



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 17**

26th September, 2013



Dear Friend

I begin by reporting that Joan Armitage has passed away, peacefully, well into her nineties. She will be remembered with fondness by many.

July's Verdi Requiem invitation concert, in Verdi's bicentenary year, was of a high standard and well-attended, (for the St George's Centre). The Mayor of Medway has written to say how much she and her husband enjoyed it. Roger Sayer encouraged visitors and members to sound as though they had always sung together. The RCS first performed this work 130 years ago, during Verdi's lifetime and has supported over 40 contemporary composers during their lifetimes (including such "newcomers" as Brahms and, of course, Britten, whose centenary is on St Cecilia's Day this November).

Our singing away from the Cathedral prompted some to ask if the connection was being lost. I explained last time why Medway Council had donated the use of the St George's Centre in July but there are also times (as this November) when we can't secure a Cathedral date that doesn't clash with other events; despite having first priority after the Cathedral's own requirements. We are given the greatest possible privilege and will sing there whenever possible, but please support us when we can't.

But let me also say that our connection is not just with the beautiful building but, even more significantly I think, with its **music**. Cathedral music is a national hallmark of excellence and marks the RCS as a top choir. We were founded by the Cathedral Precentor, in 1873 and Cathedral Organist, Roger Sayer, will next year celebrate his 20th anniversary as our Director of Music, to be succeeded by Scott Farrell, the Cathedral's present Director of Music. That is a great distinction for us.

Assisted by Gavin Williams, Scott has already been taking rehearsals for our 9th November concert. Thanks to Mary Burslem, the details on the website are reproduced overleaf and on the easily-reproduced handbill. Thank you for promoting these locally and with friends and family.

SUBSCRIPTION TIME!

This is a reminder that Annual Subs are due on 1st October and should be paid either by cash or cheque direct to the Treasurer, Chris Clemence, or on-line to the RCS account. Details, including benefits, are given overleaf. Thank you for continuing your support, which is very important to the RCS.

Thank you also for your friendship and concert attendance throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm

Malcolm Moulton, Friends' Secretary

Upcoming concerts

Autumn Concert 2013

Saturday 9th November 2013, 7 pm

Elgar: From Bavarian Highlands

Finzi: Five Bagatelles for Clarinet

Britten: Rejoice in the Lamb

Dove: The Passing of the Year

Dawson (arr.): Three Spirituals (Soon ah will be done; Every time I feel the spirit; King Jesus is a listening)

Chilcott (arr.): Skye Boat Song

Conducted by Roger Sayer

St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime

Spring Concert 2014

Saturday 29th March 2014, 7 pm

Brahms: Nänie

Elgar: Sea Pictures

Vaughan Williams: A Sea Symphony

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Roger Sayer This will be his last concert as RCS Director of Music.

Rochester Cathedral

Tickets: £18 (front of nave), £14 (rear of nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £3 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the front-nave seats and £3 off any other.

Friends Annual Subscriptions, benefits and payment

'Solo Friend': £30 for a year (life membership £300).

'Duet Friends': £50 per couple (life membership £450).

As a Friend, you receive:

- £5 off your front-nave seat or £3 off any other*.
- A free programme at each concert
- Newsletters, in the form of pre-concert mailings and
- An opportunity to socialise at our concerts.

Some fixed-price concerts (eg Christmas) are not included

The Treasurer is Chris Clemence, 246 City Way, Rochester ME1 2BN

tel: 01634 401049 ... e-mail: c.clemence@blueyonder.co.uk

He will be happy to receive cash or cheque payments.

To pay on-line (for those with on-line banking), please pay to

Name: Rochester Choral Society

Sort code: 40-39-02

Account n^o: 21028936

And let Chris know by e-mail. Thank you!

At present, there are no facilities for paying by credit card but this is being investigated.