

Archive 2009

January 2009

A busy time for the Choir!

The Scarborough Workshop and the highly successful concert in Tadcaster with The Sherburn Sinfonietta have got 2009 off to a flying start. Some members even won raffle prizes!

The concert calendar is beginning to fill but there are still some very exciting dates being finalised. Watch this space.

A great deal of work is going in to the 2010 overseas tour. Venues in several countries in Southern Europe have been identified and proposals will be available in the near future.

February 2009



The choir's Annual Ball took place at The Venue, Barkisland on Saturday 7th February 2009. Elizabeth entertained us in her own inimitable style. A clever assessment of the choir's strengths and accomplishments - in verse! Geoff delivered his 'Body Parts' address, equating various parts of the body to sections and individuals within the choir. A great idea delivered with aplomb.

Once again we danced the night away to The Chequers Dance band, an accomplished and professional ensemble who kept people on the dance floor until late. See a slideshow of the night here.

March 2009

The choir entertained a full house at St John's Church, Upperthong on March 7th. The evening featured a set of Rock/Classical guitar pieces from young musician Josh Haslam. Josh added something different to our usual concert programme and was a great success. We will watch his progress with interest!



Elizabeth announced the exciting news that the world famous Morrision Orpheus Choir will be our guests at the Town Hall on October 10th. This concert will be a 'must see' event and is already eagerly awaited by the choir.

March 29th

March 29th has to go down as a very special day for the choir. After not competing for many years, the choir entered the Don Valley Music Festival Male Voice Choir Competition - and won!



Before the competition we knew that Saddleworth MVC had won the trophy for five consecutive years, a tremendous run of success for this excellent choir. Their success and reputation was enough for us to feel that a second place would be a good result but John, our Chairman, insisted from the start that we could pull this one off. He does not lack confidence and, with inspiration supplied in bucket loads by Elizabeth and Anne (MD and Accompanist), we succeeded! A real team effort, I feel. A cash prize, trophy and a barrel of beer are now the property of NMMVC and we have the very welcome task of defending the trophy next year.

The whole event was extremely enjoyable. After the competition, and prior to the announcement of the result, the consensus was that we had certainly not let ourselves down. Solid performances of 'Jamica Farewell' and 'The Lord's Prayer' certainly filled the competition criteria of two contrasting pieces but how would the adjudicator, Marc Rochester, see things? When he eventually announced 'the winners are New Mill' it was a fantastic moment and a wonderful surprise.

April 2009

April 4th



April 4th 2009 saw the choir revisit a venue which saw one of their early performances in the choir's debut year of 1991. I suspect the choir have changed more than Hepworth Church in the intervening years! There are still many in the choir who remember that performance - one described how his legs physically shook with nerves before the opening song. The choir now perform more confidently and that was the case on Saturday evening. An appreciative audience were entertained not only by the choir but also by John and Rod who performed classic comic and blues items in their respective solo slots. Hepworth Church is an intimate environment in which to sing. I hope we don't wait another 18 years to go back!

Thanks to Rob Tracey who took a few photos (well, over 130 actually!). I've assembled a small slideshow here but if anyone wants to see the whole lot I'll happily copy them onto a CD.

May and June 2009

May and June have seen the choir perform twice in Huddersfield Town Hall as guests of the Rotary Club and the Lions respectively. Both concerts had exceptional audiences, they were, after all, free for the over sixties. It is a great privilege to sing in this magnificent venue and the choir owe a big 'Thank You' to the two organisations involved.

September 2009

In September the choir returned to St. John's in Upperthong for a concert showcasing some of the young talent in the Huddersfield area. Saxophonist Eliot McGuire, singer Abigail Wilkinson and the Holmfirth Boys Choir all gave confident and accomplished performances. We may well see them again at future concerts.

October - Morriston Orpheus in the Town Hall



The highlight of the year for the choir is the October concert in Huddersfield Town Hall. This year's concert should really be described as an 'event' because it was surely more than just another big concert. It certainly felt like that to all who were there, whether on stage or in the audience. The night had everything - visual impact, spectacular singing and those indefinable special moments.

Christmas 2009

The choir began its Christmas season with a concert in Selby in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer charity. This was a new venue for the choir and proved a successful evening for both Marie Curie and ourselves.

The annual BASF concert at Low Moor near Bradford was well received by the audience. Christmas favourites as well as items from our usual repertoire proved a winning formula.

The Lindley Band Gala Evening in Huddersfield Town Hall was everything that a Town Hall concert should be. We even got the opportunity to perform the choral part of the 1812 overture with good friends Honley Ladies. The band performed the piece with great aplomb and, although the Russian proved a tongue twister, everyone had a great time.

Our annual Christmas Concert at Christ Church, New Mill is always well attended and many of the audience joined the choir for supper afterwards at our home, New Mill Club. An excellent way to start the Christmas festivities.