

Join THE MARTLETS

... Crowborough Arts' Rotherfield-based community folk choir. Led by musicians Alessandra Testai & Robin Jeffrey, our repertoire is based on interesting and rousing songs from the English folk tradition.

Singing in a choir has proven health and well-being benefits and Martlets membership is open to everyone - whether you already love singing, or would just like to 'have a go'.

You're welcome to come to a taster session free of charge!

Over the past year, we have performed at Penshurst Place's Glorious Gardens Weekend, St Denys' Church, Rotherfield, and The Kings Head Rotherfield. On 4th January 2025 we returned to St Denys' for our annual concert in aid of the Rotherfield Protection Group, and are planning performances at other venues, including NT Ightham Mote.

Our first term for 2025 will begin on 16th January, from 7 - 8.30 pm.

£80 for ten sessions; Crowborough Arts members £60.

To book your place, or for more details, email gaye.jee@clara.co.uk or call 01892 853294



www.crowborough-arts.org.uk



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The Martlets had their first outing as a 5 piece singing group, plus band, put together to perform traditional Sussex songs at Crowborough Arts' 2019 production, 'A Sussex Salmagundi'. Post-pandemic, we ran a folk-inspired workshop, 'The Old Songs of Sussex'. Many of the participants went on to join 'The Martlets' choir and have participated in performances both in Rotherfield and elsewhere.

Our music leaders are **Alessandra Testai** and **Robin Jeffrey**, both professional classical musicians who have a strong interest in the English folk tradition. We learn mainly 'by ear', although written parts are available for those who prefer. Our core repertoire is traditional English folk songs plus seasonal material where appropriate.

Our next term of sessions will take place on Thursday evenings from **7 - 8.30** pm on the following dates: January 16th, 23rd, 30th; February 6th, 13th, 27th; March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th;

All sessions will take place at the Scout Hut in North St, Rotherfield,.

The cost for this block of ten sessions is £60 for Crowborough Arts members or £80 for non-members.

Crowborough Arts membership is £20 per year, so by joining, you'd save yourself at least £28 over three terms of The Martlets. We have a wide remit for the arts in the community, so do have a look at our website to find out more about what we offer.

If you're unsure whether the choir will be for you, you're invited to come to the first session free of charge. If you chose to join The Martlets, you will then pay for all ten before the second session.

Everyone is welcome to join - you don't need experience as a singer, just the enthusiasm to learn and perform the songs our forebears would have sung. We're not looking to create a classical-sounding choir - in fact a mix of different voice types adds texture to our sound.

Do get in touch if you'd like more information or to join us - we'd love to have you!

Visit our website at www.crowborough-arts.org.uk



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