



Warwick A Singing Town

September 2023 | Issue 11

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Dear Friends and Supporters

As headteacher at Westgate Primary School and Singing Ambassador for *Warwick – A Singing Town* I am delighted to welcome you to the latest newsletter.

It is wonderful to reflect on a very successful second year for this unique singing project – culminating in the performance on July 11 of 'Weaving Warwick's Stories' involving over 300 children from partner schools across the town.

I would like to highlight a fantastic event coming up soon in the autumn term and invite you to attend. **Warwick – A Singing Town** are continuing their very popular singing workshops and are focusing on the joy of singing together as a family for the next workshop on Sunday 21 January 2024 at Warwick Hall.

Warwick – A Singing Town is about bringing communities together – may I encourage you to make the most of these outstanding opportunities.

Matthew Watson

Headteacher Westgate Primary School
Community Singing Ambassador – WaST



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.

www.warwicksingingtown.co.uk

*“Happiness and
Health in Harmony”*

Make a Memory – Sing Together

Sunday 21 January 2024 | Warwick Hall

Our Family theme is continued for the next **Warwick – A Singing Town** singing workshop at Warwick Hall on Sunday 21 January 2024.

We are delighted to invite parents, grandparents and their children to sing together at our very special workshop that is all about families singing together.

We are keen to welcome all ages but would suggest that this event is most suitable for children from the age of 6/7 – those in year 2 and up.

Our workshops are always free but there will be a retiring collection for the local and very wonderful charity *Kissing it Better*.

REGISTER NOW

The Programme

- 10.00am – Arrival and welcome
- 10.30am – Session one delivered by WaST Choral Entrepreneurs
- 11.15am – Break with refreshments to include tea, coffee, squash and biscuits!
- 11.45am – Session two
- 12.30pm – Home time



Recent Spring and Summer activities

Warwick – A Singing Town has been fantastically busy in its second year and here are just a few of our Spring and Summer activities.

The Gifts of Singing – May 14 | Warwick Hall



The Gifts of Singing workshop

The Gifts of Singing was the fourth FREE singing workshop delivered by WaST and focused on exploring the many health benefits of singing.

The ongoing research into the benefits of singing is overwhelmingly positive and a major role for WaST is to share these benefits as widely as possible.

The WaST team of Mariana Rosas, Cerys Purser, Benjamin Hamilton and Jeremy Dibb were joined by King's Singer Edward Button to lead a range of activities that included:

- Singing for Physical Health
- Singing for Mental Health
- Singing for the Ageing Voice
- Sing for Joy – the benefits of Community Singing

Singing at Warwick Hospital – May 16 | Warwick Hospital

Children from Woodloes Primary School created a ‘Singing Stage’ at Warwick Hospital and delighted patients and staff alike with their performance.

Led by **Warwick – A Singing Town** Choral Entrepreneur Cerys Purser the children sang throughout the hospital, including to ambulance staff and were praised by everyone who heard them.

WaST are delighted to be working in partnership with the wonderful charity Kissing it Better and Katy Oates, Project Director in Warwickshire was instrumental in organising this first of what we hope will be many more singing visits to the hospital.



Woodloes at Warwick Hospital

The Big Local Night Out – May 26 | The Bridge House Theatre

Our third Big Local Night Out continued the success of the previous two events with host Tom Elliot in sparking form and special guest star Charlie Green an absolute hit with the very enthusiastic audience.

Local choir Village Voices led by Kieron Howe and the year 7 choir from Myton Secondary School lead by Wendy Harrisson were given a very warm welcome and did a wonderful job of representing local singing talent.

It was good to welcome both choirs on their first visit to The Big Local Night Out and we look forward to more local singing talent sharing the stage with Tom and our next special guest, Pyramid Park at the fourth BLNO on **October 20th**.



Myton Secondary School



Village Voices

‘Weaving Warwick’s Stories’

A major aim of **Warwick – A Singing Town** has always been to commission brand new songs to celebrate Warwick and the Singing Town project.

This ambition was realised in a wonderful performance of ‘Weaving Warwick’s Stories’ by over 300 children from nine local partner schools at Warwick Hall on July 11.

Each school were visited by our composer Lillie Harris and writer Laura Attridge who introduced the project and the first song and then created opportunities for the children to share their ideas about Warwick past, present and future; ideas that were then incorporated into the four final songs:

- The anthem, *A Bend in the River*, starts the journey off with an overview of how the town came to be, referencing the natural features that attracted its earliest residents.
- *A Tapestry of History* explores Warwick’s past and draws inspiration from classic nursery rhymes and Old English storytelling traditions.
- *Come With Me!* is a tour of Warwick in the present day, told from a child’s-eye view.



The irregular meter and unexpected harmonic progressions drive a sense of momentum and enthusiasm.

- *Watching Over Warwick* reflects on what the future might bring. The text combines a dream-like wonder with a deft sense of uncertainty, so likewise the music is wistful and spacious.

This major event was supported by the Warwick Schools Foundation, King Henry VIII Endowed Trust and Warwick Town Council.



From left to right: Ben Hamilton, Laura Attridge, Lillie Harris, Cerys Purser, Mariana Rosas, Jeremy Dibb

Warwick Choral Festival 2023

The Warwick Choral Festival is a celebration of the wealth of community singing in Warwick that involves hundreds of performers from schools, community choirs and singing groups.

There is something for everyone with performances from opera to folk in venues including schools, churches, Chase Meadow community centre, Warwick Castle and the Dream Factory.

Warwick Choral Festival 2023
 June 13 – July 30

Venues include:
 Collegiate Church of St. Mary – St. Nicholas Church
 Chase Meadow Community Centre – Warwick Hall
 The Dream Factory – Warwick Castle – St. Paul's Church
 The King's High School – St. John's Church, Kenilworth



Performers include:
 Collegium – Choirs of St. Mary's – Playbox Theatre
 Warwick and Kenilworth Choral Society – Divertimento
 Warwick Folk Festival – Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Opera
 Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir
 Armonico Consort – Da Capo Chamber Choir
 Canticum – Singing for Pleasure – Village Voices
 Sing for Joy – wellbeing singing group
 Children from Warwick schools – Warwickshire Sings

www.warwicksingtown.co.uk








Armonico Scholars at The Court House



Over 100 children and young people took part in the Rotary schools' concert at St. Marys



Sing for Joy and Singing for Pleasure at Chase Meadow Community Centre

Sing for Joy!



Cerys Purser

Our very special singing group, directed by Cerys Purser, promotes the many health benefits of singing and continues to run free of charge at Chase Meadow Community Centre.

The sessions will focus on how singing can support different aspects of health and will change the theme and specific health benefit every term.

These sessions are ideal for anyone new to singing and we very much hope that participants might feel inspired to then join one of the many local choirs.

The singing for health programme

FREE
INCLUDES COFFEE
AND CHAT

Sing for joy!
Warwick
singing for
health group

THURSDAYS
CHASE MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTRE
01926 490845
12.45 - 2PM
FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:
WWW.WARWICKSINGINGTOWN.CO.UK

CARING THROUGH SINGING

Warwick
A Singing
Town

CMCC

Goodbye and Hello

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Choral Entrepreneur Mariana Rosas, although we are very pleased for her as she has got a rather fantastic new job as Director of the London Symphony Chorus; who perform at the Royal Albert Hall on a regular basis with the world famous London Symphony Orchestra!

We are delighted to welcome Sierra Farquhar-Wulff to the WaST team.



Sierra Rose Farquhar-Wulff is a choir director based in Birmingham, England. She is the Music Director for the Ryton Chorale and the Leicester University Chamber

Choir, and is now a Choral Entrepreneur with **Warwick – A Singing Town.**

Sierra earned her bachelor's degree in music education from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami and master's degrees in conducting from the University of Birmingham and California State University Fullerton. She began her career in Oregon, USA where she taught general music, choir, and strings in the public schools.

Sierra went on to gain a Master of Music in choral conducting at California State University Fullerton, where she assistant-directed the choirs and symphony orchestra. While studying at the University of Birmingham Sierra conducted the Camerata, University Singers, and Upper Voices Ensembles.

Calendar of events

September

Saturday 30 September – 7.30pm

- **The French Connection – Armonico Consort**
– The Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick

October

Tuesday 10 October – 7.30pm

- **Ex Cathedra presented by Leamington Music**
– The Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick

Friday 20 October – 7.00pm

- **The Big Local Night Out** – Bridge House Theatre

November

Tuesday 30 November – 7.30pm

- **Chelys Consort of Viols and Helen Charlston (mezzo-soprano) presented by Leamington Music**
– The Collegiate Church of St. Mary, Warwick

January 2024

Sunday 21 January – 10.00am-12.30pm

- **Make a Memory – Sing Together**
– Family Singing at Warwick Hall



For any further details, please contact
singingtown@warwickschools.co.uk

www.warwicksingingtown.co.uk

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