

ON THE BEAT



The Newsletter of the Essex Police Choir - March 2019

It's Our 30th Year!

Doesn't time fly! It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating our 20th.

And what a year it will be - for a number of reasons. We will have the fantastic opportunity of singing with massed Police Choirs and the British Police Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall (see opposite). We will be holding our 30th Annual Concert in October at St Luke's, Tiptree with our old friends from the Essex Police Band.

We are having a birthday dinner in May, to be held at the Chelmsford Racecourse, where we hope that we will see many of our former singers and guest choir members.

On top of this we will be organising a lot of publicity with a view to increasing our numbers - which actually happen to be the same as 10 years ago.

But we recognise that our age profile is slowly increasing and we need to attract some young blood. As with the majority of voluntary organisations, it is becoming more and more difficult to get people to commit to giving up their time on a regular basis and we need our members to come along each Tuesday evening and to 8 or so concerts in the year. Whilst this may sound a lot for some people, rehearsals are great fun and it is the elation that we feel after a successful concert that makes it all worthwhile.

So we will be having a packed year which will benefit our chosen charities, celebrate our successes and raise our profile, and hopefully our numbers, by ensuring that Essex Police Choir are seen across the County in one form or another.

A NEW YEAR & A NEW PRESIDENT

The Choir, having for 5 years enjoyed the support of Stephen Kavanagh, the former Chief Constable, we bade him farewell at the end of the year. The new Chief, B.J. Harrington, has kindly agreed to become our 7th President and we look forward to seeing him at concerts and wish him all the best for his new job leading the fantastic Essex Police.



ROYAL ALBERT HALL - HERE WE COME!

We will be singing at this once-in-a-lifetime concert on 11th May.

Compered by TV's Nick Knowles, there will be 11 other Police Choirs accompanied by the British Police Symphony Orchestra.



The numbers that have been chosen for us range from Finlandia, through Highland Cathedral to Danny Boy and with 400+ voices it will all sound superb!

There will also be a massive 5,000 blue flashing lights filling the Hall during the orchestra's rendition of Rick Wakeman's "Dance of a Thousand Lights"

Tickets (£19 to £45) are available via the RAH or BPSO websites (no booking fee via BPSO)

www.bpso.org.uk/product/royal-albert-hall

Ensure that you add Essex police Choir in the text box so that our 'fans' will be sitting together.

The whole Choir is really excited about this unique opportunity to perform at the RAH. **If the numbers of supporters are sufficient, we will book a coach to go from and back to Chelmsford on the Saturday.**

If you are interested in using this coach, please contact Mark Lawrence on 07802 414793



We were so proud to be able to present a cheque for £5,000 to our chosen charity for 2018, the Colchester Cancer Centre Campaign.

But it didn't stop there as we also donated £1,500 to SSAFA and £140 to the Colchester

Military Wives' Choir, from the St Botolph's concert in May. Not bad for a small Choir - but one with a big heart!

Our 2019 Charities

This year we have chosen two inspirational local charities who will benefit from our donations at the end of the year. Please see overleaf for details.



BITS AND PC's

Our Chosen Charities for 2019

Kids Inspire, based in Chelmsford, supports young people across Essex who are at an educational, social and/or economic disadvantage resulting from trauma, or emerging mental health issues. They provide a range of services including individual therapy, coaching and mentoring, group work, training and local community outreach activities run during school holidays.

The David Randall Foundation from Maldon, supports people with life limiting illnesses to enjoy life to the full for as long as possible, by helping to provide 'Good Days' for them and their families. It also provides Scholarships to people who demonstrate exceptional dedication and passion in pursuing their ambitions in sport or music but may be held back by their financial situation.

The Dick Giggins Trophy

Dick was our page-turner for many, many years and as a memorial to him, we present an annual trophy which now goes to one of our 'unsung heroes'. So many people undertake jobs for the Choir, from getting the room ready, providing drinks, running raffles, dealing with tickets and so on. This year the overwhelming choice was Dave Jepson who mans the door at every rehearsal, seeing us all in with a smile and a welcome.

New Video & Social Media

We recently had a promotional video made for the Choir and we will be posting it on our website and Facebook page. What we would like you to do is visit the website at www.essexpolicechoir.co.uk (which has all of the current information on it) and please follow us on our Facebook page and share our posts with your friends. Let's see if we can make the new video go viral!!

2019 PROGRAMME OF CONCERTS	
Tues 30th April	Maldon (Closed Concert)
Sat 11th May	Royal Albert Hall (see article on front page)
Sat 8th June	All Saints Church, Springfield Green, Chelmsford CM1 7HU
Sat 13th July	Salvation Army Citadel, Chelmsford CM2 0DL (with the Army's London Fellowship Band)
Sat 14th Sept	Joint Concert with Metropolitan Police, Central London
Sat 19th Oct	Annual Concert, St Luke's Tiptree CO5 0SU (with Essex Police Band)
Sat 16th Nov	St Mary's, Wivenhoe CO7 9BD
Tues 3rd Dec	Chelmsford Cathedral, Essex WI Christmas Concert
Sat 14th Dec	Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
	All concerts start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise

Thank you to all the people who have responded to our request to reduce the Choir's 'Carbon Footprint' and postage costs and receive our Newsletters by e-mail. If any of the remaining paper copy recipients have an e-mail address and would like to receive 'On the Beat' electronically please contact us as below

Our CDs - *massive reduction in price!*



Having sold out of two of our three CD's, we just have 'Start Spreading the News' available which contains many of our 'favourites' At only £5 each, they can be bought when you attend a concert, or by contacting us as below



Mark Lawrence on 07802 414793 or e-mail:

Thought for the Year: -

"I believe that singing is the key to long life, a good figure, a stable temperament, increased intelligence, new friends, super self-confidence and a better sense of humour." Brian Eno, Composer