

Rhos 2000 Newsletter

"The year 2000 proved to be another busy year for the choir - there were many changes in the ranks, including a new Chairman, Hywel Dodd; Vice Chairman, Norman Davies; Registrar, David Watts; Transport Officer, Richie Jones; Recruitment Officer, Ian Pritchard Jones and Jim Taylor who kindly stepped in as acting Secretary when Gary Pugh was forced to take leave of absence in the summer.

The highlight was yet again the Annual Concert in October and although we seem to say it each year, this certainly was a wonderful evening in which the soloists, Claire Rutter and Stephen Gadd delighted the audience and choir alike. The accompanist, Brian Hughes took over at short notice from Rona Jones, who had sadly lost her father a few weeks before the concert. As expected, Brian was superb, showing what a true professional he really is. The choir were in good voice, singing what was probably the most varied programme ever, including a number of new items such as 'Ar Doriad Dydd' featuring Len Gilpin as the Tenor Soloist and a newly formed Octet. Also well received was 'The Case of the Stolen Pig' which had only been sung once before in the Centenary Concert of 1991, and 'Lazy Bones' with Aled Phillips and Ian Pritchard Jones playing the dozy daydreamers off to a tee! Also high on the list of achievements was our tour of Tuscany in May, with concerts in Florence, Montecatini, and Borgo Buggiano. Again, the audiences came from far and wide to be delighted by the rich Welsh tones - a feat made easier by the glorious church acoustics! The surrounding countryside was beautiful and the historical cities of Florence, Pisa and Sienna were awe-inspiring. The local brew obviously pleased the lads and lubricated their voices to perfection (or so I was told!), as the choir took over a nearby Bar and entertained passers by from all over the world - Hywel said that Luigi (the bar owner) took a World Cruise with two weeks takings!!

The choir had been planning a new recording for a while, and this was finally realised in September when a full weekend was spent cutting the new CD at two local venues, St. Paul's Church, Pentre Broughton and the Stiwt Theatre, Rhos. The CD has been named 'Spectrum' and is also available on Cassette. The choir was much appreciated in all its other concerts, some old and some new venues. Particularly memorable was the long trip to Whitehaven, Cumbria - uncharted territory for the choir, where the audience was clearly overwhelmed by the performance given and went on to buy every CD, Tape and Video on offer!! I am sure that all concerned will hope for a return visit in the coming year.

One disappointment for us was the postponement of the Gladstone Village Hall concert at Burton., Wirral, but all is not lost, and we have secured a new date in April when we will be filling this charming little venue once more.

The choir will break for Christmas on 14th December and will resume on 4th January 2001. Rehearsals continue in the same places, and at the same times, in the New Year and Patrons are always welcome.

Kirsten Dodd

Patrons Secretary