NORTH YORK MOORS

TUNELESS CHOIR

singing like no one is listening

INFORMATION SHEET

About Us

Singing is really good for us. It gets the endorphins or "happy hormones" flowing. Singing in a group is even better. It has been shown to help people physically, emotionally and socially. As well as improving lung function, research has shown it boosts the immune system and can help with cancer recovery. It has been shown to improve life satisfaction, and help those with anxiety and depression. And it's a great way of meeting new friends, or spend quality time with existing friends or family. So why should people not be allowed to do it, just because they can't sing in tune?

Nadine Cooper had been told to stop singing at school as she was "spoiling it for everyone else". When she was living in Nottingham she suggested the idea of a Tuneless Choir to Bernie Bracha, who ran local Community Choirs, and she agreed to have a go at leading this new, peculiar sort of choir. There are now over 30 Tuneless Choirs around the country which Nadine and Bernie help run, and Virtually Tuneless online.

When Nadine moved to Lastingham she decided to start a choir nearby but needed to find someone musical and tolerant to lead the choir. She happily found Moorland Voices choir leader Clare Haynes living in the next village, who proved to be up for a challenge. We started the Tuneless Choir here in Pickering in March 2022, to simply allow people to blast out songs without worrying what they sound like.

There are definitely no auditions, no judgement, no teaching, and no pressure to improve. There are no parts (soprano, alto, tenor, bass etc.), so everyone gets to sing the lead vocals to songs, though maybe not all in the same key, it doesn't matter. We find we can sing the sounds or kazoo through instrumental bits, and there's lots of laughter when we go wrong, mostly at Clare's attempts to put us right! We give ourselves a hearty round of applause after every song, as no one else will!

We aim to sing songs that most people will be familiar with – from Abba to Wham with The Beatles, Elvis, The Monkees, Queen, Take That and Tom Jones in between, amongst many, many others. There is the opportunity to suggest songs, look out for the box at the front. Some songs don't work as well as others - sometimes we can tell and other times we just have to try them and see. We've had some themed weeks, such as musicals and '80s.

Meeting Dates

We meet from 7.30pm to 9pm, usually on the first and third Wednesdays of a month. We send out emails confirming the dates, pop them on Facebook, and always mention when the next session will be.

We meet at the hall behind Pickering Methodist Church, on Potter Hill. The postcode is YO18 8AA. If you'd like to give Tuneless Choir a try just come along any time after 7.15pm so you have time to fill out the registration form.

Sessions

We ask everyone to arrive promptly as we'll always try to start at 7.30pm. We start with some physical and vocal warm-ups, to get the body ready to sing. Then we do a few songs before a break at 8.15pm. Hot and cold drinks are provided, together with a "little something", at no extra charge. You can bring you own mug to pre-order drinks

beforehand to save time and the planet if you wish. We resume at about 8.30pm building up to an exuberant finale at 9pm.

Prices

Your first session is £12 including registration and of course refreshments. From then on, if you want to "pay as you go", attending as many or as few of the dates above, it will be £9 per session.

We also offer deals at the start of each term, with the price equivalent to £7 per session. For example a term may be £56 for 8 sessions, if paid in advance. If you are new then we let you have the rest of the term at £7 per session, up until about the halfway point.

We allow members to bring one-off guests for a discount rate of £7 – so you can bring visitors to the area along or use this to give someone a cheaper try-out of the choir.

We can take cash and cards on the door and email out details ahead of each term so you can do a bank transfer if you wish.

Other FAQs

With a bit of practice and confidence some members of the choir find they become better singers, especially if they've been so in the past and have just got rusty. Anyone who finds they can advance has our absolute blessing to move on to a "proper" choir if they want to do more. Clare will welcome you at Moorland Voices. We will keep the Tuneless Choir for those who want to enjoy their singing without any pressure to hit the right note.

To our great surprise Tuneless Choirs have been asked to perform quite a lot – we guess it's delighting in eccentricity! We tend to make it low key - so explain who we are and encourage the audience to join in (to improve the sound). People seem to love the courage and enthusiasm we show, and across the country Tuneless Choirs have raised over £30,000 for Mind. We'll accept good opportunities to sing such as the Pickering Christmas Light Switch On, but there'll be no compulsion to participate if you just want to come and sing on a Wednesday.

Keeping in Touch

Email: nym@tunelesschoir.com Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/nymtunelesschoir/

Website: http://www.tunelesschoir.com ← this is where you can order Tuneless t-shirts etc. There is a specific page for us at http://www.tunelesschoir.com/nym where you can sign up for emails, and which gives all our meetings dates.

We will generally keep in touch by email with a reminder ahead of each session and information on what is coming up.

Nadine can be contacted on: 07979 344634

We hope you enjoy blowing away your singing cobwebs, and being part of this wonderful choir!

Clare & Nadine x

