

 *‘If I cannot fly, let me sing’. (Stephen Sondheim)*

*Dear Wovies and future members !*

We hope the following will help you ‘relive’ our great choir year or, if you are a potential new member, entice you to join us as you read about the year’s lively programme of musical events.

 In September ’15 the choir set out on its first full year under leader Abi Moore. Having worked with Abi for a term, we realised how fortunate we were to have her and we came back brimming with enthusiasm to embrace all the challenges that we knew Abi would set us. Our winter term saw us focused on preparation for our Christmas concert. As well as revising some of our old repertoire of Christmas music (and working hard on our Polish and Spanish!) we were introduced to some fabulous new songs, often arranged by Abi herself. The new Dropbox system for accessing song parts and lyrics at home worked well, giving us the confidence to perform without words which Abi was keen to encourage. The concert was very well received by a packed house and variety was added by a small contribution by Abi herself and some festive poetry readings.

In January a group of us enjoyed a winter’s afternoon of wassailing and mulled cider in support of the Stamford Orchard Group. We sang some appropriate numbers along with saucepan banging! Apparently the apple crop depends on it! Seasonal festivities were rounded off by our Christmas party at the Congregational Church hall. We enjoyed entertainment from members, a delicious supper and dancing to the fabulous World Music Disco. If you missed it, be there next year!

With an early Easter, it was decided to work hard towards a summer concert, rather than face the pressure of another concert too soon. This proved to be an excellent plan, our singing improved over two terms, with Abi gently raising the bar and not accepting less from us than she felt we were capable of. As well as learning new songs, she focused on our performance skills and technique. Our Thursday evenings were busy but always enjoyable and uplifting, with time given at the end to belt out old numbers. As a result our summer concert at All Saints church, Stamford, went very well, with some audience members commenting on how much we had improved since Christmas!

Please do read about two other memorable events in our year, the weekend in Derbyshire and the Street Choirs Festival in Leicester by clicking the links under Past Events. If you weren’t there, you will wish you had been! Finally, our year was rounded off by lovely event in August when two of our choir members, Phillippa and Paul, married in Stamford and a group of 28 singers had the delightful experience of singing at their wedding! Congratulations to the happy couple!

It has been wonderful to have had the chance to do so much singing during the year, not only on Thursday evenings, but on other occasions too, such as at workshops at the Arts Centre or at Abi’s own in the Grantham area. We are now back for the autumn term and, while we are so very sorry that Abi has to leave us we are delighted that she will be leading us through till Christmas. We are looking forward to learning some new material and performing at our concert on 16th December at the Arts Centre. At the same time we are working hard to secure a new leader.

If you are thinking of joining the choir, do enquire about our free taster sessions. You will be surrounded by people who simply love singing and would welcome you into the choir. Here’s to a great year of singing ahead!