

KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 2 – July 2011

There's good news and there's bad!

The bad news is that, as most of you now know, unfortunately we are to lose Mark, who takes up a new appointment at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick, on 1st October. We will all be very sorry to see him go, but we are grateful for the fun we have had at rehearsals and for all he has taught us over the three years he has been with us. We wish him and Holly all the best in their new home and work.

The good news is that, for the autumn term at least, we have secured the services of prominent Kirkby Lonsdale-based musician Ian Thompson to take rehearsals and wield the baton for our performance of *Messiah* this Christmas. Ian, who has a distinguished musical career as a singer and harpsichordist and who is at present Director of Music of Cockermouth Harmonic Society, has declared himself "totally thrilled" to be conducting *Messiah*. You can read more about Ian on Cockermouth Harmonic's website, www.cockermouthharmonic.org.uk/musicaldirector.html.

Another loss, this time to the Alto section, is Sylvia Anderson, who has moved to Carlisle with her husband, and we wish her happy singing there in the future. She has sent us her best wishes via Dorothy.

Future Concerts

For the performance of *Messiah* on Saturday 10th December our soloists will be:

Charlotte Jackson	Soprano
Emma Stannard	Contralto
Adam Smith	Tenor
Paul im Thurn	Bass-baritone

You will remember Emma and Adam from the Spring Concert when they were our soloists, with Rachel Little, in the Carissimi *Jephthe* and Vivaldi *Gloria*.

Several other choirs within Cumbria and North Lancashire are singing *Messiah* this year, and we want ours to be the one people remember!

The 2012 Spring Concert is scheduled for Saturday 28th April, when we will be singing Brahms's *German Requiem*.

In 2012 the Christmas Concert will take place (provisionally) on Saturday 8th December. The programme and venue have yet to be decided.

For other dates, including dates of rehearsals, please see the Diary Dates attached.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday 4th October, when officers and committee members are elected. For your information, the present members of the Committee, all of whom, with the exception of Jackie and Stephen are willing to stand for re-election, are as follows:

- Jackie Malone** (Chairman)
- Stewart Fuller** (Treasurer)
- Moira Greenhalgh** (Secretary, Tenor representative)
- Dorothy Davies** (Minutes Secretary, Alto representative)
- Wendy Corrie** (Librarian)
- Christine Moore** (Artists' Secretary)
- Caryl Wilson** (Artists' Contracts)
- Eileen Robinson**
- Jean Robinson** (Deputy Librarian, Soprano representative, website)
- Stephen Hitchcock** (Bass representative)

We have to thank Jackie and Stephen for their hard work over the last year. Jackie did a brilliant job keeping the Choir together following the events of early 2010, but doesn't wish to seek re-election because of the amount of time she spends abroad.

Thanks also to Margaret Saunders who remembers everything to do with the running of the Choir and has helped us out when we were stuck!

At the beginning of September nomination forms will be distributed, and anyone who would like to be on the Committee in any capacity should be sure to get themselves nominated. Our

Constitution allows for a committee comprising Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and up to eight other members.

Fundraising

The **Summer Barbecue** in June was a great success despite the miserable weather. More than thirty members and “other halves” enjoyed burgers,



sausages, chicken, and lovely salads and puddings (under cover) at Strickley farm, Old Hutton, the childhood home of Arthur Robinson and now farmed by his brother Henry.

A dozen or so hardy souls joined Arthur for a walk down the fields to the pond and wood in the afternoon, and the rain miraculously held off until they returned. Poor Valerie came a cropper in a nasty argument with a stile, but still came back smiling! The event raised £190 for choir funds.

While out and about with your cameras this summer, spare a thought for our autumn competition, which is for **a funny photo**. Please pay Caryl £1 for each photo you wish to enter, and the best will win a modest prize!

For next term, a new **quiz sheet** is being prepared – last year’s made £380 – and there will be a stall with **second-hand books, plants, cakes** and other items for sale. Keep hold of your holiday reading and bring it along for someone else to buy.

Money Matters

Stewart has provided the following notes about our finances:

“Accounts 2010/11: These are likely to show a surplus of about £2,400. This large figure however is a bit misleading as it includes tax relief which relates to the previous year. Stripping this out gives a more accurate result for the year – a surplus of about £1,400.”

“You will each get a copy with the AGM papers and in the meantime a copy will go on the board at the first rehearsal.”

“Gift Aid: Tax recovered by societies on members’ subscriptions has been by way of a concession. HMRC has reviewed how this works and now argues that part of our subscription relates to tuition from the Conductor and that part cannot be classed as gift aid. This means that from September we shall recover less tax than before. There are still a few things to iron out before an accurate figure can be put to this, but it will be done before the first rehearsal so that you all know how it works. Those of you who complete a tax return each year will need to know the right figure to enter on the form.”

“Subscriptions: These have not been increased for two years. Now with rising costs (hire of the Parish Church is set to almost double), and the reduction in tax that can be reclaimed, the Committee feels that some increase is inevitable and has therefore agreed a modest increase to £65 for next year, payable at the beginning of September.”

Meanwhile, if you know of any good concert venues as an alternative to the Parish Church, please could you contact Moira or any other Committee member. In addition to the increased fee for a concert day, we are still also obliged to hire the Kirkland Hall’s toilets for use during the concert, at an additional cost.

Other cost-saving ideas are for more members to purchase their own scores for the works we sing, or to pay the hire charge for their borrowed score.

Our first rehearsal of the new session is Tuesday 6th September. Please bring along your own copy of *Messiah* if you have one. It was Mark’s intention to use the Watkins Shaw edition, but Prout is only a little different if that’s the one you have. There will be copies to borrow if you need one.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and please come back refreshed and ready for some enjoyable singing!