




Peterborough Flute Choir

NEWSLETTER

August 2024

PFC at the end of our fundraising concert for Stoke Doyle Church

A bumper year for events

For those of you with a friend or family member in PFC, you may have got the feeling you've not seen them much this year. It's August and we've already had 10 events and there's still 9 gigs to go, **and** the annual Christmas meal. Read on to find out what we've been up to



A snapshot of the PFC sign-up sheet board

A festival for flutes

To kickstart the year, in March PFC attended the very first flute choir festival hosted by Birmingham Flute Choir.

By car-sharing, this was more than just an event to celebrate a pastime we all adore, but also a chance to socialise more than a tea break really allows for.

The day started with a mass play of the 300ish players - a delightful spectacle to both see and hear.



There were opportunities to gawp at and try all the lovely flutes on the trade stands; participate in specialty seminars and of course, performances.



We were one of the smaller groups but we were also the only ensemble to perform without a conductor.

Playing in front of 'peers' can be strangely more daunting than a regular audience, but this event also proved to be incredibly supportive and encouraging. We'll definitely sign up for the next one.

Future performances

Concert for Parish Church of Wisbech St Mary's

7pm, Mon 14 October 2024
Tickets £10 ; Available from 07808 504462

Piccolo children's concert
St John's Church, Cathedral Square
11am, Thursday 7 November 2024
Entry £4 adult, £2 child.

Sparkling Afternoon Tea
Emmanuel Church, Parson Drove
2pm (music 3pm), Sat 30 November 2024

Festive Fluting
Robert Horrell Centre, Peterborough City Hospital
4pm, Friday 6 December 2024



For more details & future dates up to June 2025(!), visit www.peterboroughflutechoir.co.uk/upcoming

Cream tea connoisseurs?

Now we wouldn't like to put anyone's nose out of joint, but as a flute choir, we like to think we've got an eye for a good bake as we get regular tasting practice at rehearsals and this year we've had cream teas at four gigs.

According to my sums, a medium-sized scone with a decent heft of clotted cream and a proper dollop of jam clocks about 700 calories. Flute playing burns roughly 140 calories an hour so it's a delicate debate whether to carry on practising for another 3 hours after a gig or ration my intake of the delectables to a 2/5 of a scone. Hardly practical, and not likely!

The picture above right is from the Stoke Doyle fundraiser concert to install toilets on the premises. (Although we found their



current 'compost toilet' facilities to be surprisingly civilised!). We thoroughly enjoyed playing in such a light and airy venue. If you haven't visited this interesting early Georgian church, do check it out.

We were joined for the second time this year by multi-talented local vocalist, Gemma Doherty, who joined us for pieces like Chattanooga Choo Choo and Mister Sandman. She absolutely deserved the most applause of the concert for her considerable skills as percussionist performing Leroy Anderson's "The Typewriter".

A trio of PFC bakes...



...sometimes I'm not quick enough to get photos of the finished bakes!

Luscious and low

This year we had an even bigger turnout for Carla Rees' fantastic day focussed on alto, bass and contrabass flutes.

Who needs French horns when you have an awesome army of alto flutes?

And what do you mean you've never seen a piece needing 9 bass flutes (see right)?

Energies were still unbelievably high in the final run through which included the total whirlwind of a piece: Air de Furies.

Bass Flute 1

O bone Jesu

[♩=63] 6
Bass Flute 1 O bo - ne
12 [A] 2 B. FL. 9
20 [B] 4 [C]



Low flutes 2024 - in its second year and at a new venue for us: The Cresset

Welcome to the family!

At the moment, the majority of PFC income comes from membership subscriptions. While we have a mission statement that sees us wanting to support charitable causes, we have to be careful to balance that with paid gigs so that we can pay for things like venue hire, insurance, website fees, and, of course, sheet music.

Our Treasurer, Naomi, keeps a watchful eye on our account and it was an exciting prospect to be told we had enough pennies to consider buying an instrument for the group.

We put this to the ensemble at the AGM in January this year and it was agreed that a bass flute would be the most useful and appreciated addition to the flute choir at this time.

After some calendar-jenga, the stars aligned such that all the committee happened to be available to visit every flautist's favourite sweetie shop: Just Flutes.



View the grand unboxing: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/756974432876873>

We'd consulted with the other likely players of the potential new bass who couldn't join us that day, so we knew a horizontal bass was everyone's preference and we had a clear budget in mind (always important!).

This helped narrow the options to three instruments. We took it turns having a noodle on each bass, chopping and changing, playing excerpts from existing repertoire that we know can be tricky.

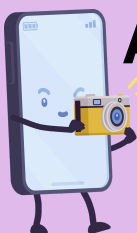
Unexpectedly, it was swift and easy to come to a unanimous decision to purchase a beautiful Pearl. And then somewhat a slight anticlimax to come home empty-handed as it needed to finish being set up, but check out our Facebook video for the gleeful unboxing when it arrived in the post a week later...



SUMMER SUN, SOMETHING'S BEGUN

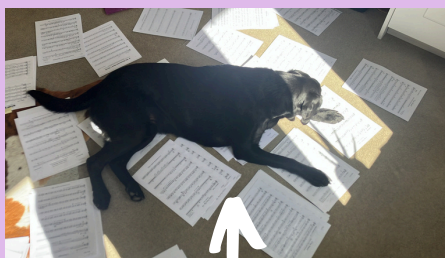
This year we finally managed to plan a date to have a mid-year get together. Members were incredibly generous and imaginative with their bring and shares - fortunately Charlie had a hoard of Tupperware so that nothing went to waste. Here's to this being the first of many.

Also from the photo reel...



We were chuffed to be invited to perform at **Oundle's Vintage Festival** in May.

It was a wonderful excuse to get dressed up. It's so interesting how a costume can change the atmosphere in a venue.



Nothing like getting a helping paw from the flute choir's mascot.

Shame he sleeps on the job so much.

We rallied against Wimbledon fans and corralled nervous England fans for our fundraising concert **'Toot au Jardin'** in aid of **Glaphorn Church**.

Being the 14 July, we brought a little French flair in both repertoire and regalia.

