



# Pontnewydd Male Choir

## CHOIR NEWSLETTER

Year 25 NOVEMBER 2021

### This month's birthdays.

**Chairman Ian** (B1) Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Ian Roberts.** (B1). Sat 6<sup>th</sup>

**Annette Williams.** (Acc) Sat 21<sup>st</sup>

**Malcolm Gough.** (T1) Wed 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Paul Pritchard.** (T1) Sat 27<sup>th</sup>

**Frank Horsell** (B2) Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Barrie Page.** (T1). Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

**John Miller.** (B1) Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Derek Williams.** (T2) Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>

**John Sheppard.** (B1) Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

Husband and wife have birthdays just 5 days apart –  
but Annette obviously is much younger.

### So it's a week late but here's my excuse.

My apologies for the late issue of this month's newsletter. I have been waiting for a number of updates but because some of them are still in progress I've decided to issue a modified and reduced version. Barrie Page has made veiled threats about you not being able to know the date of his birthday and three choristers are still muttering about missing boxes of chocolates and glasses of fruit squash.

The end of October and start of this month proved to be quite eventful. A group of our choristers and friends travelled to Cornwall and took part in a Sea Shanty Festival in Mevagissy. The organisers and 'customers' were very impressed by their contributions with the result that they were asked to be part of the main 'gig' on the Saturday night. That day proved to be a long one, the weather wasn't exactly summery and most of the time being spent in the open air resulted in some of the group having a bout of the sniffles on their return home. All in all the trip proved very successful and the claim of Wales being **the** land of song was upheld.

However it was not all good news a little later. Our chairman's mother, a centenarian living in west Wales, had a bad fall. A surgical operation was necessary but, thankfully, it was satisfactory and nothing received from Ian to date suggests any complications. Naturally our very best wishes are sent and we understand that Ian has much on his mind.

That's not all! Last weekend one of our long serving top tenors, **Alwyn Nutland**, end up in The Grange. Some years ago Alwyn had major surgery and some days of feeling under the weather understandably caused some anxiety. He is still in the hospital under careful observation and was due to have

investigative checks yesterday. Results are not yet known here. Again, our very best wishes go out to Alwyn and family.

So that's the best I can do for now - please forgive unchecked errors.

### **Important update for choristers.**

Choir members who can receive emails should have received earlier the communication from the General Secretary regarding subscriptions. After being in abeyance for over a year they will become payable from the start of November. Martin gives details regarding amounts and bank account.

We are also informed that the management committee continue to review practice conditions **and will be looking at the possibility of a new practice venue** in the coming weeks.

Attendance at practice has seen some improvement but less than 40 attendees indicates that some members are still unhappy about existing restrictions. It remains to be seen whether our committee can come up with a solution that will result in getting an increase to the number in practice.

### **Can you help?**

The lack of choir concerts and social functions has reduced the amount of "news" to fill the exciting monthly newsletter. The occasional looking back has been an attempt to fill space, to inform newer choristers about choir activities in the recent past and to indulge some of us older ones in a bit of enjoyable nostalgia.

Your editor has at his disposal quite a number of digital photographs of choir tours made in the period when digital cameras became available and before smart phones took over. Many of us now use only our smart phones to take photographs and even videos. But I only have colour **prints** of early tours to Germany and our Canadian tour. To scan prints will be a tedious job so does anyone have digital (jpg) files of those tours (or other events) that they would be happy to share? If so I'd be happy to receive a copy by email at [royfisher30@gmail.com](mailto:royfisher30@gmail.com). All contributions will be acknowledged and the usual fees paid.



This was a photograph I took in Tarragona on an afternoon trip while on our Spanish tour. I was stood quite close to him because I was intrigued by his lack of any sort of activity. It then turned out that he was an extra in a film that was being made and I was not exactly helping matters by being in camera. I'm still puzzled why they were filming a scene with the postman the only character present.

## Do you watch the news ?

Who remembers (Sir) Martyn Lewis, the former BBC news presenter who in 1993 probably caused a minor controversy by suggesting that the BBC news bulletins needed to include more good news ? I ask because the news that the media generally feeds us is understandably predominantly not exactly good news.

One of my recent searches of featured articles in our broadsheets and tabloid press confirmed that statement. I estimate that over 90% of the items would have made most people made somewhat depressed. Surely in times like the present we need to hear every bit of good news that comes our way ?

Moreover, the 'bad news' needs to be presented in a balanced way not just to capture our attention. It was said years ago that "There are lies, damned lies and statistics' and so much of what we read only presents part of the story.

Or am I being unrealistic ?

## Rehearsals music.

Day	Date	Repertoire
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Tangnefeddwyr, Gwahoddiad, Ave Maria.
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Divine Brahma, Rock-a My Soul, Fields of Athenry.
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Kumbahya, Ar hyd y nos, Anfonaf Angel.
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Miners' Song, O Gymru.
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Higher and higher, O happy day, Music.
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Let all men sing, With a voice of singing, African Prayer.
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	The World in Union, Tangnefeddwyr, Gwahoddiad.
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Cwm Rhondda, Calon Lan, Rock-a My Soul.

## Just for fun.

Plastic surgeons have recently succeeded in grafting a pig's ear onto the head of a very badly burned patient. The only problem is that at the moment the patient complains that he can hear persistent crackling.

A couple are sitting in their living room, sipping an expensive wine.

Out of the blue, the wife says, "I love you."

"Is that you or the wine talking?" asks the husband.

"It's me," says the wife. "Talking to the wine."

Editor: Roy Fisher.