

Llangollen here we come!



We now know that we are definitely going to take part in the Senior Children's Choirs class of the Eisteddfod which take place on Wednesday 6th July. This international Eisteddfod - or Festival - attracts musicians from all over the world and, as well as being a great musical occasion, it can be a real visual spectacle with many competitors wearing national costume. Something to really look forward to!

Closer to Home...

On 20th May we will give a concert at the Ashby Salvation Army Church. Watch out for details of the times or contact us if you would like to be notified.

Our annual Leavers Concert will take place at Barton on Humber, during Barton Arts Week, on Saturday 2nd July at 7.30 p.m.

Lads and Dads..... During the afternoon of 2nd July we are planning a workshop for fathers/carers and sons to come along and find their voices.

More details nearer the time but please contact us if you're interested.
(The lads and dads don't have to be from the same family! All are welcome.)



Plans are advanced for the trip to France involving members of the Choir. Details of concert venues are being finalised. At the time of writing there are still places available for choristers wishing to join the trip.

Same Time, Same Place

For anyone interested in joining the Choir, rehearsals take place at Crosby Infant School, Frodingham Road on Friday evenings during school term. Beginners, 5.00 to 5.30 p.m., Training Choir, 5.30 to 6.30 p.m., Main Choir 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. Please call Sue Hollingsworth or Jane Stevenson if you're thinking of coming along.



Contact Details:

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www.scunthorpecoopjuniorchoir.org.uk

ALLEGRO!

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SCUNTHORPE COOPERATIVE JUNIOR CHOIR NEWS



MUSIC FOR YOUTH

Music for Youth is an educational charity with a worldwide reputation for its work in music education. It provides free access to educational and performance opportunities for all kinds of groups of young musicians and audiences through a nationwide series of festivals and concerts. The National Festival of Music for Youth is the biggest event of its kind in the world with up to 10,000 young musicians performing over 800 different works. This year the 35th anniversary Festival will take place at Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire and the CBSO Centre from Monday 11 - Saturday 16 July.

- Inside:
- Anonymous donation leads to ambitious plans
- Committee leavers and joiners
- Forthcoming events
- Watch out for the Web Site
- How we're Conducting ourselves
- Calling all Lads and Dads...

To be selected to take part, groups like our choir enter Regional Festivals - an annual series of over fifty festivals are held during February, March and April at local schools, colleges and music centres throughout Britain.

SCJC attended the Festival at Mansfield on 13th March. There was a wide range of performances, including primary school choirs, a string quartet and a brass band! We received an exceptional adjudication and now wait to hear if we will be invited to Birmingham. With comments such as "the best rendition of the piece in the world", "spot-on choreography", and a "stunning" performance" for Chilcott's 'Friends', I suggest we keep the dates clear....

More information on <http://www.musicforyouth.org.uk>



Following the 2004 AGM the Committee members are as follows.

Trevor Hudson - Chair

Jane Stevenson - Secretary

Lesley Blackburn - Treasurer

Deborah Butterfield - Child Protection

Stephen Caldwell, Maggie Doherty, Alison East,

Addy Farmer, Denise Green, Alison Hipkins,

Josie Lees, Jackie Sheard and Coral de Thabrew.

After many years of hard work for the Choir,

Rosie Clark "retired" following her final evening on duty at the Cooperative Group concert at the Guildhall in Hull.

Anonymous Donor Provides for our Future

Some time ago the Choir heard that it had been chosen to receive a significant donation from an anonymous charitable trust. In order to qualify for the funding, to be spent over a three year period, the Friends of Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir had to demonstrate that it has a sound constitution, a development programme for the future and was generally well managed. The funds were to be provided through the youngchoirs.net organisation which exists to promote and support opportunities for young people from all cultures and backgrounds.

During 2004 we began to utilise some of the funding. After a number of meetings with youngchoirs.net, and confirmation of our spending plans we have now received the balance of the funds.

The Development Plan we are working with includes several ongoing themes;

- **Publicity** To increase awareness and recruitment levels (including these quarterly newsletters).
- **Professional Development** - e.g. Training courses for assistant conductors, to ensure short term support and long term succession to current Director, and for key Committee members - e.g. Treasurer, Child Protection coordinator.
- **Competitive Festival Funding** - Travel and subsistence payment for entrance to the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, July 2005 and for a possible international trip in 2006. "To promote high achievement within the choir and enhance its reputation."
- **Boys Choir Activities** - Workshops and possible concerts for fathers and sons in the area to foster and develop male choral singing. (See overleaf)

The Committee of the Friends of the Choir propose to hold regular follow up meetings with representatives of youngchoirs.net to ensure that we monitor performance, demonstrate effective use of the funding and modify plans if required.



How are we Conducting ourselves?

In the last newsletter we announced the departure of Andrew Ella, our Training Choir conductor. Since then Clare Neal has taken over the role and is now working closely with Susan Hollingworth to develop the training Choir.

Clare is a past member of the Scunthorpe Junior Choir: Howard Goodall wrote 'The Long Trail' for our choir and Clare, who performed it at a concert marking the change from South Humberstone to North Lincolnshire. She joined at 11 and stayed until she went to study the oboe at the Royal Academy of Music in London in 1999.

Whilst at the Academy Clare studied with world renowned oboists including Celia Nicklin and Evelyn Barbirolli, and graduated last summer with a 2:1. During the summer of 2004 Clare went on tour with the Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra to accompany Elton John and his band. They performed at the NEC Birmingham, Wembley Arena, Royal Albert Hall and Radio City, New York!

Clare is currently studying for a PGCE in primary teaching on a one-year SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) course through the University of Nottingham. She's based at Edenthorpe Hall Primary School, Doncaster.

At the same time Sue has started to train some of the experienced choristers in conducting skills. Charlotte Turner, Georgina Moore*, Sally Caldwell and Sarah Neal are all honing their skills between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m. each Friday Evening.

***Congratulations to Georgina who was chosen as the most promising musician at the recent North Lincolnshire Music and Drama Festival.**



We're Working With the web site, and hoping to make it more user friendly. Amy Jeffries and Stephen Caldwell are working with Northlincs.net to utilise their web portal and increase the traffic to our site. In the meantime you can still visit

www.scunthorpecoopjuniorchoir.org.uk