

KIRSTIE TAKES OVER THE BATON

Somerset Hills Chorus is delighted to announce the appointment of Kirstie Spencer as its new Musical Director.

Kirstie, who joined the chorus in May, lives in Ivybridge with her husband Alan and their three boys Ollie, Leo and Toby. She works in Plymouth as a Risk Manager within the NHS.

Music has been in Kirstie's blood since she was a child. She began singing in her local church choir, in small groups and in local productions. She took singing lessons at school, achieving her level 5 certificate at the age of 15 – a rigorous test of singing ability, where candidates have to sing accompanied, unaccompanied and from sight in three languages.

Kirstie also plays the piano and trumpet and for many years was a member of a marching band.

She joined Plymouth Mayflower Chorus – which like Somerset Hills Chorus is a women's chorus singing in a close harmony, Barbershop style of A cappella singing-- in 2007 winning a bronze medal in the National Convention of Sweet Adelines International. She became Assistant Director in 2013 and studied for the Directors Certification programme, qualifying in 2015. She continues to sing competitively in two quartets, Raise the Roof with other members of the Mayflowers, and a mixed quartet called Myxd Up.

Kirstie is revelling in the challenge of being a director. "Somerset Hills is a fabulous chorus with a great sound and we have many plans for the future" she said.

Chorus President Judith Morris said "we feel very lucky to have found Kirstie and are looking forward to the chorus evolving as she brings her unique style and enthusiasm to the role. She is taking us on an exciting journey which we are really enjoying".

The Chorus has given its first performance under Kirstie's leadership entertaining their audience with a wide ranging programme of ballads and up tempo songs from the 1960s to the "noughties".

The Chorus rehearses on Thursday evenings at Bishops Hull School at 7.30. Anyone interested in learning this style of singing will be very welcome to come along on a trial basis. All music is learned from CDs so it isn't a requirement to read music.

Kirstie is in the centre of the front row of the accompanying picture. She has taken over from Cynthia Tucker who died in June