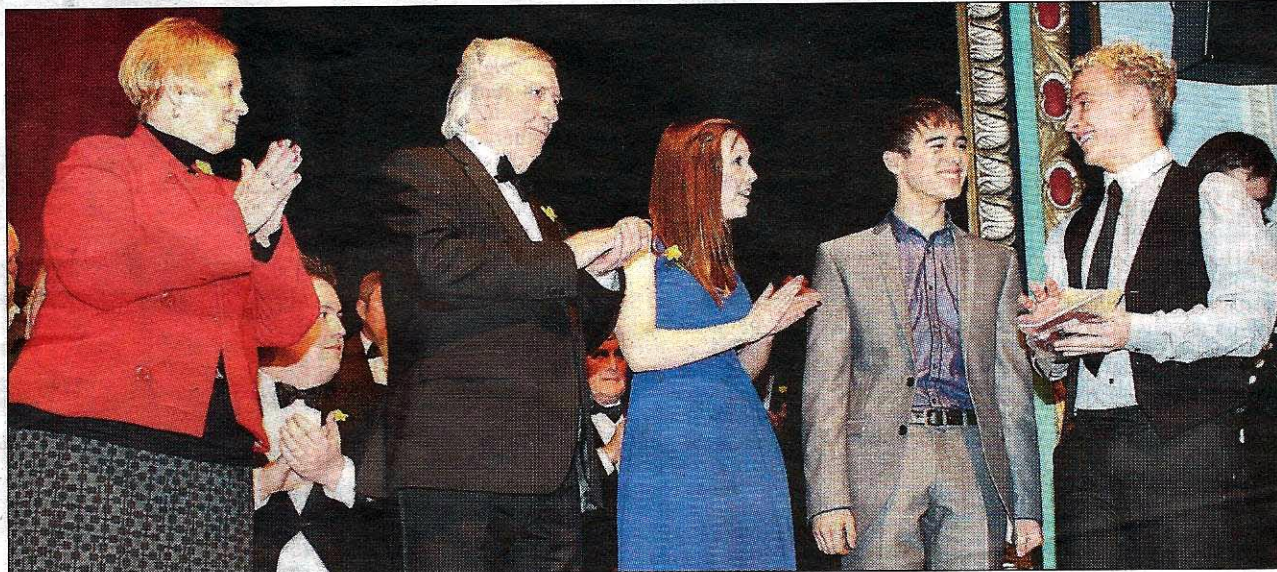


Kieron, 16, delighted to win choir's singing competition



■ The three singers with the judges.

FINALISTS took to the stage with the Rhos Male Voice Choir to find the area's next generation of talented singers.

The Stiwt Young Singer competition coincided with the choir's St David's Day celebratory concert which saw three talent singers, all from the Wrexham area, battle it out for the title.

Kieron Connor Valentine, 16, won the £500 first prize in the competition held at the Stiwt Theatre in Rhos, which was sponsored by the choir.

The £500 prize is intended as a bursary to help with music education and development.

The choir's musical director Aled Phillips said: "Kieron was the worthy winner of a competition where the standard was very high.

"The Rhos Male Voice Choir has been entertaining people for more than 120 years, and we want to do our bit to ensure young people locally are able to develop their talent."

Kieron, whose winning performance included *Del Mio Dolce Ardor* and *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Miserables*, said he was delighted to have won.

"This was a great opportunity to get constructive criticism from professional adjudicators. I chose these songs because they were contrasting both in dynamics and emotion and would prove popular with the audience.

"I really enjoyed the evening, I loved hearing the other competitors and the choir and I got such a buzz out of performing on such a lovely stage.

"I was completely overwhelmed when the judges told me I had won. I couldn't



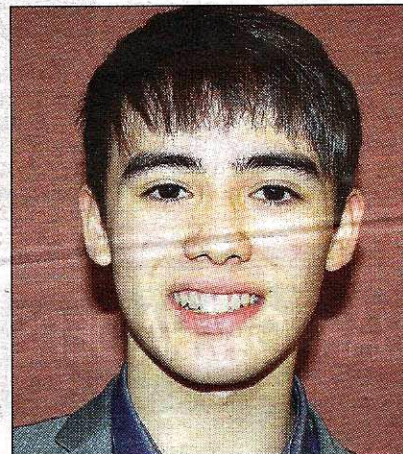
■ Winner Kieron Connor Valentine with the trophy donated by Rhos Male Voice Choir.

believe I had won when the other two finalists were of such a high standard."

Kieron plans to use the bursary for further education in the performing arts and in the future hopes to become a professional opera singer.

"I have loved singing, dancing and acting since a very early age. I also hope to do some concert work in the very near future."

The two other finalists were Rebecca Roberts, 17, and Jordan Li-Smith, also 17.



■ Jordan Li-Smith.
■ Rebecca Roberts.



New footpaths signs a step in the right direction - page 9

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