



Press Release

DATE: 7th December 2020

Add your voice to Winchester Carols on Winchester Radio!

Households across the country will be on their doorsteps at 5:30pm on Sunday 20th December, united in song! Across Winchester, local community radio station Winchester Radio 94.7FM, is providing the Christmas soundtrack for local people to sing along to!

Everyone is being encouraged to wrap up warm, don their favourite festive hat or jumper, and within their household groups to come together in spirit for 'Carols on the Doorstep' this Christmastime, to sing 4 Christmas Carols. It would be wonderful if care homes, local churches, businesses, community organisations and other charities tune in and take part too (abiding by all the most up-to-date government COVID-19 guidance of course). The specific combined Invitation and Carols-sheet for Winchester Radio's event can be downloaded from the charity's website at: www.winchester.radio

People can tune in to take part in a number of ways:

- Locally on the radio at 94.7FM;
- Online at winchester.radio;
- Via the UKRadioPlayer app on your mobile or tablet;
- By asking your 'Alexa' device to "Play Winchester Radio" (if you haven't listened to the station before, you first need to say "Alexa, enable Winchester Radio"); and
- Patients and NHS staff in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital can also tune in through the bedside Hospedia units around the wards.

The 'Carols on the Doorstep' concept started in Newcastle and the idea has grown from there. Winchester Radio's involvement this year was inspired by its listeners.

Anna O'Brien, Chairman of Winchester Radio said: "We love hearing from our listeners, and 2020 has shown just how important human connection is to all of us. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to help people feel socially connected and up-to-date with support information throughout the pandemic and we know how much people have struggled with not being able to see family and friends this year. It is fantastic that listeners from the Chat-Tea Café have suggested Winchester Radio bring people together in Christmas spirit on Sunday 20th December through these 'Carols on the Doorstep'. We want as many people as possible to join in and help share some Christmas joy."

Debbie Deeney, one of the organisers of the 'Chat-Tea Café' which in normal times would run activities each month at Badger Farm Community Centre in Winchester, for anyone feeling lonely or isolated said: "We were sad not to be able to do our regular tea and chat and Christmas Lunch this year but want everyone to know they are part of a community at Christmas. It was a local resident that brought the 'Carols on the Doorstep' initiative to my attention, and I felt it would be great to tie this in with the incredible radio station on our doorstep that supports the community all year round."

Winchester Radio has liaised with organisers in Newcastle about taking part in this wonderful community project.

ENDS

Notes to News Editors

1. Charity Winchester Radio has been providing a hospital radio service for patients in the RHCH since September 1984, and since March 2019 – an Ofcom licensed community radio service on 94.7FM across Winchester and the surrounding areas.
2. Winchester Radio aims to support people aged 50+; promoting what is happening locally and community activities people can get involved with; signposting people to health, charity and support services they may need; keeping people engaged with the community; and helping reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.
3. The charity is run entirely by an intergenerational team of volunteers, aged from 20 to 82.
4. Winchester Radio is a member of the Dementia Friendly Winchester community, has a 'Dementia Friends Champion' on the team, and all volunteers are given the opportunity to become Dementia Friends. There is much clinical evidence that music and singing are good for our mental wellbeing, and also that it can be really enjoyable and beneficial for people living with dementia to participate in such activities too.
5. For any further information, please contact Anna O'Brien, the Chairman of the charity by email at info@winchester.radio, or call 01962 603947.