

Sangstream Newsletter 2004 January

Recent Events

Welcome to the first Sangnewsletter for 2004. Glad to see all the weel kent faces back amongst the cronies and hello to the new ones. We rounded off the term in December with a well received gig at the Museum of Scotland This was our first public performance led by Mairi and was enjoyed by everyone who took part. Then there was a party organised by Evelyn and Gill, in the West End hotel on the 19 December a great night with lots of food, singing and recitation. We look forward with some excitement to the coming year. Due to previous commitments Mairi is unable to lead us during the second part of this term, so we have arranged for Steve Byrne to cover until the end of term. During March we will have the AGM, formal notice of which will be issued two weeks prior to the date. We have firmed up some dates for the term and those are listed below. We also have some gigs coming up in the next few months - so start learning those words - speaking of which we also have been working on creating a set of rehearsal CDs to be provided to all members, so you can learn those beautiful harmonies we sing.

Dates for your diary

Melrose Weekend – 30 January. The Sangstream takeover of Melrose Youth Hostel. Lots of entertainment, walks, singing, workshops and a Burns Supper (or just take it easy and read a book by the fire, that's what I like doing._{.MM}). This event is being organised by Barbara and Gill. Previous weekends of this type have been extremely successful, so if you haven't got your name down or those of friends or family if you want take them **hurry hurry hurry.**

End of Term : 1 April.

Remember - Thursday the 19th February is a holiday.

Summer Term: 22 April to 1 July (10 Weeks)

Temporary MD - Steve Byrne will take over from the 26 February till 1 April as Mairi is unable to be with us for the full term due to previous commitments.

Easter Break Party - get your songs or party piece prepared . During the Easter break we will be having a party on Thursday 15 April, hopefully again at the West End Hotel. Further details during the term.

Annual General Meeting – 18 March. Robin Dempsey who has been our Treasurer for several years has informed the committee that he doesn' t intend standing for rælection to the post of treasurer, although he will stand for election to the committee. And Maureen Morris has indicated that she will not be standing for re-election as the Vice Chair of the committee.

Committee members Shauna Dickson, Carol Forsyth and Evelyn Lawson have also said they don't want to stand for re-election. However, Penny Forsyth, Martine Robertson, Dave Leslie and the afore-mentioned Robin all want to put themselves forward for re-election.

We are also looking for someone to take on the role of Sangstream Archivist (compiler and keeper of photo archives and memorabilia) - Isabelle McGeehan has been the archivist for some years but due to other commitments feels that she can no longer give the time to this

role.

Could **YOU** take on any of these roles? Please think about standing for election either for an executive role or as an ordinary committee member.

As well as nominations for the committee you may also have issues you would like to have discussed at the AGM – the way to do that is in the form of a motion. The closing date for nominations and motions will be the last Thursday in February.

Forthcoming gigs.

Livingston – 28 February

A list for adding your name if you want to take part in the workshop at Livingston will be at desk on Thursday nights. There are leaflets for the whole weekend available, some great workshops are offered. We have signed up to take part in the Saturday afternoon workshop then to sing a few pieces. This must be confirmed by 14th February. Cost for single workshop & The Muckle Sing is £6 (con £4)

Folk Festival

We are hoping to be invited to one of the festivals taking place in May/June/July. Watch this space.

Crichton – 30 May

Gill is well advanced with arranging a gig which will take place at Crichton Castle & church at the end of May. Crichton is about 5 miles beyond Dalkeith.

St Giles – 31 October(?)

Through Barbara, we were offered several dates for the Sunday early evening slot at St Giles, and this looks like the one we'll go for.

Class Warmups

The class start time is 7pm and Mairi would expect to start the warm up no later than 7.05. The warmups are intended to help you loosen up your body to get rid of the stresses of the day and in doing so reduce the stress on your voice. They should normally take no longer than 15minutes.

If you cannot avoid being late for class please -

- join as quietly and discretely as possible
- avoid moving chairs about
- leave the chats for later.

Rehearsal CDs

A set of 3 rehearsal CDs with the material from 2001, 2002-2003 and Summer break 2003 will be available free to paid up(!) members from 29 January. Some of the '*Live at the Border Gaitherin*' are still available too – price £5.

I hope that as well as working hard on the songs, you also have fun during the coming term and enjoy the performance and social events which are being organised for us all during the coming year.

MM