



Sing with Pride End of Year Newsletter

2018 was an eventful year for Sing with Pride. In January we started working with our New Musical Director Charlie Caine. Charlie helped us to keep singing through some difficult times. We gradually grew in confidence and musicality. We spent the next few months focussing on fine tuning some of our previous repertoire whilst also learning some new songs.



In May SWP were delighted to participate in the "Big Gay Out" at Stody Hall in North Norfolk. We sang amongst the Azealia's and on the terrace on what was a lovely sunny day. We recruited some new choir members and had a sweet time wandering around the beautiful grounds and eating some amazing cake.



Charlie and SWP had a lovely time supporting Horning primary school with their Pride celebrations in June and July. Charlie taught them to sing "Somewhere over the rainbow" and some of the staff and children joined us on Pride day to sing it on the Pride parade.



In July "Out 140 the Play" was premiered at Stage 2 Theatre Royal. Charlie was MD and several members of the choir were in the cast. Most of Sing with Prides repertoire of OUT 140 songs were performed during the play as well as some new ones written specially for the event. The performance was a resounding success.



We had the most wonderful time at Norwich Pride in July. We sang a set in the Forum in the morning and sang with the NHS choir on the Parade. Julia sold loads of jewellery to raise money for us and her new line in transgender colours was very popular. We chatted to loads of people on our stall. Shell and Zuzka even sang "I am what I am" on stage with Surely Bassey!



August was a very sad time for the choir. Our lovely soprano Ruth Emms lost her long and hard fought battle against breast cancer. Ruth adored singing with SWP. Choir members past and present who had known Ruth were honoured to be led by Mary Lovett to sing at her memorial service in September. We sang an African lullaby "Tula Mama" and "Something inside so strong" to honour and celebrate the sweet, fun singing times that we had with her.



September saw the start of our Autumn term. Charlie wrote a new song for us to learn in preparation for Trans memorial day. It was called "Pay it no Mind" in honor of Marsha P Johnson.



<p>In November we sang our “Pay it no Mind” at the Transgender Day of Remembrance Service at St John’s on Timberhill. The focus was to raise awareness, banish ignorance and hatred, celebrate and remember.</p>	
<p>Sing with Pride has performed at World Aids day on December 1st for many years This year was no exception however it was the last time we were to perform with our Bass Singer Father Christopher who is also the priest at St Johns and who is leaving in January for a new parish in the North of England. We will miss his lovely voice and his wise and witty presence.</p>	
<p>Our annual Christmas quiz closed 2018 with a flurry of tinsel and good times with friends old and new. We raised £280 for the choir.</p>	
<p>2019 is going to be an exciting year as it’s the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and there will be global celebrations. We have been invited to perform again at Stody Hall on 25th May for their Rainbow Day Out. We’ll be celebrating 10 years performing as Sing with Pride at Norwich Pride on Saturday 27th July. In August we are registered to sing at the UK and Ireland LGBT choirs festival “Hand in Hand”. This year it is at the Festival Hall Cardiff. This is always a brilliant event and a chance to see and sing in front of an amazing range of LGBT+ choirs.</p>	
<p>At the end of January (date TBC) we will hold our AGM where we will review our plans and finances and elect a new steering group. If you would like to apply for any of the positions - chair, treasurer, secretary or steering group member - please have a chat with Stevie.</p>	
<p>Dates for 2019 are:</p>	
<p><u>Block 1:</u> 17th January to 21st February</p>	<p>1 week break</p>
<p><u>Block 2:</u> 7th March to 11th April</p>	<p>2 week break</p>
<p><u>Block 3:</u> 2nd May to 6th June Stody Rainbow Day Out 25th May</p>	<p>1 week break</p>
<p><u>Block 4:</u> 20th June to 25th July Norwich Pride 27th July Hand in Hand Festival 16th-18th August</p>	<p>5 week break</p>
<p><u>Block 5:</u> 5th September to 10th October</p>	<p>1 week break</p>
<p><u>Block 6:</u> 4th October to 28th November World Aids Day 1st December. Christmas Quiz TBC</p>	<p>Christmas break</p>

Check out our website for all our latest news and photos: www.singwithpride.org.uk