

# KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 7 – New Year 2014

**A very Happy New Year to everyone!**

## Ian's report on the term

"A splendid performance of *Toward the Unknown Region* with the Westmorland Orchestra was the fitting climax of a steady and constructive term's work. The membership committed wholeheartedly to the VW and sang with confidence and conviction, matching the orchestra stride for stride. Hearty congratulations to all who took part (including our reinforcements). The most rewarding aspect from my point of view was that we finally had time to work adequately on vocal development and this paid rich rewards.

"The approaching French concert should give us an opportunity to consolidate our technical progress. Work remains to be done on sustaining pitch and French pronunciation. The former has been a recurring problem and has caused me occasionally to blow my top in rehearsal! A combination of placing and support should help, but it is only by listening and concentrating as individuals that a cure can be found. I am sure that many people find the odd few minutes now and again to practise at home, but if everyone would commit to some regular private study, including breathing, support, placing and vowel shape, it would save a lot of rehearsal time and endless repetition on my part. Please remember that while singing in a choir is team work, every individual has some quality to contribute to the whole and it my desire to bring out the best in everyone.

"We have exciting things in the pipeline. Our Haydn concert in May should be most enjoyable and uplifting and I hope that as many members as possible will be able to commit to the Verdi Requiem at the Carlisle Festival in July. [\*see later]

"Once more, I am extremely grateful for the enthusiasm, co-operation and willingness to put up with me, and I hope I shall manage to sustain the necessary energy levels for another year or two.

"Season's greetings.  
Ian T."

(Clive Walkley's report in the Westmorland Gazette says – after comments about the orchestra's taking some time to settle down! – "But confidence was restored when Kendal South Choir joined the

orchestra for a performance of Vaughan Williams' *Toward the Unknown Region*, ably directed by Ian Thompson. The singers sounded confident, with the tenors in particular producing some lovely tone.")

## Christmas Tree Festival

This year the choir decorated a tree for Kendal Parish Church's Christmas Tree Festival. Our chosen charity was Sunbeams Music Trust, whose mission statement is: "Annie Mawson's Sunbeams Music Trust helps disadvantaged individuals improve their quality of life and self-esteem through the creative freedom of music."

Lara Clahane,  
ably helped by  
Anne Handley,  
Valerie Neeves,  
Aida Sutton and



Anne-Marie Quinn,  
made delightful  
clothes-peg angel  
choristers, each with a

tiny carol sheet, together with a God-like Ian for the top of the tree. These were all put in position the following afternoon by Lara, Dorothy Davies and Jean Robinson, supervised by Arthur from a safe distance.

Many thanks to all who helped put together our extremely tasteful tree!

## Rinteln Trip

As you are aware, the proposed trip to Kendal's twin town of Rinteln has been postponed until the Spring of 2015, when it is intended to choose repertoire for our April concert that can be used both at the Mary Wakefield Festival in March and in Germany in May.

## Money Matters

### Subscriptions

A reminder to those of you paying your subscription by instalments that the balance of £40 is due at the first rehearsal in January. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

### Fund raising

The November Coffee morning made a profit of £167, and the book etc stall has so far raised £70 this year. Please keep the books coming – and keep buying them!

### Easy Fundraising

Don't forget, when you shop online, to go to your chosen retailer via the Easy Fundraising site ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)) (you will need to register there as a supporter of Kendal South Choir) so that the choir will benefit from a donation from the retailer of up to 5% of your spend, at no cost to the Choir or yourself. A total of £56.97 has been raised in this way, with £55 raised by just two members.

### Future Concerts

On **25th January** we will perform our New Year Concert at St Thomas's Church, Kendal, comprising Fauré's *Requiem* and other French music. We have an impressive poster on display in Wainwright's Yard! Please take as many posters and flyers as you can and get them displayed in churches, shops, schools, front windows, etc.

Our Spring Concert on **10th May** will be held again in St Thomas's Church, when we will sing Haydn's *Nelson Mass* (Novello edition), *Te Deum* (OUP, ed. Denis McCaldin). [Anyone who would like to buy their own copy should tell Moira at the first rehearsal – price £7.15 for *Nelson Mass*, £6.25 for *Te Deum*, saving 80p and 70p respectively on the list price.]

We have committed to be part of a combined choir to sing Verdi's *Requiem* at the Sands Centre, Carlisle, on **Saturday 12th July**, conducted by Ian Thompson. Our own Tuesday rehearsals will therefore continue after our Spring Concert, and joint rehearsals will be held on Saturdays 7th and 21st June and 5th July – more details shortly. Each singer is expected to pay £25 towards venue hire etc., but no choir subscription will be charged for our own extra term's rehearsals.

Our performance of *Messiah* will now be on **13th December**, in St Thomas's Church, Kendal.

The first concert of 2015 will be on **Saturday 25th April** at Stricklandgate Methodist Church, when the programme will probably comprise English music.

Please make rehearsals your priority for Tuesday evenings and attend as many as you possibly can. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please let Moira or your Section Rep (see below) know, or, if you know well in advance, mark the register with an A for that date.

The Section Reps are:

- **Soprano:** Jean Robinson (01539 725955)
- **Alto:** Dorothy Davies (015395 32241)
- **Tenor:** Moira Greenhalgh (01524 761269)
- **Bass:** Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)

For security reasons the Union Street door at Stricklandgate Methodist Church has to be locked at 7.30pm, so if you know you are going to be late please arrange to text a friend in the choir when you arrive – or you could tap on the fourth window from the left on the Burneside Road frontage!

**New Members** are always welcome in the tenor and bass sections. If you know of anyone who is interested please have a word with them and ask them to consider joining us.

### Social Matters

#### New Year Social

Our New Year party will be held on **Saturday 15th February** in the Kirkland Hall. More details, including menu and price, will be available shortly.

#### Summer Barbecue

There will be a barbecue again in the summer – this time we'll try to fix a date when it's not raining (2011), windy (2012), or perishing cold (2013)!

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Many thanks to Chris Moore and Caryl Wilson, retiring members of the Committee, for their hard work for the Choir over the last three years.

Their replacements are Anne-Marie Quinn and Jillian Chadwick.

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Here's to some really exciting singing in 2014, starting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th January at Stricklandgate Methodist Church.

<http://www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk>