



BELVOIR WASSAILERS MALE VOICE CHOIR

NEWSLETTER Spring 2018

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN:

May I first take this opportunity to thank our retiring chairman, Gilbert Ward, for his stirring efforts to establish and lead the Wassailers for more than 10 years. Who would have dreamt that the small group of singers formed from estate workers all those years ago would develop into the current choir now numbering more than thirty? Well done Gilbert and your new role of Founder President of the Wassailers is richly deserved.

May I also thank everyone, and 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.

Funds raised in 2017 : £1057 for the Grantham Talking Newspaper and a total of £2948 at Christmas for local churches and the Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance, making an annual total in excess of £4000 for the year.

Funds raised since 2010: The Wassailers have raised, or contributed to raising, a total of £34848 since 2010.

Last year, in 2017, we were able to sing for and support the following good causes :

Grantham Talking Newspaper; the Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance; Melton Rotarians; Hose Church of England; Melton's Welby Lane Mission Church; Grantham Baptist Church; Knipton C of E; Croxton Kerrial C of E; Belvoir Castle Carol Service; The Dirty Duck P.H. at Woolsthorpe; Denton C of E; The Manners P.H. at Knipton; The Dowager's 80th birthday at Belvoir Lodge and weddings at Denton and Branston churches!

How to make a booking for the choir: please contact our chairman on 07512 970458 or email secretary@belvoirwassailers.org.uk. You can also find out more about the Wassailers on our website "belvoirwassailers.org.uk", including a photo gallery of recent performances and personal details about the choir. In particular please book early for our popular Christmas concerts!

*This year in 2018 we have already sung for the **Grantham Mayor's Charity Concert** in February, a hugely successful sell – out event at the Guildhall and currently our main thrust is organizing a **Gala Concert of local choirs at the Newark Palace Theatre on Sat. 1st June** featuring **The De Montfort Gospel Choir, the Cranwell Military Wives Choir and the Rock Choir from Newark**, as well as ourselves of course! Funds raised will go towards two local charities: **The Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance Service and EMICS, the East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme** which is an invaluable service run by health professionals voluntarily. Contact the **Palace Theatre** directly for tickets to support this concert or visit the **BW** website for details.*

We are also planning performances in May and July, details to be confirmed will appear on the website.

And now a note from our Website Manager:

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 launched a site dedicated to our gala charity Up, Up and Away concert in Newark Palace Theatre on 1st June – it can be found at gala.belvoirwassailers.org.uk; and we also have our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UpUpAndAwayConcert) and Twitter feed (mobile.twitter.com/upupaway18) for you to keep in touch with us. You can also find details of our committee and our how to contact us.

New choir members: you may have noticed that our choir numbers have increased significantly recently, in fact almost doubled since 2010, but we are always looking for new singers so do please join us if you enjoy singing and good company! Simply join us at Knipton Village Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30 for rehearsals – no audition – or contact us at secretary@belvoirwassailers.org.uk. We would love to meet you!

May I also welcome our new accompanist – Samantha Kerby to the choir. Sam studied recorder, flute and piano at Chetham's School of Music and the Royal School of Music, where she reached the finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year. On leaving the Academy, Sam worked for many years as Director of Music in a number of schools in Kenya, at Chichester Cathedral School and at Beeston Hall School in Norfolk. She recently moved back to the Grantham area and is currently the Director of Music at St Hugh's School in Woodhall Spa.

Get well soon lads – sadly the passage of time has meant that several of our choir members have suffered illness and I would like to give a special mention to John Fairbrother, Iain Gillies and to Peter Branch. We miss you boys and we all hope for a speedy recovery so that we may see you again soon.

Finally a big “thank you” to all of our choir members, who turn out week after week to rehearsals at Knipton and particularly to our Musical Director, Caroline Jones. Caroline has been with us for two years now and by all accounts we appear to be making good progress musically, according to your audience feedback, so thanks Caroline for your wonderful teaching as well as your great sense of humour and your patience!

Geoffrey Petchey,

Chairman, Belvoir Wassailers



“Up, up and away” promotion for June 1st

Our Sponsors include: Lincs. County Couriers; Mr & Mrs Porter of Harston; ASC Metals; Mr M. Samworth of Samworth Brothers; Melton Mowbray Building Society.