



Communication



Inclusion



Song



Welcome to this year's Include Choir newsletter!

It's been a busy year of births and firsts and as usual there is just too much news for one newsletter!

But let's give it a go. Here are some highlights from the Include Choir's year:

We're Official!

This April, include.org was born when we registered as an official charity (charity no. 1177735). We aim to make the world more welcoming for people with understanding and speaking difficulties - by providing creative training, consultancy and community projects, all designed with the people who know best about communication needs. And who is the beating heart of include.org? The Include Choir of course!



Welcome Vic and Susi

The Include Choir family grew a little bigger in April when Vic and Susi joined us to run the choir while Alix was on Maternity Leave. We hope you'll agree they did a fantastic job! We are so pleased that they will be continuing to work with us in different ways.



People's Health Trust Funding

We were delighted that our first big funding bid was a success! The People's Health Trust are supporting us by funding equipment, resources and most importantly our Assistant Choir Directors!!

New Members

The newest member of The Include Choir was born in May, just in time to join the Deputy Mayor for our 2nd birthday celebration. He also joined the AGM 2 weeks later, where we talked about what we did this year, and what we'll do next year. It was a busy meeting because we now have more than 50 members and 15 volunteers, and we continue to grow!





Volunteers Award

It was wonderful to see our volunteers recognised in July when they were given an award for dedication and commitment from the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead. Confirming what we already know, they are fantastic!

The Include Choir has been doing far too many things to include them all in this newsletter to put them all in the newsletter so please go to the website where you can see what we've been up to, we will just share a couple of highlights here.



A British Songbook

A British Songbook, part of Sky Arts 'Art 50 project', connects choirs of all types with a new songbook inspired by testimonials from disparate communities from around the UK. We were thrilled to be chosen to tell our stories and will be performing songs from the project at the Barbican Centre in February 2019.



The Mental Capacity Act.

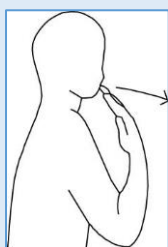
This year we sang our Battle Hymn of the Mental Capacity Act at the National Mental Capacity Action Forum (we had to do 2 encores!!). We also sang it locally and in Oxford. Watch this space for our video and training resources.

Christmas

Christmas is a really busy time for The Include Choir and we are working hard towards lots of Christmas events. Please do check our [events calendar](#) and come and support us. The Include Choir is here, so come and join in!



Christmas is all about being included so why not send an Include Choir Christmas Card to help support us? They will be on sale at The Include Choir sessions or you can email info@include.org if you would like to order some.



Thank you

Thank you

As always, we need to say thank you to far more people than we have space for but we do need to say a big thank you to: Nick Rogers and Reigate Photographic Society for a wonderful visual record of what we do, Paul Booker of CodeCraft.co.uk Media for amazing project videos, Photosymbols ^(R), Talking Mats ^(TM) and the Makaton Charity for their continued support, and to Ben Griffiths, David Martin, Sue Cope, Imogen Hagarty and more for being our top fundraisers!

Finally, of course, a big thank you to our Patron Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff, to Redhill Baptist Church for continuing to host us (even it's becoming a squeeze!) and last but most definitely not least, a massive thank you to all our amazing volunteers!



2019 highlights

The Include Choir is in demand! We have already been asked to take part in lots of exciting events for next year, including Run Reigate, the Nonsuch Show and the Advocacy Conference at Birmingham NEC! Make sure you keep an eye on our calendar so you know what's going on and where you can come and join in.

Why should I join the Include Choir?

'A brilliant group... joyful, affirming and uplifting'
M. (singer)



Joining the Include Choir is a chance to meet new people and learn new skills, as well as using your voice to help others find theirs.

We rehearse Wednesdays, 7.30 – 9, Redhill Baptist Church For more details, just email includechoir@include.org or phone Alix on 07446 897835.

5 ways you can help the Include Choir



Make a Donation

The Include Choir is run almost entirely by volunteers but we do need money to keep doing what we do, and to keep costs as low as possible for our members. If you would like to support us, please go to Golden Giving: <https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/include-choir> to make a donation.



Easy Fundraising

If you have no spare cash at this time of year (we know the feeling) you can raise money while you shop! Just go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theincludechoir and select us as your charity. They don't take any details from you, and it won't cost anything.



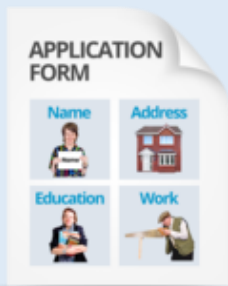
Nominate Us to win £1000!

We could win £1000 for Christmas! But we need lots of nominations to be in with a chance. Please go to <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/12-days/> and Nominate 'The Include Choir - charity number 1177785'. It will only take a moment and would be the perfect Christmas present!



Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

We are trying to get 100 subscribers, so we can have our own URL, which will make our videos easier to find. Just search for 'Include Choir' on YouTube and you should find us. Then choose a video, click on our logo and then click on 'subscribe'.



Join the team

In the new year will be recruiting a paid Choir Coordinator! And of course we always need more volunteers who know the best ways to include people.

If you want to know more about working or volunteering for us, please email info@include.org.



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