

COR MEIBION BRYMBO MALE CHOIR

LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER No 2

June 2020

Message from the Chairman

Here's the second issue and we hope you find it interesting.

There are a couple of new features in this issue:- Births, Marriages and Deaths, Letters to the Editor and an update of our bookings as they stand at the end of May. A full booking list will be issued soon after we meet again as a choir. To make these new features effective there needs to be news from you, the choristers and their supporters so please let's hear from you.

Massive thanks to the contributors to the previous and this lockdown letter. By now you will have probably finished all your beer, decorating, gardening, arguing, whisky, gin and wine so there is nothing left but to practice your breathing and singing!!

Our MD has gone to some trouble to produce easy to follow exercises to keep our voices in tip top condition so please use them.

Have any of you tried group singing over the internet?

If so, please let us know and we'll include your experience in our next edition.

At present we don't have any idea when we might gather to sing together again but we are keeping up to date with all Welsh Government rules. We have wedding bookings for 2021 so we must keep our voices in trim and

LEARN THE WORDS!!

Both Shirley and Tom have stated their intention to stay with the choir when it reconvenes and are enthusiastic about resuming activities. During the lockdown period they have both accepted retainers in lieu of their normal income.



Riding for Dementia Charities

Chorister and Press officer Kelvin Griffiths advises that he is undertaking a cycle ride in support of the Alzheimer's Society charity. He reports as follows:-

“I've done the 100 miles, (4 stints) and am hoping for a few more donations, (only £70 at the moment). My target is £500, so a long way to go. I think the money is due in by the end of June.

The Alzheimer's Society spends £150million a year on research, care, cause and hopefully a cure. They're also looking into prevention of this horrible disease. So the money donated is wisely used and is not wasted. All money donated is used by the Society throughout the country! (And the World, I think!)

I'm sure we all know or have heard of someone with this disease, and will know what it's like for spouse, parents, children and relatives. I would encourage everyone to donate something to this worthwhile cause, no matter how big or small. EVERY penny counts.

If someone you know is suffering from dementia/Alzheimers, you can get help by phoning 0330 333 0804 or if you want to donate, the link is

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CycleforDementia-KelvinGriffiths.>”

Good luck in your efforts for this worthy cause Kelvin.

Thanks from Noel Williams.

Noel successfully completed his cycled visits to all listed choristers as a thankyou to the NHS. He raised about £1000 for this excellent cause and wishes to thank all who contributed.

Well done Noel.



Poetic Observations from Bob Reid

Poems and Pens and Paracord
A strange combination indeed
But I can't go to town because all is locked down
Then perhaps they're just what I need

So it's twenty to two in the morning
And I'm sat here bored out of me tree
I might write a sonnet about a girls bonnet
Or tie up a key fob or three

When Dante's Inferno won't cut it
And I'm full to the brim with hot tea
Well a nifty wee haiku might do it
Cause it certainly does it for me

And when this Pandemic is over
And lifes as it was way back when
I'll still write me poems out long hand
With a Turks Head on the end of me pen

Robert W Reid. June 2020.

Older and Wiser

The old man sat on the pavement outside the pub with a
rod and line, fishing in a puddle. Feeling sorry for him
I invited him in and bought him a drink.
To humour him I asked “How many have you
caught today?”
He replied “You’re the eighth!”



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

A recent letter in the national press from a man in Doncaster expressed his sorrow at the loss of that well known Yorkshire chanteuse Gracie Fields.

It's about time these claims stopped.

We've long accepted that Beethoven was from Yorkshire as were all Lancashire poets. There are also claims that Wagner's mother was a Sheffield girl while Pieter Illych Tchaikovsky was actually Pete Ian Chasky from Batley whose parents, like many others in Batley, couldn't read or write. Lancastrians are even prepared to accept that Dame Vera Lynn was borne in Leeds but moved to Essex within hours of birth and Welsh people that Hedd Wynn is a spelling mistake for that Yorkshire poet Hareld Wynston.

However,

LEAVE GRACIE ALONE she was a Lancashire lass from Rochdale.

Yours truly,

Livid,

Lancs. (name and address supplied.)

Photograph of response to recent Top Tenor survey

Have You Been Drinking More During Lockdow?

Tick relevant box

Yes

No





Tales from the Turnstile From Nigella.

(Known as Nigella at the Racecourse even before joining the choir!!)

Matchday at the Racecourse usually sees me manning one of the six turnstiles at the Mold Road side of the ground, the home stand. All six are ticket only with ticketless supporters being redirected to the shop to buy one. At kick off time all the turnstiles on the Mold Road side are closed with the exception of mine that stays open for a further 30 minutes, normally until 3.30 p.m. During this extra 30 minutes cash entry is allowed and the usual receipts are between £60 and £90 so it isn't a difficult task. However, one Saturday we had a home game against Salford City who were becoming very well known by their link to Manchester United. A big attendance was expected and the gate was later revealed to be close to 9,000, a very welcome change from the more normal 3 to 4,000. For some reason that day many home fans were late and a crowd developed at my gate because it was the only one open for the home stand. In that 30 minute period that crowd of people paid a total of £900 to enter the ground. I was taking roughly £30 a minute. I needed a lie down after that.

Preparation for the game begins two hours before kick off when the Chief Marshal briefs us on police presence, expected crowd and behaviour, cash entry rates, emergency procedures, fire precautions, first aid and any other relevant information. Cash turnstile operators sign for their floats and we all then usually have a hot drink before going to our positions 1 hour before kick off.

Following closure of my turnstile I go to the cash office and am then free to watch the rest of the game with my colleagues.

Saturday afternoons pass very quickly.



New Arrivals

Congratulations to the Erlandson family on the birth of daughter Gwenllian. Here is a happy photograph of Karen, Sam, the new arrival and their other children. Rhiannon, oldest, Eiranwen second oldest and Ieuan.



Congratulations too to Noel Williams and his family on the arrival of Nancy Elizabeth on 28 May. Noel is looking forward to the easing of lockdown so that he can hold the baby and do some babysitting.

Thankfully no sleep loss for Grandads!





Newsletter No.2 Puzzles :from Lenny Wishmear

!Guess the Tune:

1. D m r d s f m d d l t d ____
2. s d m d r m d s
3. m r r d d s s s s d l l l t d d t l
4. s s l s d t s s l s r d
5. d r m m f m m r r d d r m m ____
6. d m s m r d d t d l s m ____
7. r d d ____ m f e s e l t d t _ l l

Anagrams of choristers:

e.g. Giovanni Pergolesi rearranged spells: "I Love opera singing."

Afraid mine aren't as clever but hoping you'll have some fun trying to work out who they are!

Brave de Drains: Maybe not the Drains but the Steel Works!

Calon Serj: Pure hearted Russian perhaps? No- but He's one of the family

Yola Kermit: Sings like a frog-Surely not!

Frisk vegin filth: This first tenor is obviously a meat-Lover!

Prefer brute: This gentleman remembers this aftershave!

Jean on sync: This chorister is obviously very close to his lovely wife!

Visa ready: He's ready for the next tour!

Leonard Nassm: Voice like an angel!

Old dry leek: A bit unkind but I'm sure he gives as good as he gets!

Caring fer lads: A senior Chorister of many years

Try email ok: He sends plenty of them bless him! (this is his second one by the way)

Last but not least TENORS is it NO REST OR ON REST !! for your section!

Solution to Newsletter 1 Crossword

Across: 2. Tom. 5. Glyn Hughes. 9. Bass 11. The Lily of the Valley 12. Four 13. Yesterday 14. Tom Jones.

Down: 1. Some enchanted Evening 3. Brymbo Steel Works 4. Nothing like a Dame 6. Rhys Meirion
7 Andrew 8. Bryn 10. Piano



During lockdown there has been some activity with bookings, mainly cancellations or deferrals. The table below, from John Owen who now looks after the diary, shows the situation to the best of our knowledge at the end of June 2020.

Current Bookings 2020/2021 Service, Concert, Wedding			
Date	Time	Event	Place
8 Nov	TBC	S	Rhostyllen
14 Nov	7 p.m.	C	St Margaret's Church
19 Dec	11.am	W	Rhostyllen PC
16 May	TBC	W	Wrexham
16 Aug	TBC	W	St Deiniol's Church
28 Aug	TBC	W	Iscoed Park Whitchurch

The 19 December wedding at Rhostyllen is close to Christmas and the bride has asked for some "Christmassy" music.. Our MD has provided the list below of musical items for her to choose from. It's a long way off but we should all be certain of the words and our parts for these. As soon as she makes her selection it will be advised to all.

Carols:

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Silent Night
Fe Anwyd Mab ym Methlem
Once in Royal David's City

Christmas pieces:

Yonder see the Star appear (Llanfair)
O Holy Night
White Christmas
Winter Wonderland