



Welcome to the first of what we hope will be a twice yearly newsletter sharing all things BCS. Hopefully everything you need to know will be included here – reviews of concerts, future plans, general news items etc. If you'd like to contribute to our next newsletter, please let Jane or Hannah know.

2023 so far...

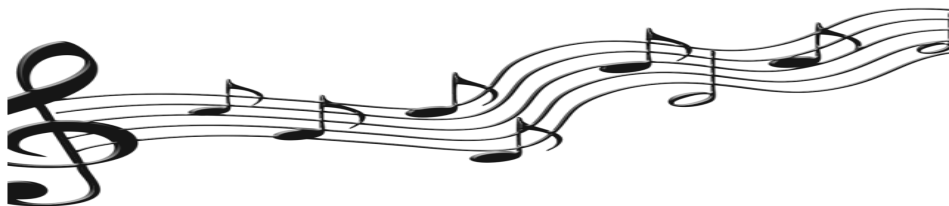
It's hard to believe we are fast approaching June already.....It's been a very busy few months for Bay Community Singers with a lot of work and preparation being put in for our spring concert at St Paul's Church on Thursday 30th March. There was a good audience who enjoyed the popular programme of songs, together with an upbeat performance from The Lido's who shared the evening with us. Our joint songs at the end of the concert and BCS as backing singers were a particular highlight ! It was wonderful to be able to finally perform 'The Simple Things' which we first started learning in summer term 2022 – probably one of the trickiest songs the choir has tackled over the years. It was great to get particular feedback from audience members that it was 'one of the best songs we had ever performed' and also from the singers themselves who, perhaps initially were not that keen on the music, actually saying ' I really enjoyed that song once we had learned it'. We have some fabulous recordings from that concert which really illustrate the high level of skill, accuracy and musicality from the choir. You should all be rightly proud of the standard that you have reached in singing and performance. Funds raised and to be divided between our two chosen charities: £588



After our Easter break we were back to it and preparing to perform with South Lakes Acapella in Windermere. A first for BCS to perform outside of our immediate local area. It was a lovely afternoon in a great venue (Carver Church) with a very appreciative audience and SLA were friendly and welcoming. It was fun to sing two acapella songs with them and also watch how they perform so confidently and musically without music or accompaniment. The tea and amazing selection of cakes afterwards were most appreciated and we received a share of proceeds of £150 to go towards our chosen charities.

For the summer term of singing we have a good number of singers signed up and our theme song wise is 'Summer' and 'Sunshine'. Although we have no big concert to work towards at the end of this term, we do have a few 'gigs' that we have been invited to sing at. Details of those can be found in our Summer Singing section below. This newsletter is going to anyone who has sung with BCS since January, so even if you are not attending rehearsals at the moment, you would be most welcome to come along to any of these events.

Please do let Pauline know so she can sign you up



Summer Singing!

Saturday 8th July – Allithwaite Playing Fields – Charity4Music event
12.30 – 1 pm

(Please attend rehearsal on **Thursday 29th June 7- 9 pm** if you are singing at this event)

Saturday 12th August – Holker Lower Village Hall – Hannah Fish 30th birthday music festival **5-5.30 pm** (might also do some songs with The Lido's) Hannah is kindly providing food for all those singing.

Sunday 13th August – Historic Vehicle Rally – Grange Playing Fields (Yew Tree Rd) **1 – 1.30 pm**

(As last year, we will try to have a short run through beforehand at URC church hall – tba)

REPERTOIRE: We will sing predominantly our unaccompanied repertoire plus a few songs with backing tracks.

SIGNING UP SHEETS AT CHOIR REHEARSALS – PLEASE SIGN UP!



Bay Community Singers Committee Members

Ian Wilson - Chair

Susan Stilling –
Treasurer

Pauline Wilson –
Secretary

Christine McCann –
Minutes Secretary

Lindsay Buckle –
Music Librarian

Hannah Coward –
Publicity and Social

Sue Evans – Bookings

Ron Hathorn

Jane Thedham - MD

BCS Celebrate 10 Amazing Years Of Singing!

This September marks 10 years since Bay Community Singers started. The first rehearsal was held in the Grange Institute and thankfully a smallish group of keen people who had seen our publicity in Grange Now turned up to do some singing !! As numbers grew and word got out a bigger venue was needed and so we settled in our current 'home', the URC church hall and the rest they say.....is history !

The Committee has been discussing ways to celebrate this landmark anniversary and we have decided to book the Victoria Hall for a celebratory concert on **SATURDAY MARCH 23RD 2024** starting in the afternoon and continuing into the evening. There will be an early evening concert with a possible big community sing-along beforehand and a party following on. It may seem a long time off, but if you'd like to be involved in this event PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE NOW !!! We will be inviting any former members of BCS to join us at this event.

In addition, we are extremely excited to announce that Karen Kirkland (composer of 'The Blessing') has composed a very special song dedicated to us on our 10th birthday – 'Across the Hills to the Bay'. It's a great catchy song which I am sure will become the choir's new 'Anthem'. We will start learning this in September.

Any other ideas you may have of ways to celebrate our special 10th Anniversary year, please let a committee member know.

The Committee have decided not to schedule an Autumn concert this year as it is always quite a rush to prepare adequately once we return in September. Instead, we will be able to spend a bit more time learning some new Christmas music to perform at the Christmas Tree Festival opening concert and our carol singing gigs.



End of year social



BCS is not just about the singing, but also the socialising and having time to chat to each other. New members in particular comment on our friendliness. We love to welcome new people and, if you are new to the area, it is a good way to meet folk. Our end of year social will take place on **SATURDAY JULY 1ST at 7 pm at the Grange Fell Golf Club**. This will be a fun BINGO night with supper. Grange Food Shed are once again providing a wonderful selection of food (Cold buffet) including delicious desserts. The cost is **£17.50** which includes the food and a contribution towards the cost of the room hire. Bingo cards will be available for sale on the night and there will be prizes !!! Please sign up at rehearsals or let Pauline know if you are not currently attending rehearsals. We also need to know of any dietary requirements. We are always keen to hear if you have any ideas for future social events. We try to arrange a mix of types of event and hope that you will continue to support them. Have a word with Hannah if you have any suggestions.

Other News

Committee members continue to work hard behind the scenes to apply for funding to help the purchase of new IPADS for use by Jane and Ray. So far we have received funding from The Lantern in Allithwaite, Grange Forum and the Bay Villa Trust c/o Grange Town Council. We will keep you updated on the progress so far with this.

If you have any queries please contact us on baycommunitysingers@gmail.com