

HITTING NEW HIGH NOTES OF SUCCESS - HIGHFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR RE-LOCATES TO A NEW REHEARSAL VENUE AND APPEALS FOR NEW MEMBERS

North Cheshire's award-winning Highfield Male Voice Choir is re-locating to a new rehearsal venue in Frodsham and has launched an appeal for new singers and an accompanist.

The choir performs up to 15 concerts a year, many in association with local schools, but membership has fallen to less than 40 singers in recent years and the choir feels it would benefit from an injection of new blood.



After Christmas, the Highfield changes its rehearsal venue from Trinity Hall in Runcorn to Frodsham Community Centre and hopes to reinvigorate membership by recruiting new singers and an accompanist.

Dating back more than a century and originally closely linked to Runcorn's Highfield and Camden Tannery works, the choir successfully survived the closure of the firm in the 1960s and has since gone from strength to strength.

Overseas choir tours in Malta, Spain and Ireland and concerts in top venues like London's Royal Albert Hall and Glasgow's City Hall have meant the choir has hit the high notes of success over the years.

The Highfield has won choral competitions at the Llangollen Eisteddfod, Southport Music Festival and numerous other contests and has established a reputation as one of the foremost choirs in the area.

Highfield secretary John Powell explained: “The Highfield owes its roots to industry, rather like the superb colliery brass bands which have survived long after they’ve lost the support of their original parent company.

“These musical groups have thrived because they offer members a special way of making and sharing music. We are one of very few male voice choirs in North West England offering that unique rich tenor and bass vocal sound.

“Friendship is an important factor in the group and many members have been loyal singers for years. But we feel that with the dawn of a new decade, it is time to re-invigorate our group with some new blood.

“We don’t audition singers and most of our choir members can’t read music – they learn songs by listening. Singing with other people always puts a smile on your face and is great exercise for the heart and lungs. Potential new members are most welcome to jump straight in, or come and check us out at one of our Christmas concerts.”

This festive season, the Highfield will be performing at four Christmas concerts:

St John’s Church, **Norley**, on Tuesday 3 December, 7pm; St John’s Church, **Alvanley**, on Thursday 5 December, 7pm; St Berteline’s, Norton, **Runcorn**, on Sunday 8 December, 2pm and St Ambrose Church, **Widnes**, on Tuesday 10 December, 7pm. Several of these are combined concerts with local schools.

A further concert is being planned for Frodsham Music Society at Frodsham Community Centre on Friday 17 April.

From January 21st, the Highfield will rehearse weekly at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.15pm.

For more information check out the Highfield Choir website

<https://www.highfieldmvc.co.uk/> or contact John Powell on tel 07514 529995

History

Highfield Choir was officially formed in 1911 in Runcorn. The name comes from the local Highfield Tanning Company (which folded in the 1960s) and the choir emblem still shows three figures carrying ‘bends’ of leather – each ‘bend consisting of half an animal hide after tanning.

In 1914 the company took over the Camden Tannery, also based in Runcorn, and the choir extended its name to the Highfield and Camden Male Voice Choir. New

members were welcomed from all over Runcorn and Widnes to sing with the core group of musical tannery workers.

The choir went from strength to strength and travelled all over the region to entertain troops involved in the First World War and three decades later, the Second World War too. They won prestigious music competitions and sang in venues across the UK and Europe.

Membership fluctuated in the 1950s and 1960s as the last tannery closed, but the choir lived on and changed its name to the Highfield Male Voice Choir. It enjoyed a resurgence of popularity in the 70s and 80s, with membership reaching a peak of 72 in time for the choir's 80th anniversary in 1991.

The Highfield continues to delight audiences with its special male voice choral sound. It is regularly called on to sing at civic and corporate functions, weddings and concerts around the North West.

Notes to Editors

Issued on behalf of Highfield Male Voice Choir by Pegler Communications.

For more information, Please contact Lynn Pegler.

Tel 01928 789042/ 07783 686246

lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk

www.peglercommunications.co.uk