

## For the Diary

### Concerts

**Saturday 10 March 2018 7:30 pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Church Street, Warwick**  
Performing Bach's St Matthew Passion

**Saturday 22 September 2018 at 7:30 pm.**  
**St Mary's Church, Church Street, Warwick**  
Performing Mendelssohn's Elijah

### Social Events

**Sunday 20 May 2018**  
Plant sale and afternoon tea at Glen & Geoff's house.  
Details to follow

**Sunday 8 July 2018**  
Sunday lunch at the Windmill Village Hotel, Allesley

**Thursday 19 July 2018**  
Last rehearsal of the summer term and it's  
Strawberries and Cream night

**Following the success of the quiz night and  
skittles evening we hope to see lots of you at  
these events.**

### Rehearsals

We rehearse every Thursday evening from October to July at Quinton Park Baptist Church Hall, Coventry. Rehearsals start at 7:15pm and finish at 9:30pm. Tea, coffee & biscuits are available at the interval.

### Find us Online

Our official website is at <http://www.covphilsoc.org.uk/>  
and our official Facebook page is at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/27912395845/>

### Membership enquiries

Email: [secretary@covphilsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@covphilsoc.org.uk), or you are welcome to join us at one of our Thursday evening rehearsals

## Another great skittles evening!



If you missed the skittles evening this year (it was on the 26<sup>th</sup> January) put a big note in your diary to buy tickets next year.

It was another great evening for those who did go along to the Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club and compete at 9 pins and table skittles after a delicious chicken supper (vegetarian option available). The winning team was rather appropriately named "The Oddballs" while Debbie Rumsby picked up the prize for the highest scoring individual. Well done to all and a big thank you especially to the Social Committee for all their hard work organising the evening.

### Contents

<b>Page 2</b>	How to be Different
<b>Page 3</b>	The Knit and Stitch Group
<b>Page 4</b>	Henry's Musings
<b>Page 5</b>	Christmas Puzzle answers

## How to be Different



The majority of people read the word 'publicity' and switch off (or stop reading, in this case). So here is a challenge. Be different. MAKE a difference. Help make the concert on 10 March a stunning success. How? By following these simple steps:

1. Display a poster. Get it out of your music case and put it up somewhere. The more public the better. Does your Post Office attract queues? Ask if you can put a poster up. Do you attend a church? That's the perfect place to ask for a poster to be displayed. If you can get a mention into your church newsletter or on the back of an order of service, even better.

2. Tell people. There's nothing like word of mouth to sell tickets. Tell your friends. Tell your family. Tell your neighbours. Tell complete strangers if you get the urge. And always have a handy supply of tickets available should somebody show

interest. You could even phone in to any radio station you listen to and share the details with the listeners.

3. Share! If you're on social media, share our posters and events on Facebook and on Twitter. If you're on email, email out the poster to your contacts and ask them if they'd like to attend. The poster is always emailed to all choir members before the concert, so just forward it on.

4. Let other singers know. If you're in another choir, do let them know we're performing. Don't feel embarrassed. We share information about other choirs' concerts at the Phil, so let others know about our performances.

There's nothing better than singing to a full house so please, make a difference and help put bums on seats.

**Heather Payne**

## A Christmas Cracker



On 22 December 2017, a small group of singers from the Choir, led by Matthew Sandy, delivered an evening of carols and festive music, loosely based around a Jane Austen theme to a "select" audience in the beautiful family chapel at Stoneleigh Abbey.

Everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy the performance, which featured solos by Matthew and Wendy Whyte, and the 12 Days of Christmas MC'd by Henry Whitney. So much so in fact that Stoneleigh Abbey residents have asked for a return visit this December!

## The Knit and Stitch Group



Almost two years ago a friend rang and asked if I would be interested in joining a knitting group. The idea was that once a month we would meet for a couple of hours in the afternoon on the first Tuesday in each month. We would have time to compare patterns and ideas and improve our knitting skills. We would also take it in turn to host and provide tea and cakes.

The news spread quickly around the choir and by the time the day came for the first meeting there were six of us all in the middle of various projects ranging from baby cardigans and shawls to jackets and embroidery. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the conversation flowed non-stop. We discussed projects we could get involved in. Perhaps we could knit for the hospital or for charities - wherever there might be a need.

We decided that our first project was to make a blanket made up of knitted squares. In that way we could all take part in its creation and it would be finished pretty quickly.

This was followed by clothes for premature babies and twiddle-muffs for patients in hospital with dementia.

By the autumn of 2016 our group had grown to nine and there were get-togethers when our knitting never saw the light of day. We put the world to rights, discussing whatever subjects were uppermost in our minds - Brexit, Trump,

equality, the weather..... and tea and CAKES to taste. Oh such cakes!!

Less than a year ago we had a thought to knit and sew items for the choir. We had a brainstorming session and eventually came up with the idea of a Christmas sale. None of us realised just how well this would take off. We were all knitting madly - while the potatoes were boiling, during coffee breaks and in those last ten minutes before bed-time. We thought that £200 would be a realistic target to aim for. None of us ever dreamed that after three tea-break sales we would have sold items to over £1100!! This was all profit for the choir.

In Spring last year we took ourselves off for a visit to Toft Farm to see the wool made from their alpacas. Again, we came home with loads of ideas. Much of the alpaca wool is used for crocheting and here was an opportunity to learn a new skill. Some in the group could crochet and others like me had never tried.

Our dear friend Ann Small was in the group and sadly died last Autumn. She was an expert in crochet. So, in March we are holding an all-day get-together in her name to learn and begin making the animals which she had loved making for her grand-children. We will then find a suitable home for them.

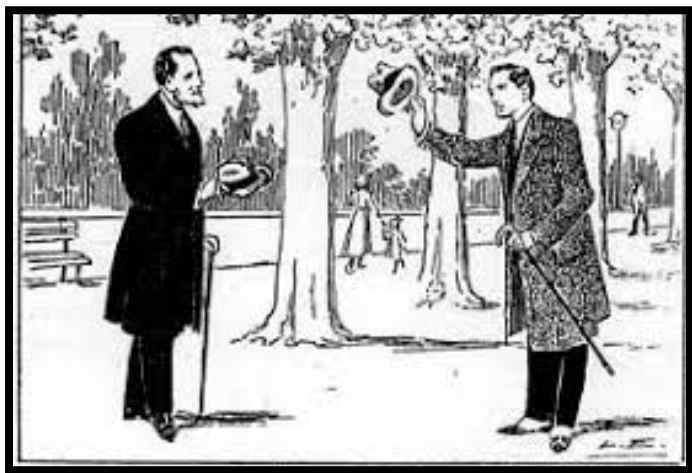
If you are at all tempted to start, or go back to knitting, crocheting, embroidery or cross-stitch and would like to join us then do see one of the social committee members as our venues change each month. I really do recommend it.

**Glen Way**

### Newsletters

We would love to hear from you with suggestions for articles. Our next issue will be published in April so if you have any articles, events, photos or other contributions for this one (deadline end of March) or future issues please email [news@covphilsoc.org.uk](mailto:news@covphilsoc.org.uk) or speak to any committee member.

## Henry's Musings



What's wrong with a bit of formality?

My Dad and I never hugged; never kissed; no real physical contact at all. But we shook hands every time we met. And you know what? I don't regret it a bit. I miss him, sure. But hugging? Really?

Anyway; it's a custom that has passed down a generation; I shake hands with my sons. My daughters in law are appalled and very occasionally when emotions are running high (a birth or a funeral) a hug is ok. But basically it's "Hello Dad" followed by a handshake. My grandchildren of course are different; they want and get the hugs and kisses. But I'll train them out of it; they're only little.

I'm the same with social greetings; I shake hands with people when I meet them and often when I meet them again. And (I don't think this is unrelated) I apologise to our musical director and our Chairman when I know I'm not going to be able to get to a rehearsal or a performance.

I've been accused, if that's the right word, of being a bit formal. Goes with the background I suppose; military and rather buttoned up father and grandfather; professional career. What can you do, eh? Change?

My point is (there is a point); what's wrong with a bit of formality?

I can date the beginning of the slide into emotional overload to the death of Lady Diana. Since then it has not just become possible to show your emotions but almost obligatory. You have to empathise with other people's feelings and share your own. Even with people you've only just met; they tell you about their family tragedies even before the drop of a hat (and don't get me started on why don't men wear hats any more) and they ask me to call them by their first names and ask me mine.

I'm happy to take people at face value and assume the best of all, unless and until the contrary be proved. But until it is I think a little formality, a little distance, is a good thing not a bad one.

So when you meet a chap wearing a hat advancing upon you with outstretched right hand and restrained smile saying "My name is Mr ..... " you'll know it's me. And you'll probably run.

**Henry Whitney**

### Useful Information

**Committee Members** - John Atkins (Chair), Peter Snaith (Secretary), John Thompson (Treasurer), Celia Lewis (Membership), Sheila Cowen, Henry Whitney (Librarian), Neil Kingdon (Ticketing), Rachael Birmingham, Jay Durrant, Clare Gelsthorpe, Margaret Jakiel, Andrew Kyle, Heather Payne, Clare Samson, Hilary Ward, Mike Ward (Front of House)

**Publicity** - Heather Payne, Margaret Jakiel, Andrew Kyle

**Social Committee** - Sheila Cowen (Chair), Liz Chester, Jay Durrant, Margaret Thompson, Hilary Ward, Glenda Way



# COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC CHRISTMAS PUZZLE ANSWERS

All the answers were all connected with “The Twelve Days of Christmas”.

<b>Firstly we had 12 drummers:</b>					
Buddy RICH	Ringo STARR	Charlie WATTS	Keith MOON	Ginger BAKER	Stewart COPELAND
John BONHAM	Dave GROHL	Bill BRUFORD	Mick FLEETWOOD	Sheila E	Phil COLLINS
<b>Then 11 “pipers” (all can have the suffix PIPE):</b>					
HOSE	WATER	DRAIN	BAG	PAN	STOVE
TAIL	WIND	DOWN	HORN	BLOW	
<b>10 lords (all can be prefixed or suffixed by or attached to LORD):</b>					
CHANCELLOR	OVER	JIM	GOOD	LAND	LAW
MAYOR	SHIP	TIME	WAR		
<b>9 ladies:</b>					
JANE	THE	DARK	IRON	PAINTED	LUCK
FIRST	KILLER	BIRD			
<b>8 maids (all can have the suffix MAID):</b>					
BRIDES	NURSE	HOUSE	BAR	DAIRY	HAND
CHAMBER	PARLOUR				
<b>7 swans (all seven letter words containing the letters S-W-A-N):</b>					
ANSWERS	WEANERS	TAWNIES	AWNINGS	WASTING	TAWSING
RAWNESS					
<b>6 geese (all types of geese):</b>					
CANADA	PILGRIM	SWAN	BARNACLE	SNOW	BRENT
<b>5 gold rings (the first 5 cities to host the Summer Olympics using the 5 ring flag):</b>					
ANTWERP	PARIS	AMSTERDAM	LOS ANGELES	BERLIN	
<b>4 calling birds (birds named after their calls):</b>					
BOBOLINK	CHOWCHILLA	HOOPOE	PEEWIT		
<b>3 French hens (all French breeds of hen):</b>					
FAVEROLLES	HOUDAN	MARANS			
<b>2 turtle doves (traditionally held by doves):</b>					
OLIVE	BRANCH				
<b>And finally the partridge in a pear tree (a painting by Klimt):</b>					
BIRNBAUM					