeves in a shade of blue of your choice (not patterned). At Christmas we wear plain red tops

A blue practice folder to keep your music in order and a pencil are given free of charge to each new member. Black performance folders can be purchased for £3.00 at choir sessions.

Rehearsal room temperature can be variable. Wear layers for comfort and bring a bottle of water. We are aiming to become a plastic free choir, so please consider using a reusable water bottle.

We aim to support local charities and fundraise through a weekly raffle and by profits made from performances and fundraising events throughout the year.