

The Birkbeck Singers

HEADER GRAPHIC FOR PICTURES AND VENUES GOES HERE.

PICTURES AND VENUES PAGES

Winter Wonderland Methodist Church

Black Horse, Ipswich IP1 2EF

Friday 13th December 2019

This year on Friday 13th December, our Christmas Celebratory Concert was a bit different. Our Winter Wonderland evening was a 50/50 collaboration of two choirs, the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir and the Birkbeck Singers.

Both groups equally shared responsibilities, costs, publicity, sales, performance and of course, the profits for their Charities; these also were split 50/50; the Male Voice Choir nominated 'Fresh Beginnings' with their half, whilst the Birkbeck Singers named ActivLives for theirs. Both choirs and the guest Flute Choir, thoroughly enjoyed performing and working together, the audience was keen to show their appreciation and pleasure throughout the evening and both Charity CEOs were delighted to receive their additional funds for their very worthy causes.



What better way could there be to start yuletide festivities than by spending a delightful evening in the company of the Birkbeck Singers and the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir at their 'Winter Wonderland' concert? Lifting the lid on a tempting selection box of beautifully arranged and sparkly festive favourites including Jingle Bells, Gaudete, O Holy Night, Away in a Manger, Silver Bells, A Winter's Tale and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, it was a feast for the ears. With a sprinkling of musical fairy dust from the Ipswich Flute Choir making the most of the venue's acoustics and with falling snowflake projections on the walls, we listened, reflected, smiled, laughed and occasionally sang along. Keeping with the spirit of the season, two charities, namely 'ActivLives' and 'Fresh Start New Beginnings' benefited from the proceeds, and mince pies and refreshments generously provided by The Ipswich Co-op added to the money raised. And afterwards, feeling suitably festive, we wandered away into the Ipswich night humming tunes and looking forward to a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Report from a member of the Audience K.E.T

If anyone has some photos with both the Birkbeck Singers and the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir together, maybe even with the falling snowflakes, please send them to the editor.



Summer Country Walk Bramford to Sproughton

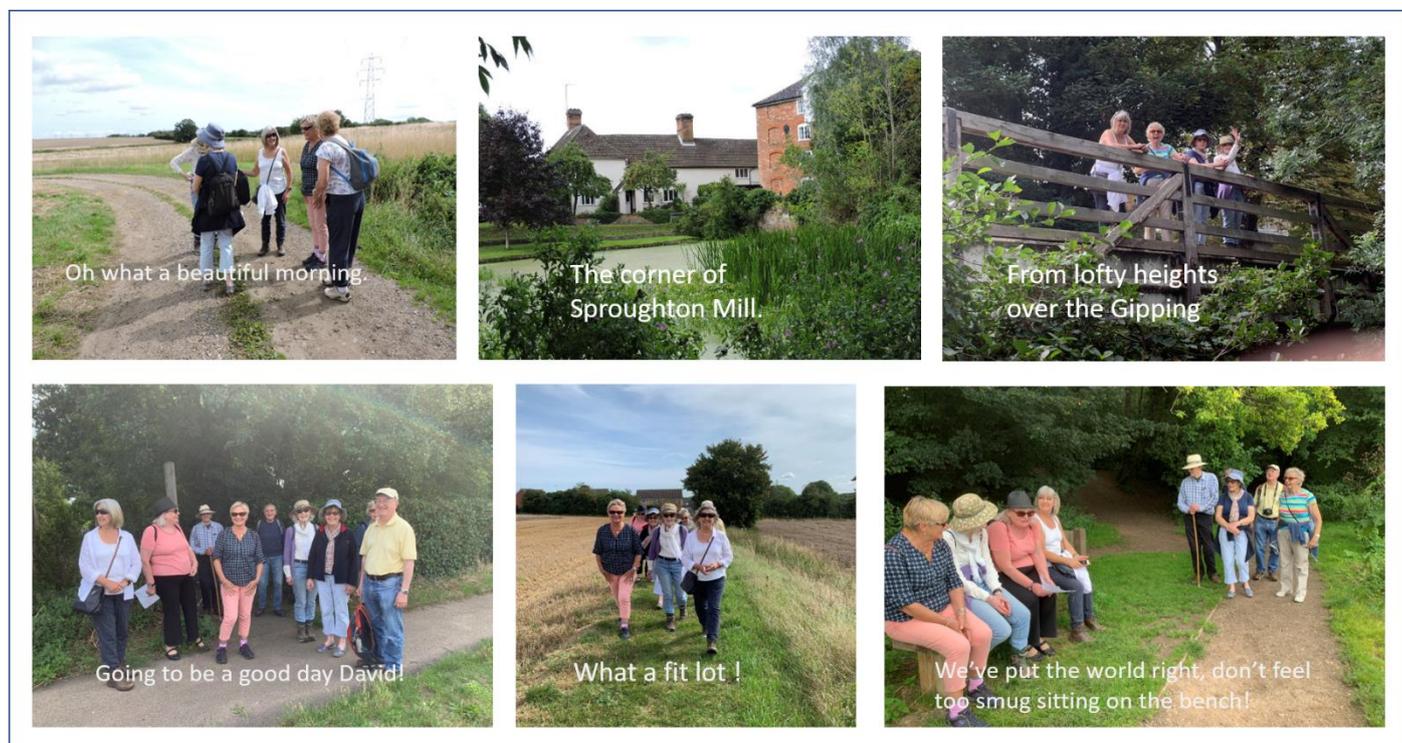
Wednesday 21st August 2019

David planned a wonderful circular cross-country route between the two villages of Bramford and Sproughton. It was the perfect distance and pace for a morning stroll, where almost every 5 minutes revealed something of interest; flowers, trees, distant farms, glimpses of the River Gipping, a Renoiresque bridge and water mills, even the site of Sproughton's village Lock-up! ...a reminder to limit ourselves when we return to the Bramford Cock, at the end of the walk.



On the 21st August, ten of us met at the Bramford Cock pub for a walk organised by Birkbeck member, David Mitchell. It was a pleasant and sunny morning, and we walked about three and a half miles. We went along footpaths at the back of Bramford village towards Sproughton. Then we returned along the riverbank to Bramford. This was a lovely and varied walk and a good chance to catch up with each other's news. Arriving back at the pub, we had a very enjoyable lunch. Good to see Stevie, who came to have a drink with us. This was a great way to raise funds for our charity, ActivLives. Thank you to David for organising this event for us.

Secret Reporter



MNld



Idyllic scene over the Gipping

Afternoon Sing-Along Tea Party

Chapters' Restaurant, Admiral's House, Ipswich Institute

Wednesday 24th July 2019

What better way to spend the hottest afternoon of the year so far than singing along with the fabulous Tim Laming and friends at the Ipswich Institute Restaurant in aid of ActivLives?

With lyric booklets to hand, over 50 eager audience members joined in singing old favourites from artists including Simon & Garfunkel, Elvis Presley, The Hollies, Bob Dylan, The Carpenters and many others. Tim led the singing and played his guitar, accompanied by Peter and Paul.....on the ukulele.

Halfway through the afternoon, Chandra Grover and Pat Grimwade gave Tim a well-earned break and delighted us with clarinets and a selection of Abba songs which got many of us waving our arms in the air as we sang along!

As we sat around small tables with our friends, ate exquisite bite-sized cream cakes and pastries from china cakes stands and poured ourselves tea, coffee or iced water between the songs

but time moves so quickly on when you're having fun. With a brief cheery word from Julie Stokes, the MD of ActivLives, the nominated charity, and huge applause and thanks to the musicians and sound technicians Fern Teather and Sam Thurlow , and , of course to Angie, the Restaurant manager, who had done so much to make the afternoon such a pleasure. Where had the hour and a half gone?



Secret Audience Reporter S.S



Eileen G's Art Workshop

Ipswich Institute Birkbeck Room

Wednesday 10th July 2019

What an enjoyable morning at the Art Workshop. A perfect 'wind-down' activity after a very busy year. Nothing too taxing, challenging or competitive - yet it was very interesting, motivating and convivial. Eileen started by showing us some interesting pieces that she had prepared; very simple but effective ideas: many 'cut and paste items, other ideas such as - to enhance/change photocopied prints of plants or pictures with wax, pastels, glue, scissors and stencils available to make the alterations - so many novel notions to remember!

She had come well prepared with colourful and plentiful resources; there was a multiplicity of different sized, brightly coloured paper, card and pictures, along with trays of pencils, wax-crayons, paints, scissors, glue and water....she'd thought of everything - even the coffee and nibbles.

It wasn't long before we'd selected what we were going to start with and the room stilled with quiet concentration, a flow of gentle laughs and light conversation. There was something there for every one whatever their artistic ability or talent and most felt well satisfied with their achievements of the morning. It was a brilliant idea and a very welcome earner for the Birkbeck Singers' 2019 Charity 'ActivLives'. What a Star! Thanks Eileen G.

Reporter MS



Music Day in Christchurch Park

Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Sunday 7th July 2019

What a colourful group we looked; meeting in the hall at Christchurch Mansion – nervous, apprehensive but wanting to do well. Even more nervous when we saw the amount of people in the audience!

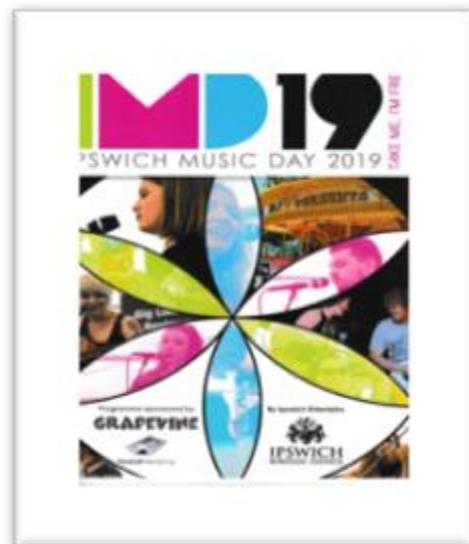
We needn't to have worried – Chandra guided us through our programme with confidence and a smile – her usual reassurance that we always do our best.

The variety of songs had been well chosen and sung with sensitivity in places and gusto in others. It brought the best out of all our voices.

The soloists in 'One Voice' did us proud – well done to them all.

The applause at the end showed us that we had put on a good performance and our smiles showed how much we had enjoyed the experience – or was it relief!

Many thanks must go to our pianist, Richard, who always follows our singing and of course to Chandra who has led us through this year with sensitivity, understanding and encouragement.
ecret Reporter MN



The Birkbeck Singers were delighted to perform for the Ipswich Music Day in the Art Gallery of Christchurch Mansion.



Closing Meeting for Birkbeck Singers

Summer Semester

Birkbeck Room

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

3rd July, the final meeting of the Summer semester 2017-18; only 3 days before our prestigious concert in the Park . The group were well prepared & following a tight schedule to address any issues and practicing the songs; time was tight - never-the-less , the Birkbeck Singers salvaged 10 minutes to thank Chandra, our new MD since last September and Richard , our highly talented piano accompanist , in gratitude for their hard work, good will and patience during the past year and every member contributed towards a gift-voucher and card for each of them .

The Singers also felt that they owed a special note of gratitude to Chandra , given that most of the singers had been stunned and traumatised by the sudden death of Be Bird, the previous MD and personal friend of everyone in the choir. Taking-up the post could have been a disaster for Chandra, but No ! She has reinvigorated the choir, brought new ideas and approaches for us along with good humour, sensitivity, skill and musical talent. She's been a Star! Thanks Chandra- Enjoy the Flowers.

