

# Waltham Singers newsletter

Issue No 56  
January 2015

## From the Chair...

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a good Christmas.

The new term begins on Thursday, 8th January 2015 with our rehearsal at the usual time of 8.00 to 10.00 pm in St Cedd's School Hall.

It seems a while ago now that we were singing Bliss and Duruflé in the Cathedral. It was a shame that we did not have a larger audience, but that didn't take away from my enjoyment of what I thought was a good concert. It was lovely to sing the Bliss with the extra colour that the strings and flute add to the texture and amazing to hear the quality and depth of tone that Kate Symonds-Joy produced in her solos in both works. Our first time with St Paul's Sinfonia seemed a success and it is good to know another orchestra that we can work with in future.

There will be no less musical excitement this term with the music of Zelenka, Biber and Vivaldi culminating in our concert on Saturday, 14th March accompanied by the excellent Meridien Sinfonia. I have become increasingly fond of the early music repertoire over the past few years: the energy and stature of some of these works is still remarkable today and must have been so much more spectacular in their own time. Vivaldi needs no introduction. But if recommendation were needed for Zelenka, he was admired by JS Bach who hosted him as a guest in his own home and even had some of his works copied for use at Leipzig. Biber was one of the greatest violinist of his time, developing new techniques for the instrument, and composed much of his music for the Salzburg Court, where the Requiem would first have been performed in the Cathedral. As announced at the end of last term, we are hoping that many, if not all, of the solos in March's concert will be taken by members of the choir and I hope some of you have been practising over the break in preparation for trying things through when we return.

Earlier in the term, on Saturday, 31st January, we have our Quiz Night in the Hulton Hall at Great Waltham starting at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00 pm). We are grateful to Mike Wall for making the arrangements once again and for returning to the chair as our quizmaster that evening. If you haven't been to a Waltham Singers quiz night before, please do come along, either forming your own team (of 8) or letting Mike Wall know you are looking for a team to join. It's great fun and all very relaxed.

On the administrative front, we are still looking for someone to take on the responsibilities of organising the bar for our various social events. If you are able to help with this or would like to help in the running of the choir any other way, then please let me or any of the other committee members know.

Enjoy the remainder of the break and I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, 8th January.

Best wishes  
Gerald Malton

### *From our Facebook page:*

Amongst our audience last week were some esteemed members of the Bliss Society. Here are a couple of snippets to share:

“...a really excellent and enjoyable performance throughout. What had greatly impressed me beforehand... was the obvious care with which the choir had studied the whole work: this came through into the performance. Some passages came over exquisitely, and I became as engrossed in it as if I had never heard it before.”

“The Pastoral is a challenging work for a professional choir let alone an amateur group of singers, but the performance was incisive and measured and grew in stature as the work progressed....A wonderful choice by the choir and both works were accomplished so well that I hope to hear more Bliss - “Shield of Faith” would be fabulous in Chelmsford Cathedral - or even “The Beatitudes”...Congratulations to all concerned.”

<https://www.facebook.com/TheWalthamSingers>

*Note: a Facebook account is not required to view this page.*

### **Quiz Night:**

Saturday, 31st January, 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00)

Hulton Hall, Great Waltham

Teams of 8; £10 per head (paid on the night), which includes a ploughman's style supper.  
Bring your own cutlery, plates, drinks, glasses and nibbles.

Book with Mike Wall, [mikejwall@hotmail.com](mailto:mikejwall@hotmail.com) or 01245 353913.

### *Committee meetings:*

Committee meetings for the rest of this season will be held on  
14th January, 4th March, 22nd April and 3rd June.

If there are any matters you would like to be considered by the committee,  
please advise Gerald Malton or Jemma Parker in advance.

### **50:50 Club News:**

#### **Winners for Draw 66 are:-**

**£50: Julie Warner    £30: Noel Pereira    £30: Denise Law**

**£20: Sheila Holmes    £20: Philippa Berkley    £12: Marion Garrett**

If you would like a number (or numbers, max 5) they cost £12 and we have three prize draws a year.

Half the income is returned in prizes and the other half helps to support our concert programme.

Please see Mike Wall for an application form, or pick one up at rehearsals from near the notice board.

# Dates for your Diary

## Spring Term 2015

Thursday, 8 January	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Saturday, 31 January	7.30 pm	Hulton Hall, Gt Waltham	Quiz Night
Sunday, 8 March	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church (tbc)	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Saturday, 14 March	1.00 - 4.00 pm	KEGS	Concert day rehearsal
Saturday, 14 March	7.30 pm	KEGS	Concert: Baroque Treasures
Thursday, 26 March	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term

## Summer Term 2015

Thursday, 16 April	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Sunday, 14 June	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Thursday, 18 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Saturday, 20 June	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert day rehearsal
Saturday, 20 June	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert: A Sense of Place
Thursday, 25 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Annual General Meeting

## Autumn Term 2015

Thursday, 3 September	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
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## Future Concert Dates

Saturday, 21 November 2015	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Concert: <i>Elijah</i>
Saturday, 12 March 2016	7.30 pm	KEGS	
Saturday, 18 June 2016	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	
Saturday, 19 November 2016	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	
Saturday, 18 March 2017	7.30 pm	KEGS	
Saturday, 17 June 2017	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	