



# Abingdon Music Centre

Music for Everyone



Newsletter December 2021

To all our members,

Thank you ever so much for all your support during 2021, with our sessions taking place on Zoom, outdoors and then in some new venues with social distancing. It has been great to be able to make music together, albeit with limitations, and hopefully things will become easier as 2022 progresses. We look forward to being able to make more music with you in 2022 – term restarts on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Until then, stay safe and well over the Christmas break.

Take care,  
Helen & all at Abingdon Music Centre

## Singing for Pleasure

Singing for Pleasure had been meeting outdoors at St Ethelwold's House Gardens in the summer and moved to a new venue at The Barn at Christ Church, Northcourt Road in the Autumn. We are delighted to announce that the group has recently received a much-welcomed boost of £2,000 donation from local developers Pye Homes, following an appeal over the summer for people to suggest groups or organisations they believed deserved to be recognised for their positive impact on local communities. "We were delighted with the response to the appeal and it was a difficult decision to decide on an overall winner but we all agreed Abingdon Music Centre plays a key role in the area and will undoubtedly benefit from the extra funds," said Pye Homes' Managing Director, Graham Flint.



## Abingdon Music Centre: Musical Advent Calendar

In lieu of our annual Christmas Concert in St Helen's Church we have created another musical advent calendar for you to enjoy each day: [View AMC Advent Calendar](#)

This features favourite recordings from our recent Christmas concerts as well as recordings made by some of our groups during rehearsal sessions this term.

## Staff Change

We were very sorry to lose Gareth from our admin team at the end of last term. He always worked incredibly hard and with such lovely humour and we miss him very much. We wish him well in his new role.

We are now very pleased to have Gillian supporting Ali in the admin office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Some of you will recognise Gillian as our Baby and Pre-school Music Co-ordinator and she is also a violinist in our Abingdon Community Orchestra.



## Further information

Please click on these links to view all our classes and hosted activities for the [very young](#), [school-age children](#) and [adults](#)

View our [Directory of Teachers/Musicians](#)

07934 364940

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm

[www.abingdonmusic.org.uk](http://www.abingdonmusic.org.uk)



Charity No. 309181

## Mini Music Makers (Baby and Pre-school)

All our Mini Music Makers classes have been meeting in person this term, mostly at our main base in the Music Building at Larkmead School with drop-in classes on Tuesday in the Hall at Christ Church, Northcourt Road.

All members are offered their own bag of instruments, including grown-up sets too, so that children can enjoy trying out the songs they are learning at home.

The Monday and Thursday classes have been enjoying listening and moving to some hornpipes and jigs on the violin. It is lovely to be able to share live music with our youngest members!

Some of our favourite Christmas songs are available for our youngest members to enjoy on Dropbox. Please [contact the admin office](#) if you would like this link.

Classes are free for babies up to 4 months old so please do spread the word if you know local families with new additions.

## The Abingdon Music Centre Trust News

The Abingdon Music Centre Trust is the charity which is responsible for Abingdon Music Centre. The Trust is managed by a team of hardworking Trustees with different areas of expertise and experience, not necessarily in Music. There have been a few changes this term:

- Annalise Dobson has retired after 25 years of being a Trustee for us. She has done a sterling job at running our refreshments at events and is the queen of putting up gazebos so will be sorely missed.
- Jim Hines has stepped down as Chair of the Trustees but remains on the team responsible for Data and Finance. He has given unstintingly of his time over many years and we are hugely grateful for all his input and enthusiasm that has made the Music Centre what it is today.
- Amena Sutton, our previous Vice-Chair, has taken over as the new Chair of Trustees. She brings a wealth of experience from her career in education and also from being a school governor.
- We are delighted to welcome two new Trustees to the team: Jon Bentley (member of Abingdon Community Orchestra) and Lucy Webber (member of ACCord).

We are always pleased to hear from people who may be able to offer their time to Abingdon Music Centre, either as a Trustee or as a volunteer supporting specific activities or events. Please do get in touch to discuss this further if you are interested.

## Charity Hikes 2000 miles Update

We've been keeping you in touch with local resident Simon Coates's 2000 miles walk challenge over 6 months to raise money for sixteen charities, including Abingdon Music Centre. We are delighted to be able to let you know that he has now reached the impressive 2000 miles target – he even had 8 days to spare! Huge congratulations to Simon for this amazing effort and commitment and for giving his time to support local charities. For further information, visit his website: [www.charityhikes.org.uk](http://www.charityhikes.org.uk)

If you would like to congratulate Simon by making a donation to support Abingdon Music Centre, please visit our [fundraising page](#).

We are very grateful for any support you feel able to give.

## ACCord's Sing for Change

ACCord (Abingdon Community Choir) recently took part in a Sing for Change project, where choirs across the country were invited to learn a specially-written arrangement of the Louis Armstrong song *What a Wonderful World* as a sung message to the world during COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

This idea was part of the Sing for Change organisation's rather cheery (?!) sounding 'No Music on a dead planet' campaign which has a primary aim to raise awareness of climate change and start conversations about it.

Click [here](#) to hear ACCord's rehearsal recording of *What a Wonderful World*.

