



Whitley Women Community Choir

Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30

Thursday 10.30 – 12.30

**St Andrews United Reformed Church
Eastfield Avenue Monkseaton NE258LU**

Director of Music: **Gilly Love** MBE

Members contact: **Meg** on **07542 524 345**

Email: **whitleywomen@googlemail.com**

Website: **www.whitleywomenchoir.org.uk**

Welcome to Whitley Women

This community choir for women's voices began in January 2009 and currently has over 160 members. We are a predominately acappella choir and sing in three or four part harmony - although some of our repertoire is accompanied. We are non-auditioned and songs are taught over a period of weeks by our musical director.

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, to feel a sense of achievement – no matter how small – with a 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.

The repertoire is the same for both Wednesday & Thursday sessions and the groups come together to rehearse for performances. Choir members usually opt 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 . We hold several workshops throughout the year and have hosted residential weekends and organised opportunities to sing abroad .

We have a regular newsletter - "Whitley Whitterings", with details of all choir activities; dates, times, costs etc. We also have a very active website where details are kept current.

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

A practice folder to keep your music in order and a pencil are given free of charge to each new member. Performance folders can be purchased at rehearsals.

Rehearsal room temperature is out of our control. Wear layers for comfort and bring a bottle of water. Please avoid wearing strong perfume as this can affect the breathing and singing of others. We have a short break and some people bring a hot drink in the wintertime.

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.

We have an amazing community allotment based at Seaton Delaval Hall. This is managed by a small dedicated team of choir members. They are hoping to encourage more Whitley Women to join them in the coming year.... so you can not only feel good after singing, but eat healthily and get exercise too!

The support of a small number of dedicated volunteers ensures 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 will strive to keep fees as low as possible.

Fees are payable in advance by cash or cheque.

Full Term - £50.00

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 Meg our Membership Secretary or Maureen our Treasurer.

Note: We do not meet during school holidays

We support local charities and perform and fundraise throughout the year