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ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Choir on song after 150 years

ON April 30, 1867, a group of singers came together to perform Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion* to the good people of Bedfordshire.

One hundred and fifty years later, Bedford Choral Society is still singing 'for the joy of it'.

To mark this special anniversary, more than 100 enthusiastic singers will come together to raise their voices to perform that same piece of music to a modern day audience.

Roger Barnard, vice chairman of the society, said: "By the time of the concert, the choir is aiming to number 150 singers."

"We come from all walks of life and meet for rehearsals in Biddenham every Monday. Ian Smith is our musical director and will again be conducting us, accompanied by Bedford Sinfonia."

The 150th Anniversary Concert will take place in Bedford Corn Exchange, starting at 7.30pm.

"In this special year, we are proud to be sponsored, among others, by the Harpur Trust – itself celebrating 450 years," Roger added, "and by Goldings of Bedford, ironmongers, like us celebrating 150 years of trading in Bedford."

"We are indeed very grateful for the support these organisations are giving us."

Also in the programme on April 30 is Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, written to celebrate Sir Henry Wood's Golden Jubilee in 1938, together with two works commissioned by the Society from local composers Paul Edwards and Tim Grant-Jones.



150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT BEDFORD CORN EXCH. APRIL 30, 7.30PM

Later this year, celebrations will continue with a 'pastoral' concert on Saturday, June 17, including Michael Hurd's *Shepherds Calendar*.

Roger added: "I sang that work at its premiere in 1975, with Southampton Choral Society, and it's great to be rehearsing it again."

"Early in August, we're on stage with a concert orchestra, in Proms in the Park, a good outing for singers and audience alike on an evening in high summer. Bring your picnics and wave your flags as usual!"

"Then, on Saturday November 25, back in the Corn Exchange, we sing Elgar's *The Kingdom*,

which is something to which I will be really looking forward. Finally, in December, it's our ever-popular *Carol Concert*. So do come and listen to us, in April, June, August, November and December – and beyond – singing for the joy of it."

Tickets for April 30 start at £5 for students and children, £15 for adults. To book, visit bedford-cornexchange.co.uk or call 01234 718044.

From April 25, The Higgins will also be celebrating with a special display in the Bedfordians gallery featuring talented people connected with the Bedford Choral Society, including Cecil Higgins who was a soloist for the Society in 1884.

OUT & ABOUT



Oh, we do like to be beside the sea

WHO can say no to a day at the beach – especially for a (Brighton) rock bottom price?

Enjoy a day at the seaside town on the south coast this May Bank Holiday weekend for less than £20 per person.

The coach will leave Bedford town from St Pauls Square at 10.15am and travel direct to Brighton beach Pier where all members of the family and friends can visit the fun fair, the Royal Pavilion, the museum & art gallery and try some of the best fish 'n' chips at the renowned Regency.

With over 1,100 bars and restaurants, an extensive variety of gift and speciality shops, the diverse city of

Brighton is one of the UK's most popular destinations on the south coast of England.

You could also stop at the world's oldest aquarium, Brighton Sealife, dating back to 1872. With over 100 species, including sharks and

stingrays, and vast tanks of local and tropical marine life, there is plenty to discover.

The coach heads back to Bedford at 5.15pm, so you should have plenty of time to enjoy a full day out.

Adults: £19.99/OAPs £14.99/children (under 16) £9.99 – book tickets on 01234 718044 or at bedfordcornexchange.co.uk Places are limited.

BRIGHTON DAY TRIP BEDFORD/BRIGHTON MAY 28



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