



Warwick A Singing Town

November 2022 | Issue 8

*“Happiness and
Health in Harmony”*

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Dear Friends and Supporters

I am proud to be a Patron for Warwick – A Singing Town and particularly pleased to introduce this edition of the newsletter that features so many community groups.

Warwick has always had a strong cultural heritage and we should all be very proud of the artistic and musical life that flows through the town.

Why not get out over the next few weeks and enjoy one of the many events and concerts taking place – I am certainly looking forward to seeing as many as I can and supporting the tremendous variety of choirs that are active in Warwick.

Even better – why not join one of our wonderful local singing groups and find out how good for you it is to sing, to meet new people and to make new friends.

Cllr. Parminder Singh Birdi
Mayor of Warwick



About Warwick – A Singing Town

Warwick – A Singing Town, is a unique, philanthropically-funded project to promote singing as part of the artistic and cultural post-pandemic renewal in Warwick. Through free, high-quality singing and choral opportunities in schools, sharing information about local singing and choral opportunities for all town residents, and bespoke partnerships with groups who may benefit from the therapeutic aspects of singing – our goal is for singing to be better understood, promoted, and available to all residents.

www.warwicksingtown.co.uk

Big Local Night Out a big success!

180 people attended the very first Big Local Night Out at the Bridge House Theatre on Friday 14 October and enjoyed an evening of perfection.

Hosted by comedy magician, Tom Elliot, the evening got off to the perfect start with Tom's unique performing style before introducing our very special local guests – the singers from Aylesford primary and secondary schools – directed by Head of Music Brad Banister and Ellie Jeffries.

Professional singer, Sarah Teibo completed the line up and, supported by enthusiastic singing by the audience, brought a wonderful evening to a very happy close.

The Big Local Night Out is a very new format and it is hoped that this will attract a new audience from the community. Judging by the support for our first event it is already a great success.

Look out for our next three Big Local Night Out experiences in 2023 on Friday 17 February, Friday 26 May and Friday 20 October.



Enthusiastic audience members included the Mayor of Warwick Cllr. Parminder Singh Birdi, Graeme Russell representing Churches Together in Warwick and the High Sheriff of Warwick David Kelham



In Memory of Trevor George Barr

(1961-2022)

Trevor Barr, a former Director of Music at Warwick School, died recently as the result of a sudden heart attack. He was a popular, charismatic figure and was well known on the local music scene as pianist, organist, and choirmaster. His talents were in great demand by churches and choirs both locally and further afield.

Trevor was an inspirational teacher. Using humour and gentle persuasion he had the exceptional ability to motivate musicians and choristers of all ages and talents to perform to the very best of their ability.

Born in Londonderry, N. Ireland, Trevor had an irrepressible drive and vitality that took him into other areas of life, not just music. Amongst other things he had a strong interest in politics and recently stood as a candidate in local County Council elections.

Trevor is sorely missed by all who knew him. He had a remarkable and rare talent combined with humour, heartening optimism, and unconditional friendship.



Trevor Barr

Village Voices



Village Voices and Cubbington Silver Band invite you to **A Christmas Celebration** at St Nicholas Church, Warwick at 7.30pm on Saturday 3 December. Tickets cost £10 (accompanied children under 16 free) and include refreshments. Proceeds to British Heart Foundation, Diabetes UK and Myton Hospice.

If you are interested in joining us, do look at our website www.villagevoices.co.uk or contact us by email at warwick.villagevoices@gmail.com
We are also on Facebook at [VillageVoicesWarwick](https://www.facebook.com/VillageVoicesWarwick)

Warwick and Kenilworth Choral Society



Christmas concert – Saturday 26 November, 7.30pm.
St Nicholas's Church, Warwick, CV34 4JD

The WKCS' Christmas concert this year has a blend of old and new with music by J.S. Bach and well-known carols including Berlioz's *The Shepherd's Farewell* in the first half.

In the second half we are joined by Warwickshire Youth Choirs for a new work (2017) by Alexander L'Estrange – *Wassail: Carols of*

Comfort and Joy. These new arrangements of familiar carols are accompanied by piano, accordion, double bass, recorder and percussion to give the music a jazz feel.

Tickets: <http://wkcs.org.uk/bookingtickets/>

Two Castles Male Voice Choir



We are a friendly and enthusiastic choir who are always happy to see new members. We sing a wide variety of music including show numbers, traditional male voice choir repertoire, modern popular music and arrangements of music from other countries. We give around six concerts annually as well as singing at other events such as remembrance and Christmas events and rehearse on Mondays at 7.30pm St Nicholas Church, Warwick.

Thursday 24 November, 10.00am-12.00pm – Warwick Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Warwick
Saturday 10 December Christmas Concert, 7.30pm – All Saints Church, Emscote, CV34 5NL

Songlines Community Choir



Songlines Warwick has been running for 15 years and meets on Tuesday evenings in the acoustically lovely Unitarian Chapel on the High Street. The 50-strong choir, led by Bruce Knight, sings uplifting a capella songs from all over the world, normally in 4-part harmony. We have one big concert a year, (joining forces with the Leamington group so we have 100 singers), plus other occasional informal performances. It's always a very lovely, warm, community event.

Next concert: Songlines Winter Concert, Saturday 3 Dec, 8.00pm – St. Mary's Church, Leamington Spa.
For more info on the choir or the concert please email bruceknight.voice@gmail.com

Singing for Pleasure



We started the autumn with a pre-term working holiday in Devon when we were able to work on our songs whilst enjoying the hotel facilities and the countryside.

Later in September we were invited to Westgate school when we sang for and with the pupils in assembly. We have also been busy preparing a piece specially written for us as part of the Adopt a Music Creator scheme run by Making Music. .

In this year-long project Dominic Matthews has written *Singing for Pleasure* which will have its premiere at the Kings High Music Auditorium on **Saturday 10 December at 7.30pm**. Phone 01926 776438 for ticket information.

The York Waits presented by Leamington Music



Wednesday 7 December at 7.30pm – Holy Trinity Church, Leamington

Celebrating the 45th anniversary of the recreation of York's historic city band, the Waits explore the rich tapestry of seasonal music from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. Familiar German chorales are followed by French Noëls and Mediterranean songs from the folk tradition, all accompanied by the full array of period instruments – shawms, sackbuts, curtals, crumhorns, bagpipes, recorders, flutes, fiddles, rebec, guitar, hurdy gurdy and portative organ.

Tickets: www.leamingtonmusic.org

The City Musick presented by Leamington Music



Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm – St. Mary's Church, Warwick

The City Musick – an ensemble of seven versatile musicians – performs festive dances and carols sung and played on the joyous sound of shawms, cornetts, sackbuts, dulcians, regals, recorders and bagpipes. A delightful programme presenting a perfect evocation of Christmas as celebrated four hundred years ago.

Tickets: www.leamingtonmusic.org

Armonico Consort

J.S. Bach Christmas Oratorio

**Tuesday 6 December 2022, 7.30pm – Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick
Armonico Consort and baroque orchestra. Director – Christopher Monks**

The Christmas Oratorio is a collection of cantatas composed for the festive season which celebrates Bach's genius in writing intensely beautiful melody and counterpoint.

Ticket prices from: £17.50

Box office number: 01926 334418 or www.armonico.org.uk

Carols by Candlelight

**Monday 19 December 2022, 7.30pm – Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick
Armonico Consort and AC Academy Warwick. Director – Christopher Monks**

Carols by Candlelight has become a firm tradition of Armonico Consort's festive programme over the past 20 years.

Ticket prices from: £19.50

Box office number: 01926 334418 or www.armonico.org.uk

Armonico Consort's President's Carols at the Castle

**Tuesday 20 December 2022, 7.30pm – Warwick Castle, Warwick
Armonico Consort. Director – Christopher Monks**

Join a select group of Armonico Consort's finest singers for this brand new and exclusive event as they welcome Christmas in the magnificent setting of the Great Hall at Warwick Castle.

Ticket prices from: £34.50

Box office number: 01926 334418 or www.armonico.org.uk



Warwickshire Youth Choirs

Saturday 17 December at 6.00pm

– Christmas concert at the Kings High Auditorium

Warwickshire Youth Choirs is an established and successful young persons choir based in Warwick serving all Warwickshire children and schools. Our choirs consist of a Boys Choir (Boys age seven plus unchanged voices), a Male Voices Choir (Boys changed voices) and a Junior Girls Choir (Girls age seven plus) conducted by our outstanding Choral Directors Benjamin Hamilton and Jeremy Dibb. Our choirs meet weekly in the inspiring setting of King's High Music School in Warwick and perform regularly in concerts, festivals and competitions.

For more information about our choirs, our forthcoming workshops and performances visit www.choristers.org or contact us via email at choristers@choristers.org



Canticum

Saturday 3 December at 7.30pm – Warwick Hall

Britten St Nicolas

Vaughan-Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Tenor: Ed Lyon, **Conductor:** Richard Nicholson

Canticum is the Warwick Schools Foundation community choir, a large chorus made up of past and present parents and staff, and friends of the Foundation's schools.

This is the choir's first concert since the pandemic.

The concert sees performances of Britten's iconic cantata, *St Nicolas*, with the charismatic Ed Lyon as the eponymous saint, and Vaughan-Williams' ever-fresh *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*.

Tickets are £5 and will be available from the following website:

<https://bridgehousetheatre.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows>



Da Capo Chamber Choir *Glad Tidings*

Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 7.30pm
– Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

Christmas starts here! Join us for festive music and food.

After a three-year hiatus, we finally return to our traditional Christmas format, with food and mulled wine served in the interval to audience seated at tables.

Whole tables of 8 to 12 people can be booked, as well as smaller groups on tables with others.

Proceeds to Campaign 2023, St Mary's tower restoration fund.

Tickets: Table seating £13.00, U16s £7.00, available by email to dacapo.warwick@gmail.com



Playbox Theatre

There is a magical treat for the whole family as Founding Director of Playbox, Mary King stages Shakespeare's most loved comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Deep in the timeless forest something very unusual is happening as Shakespeare draws together spells, young love, transformation and a collection of amateur theatre folk determined to make a wonderful show for a state occasion. For first timers, seasoned Shakespeare lovers and 'festive spirits' this Dream will leave everyone immersed in wonder.

See events calendar for dates.



Music at St. Mary's

Thursday 24 November, 7.00pm

The Choir sings at the switching on of the Christmas Lights at the Victorian Evening in Market Square.

Sunday 27 November, 5.30pm

The Choir sings for St Mary's annual, candle-lit Advent Carol Service, marking the approach of Christmas. Free to attend.

Saturday 17 December, from 6.00pm (Carols from c.7.30pm)

Carols at the Castle. The Choir joins Royal Spa Brass for the festive treat that is Carols at the Castle, celebrating its golden jubilee this year.

Tickets via: <https://www.warwick-castle.com/explore/events/carols-at-the-castle/>

Sunday 18 December, 6.30pm

The first of St Mary's two Carols by Candlelight, featuring the full Robed Choir. All are welcome.

Wednesday 21 December, 5.30pm

The Girl Choristers of St Mary's perform Benjamin Britten's perennial Christmas classic, *Ceremony of Carols*. No cost to attend.

Thursday 22 December, 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm

Three screenings of the seasonal favourite, *The Snowman* with live orchestra, and the famous *Walking in the air* performed live by one of St Mary's choristers.

Tickets via: <https://thesnowmanwarwick.eventbrite.co.uk>

Adults £13, children (under 16s) £5, family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £28. Under 3s are free if seated on an adult's lap.

Friday 23 December, 6.30pm

The second of St Mary's two Carols by Candlelight, featuring the full Robed Choir. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December, 11.15pm

Join the Choir of St Mary's, Warwick as they lead choral Midnight Mass with music by Rutter, Willcocks, and Mathias.

Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December: 10.00am

Eucharist for Christmas morning, with music by Schubert, Warlock, Beeby and Wilberg.



Carols at the Castle with St. Mary's Choir

Concert Calendar

November

Thursday 24 November

- **Two Castles Male Voice Choir** – Christmas Tree Festival. St. Mary's, 10.00-12.00pm
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Saturday 26 November

- **Warwick and Kenilworth Choral Society** – St. Nicholas Church, Warwick, 7.30pm
-

December

Saturday 3 December

- **Songlines Community Choir** – St. Mary's Church, Leamington, 8.00pm
 - **Village Voices** – St. Nicholas Church, Warwick, 7.30pm
 - **Canticum** – Warwick Hall, Warwick, 7.30pm
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Tuesday 6 December

- **Armonico Consort Christmas Oratorio** – St. Mary's Church, Warwick, 7.30pm
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Wednesday 7 December

- **The York Waits – Leamington Music** – Holy Trinity Church, Leamington, 7.30pm
-

Saturday 10 December

- **Two Castles Male Voice Choir** – All Saints Church, Emscote, 7.30pm
 - **Singing for Pleasure** – The King's High Auditorium, 7.30pm
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Thursday 15 December

- **The City Musick – Leamington Music** – St. Mary's Church, Warwick, 7.30pm
-

Saturday 17 December

- **St. Mary's Choir** – Carols at the Castle, 7.30pm
 - **Warwickshire Youth Choirs** – The King's High Auditorium, 6.00pm
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Monday 19 December

- **Armonico Consort Carols by Candlelight** – St. Mary's Church, Warwick, 7.30pm
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Tuesday 20 December

- **Armonico Consort Carols at the Castle** – Warwick Castle, 7.30pm
 - **Da Capo Chamber Choir** – St. Mary's Church, Warwick, 7.30pm
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21-30 December

- **Playbox Theatre A Midsummer Night's Dream** – The Dream Factory
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For any further details, please contact
singingtown@warwickschools.co.uk

www.warwicksingingtown.co.uk

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 [Warwick A Singing Town](https://www.youtube.com/WarwickASingingTown)