

Ipswich Bach Choir

from the Chairman,
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Dear Choir Member

Well, the spring and summer have shot by and here I am preparing for the 2009/10 Ipswich Bach Choir Season. I hope you have had a good break and are ready to get singing again! **The new term will begin at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th September**, fortunately still at Rose Hill School and with Christian White as accompanist as usual. The Committee has decided that we should have a twenty minute break during the first rehearsal, with soft drinks laid on, so that we can welcome and get to know new members as well as catch up with old friends. Because of the change of caretaking arrangements at Rosehill School, there will not be rehearsal during half-term breaks.

You may be interested to know that the Memorial Service in May for Merlin Channon's wife, Ann, who died just before our last concert, went very well and that our Deputy Conductor, Mary Bingham, directed musical proceedings.

The first concert of the season will be on **Saturday 5th December**, when we will be performing again at Great School, Ipswich School, because it proved to be such a nice venue last year. The programme will be a Christmassy one and include music from Charpentier *'Midnight Mass'* (Schott Edition, Vaughan Williams *'First Nowell'* (OUP Edition), some Carols for Audience and a new piece especially composed for us, *'Tintern'*, by our own Paul Greenewich. The *'First Nowell'* works very well with interspersed readings and we have been most fortunate in securing well-known local actor Antony Carrick as narrator, along with Lindsay Gowers as soprano soloist.

The second concert will be on **Sunday 16th May 2010** when we will be performing Handel's *'Israel in Egypt'* (Old Novello Edition) at Snape Maltings Concert Hall along with Patrick's other choirs, Dovercourt Choral Society and Witham Choral Society. We have deviated from our traditional Palm Saturday date so that we can extend our singing year a little which I know many of you would like. The last joint concert was two years ago when we sang Handel's *'Solomon'*, which was a most enjoyable occasion – and we will do our best to ensure that there is no repeat of the catering fiasco!! Singing with other choirs spreads the financial load of orchestral and soloist costs, allows us to sing in a top-notch concert hall and means we can sing major choral repertoire. Rehearsals will begin later than usual in January and continue until 12th May with a half-term break and a two week break at Easter, exact dates dates to be confirmed.

The **AGM will be held on Wednesday, 23rd September** at 8.45pm after a short rehearsal and the relevant papers will be circulated by email or be available at the first rehearsal. Please think seriously about becoming more involved in running the choir – several of the current Committee members have served in one role or another for many years and two are due to stand down this year though are eligible for re-election if they wish (choir rules). If you think you would like to join the Committee, do contact me or any other Committee Member for more information. Subscriptions will not become due until after the AGM when subscription rates are approved by the choir members.

We have **two social occasions** planned, exact dates and details still to be confirmed, but one will be during the Autumn Term and the other early next year. One you already know about – an evening with our President, Merlin Channon, and Mary Bingham and I have yet to meet with him to discuss how the evening will be planned and when would be the best date for him. The other event planned is a little different – a Music Quiz to be devised and compered by Bob Bingham and Chris Wiltshire, with food laid on as usual. I hope you will support these social events - they are most important fund-raisers for the Choir and help us to keep financially afloat. Also Jo Jones will be running one or two 'Heads and Tails' sessions during the term as fundraisers.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all again on September 9th at Rosehill School for the new season's rehearsals,

From your Chairman,

Sue Wiltshire