



BELVOIR WASSAILERS MALE VOICE CHOIR NEWSLETTER — Autumn 2019



The Belvoir Wassailers continue to go from strength to strength with significant support from our sponsors and through a number of successful grant applications. A wonderful Summer season saw the choir travel out to new venues in Frisby on the Wreake, Langham and Burton Lazars.



The members have named the Alzheimer's Society as the core charity for their 2019/20 season to help the Society to achieve their vision of a bold and ambitious approach to research, transforming the lives of those affected by dementia.

John Hollins has now joined the choir as their main accompanist after they said farewell to Sam Kerby. John is a retired teacher of Modern Languages and Music. He has written and arranged albums for piano with various solo instruments which have been recorded and published in the U.K. and America. He has also written many hymns, choruses and liturgical settings, and an Opera based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince". John plays the flute in the Boston Orchestra and piano/harpsichord and flute in the Fenland Consort, based near Stamford. John enjoys a wide range of music, having been a keyboard player in a Big Band and with various jazz combos.



***The current season:** The Belvoir Wassailers have another busy Christmas season of concerts throughout December at Harlaxton Church (10th), Long Clawson (14th), Belvoir Castle (17th), Manners Inn Kington (19th) and Frisby on the Wreake (21st). The choir has also got to the semi-final of the Vale's Got Talent competition run by Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club.*

***Fund raising for worthy causes:** The choir's pursuit to raise funds for charity has led them to organise a sponsored walk on behalf of Prostate Cancer UK, where the coordinator Paul Gibbins managed to attract 80 people to walk eight miles around the Vale of Belvoir, ending up at the Dirty Duck near Woolsthorpe – it raised in excess of £2,700 !*

The Belvoir Wassailers have helped raise over £9,000 in the last year toward local charity and needy causes, this is before our core Summer season. We would like to think that by the end of June 2019 the choir will have raised almost £45,000 since being reformed nine years ago.

Our supporters: We must thank everyone who has supported us over the last year, especially our sponsors, who have supported and encouraged the Belvoir Wassailers over the years. Without your support and your generosity the Belvoir Wassailers Male Voice Choir would not have been able to support so many charitable causes.

A couple of organisations have supported the choir through grants of £750 to help us continue to perform and to present ourselves in an improved format. Last year we were able to purchase our own portable electronic piano and now with these grants from Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club and Ragdale Hall Spa (through their Make It Happen 2019 scheme with the Melton Times) we have been able to invest in a speaker and will be getting a portable podium (so that we can see Caz), a sturdy piano case, and looking into some simple staging.

Recruitment: We are always looking for new singers so do please join us if you enjoy singing and good company! Come along to Knipton Village Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm for rehearsals – no audition necessary – or contact us at secretary@belvoirwassailers.org.uk . We would love to meet you! Even if you are not sure whether you can sing or not, Caz (our Director of Music) will help you as much as she can.

Information: If you have an event and would like to make a booking for the choir: please contact our secretary on 07778 351935 or email secretary@belvoirwassailers.org.uk . You can also find out more about the Wassailers on our website, including a photo gallery of recent performances and personal details about the choir. In particular please book early for our popular Christmas concerts!

The website, www.belvoirwassailers.org.uk continues to be the online focus for the choir and we are always looking for content be it words or photos – so let us know. We have also got a Facebook page.

Get well soon lads: Sadly the passage of time has meant that several of our choir members have suffered illness and we would like to give a special mention to Geoff Petchey for whom we have given a specific recital at the Aslockton Hall Care Home. We miss you and we all hope for a good recovery so that we may see you again soon.

Finally a big “thank you” to our Director of Music, Caz, who has nurtured our singing talent and continues to challenge us through the barrier of performing without our music in front of us at concerts. Thank you for your patience!

Graham Allen,
Chairman, Belvoir Wassailers

Our Sponsors include: Lincolnshire County Couriers; Mr & Mrs Porter of Harston; Melton Mowbray Building Society; Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club; Ragdale Hall Spa; Robert Osborn; Betty Nevard



Caroline Sharpe
Director of Music

The BELVOIR Wassailers, finalists of the Vale's Got Talent 2019

www.belvoirwassailers.org.uk