



INFORMATION

for prospective and new members

However you've found us – word of mouth, Facebook, website, concert attendance – thank you for your interest in Charnwood Voices. This leaflet will give you practical and useful information about singing with us.

For more about our choir's history, past performances and future events, please go to:

www.charnwoodvoices.org.uk

We are a long-standing 4-part choir based at Belton Village Hall and performing in the local area around Charnwood.

We are a friendly and inclusive group of enthusiastic singers. Our repertoire includes both sacred and secular music of all types.

We rehearse once per week on Wednesdays at Belton Village Hall from 7.30pm for 2 hours. When performing concerts, we will also rehearse at the venue before the performance.

We perform formal concerts around 2-3 times a year. At other times, we have social events and perform for charity events and for fundraising.

Whilst we are an auditioned choir, it is more of a voice assessment to understand your vocal range and where you might fit best. The ability to read music is helpful but by no means essential as many members are not sight readers. Simply the enthusiasm to sing with a smile on your face is best!

At your first rehearsal you will be looked after by other singers and shown the ropes. Don't worry – we were all first-timers once!! After 3 or 4 weeks, if you feel you would like to join us, we will confirm you are singing the right voice part and check you are happy.

Useful information for singing year 2023/2024:

Musical Director: Eleanor Graff-Baker BA, MA, ARCM

Chair: John Owen

Committee:

Julie O'Dowd Secretary and Librarian

Christine Cooke Treasurer

Liz Twitchell Publicity and Soprano representative

Kerstin Taylor Alto representative

Malcolm Steward Tenor and Bass representative

We hold committee meetings during the year with an Annual General Meeting in the autumn

Last-minute rehearsal cancellations are circulated by email and via the website, so members are asked to check their inbox each Wednesday before setting off for Belton

Rehearsals:

- each Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm with breaks at standard holiday times
- at Belton Village Hall, School Lane, Belton, near Loughborough; LE12 9TU

First rehearsal: someone will greet you and find you a seat with other people singing the same voice part.

If you're not sure what that is, they will ask you a few questions to find out, or check with our Music Director before the rehearsal starts. You can try different voice sections in the first few weeks to work out what best suits your voice.

What to bring:

- £10 as a deposit for the music we are singing; our librarian will find you a set, and you can then take it home to work on between rehearsals
- a pencil to mark your music with directions from the music director
- a mug for a drink in the rehearsal break (we try to be a no single-use plastic organisation!) – usually 8.30 to 8.45 pm. We pay 50p for a hot drink and biscuits; this is a social time to get to know other choir members

Our choir Treasurer will take your music deposit, give you a receipt and fill in your contact details on the New Member Registration Form.

Membership fees:

- the choir year starts in September
- fees are £100, payable in one sum, or termly (£35, £35, and £30)
- your music deposit will be offset against your fee, with the first 12 weeks free
- the Treasurer will confirm the remaining amount due for the year when you become a member
- preferred payment method is by BACS; the Treasurer will give you the choir bank account details

Concerts: our aspiration is to perform three concerts a year. The committee plans concerts well in advance, so members can put dates in their diaries

Concert/performances – what to wear:

- Women – your own black top, trousers, and shoes, plus a scarf which is provided by the choir.
- Men – your own black shirt, trousers, and shoes