

The Annual Survey for Rising Voices Wessex

January 2020

The survey was divided into three sections to give a broad spread of the work that the charity does.



1. Annual Survey.
2. Music Survey.
3. Volunteers Survey.

The survey was closed on 31st January 2020.

Annual Survey - 60 responses.

1. Which Rising Voices Wessex choir do you attend?

Bournemouth	43.33% 26
Poole	41.67% 25
Both	15.00% 9
Total	60

2. How did you first hear about Rising Voices Wessex?

Poster	6.90% 4
Leaflet	15.52% 9
Hospital	12.07% 7
Specialist Nurse	1.72% 1
Macmillan Cancer Trust	1.72% 1
Wessex Cancer Trust	1.72% 1
Other comments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word of mouth.• Lewis Manning Hospice leaflet.• On the notice board at Tuckton library.• Newspaper article.• Breast Cancer Care Moving Forward Course.• Counsellor Forest Holme.• At a concert.	65.52% 38

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotary visit. 	
Total	58

3. How long have you been coming to choir?

Less than three months	5.08% 3
Less than a year	5.08% 3
More than a year	35.59% 21
More than 3 years	35.59% 13
More than 5 years	32.20% 19
Total	59

4. If you are unable to come regularly is it due to:

Poor health	2.78% 1
Other social commitments	66.67% 24
Need a carer	0.00% 0
Need transport	2.78% 1
Other – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable attend regularly. Abroad in winter. Family. Work commitments. Health, transport other commitments. 	27.78% 10
Total	36

5. What, in words, best describes your experience of choir? (Tick all that apply)

Fun	85.00% 51
Uplifting	86.67% 52

Inspiring	60.00% 36
Creative	33.33% 20
Friendly	81.67% 49
Social evening	71.67% 43
Other – comments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great place to meet and make good friendships. • Forming new friendships. • Confidence building. • Expanding knowledge of different songs. • Wonderful community support, one family atmosphere. • Healthy. • Supportive. 	13.33% 8
Total	60

6. The volunteers (Steering Group and Trustees) running the choirs are effective:

Strongly agree	51.67% 31
Agree	41.67% 25
Neither agree nor disagree	5.00% 3
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree - I'm sure they do a lot, but it doesn't feel very effective	1.67% 1
Total	60

7. I get support from other choir members:

Strongly agree	39.66% 23
Agree	50.00% 29
Neither agree nor disagree	10.34% 6
Disagree	0.00% 0

Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	58

8. I feel that attending choir has improved my: (Tick all that apply)

Energy	23.33% 14
Health	38.33% 23
Wellbeing	90.00% 54
Confidence	50.00% 30
Mental health	36.67% 22
Other comments included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved breathing. Starting up all those years ago just as I lost my husband was literally a God Send - I love it, the friendships, the fun. I look forward so much to Tuesday evenings. Parking. Have made some very good friends. Trust in others. Raison D'etre 	10.00% 6
Total	60

9. I no longer feel... (Tick all that apply)

Anxious	0.00% 0
Depressed	3.39% 2
Lonely	13.36% 8
Isolated	10.17% 6
Not applicable	66.10% 39
Other comments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depressed lonely and isolated. Lonely, isolated, depressed. 	6.78% 4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others understand and support loss. Embarrassment when singing. 	
Total	59

10. What do you like best about Rising Voices Wessex?

- Singing with friends.
- Learning the music and being part of a community.
- Good company - variation of music. Inspiring conductor and mentor lack of inhibition concerning cancer ailments - great support from fellow singers.
- Just good to hear other people singing.
- Inspirational fun and an excellent outlet for creativity. Always a warm welcome :)
- Enjoy the relaxed just sing evenings but also practicing and singing in the concerts really shows the power of being in a choir. Musical Director is great so passionate and encouraging also very funny, she makes me feel uplifted.
- The company enjoy the singing and the happy atmosphere. Musical Director is a lovely lady and gives us lots of laughs as well as the singing backed up by the Trustees many thanks to them all for the hard work put in to make a lovely evening.
- The feeling of belonging and happiness within the choir.
- Company of fellow members and singing gives me a physical and mental boost.
- All in 5 and I think Musical Director is fantastic.
- I have not sung in public for many years. Musical Director is an inspiring conductor and being able to sing with a lovely group of people is really encouraging.
- We love communal singing in a fun and friendly environment.
- It lifts ones spirits it's nice to make new friends.
- The friendliness of the group and it just always sends me home feeling better than when I got there.
- I have always loved singing and been in choirs from school so was very happy to begin again in later life. I have found really close friendships which is an added bonus.
- Rising Voices Wessex provides a loving caring welcoming environment.
- Wonderful atmosphere and welcome from the moment I walked through the door nervously. I felt so supported and was made so very welcome by all members. It seems an unwritten understanding that everyone has been affected in some way and is cared for. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity.
- Everyone has fun whilst benefiting from an uplifting experience as part of a group.

Music Survey – 53 responses

1. I enjoy taking part in rehearsals:

Strongly agree	60.38% 32
Agree	33.96% 18
Neither agree nor disagree	5.66% 3
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	53

2. I enjoy taking part in events and performances:

Strongly agree	54.72% 29
Agree	37.74% 20
Neither agree nor disagree	5.66% 3
Disagree	1.89% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	53

3. Performances demonstrate the enjoyment of singing:

Strongly agree	60.7% 31
Agree	33.33% 17
Neither agree nor disagree	5.88% 3
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	51

4. The rehearsals always run to time:

Strongly agree	26.42% 14
Agree	43.40% 23
Neither agree nor disagree	25.53% 13
Disagree	3.77% 2
Strongly disagree	1.89% 1
Total	53

5. I am happy with the range and variety of songs that we rehearse:

Strongly agree	26.42% 14
Agree	58.49% 31
Neither agree nor disagree	13.21% 7
Disagree	1.89% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	53

6. I find the Musical Director easy to follow in rehearsal/performances:

Strongly agree	44.23% 23
Agree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali does makes it pleasurable to sing. 	42.31% 22
Neither agree nor disagree	9.62% 5
Disagree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I find it difficult at times • She needs to be more organised and make sure songs/ harmonies are completed before introducing them to the choir. 	3.85% 2
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	52

7. I would like to see our repertoire include:

Classical	56.60% 30
Folk	62.26% 33
Jazz	18.87% 10
Popular	79.25% 42
	43.40%

Rock	23
Show songs	75.47% 40
Other comments included:	13.21% 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I enjoy all different kinds of music. • Audience participation is always popular. • I'm not keen on many songs from musicals. These are fine in context, but are rarely strong songs taken out of context. • We need to do some more popular carols when performing at outdoor events ie lighthouse / arcade. • I enjoy all different kinds of music. • Earlier 20th century songs. • Gospel. 	

8. Which were your favourite songs from the 2019 repertoire?

- Can you feel the love tonight; Hallelujah.
- Do you hear the people sing.
- Memory, Cats Do you hear the people sing, Les Mis.
- Do you hear the People sing, Les mis.
- One Voice, Oh What a Beautiful Morning, We are the Champions, Hallelujah.
- Ring the bells, Can you feel the love tonight.
- Beauty and the Beast, Bridge over troubled waters, Hallelujah, One Voice.
- One Voice, Memories, Gonna rise up singing, We are the champions.
- I joined the choir in October 2019 so we were singing mainly Christmas songs/hymns. Some I knew but others I learnt new. I thoroughly enjoyed all of them.
- Mary did you know, Do you hear the people sing.
- Some enchanted evening and song from the musicals.
- Not sure we covered them all or got to grips with some of the others. Not keen on the songs of many, many years ago - very 'old hat'! Those I enjoyed or would have enjoyed: 'Bridge Over Troubled Waters,' 'Turn, Turn, Turn,' 'The Rose,' 'Both Sides Now,' 'Hallelujah,' (LC) 'Pretty Woman,' 'Que Sera Sera,' 'Three Little Birds.'
- Both sides now, Dream a little dream, Autumn almanac, California dreaming, Sealed with a kiss, Mama Mia, Morning has broken, One voice, The Rose, Three little birds.
- Do You Hear the People Hallelujah Can you feel the love tonight.
- Can You Feel the Love Tonight, The Rose, Like a Candle Flame, Do you Hear the People Sing.
- One Voice - we sing it amazingly; Do You Hear What I Hear.
- Christmas Carols One Voice Did you hear the people sing Mama Mia Les Mis Mary's boy child You will never walk alone. Gaudete, Star Brightly Shining, Hallelujah – Leonard Cohen.
- Songs from Les Miserables & other shows.
- Do you hear what I hear One Voice Mary's boy Do you hear the people sing Christmas carols Mama Mia Les Miserable
- Memory, all the show songs and Hallelujah.
- Memory, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Windmills of Your Mind and some of the old ones such as One Voice.
- Star Brightly Shining, Memory, Hallelujah (Secret Chord), Three Little Birds, Granddaughters favourite too!

9. What do you like best about the singing with Rising Voices Wessex?

- The informality, no negative input, encouraging and friendly.
- I find that singing is good for mind body and soul.
- Accompanying the choir on the piano; being in a group of people who enjoy singing for fun
- Uplifting & inspirational.

- It's local, friendly and the musical director is a great teacher. The Trustees inform both in person and by email, is friendly and efficient. We sing a variety of songs.
- It's good to get out and about and to meet people.
- Friendly, happy, caring crowd.
- Its vey very uplifting.
- The informality, no negative input, encouraging and friendly.
- The friendship and fun.
- Trying to improve my singing capabilities.
- It just makes me feel good, Musical Director is so inspiring.
- I have not sung in public for many years. The musical director is a very inspiring conductor who encourages confidence and being able to sing with such a lovely group of people is really enjoyable.
- Good singing, good company.
- It's uplifting and very sociable.
- Everyone has a connection because of cancer.
- I find that singing is good for mind body and sole.
- The camaraderie and friendships made through being a member.
- It's fun.
- Feeling able to express myself through singing... and being with like-minded people to share our experiences with is very positive and uplifting.
- The harmonies we can get with the different voices.
- Creating a lovely sound together.
- Wellbeing and friendship helping others.
- Good fun with friendly people.
- Being able to contribute to the lovely overall sound produced.
- Singing for the joy of it and meeting and singing with friends.
- I like not having to be too serious and not being forced to do solo's.
- Comfortable mix of learning scores together and time to sit and chat at the break - friendships formed.
- Empowering.
- Fun, friendship, and the sense of achievement of singing together when it sounds good.
- Comradery, Ali's sense of humour and meeting and greeting old and new friends. Most of all singing itself.
- The relaxed atmosphere. And the musical director.
- Good fun, good support and friendships.
- Social and inspirational.
- The relaxed atmosphere but with the serious edge.
- Meeting people and singing.
- When a song comes together.
- Meeting everyone and just singing plus the warm up exercises.
- It is great fun to learn new songs and make new friends.
- When we get it right it's wonderful.
- The fun! But not when it is competitive.
- General Ambiance, selflessness, concern and courtesy. Friendly and relaxed - plenty of teasing (not malicious). A good sing.
- It's great, the volunteer's trustees and musical director provide a fantastic environment where everyone can express themselves and enjoy the benefits of singing together.

10. Thank you for taking part in the surveys for this year, if you have any further feedback please add it here.

- Wonder if the uniform could be simplified
- Would like "can you send the calverie " Jona Loui
- We don't seem to get to grips with some of the harmony so songs are sometimes dropped! Harmonies either need to be cracked by repeatedly going over them or having the parts on the web site for members to practice at home. There's no hope that people will be able to remember harmonies if this does not happen and it is the harmonies that make a song interesting and enjoyable for an audience and rewarding for those singing. Rather than an extensive repertoire why not smaller with more chance of both choirs really learning the songs. There are 37 in the 2019 collection, far, far too many!

- Thank you to everyone involved in making Rising Voices Wessex happen.

Volunteers Survey: 14 Responses

1. I feel the voluntary work I do is:

Interesting	7.14% 1
Challenging	21.43% 2
Helpful to the charity	57.14% 7
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewarding. • Both interesting and helpful. 	14.29% 2
Total	14

2. I feel supported to carry out my role:

Strongly agree	14.29% 2
Agree	78.57% 11
Neither agree nor disagree	7.14% 1
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	14

3. The environment I work in is pleasant:

Strongly agree	28.57% 4
Agree	71.43% 10
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	14

4. I have received sufficient information to enable me to undertake my role:

Strongly agree	14.29% 2
Agree	50.00% 7
Neither agree nor disagree	35.71% 5
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	14

5. There is a sense of belonging:

Strongly agree	35.71% 5
Agree	57.14% 8
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	7.14% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	14

6. I am trusted to get on with my task:

Strongly agree	42.86% 6
Agree	50.00% 7
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	7.14% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0

7. I am aware of the boundaries involved when working with members:

Strongly agree	42.86%
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	6
Agree	42.86% 6
Neither agree nor disagree	7.14% 1
Disagree	7.14% 1
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Total	14

8. I receive full recognition for the work that I do:

Strongly agree	0.00% 0
Agree	78.57% 11
Neither agree nor disagree	21.43% 3
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
Total	14

9. I have made new friends since I have been a member of Rising Voices Wessex:

Strongly agree	57.14% 8
Agree	42.86% 6
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00% 0
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0

10. Thank you for your feedback. If you have any further comments please add them here:

- I try to help as much as possible otherwise all the work falls to the same volunteers.
- Great team to work with, thank you

