



Pontnewydd Male Choir

CHOIR NEWSLETTER

Year 25 MARCH 2021

This month's birthdays.

Chris Howard (T1) Friday 12th

Mike Willis (B1) Saturday 14th

David Wilks (Retd.) Wednesday 17th

John Carter (B2). Friday 19th

Brendan Roberts (T1) Saturday 20th

Gareth Jones (B1). Wednesday 31st

David will be celebrating his birthday on St. Patrick's Day.

On **Sunday 28th** check to see whether your clocks are running 1 hour **late**.

Choir updates:

Most of us have now been given (or offered) Covid vaccinations, some of us older ones even had a second jab. Brendan is being very patient and has managed to convince himself that politics have played no part in deciding priorities for vaccination. Although some recipients have had minor discomforts, we have heard no reports of very unpleasant effects.

Zoom practices continue and those who take part will have a head start when things eventually get back to normal. Wednesday night zoom get-togethers are proving useful for keeping members up-to-date and checking what is the flavour of the month in delicious lemonades etc. It is appreciated that the majority of members play no active part in zoom sessions but hope that they are still ensuring that they are aware of what is being done to keep us all together. Sadly, a number of choirs in south Wales have (temporarily we hope) disbanded because of problems associated with the pandemic. This **will not happen with Pontnewydd Male Choir**.

That odd-shaped ball.

For historical records - this particular paragraph was being 'written' when Wales shared with France the first position in the Six Nations Championship. You now all know that Wales are the Triple Crown champions after last Saturday's game and who knows what yet might transpire? Some choristers are proudly proclaiming "I told you so!" and shame on those (of us) who ever doubted that the boys would turn up trumps. They really were three remarkable games.

Kieron Mahoney is a devotee of the game involving the (easily-controlled) spherical ball that a two-year-old could control and wonders why Newport County never gets a mention here – HURRAH FOR NEWPORT COUNTY. I can now return to serious stuff.

Our Wednesday zoom sessions (mentioned above) result in discussions on many topics and you probably are not surprised that rugby (the 15-a-side game) is quite frequently one of the topics. Sporting memories are an important contribution to things that interest us, particularly as we get older.

On the afternoon of Thursday 25th February some of 'us' took part in a zoom session of an organisation called *Sporting Memories*. It was all about the Six Nations Championship and over 60 people took part. The majority were from England, Scotland and Wales and it would be fair to say 'of mature age'. Why is this in a choir newsletter? Read on and you'll begin to understand the delay in you receiving the full version of this newsletter.

At the end of the session on the evening of Wednesday 3rd March the participants were treated to a demonstration/explanation of what had been done in the zoom session mentioned immediately above. Chairman Ian explained that when restrictions were lifted and choristers could meet socially over a cup of tea or coffee (???) the format could be used to develop various interests, cement relationships and even to maintain fitness! Web-master Doug tested our rugby knowledge in a quiz and then Ian tested our fitness in taking us through some simple and not too strenuous exercises that resulted in several choristers now being under consideration for inclusion in The Lions squad. Phil Evans hopes that he'll be able to use the body armour, but Brendan Roberts has already been told that he has to use a proper scrum cap.



So, we all look forward to a relaxation of lockdown restrictions and a strengthening of all that makes the lads of PMC a bit special.

Choir Newsletter.

“Choir” is used in the paragraph heading as an adjective and can be a bit restrictive if it means that all the news must be about the choir.

Appeals for contributions by readers to the newsletter have (thank you) produced some results and our pro-active chairman has wondered what would be your reaction to the inclusion of items involving, for example, *local history, computer jargon, gardening, wine and spirits, pubs, local wildlife/birds*. Most of those topics (and perhaps all) and might also tempt our ladies! Now there’s plenty of scope there for you, and your better halves, so why not have a go!

Thinking of computer jargon - smart phone enthusiasts will probably be expert in “texting” and abbreviations like LOL. Your editor wonders whether you frequently use the following short bit of texting WCIGAWIEIOWZS. In case you hadn’t seen it before it means “Why can’t I get a word in edgewise in our Wednesday zoom sessions?”

To drive home the above, this item is about choir music.

Chairman Ian again helps to fill the page:

Despite the best efforts of Coronavirus it has not prevented our M.D., Martyn Jones, introducing new music into our repertoire. Here is background to some of those pieces:

“Music” is a 1976 hit single by John Miles reaching No 3 on the UK Singles Chart. It contains the lyric *“To live without my music would be impossible to do. In this world of troubles my music pulls me through”* – which is quite apt for our times.

“Fly me to the moon”, written in 1954 by Bart Howard, is forever associated with Frank Sinatra’s 1964 recording and with the NASA Space Programme and was played on the Apollo 11 mission that landed on the moon.

Editor’s note”. Thank you Ian – more information held in reserve.

Further to the above here is the list of pieces for zoom practices in March:

Date	Time	Section	Repertoire
Tues 02 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Baritone Bass	Calon Lan, Let it be me.
Fri 05 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Tenor 1 Tenor 2	Calon Lan, Let it be me.
Tues 09 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Tenor 1 Tenor 2	Rachie, The Rose
Fri 12 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Baritone Bass	Rachie, The Rose
Tues 16 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Baritone Bass	O Gymru, He ain’t heavy
Fri 19 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Tenor 1 Tenor 2	O Gymru, He ain’t heavy

Tues 23 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Tenor 1 Tenor 2	Anfonaf Angel, O Happy Day
Fri 26 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Baritone Bass	Anfonaf Angel, O Happy Day
Tues 30 March	7:30-8:00 8:15-8:45	Baritone Bass	Tangnefeddwyr, Higher and higher

The music team is giving us some revision of pieces suitable for weddings – a possible booking may yet come about – who knows?

For relaxation.

February teasers.

You needed to look at a computer keyboard for the first puzzle and particularly look at each letter **and the key immediately to the left**. So instead of the letter d you would see the letter S. Do the same for each of the letters and you would get:

Dp,r dsu ;pbr oy od s tobrt. - *Some say love it is a river*

G;u ,r yp yjr ,ppm. - *Fly me to the moon*

.....

The pet food *Pedigree* might be too expensive for mongrels.

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The three anagrams were:

Part of a piece of furniture – *drawer*

a recognition of success – *reward*

a screw – *warder* (Fletcher knew that one!)

March teasers.

What do these two words have in common? *Chased and chaste.*

What different property for these two words? *Bungalow and dessert.*

Another different property in common - what? *Minute and tear.*

Quire has a similar but different property from the last pair – what?

Here's a spin-off from the above teasers:

*Esmeralda is a girl and she went into the wearing her
, as she said she and I only wish I but I'm too full of*

Can you complete the sentence with six homophomes?