



# Whitley Women Community Choir

Director of Music: Gilly Love MBE

We meet in St Andrews Church, Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton,  
NE25 8LU

**Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30**

**Thursday 10.30 – 12.30**

**Contact us:**

Email: [whitleywomen@googlemail.com](mailto:whitleywomen@googlemail.com)

Website: [www.whitleywomenchoir.org.uk](http://www.whitleywomenchoir.org.uk)

Mobile: 07542 524345

Fees of £50.00 are 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.

*If cost is a barrier to you joining or continuing with choir, or you have a query about fees please speak in confidence to one of the co-ordinators or Gilly.*

We do not meet during school holidays

# Welcome to Whitley Women

## About Us

This community choir for women's voices began in January 2009 and currently has over 160 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 two meetings each week to accommodate the number of women wanting to sing.

## How the Choir Works

There is a support group of volunteers who aim 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 both Wednesday and Thursday 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 are welcome to attend either, or both, sessions in the week.

There are also opportunities for anyone wishing to sing in smaller groups or to work at 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 at each session. If you have a qualification 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 rare event that a rehearsal is cancelled we will contact those members living over 10 miles away. Due to the large number of choir members we are unable to contact everyone individually. In adverse weather messages will be left on the choir mobile and website.

## 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 premises and external venues that we visit aiming to take necessary steps to keep us all safe when we meet.

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

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are the directive that governs how we handle and store information about you. We will collect only what is 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 We Work as a Choir**

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 have a short break during the session; you may like to bring a hot drink.

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

## **Other Bits ...**

We have a community allotment based at Seaton Delaval Hall. This is managed by a small team of choir members. All choir members are welcome to come along and help care for the plot giving as much or little time that you can spare, and of course enjoy the fresh produce. So, you can not only feel good after singing, but eat healthily and get exercise too!