

Rhos MVC 2005 Newsletter

RHOS Male Voice Choir has made a very positive start to 2005 with increased attendances at the twice-weekly rehearsals. There has been a mini boom in new members joining and former members returning.

John Daniel, the choir's new Director of Music, has taken over following the retirement of W. Tudor Jones, who was in the post for 12 years. Under Tudor Jones the choir gained success at the Glarner Music Festival in Switzerland, at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and received praise for the quality of its singing both in Britain and abroad.

Before studying at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester John Daniel was a member of the choir. He was conductor of Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir from 1971 to 1991 and for four years was the bandmaster of the Rhos Band. He has also served as conductor of the ladies choir in Rhos for six years and is well-known as a conductor and voice trainer.

Potential choristers will be given a warm welcome to rehearsals which take place on Mondays at the Hafod Social Club in Rhos at 7.15pm and at the same time in the Stiwt on Thursdays.

The choir extends its very best wishes to the Deputy Director of Music, Aled Phillips, on the occasion of his marriage to Jayne. The members' wish is that the pair have a long and happy marriage.

Recently, the new airliner, the Airbus 380, was launched in Toulouse in France with a huge fanfare. The choir, together with the City of Chester Male Voice Choir was present at the opening of the massive new extension to the Airbus factory in Broughton, Flintshire, in July, 2003. The wings are made at Broughton and Prime Minister, Tony Blair, together with other dignitaries, were present at the ceremony. On leaving, Mr Blair gave both choir's the thumbs up and his spokesman said that he had enjoyed the singing of the choirs.

Choir members have received new ties, a gift from Mold businessman John Dale, who has been prominent with various contributions in the past. Many thanks to him. The design on the ties features the choir's two emblems and is by choir chairman, J. Norman Davies.

The harpist Dylan Cernyw will join the Welsh singing sensation Katherine Jenkins for the choir's Annual Concert which will be held at the William Aston Hall, Wrexham, on Saturday, October 29, at 7pm. Rhos Male Voice Choir performed on stage with Katherine Jenkins at the Kings Dock Arena in Liverpool last July on the occasion of the Last Night of the Summer Pops before an audience of 3,500. During the concert Dylan Cernyw and Rona

Jones, who will accompany Katherine Jenkins, will give a duet on piano and harp. The pair have produced a CD.

Three Rhos choirs gave a concert at the Stiwt in the village on Wednesday, February 2nd with the proceeds going to the Tsunami Appeal. The three choirs were the Rhos Orepheus Male Voice Choir, Cantorion Rhos, and the Rhos Male Voice Choir.

The annual meeting of the Rhos Male Voice Choir was held in February and both the chairman, J. Norman Davies, and the secretary, J. Raymond Jones, welcomed the new Director of Music, John Daniel. They both paid tribute to the work of W. Tudor Jones, who retired as Director of Music in November, having held the post for 12 years.

The past year has been an eventful one with many successful and highly acclaimed concerts, a new CD, a packed William Aston Hall for the Annual Concert and, early in 2005, a new Director of Music. The treasurer, David Scott, reported that the choir was also on a sound financial footing. New Director of Music, John Daniel, expressed his thanks at the warm welcome he had received on his appointment and said that with hard work and dedication the choir had a bright future ahead. The membership had increased significantly with many younger choristers joining. It was proposed that W. Tudor Jones and the former deputy Director of Music, Emyr James, be made Honorary Vice-Presidents in recognition of their work. Also that Dr. Tudor Powell Jones and Noel Williams be made Life Members - they have been choristers for more than 30 years. Thanks were also expressed to the deputy Director of Music, Aled Phillips, and to the accompanist Kevin Whitley for their valuable part in a successful year. Rhos Male Voice Choir reached their August break period having had a very successful seven months under the leadership of their new Director of Music, John Daniel.

A pleasing feature is that many new members have swelled the ranks of the choir, but even more new members will be made most welcome. In March Rhos Male Voice Choir took part in a concert with the famous Fodens-Richardson Band at the Guild Hall in Preston and this was followed by a concert in the International Musical Eisteddfod Pavilion at Llangollen. More than £20,000 was raised at this concert for the Tsunami Appeal and also on stage were the world-famous baritone Bryn Terfel, mezzo-soprano Mary Lloyd Davies and soprano Ann Williams King.

Also in March the choir took part in another concert for the Tsunami Appeal, this time at the Stiwt in Rhos. On a sad note the death of one of the choir's deputy conductors, Emyr James, was deeply felt. His contribution to the choir and to music in general will be greatly missed.

In April the choir had a concert at the Gladstone Hall, Burton, Wirral, and also during the month choir members and friends joined together to pay

tribute to the work of former Director of Music, W. Tudor Jones, who retired in November. Tudor was presented with a cheque and a framed photograph of the choir he had conducted for 12 years.

May saw the choir in concert at Uttoxeter and in June they had two engagements - at Whitehaven, Cumbria, and at Whittington, Shropshire. For the final concert before the August break Rhos Male Voice Choir joined the Heber Choir at the Bishop Heber High School, Malpas. The choir's accompanist, Kevin Whitley, is the Director of Music for the Heber Choir and he had an extremely busy evening. His musical skills were evident on the piano and in the way he had trained the school choir.

A very busy period awaited the choir when they return in September, with engagements at Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire; Chester, Holyhead and Liverpool before their Annual Concert in Wrexham. This concert, featuring the sensational Katherine Jenkins and North Wales harpist Dylan Cernyw, had been sold out for a few months.

Also the choir will be busy rehearsing to compete at the 60th Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. They have also been invited to take part in a special concert to mark the anniversary which will include other Welsh winners of the Male Voice Choir competition.

Following all concerts, Rhos Male Voice Choir has received glowing tributes from audiences and they have received standing ovations on more than one occasion. The work of new Director of Music, John Daniel, the deputy Director of Music, Aled Phillips and the accompanist Kevin Whitley has been much appreciated by choir members and audiences alike.

Congratulations have poured in following Rhos Male Voice Choir's outstanding Annual Concert in Wrexham at the end of October. In the opinion of very many the concert was not only the event of the year but the outstanding event in the town for a long time. Joining the choir before an audience of nearly 900 were the talented chart-topping mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins and the well-known North Wales harpist Dylan Cernyw. They were accompanied by Rona Jones.

This was the first Annual Concert for the choir's Director of Music, John Daniel, and his hard work and musicianship with the choir was evident with many also commenting on the rapport he had with the audience. The choir's Deputy Director of Music, Aled Phillips, conducted three items and the accompanist was Kevin Whitley. The compere for the evening was choir vice-chairman Harold Richards.

The programme contained three items arranged by the choir's former Deputy Director of Music, Emyr James, who died earlier this year. His usual 'spot' of middle-of-the-road items was always enjoyed by Annual Concert audiences.

Katherine Jenkins' personality endeared her to the audience - as did her singing - and she expressed a desire to sing with Rhos Male Voice Choir again in the not too distant future. The duets by harpist Dylan Cernyw and accompanist Rona Jones received loud applause, evidence that they were much enjoyed.

Before the Annual Concert the choir had engagements in Tenbury Wells, Chester, Holyhead and Liverpool and at all the concerts they were praised for the quality of their singing. They also took part in a recording for S4C for a programme on accompanist Llyr Williams, who is making a name for himself on concert stages far and wide. He is a former accompanist for the choir.