



Swift Singers
April 2019

Swift Singers



Welcome  *Information*

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Registered Charity No 1085887

Welcome

On behalf of the Committee we would like to welcome you to the Swift Singers and hope you will enjoy singing with us and being part of a friendly and active Choir.

The Choir is a registered charity with a Committee elected annually in February at the AGM. The Committee meets on a regular basis to discuss business and also to arrange concerts. Each section of the Choir has a Leader who will be happy to help with any queries or problems. Your section Leader can pass any comments you may have to the Committee.

We have various social events during the year. Although you are not obliged to attend these events, we have a great time and get to know people better than we are able to at rehearsals when our minds are on the music.

Please feel free to ask anyone in the choir for assistance. We have a New Member Liaison Officer whom we hope you have already met and a librarian who will provide you with loaned music and then your own copies once you have paid subs..

We have a Website that you might find useful:
www.swiftsingers.co.uk

Practice tracks are uploaded to the members area of the website regularly.

You can also find us on Facebook.



Membership

To keep our membership records up to date it would be appreciated if you could complete and return the enclosed slip to the new member liaison officer, within 4 weeks of first attending rehearsals.

At the same time, please pay your first terms subs to the treasurer. You will then be issued with a set of music which will be added to as necessary.

Fundraising

We regularly hold events to raise money for the choir. This enables us to continue to buy music and put on concerts. We also have an easy fundraising page which anyone can sign up to and raise money for the choir when they shop online.

Please consider signing up for this and encourage your family and friends to support the choir through this site. In our first year of using Easy fundraising, we raised nearly £600 for the choir which we have used to expand our staging.

To sign up, go to www.easyfundraising.co.uk and search for Swift Singers as your chosen charity.

We hope you have many happy years with the Swift Singers.

The Committee

The officers of the committee are:

Philippa Marshall	Chairperson/Choir leader
Chris Hutson	Treasurer/Ticket Sales
Janice Pearson	Secretary/Catering/Mezzo section leader

Other committee members are:

Jean Chasmer	Concert Secretary/ Ticket Sales / Promotion
Margaret Small	Music Librarian / Co-Alto Section Leader/ Welfare
Catherine Quinn	Facebook/ Website / Promotion Raffles and book sales
Lesley Turley	Raffles and book sales/ New member Liaison/ Website/ Promotion/ Co-Alto Section leader
Karen Latham	Publicity / Advertising / Promotion
Gill Owen	Uniform/Promotion/Staging
Jane Hyde	Co-Soprano Section Leader/Promotion / Social Secretary

Useful Information



**Derrick Thompson,
Accompanist**



**Clive Smith
Musical Director**

The Choir is made up of three sections: 1st Soprano, Mezzo Soprano and Alto. The Altos split into 2 parts for some of our pieces.

The Musical Director will arrange to listen to your voice in private after a few weeks to help decide which section is best for your voice.

Once you have been assigned to a section, please get to know your singing colleagues and have fun.

Rehearsals

We meet at the Village Hall, Hullbridge Road on Tuesday evenings commencing at 8.15pm prompt, finishing at 9.45pm.

There are no rehearsals in August.

Additional rehearsals are sometimes arranged prior to a Concert and are usually on a Sunday evening.

We sometimes sit within our sections for rehearsals but may be mixed up to give us a better appreciation of the other parts and allow us to become confident in singing against them. When we are mixed, we all sit with a singing buddy of the same section for moral support.

Music

All music provided to you remains the property of the Swift Singers and we ask that only pencil is used to mark music, **no ink or highlighter pen.**

Please note it is illegal to photocopy music. If you are missing music or lose a piece of music, please speak to the Librarian who will arrange a replacement.

Although provision of your music is included in your subscription, any replacements will need to be paid for.

Concerts

It is the Swift Singers' policy that new members must attend a total of **24** rehearsals before participating in a concert in order to give plenty of time to learn the music. In order to take part in any concert, all members are expected to attend **8 out of the last 12** rehearsals, and **2 out of the last 3**, before each concert. Please check with your section Leader if you are unsure about qualification.

All members are expected to learn all the **Music and Words** for each concert.

Subscriptions

Our annual subscription charges are currently £135 payable in three equal instalments of £45 in January, April and September. As we are a registered charity these subscriptions qualify for Gift Aid. A Gift Aid Declaration is included with this pack for completion if you are a taxpayer. The additional revenue received by the Swift Singers from this scheme enables us to keep our subscription charge low, so please complete the form if you can. You can speak to our Treasurer who will give you any advice you may require.

Uniform

Our current uniform for concerts is black trousers with a black/gold jacket and black t-shirt. We also have a black musical scarf that we sometimes wear instead of the jacket for a more informal appearance.



The jacket will be provided to you as required for each concert. You may be given one on permanent loan but can be asked to lend this to another choir member if you are not participating in a concert. The jacket is not machine washable and should be dry cleaned when necessary.

We make a charge of £3.50 for a musical scarf which is yours to keep if you decide to leave the choir. We ask you to provide your own tailored black trousers (no leggings or jeans) and a short sleeved, scoop neck black t shirt. Once you qualify for a concert, the uniform co-ordinator will ensure you have all the items you require.

Please wear black shoes and black tights/socks.

