

# Tiptree Choral Society Newsletter No. 32

Making music together since 1945



I have a beautiful cluster of snowdrops flowering beneath the trees in my garden. Folklore tells us that an angel helped these early bloomers to flower as a symbol of hope in a cold, dark world and the sight of them really does 'lift the heart' doesn't it? Snowdrops, as you probably know, are also called Candlemas Bells and tomorrow is Candlemas Day, the mid-point between the shortest day and the spring equinox and hence the middle of winter. The weather tomorrow is supposed to determine whether winter is over or not so unless you really like snow, looks like we should hope for rain!!!

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright  
Winter will have another fight  
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain  
Winter won't come again.*

Apparently, it's traditional in some countries to eat pancakes at Candlemas as well as on 'Pancake Day'; they're my granddaughter's favourite breakfast so no doubt I will be

making them tomorrow and next week- hope you all enjoy yours!

## Committee changes

We are sorry to tell you that Jan has decided it is time to stop being our Publicity Officer. She has done a fantastic job over the last eight years, finding new places and ways to promote the Society's concerts - 'Prom in the Barn' and our fabulous little flyers are just two of her ideas that have been hugely successful. The committee has already presented Jan with flowers for all her hard work and commitment and I'm sure a big thankyou comes from all of us for all she has achieved. I know she has lots of other things to take her time and we wish her well with those.

As this is mid-year, to cover the interim, Karen has been co-opted onto the committee for the next two terms - she had already offered to take on producing the posters for concerts and now has kindly agreed to cover the role for the rest of the singing year. The role of Publicity Officer will therefore be 'up for grabs' (otherwise known as 'election'!) at the AGM in the summer.



## Birthday Greetings

Those who have celebrated so far in 2016 are Emily, Pauline, Kim, Hanne, Linda, Bob and Marion; Nick is our own little snowdrop with his February

birthday and the bunch of daffs to follow in March are Brenda, Muriel, Anne and Les. Happy days and lots of cake everyone!

## No Half Term!!



As the Spring term is generally quite short and Easter and our concert are quite early this year, we have decided to try running without a half term break in February. I know many of you will have remembered this as Malcolm mentioned it in

rehearsal to ascertain how many members might be away, but in case you weren't there that evening and the news hasn't filtered through, I thought I would mention it here! Some people will already have made arrangements for the Essex schools' half term but there were enough of us who hadn't to make rehearsal a viable option, so please come to the URC as usual on **February 18<sup>th</sup>** if you can!

## Our Nancy

I know we are all saddened by the death of our lovely Nancy just days ago and our thoughts and sympathies are with Ben at what is such a very difficult time for him. Nancy was our longest serving member: having joined pre Malcolm, she had been a member of the choir for the better part of half a century. I understand that she sang with Connoisseurs for a while in its early days and from sitting in front of her during rehearsals, I know that she had a lovely voice, warm and mellow, truly reflective of her personality. Outside of Choral, she was a keen gardener who often provided plants for

village events. Nancy never put herself forward, just quietly got on with things. She was always there ready to help, never criticised and had a kind word for everyone. We have missed her gentle presence over these last months of her illness and will continue to miss her now she has left us for good.

## Dates for your Diary

### 2015-2016

- March 19<sup>th</sup> - Rutter Requiem and Easter music; end of Spring term
- April 14<sup>th</sup> - Summer term rehearsals begin
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> - no rehearsal (Essex schools' half term)
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - Prom in the Barn with Essex Concert Band
- June 30<sup>th</sup> - Social (tbc)
- July 7<sup>th</sup> - AGM and end of summer term

### 2016-2017

- September 8<sup>th</sup> - Autumn term starts
- October 27<sup>th</sup> - no rehearsal (Essex half term)
- November 26<sup>th</sup> - Handel's 'Messiah' at St Luke's
- December 10<sup>th</sup> - carols and Christmas music at the URC; end of Christmas term
- January 5<sup>th</sup> - Spring term rehearsals begin

Liz

1<sup>st</sup> February 2016