

From Leslie Mitchell

Stamps for charity

Many thanks to all who have over the weeks and months given me their used postage stamps to add to the collection I send to the charity Canine Partners. Another shoe box is almost full and will be sent shortly, so please keep them coming.



I know we don't get so many stamps through the post these days, but every contribution however large or small is always welcome. The stamps provide Canine Partners with a useful sum of money; I don't have an up to date figure, but a couple of years ago the charity received £13,000 as a result of the stamp collection. This sum goes a long way to help with the training of two dogs during their initial first year's training

I'm not asking you for money for the charity – only your stamps. However, if you would like to make a contribution or would like more information about Canine Partners, please visit the website: caninepartners.org.uk

From Sue Ayres

Grants available for Home Owners from Babergh District Council.

If a person needs adaptations at home to enable them to live independently, a grant of £7500 for Minor Adaptations and £1000 for Minor Equipment is available, without a means test. This could be for something as minor as fixing a key safe to an outside wall, extra handrails, a stair lift or bathroom conversion.

Details are on the Babergh website, or staff at the Town Hall can be consulted. Alternatively, Sue Ayres (Alto) is available to advise at a rehearsal or on 01787 310219



A Pig in a poke. Which generous member put this pig into the Christmas Concert Draw? Named Priscilla, the pig is banished to the garden where it sits balefully watching us through the kitchen window. The cats give it a wide berth so it really needs a new home – Robin won it and will gladly deliver it anywhere!

Miscellany

Waitrose. Due to the efforts of our Secretary, Carolyn, our relationship with Waitrose for catering items and wine has grown, and we receive significant discounts making the bar a profitable source of income. Well done, Carolyn!

Singing at Christmas. I think there were 14 of us singing at Sudbury Library on December 14th – can you spot the non-member on the left of the picture (right) helping out? Our Mayor, Rob Spivey, turned up to support us, and ended up bolstering the male singers! Thanks for being a good sport, Rob!

Concert venue. Closure of St. Peter's is planned for 2021 if the planners are successful in raising funds for refurbishment. We may then be faced with finding a new concert venue while the work is carried out. We've started looking, but if anyone has ideas.....?

Choir membership. Have you noticed how much tougher it has become to park at rehearsals? Membership was up by 6 in 2019, we've had a significant influx of newcomers this year, and a number of previous members have returned. Your Membership Secretary Gerry Sutton notes we have 11 tenors this term, which is almost unheard of. Long may it continue!



Choir for Hire – a success story

I don't know who had the idea in the first place, but it was brilliant, and has proved to be very successful. Barbara Copp (Conductor) and Rachel Drury (Administrator) have developed this choir over the years and now there is a pool of 25 or so SCS choir members, from whom around 12-15 perform at events such as parties, weddings and funerals, the fees being paid into the Society's coffers. Over the past 7 years they have contributed close to a staggering £5000 to the Society, which is a real success story. The other side of the coin is that Society members have been able to supplement their choral fare with a wide range of music, usually selected by the client. Christmas 2019 was a busy month for C4H, and they already have a couple of bookings for 2020. If you are interested in joining them they are always looking for extra voices from the Society – for more information please talk to Rachel (Soprano).



Associate Membership. This started with a flurry in September last year, and now we expect steady growth in numbers as non-singers who are regulars in our audience recognise the value of becoming AMs. Can I remind you that the initial cost of joining drops each month from September 1st by £4.50, so you could purchase membership in, say, February, for £32.50, and the recipient would still get free entry to the April and June concerts, as well as the free glasses of wine! Details and a Registration form from Wendy Jones on 01787 469049. email: wendy.jones14@btopenworld.com