

## Thinking of joining us?

The Ladybrook Singers is a friendly and inclusive choir of ladies who enjoy singing great music together. Everyone makes an important contribution and there is a strong sense of loyalty and commitment - a number of our members have been with us for many years. New ladies are always extremely welcome and people say that they feel part of the group very quickly. Many people have made lifelong friends through their membership of the Ladybrook Singers.

Before committing to joining us, every prospective new member can come along to a couple of rehearsals to find out what the practices are like, as well as to get to know the choir a bit. Once you have decided you would like to join, our MD Alison Bletcher will do a short voice test with you to check you are in the right part. Once she has confirmed you as a member you will be given all the current music, plus information on choir membership, uniforms and subscriptions.

We have section reps to help new members settle in and feel at home. At your first rehearsal you will be introduced to a member of the choir in your voice part who will show you the ropes and answer any questions you have.

It is not necessary to read music because everything is taught by ear. We all spend some time at home in between rehearsals learning the music and directions - and the words too as we often sing songs from memory, sometimes in different languages. Alison covers a lot of singing technique during practices which helps us a lot, as well as shaping our understanding of the music and how to convey it.

We all work hard together to create great music and enjoyable performances. This takes time and commitment. Rehearsals can be demanding but are also fun and we usually leave them feeling uplifted and energised. To perform well we need to be focused and listen to directions from Alison. Punctuality and regular attendance are very important so we can get the best out of the rehearsals and ensure that we are balanced and singing well together as an ensemble.

Members enjoy coming along to our informal social events and there are also charity fundraising activities to take part in.

There is an elected committee who assist with things like finances, membership, organising concert venues, publicity and fundraising. However, everyone in the choir helps too by selling tickets and organising or taking part in fundraising activities.

Our repertoire covers lots of different styles and genres so there will usually be something to suit all tastes. Performances are also varied and range from competitive festivals in different parts of the country to charity fundraising events and concerts in cathedrals, local venues and residential homes. On average, we perform 6-8 times a year, but we do have a break from performances over the summer to learn new material. Once in a while we travel further afield, most recently to the Netherlands. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more. We look forward to hearing from you.