

GMVC Newsletter March 2020

Vol 13 No.3

Chairman's Notes, contributed by Geoff Hampson

Welcome to our Newsletter for March 2020

What atrocious weather we are having this year with one storm following another!

It is awful for those poor people who live in areas prone to flooding, some who have suffered more than once already this year, one can only imagine how dreadful it must be.

It was good to see how many people braved the elements and attended our concert at the Century Theatre in Coalville, somewhere we all enjoyed, and I feel sure we will make a return visit at some point in the future.

It was also an honour for me to present **John Wilton** with a citation and a small gift in recognition of fifty years of outstanding service to our choir. Obviously, John is a Life Member so we will see him at choir practice from time to time but not singing in concerts.

He told me that one of his first memories was being given the job of handing out the ash trays at half time on practice nights and then collecting them up and emptying them afterwards.

How times have changed!

Two concerts coming up this month, the first being a welcome return visit to **Barton under Needwood**.

Then we will be off to **The Palace at Ibstock** which has become a regular visit for us in March and we are always made very welcome.

Sheila and I went to see a play at the Venture Theatre in Ashby a couple of nights ago.

We always try to support the Theatre as it is run by volunteers and relies heavily on local support.

The play was "The Pitman Painters" and I have to confess I wasn't that sure how well it would go down. It was very good; all of the cast playing miners speaking like true Geordies making the dialog between a very posh-speaking Art Teacher and the miners very funny.

I have to say it was really well worth watching as it said so much about the opportunities the industrial revolution offered to the working classes. In this instance it was of course about art but like all good playwrights the story demonstrated much more.

I could not help thinking about some of the older miners I worked with who were extremely good sportsmen, then coming up the pit on a Sunday lunch time and hearing the brass band practising, all of who would not have had an opportunity to enjoy their talents if it wasn't for the Pits.

There were also Towns, Shops and Chapels all part of the fabric of the communities that came with the industries to support them, which is of course the very seed that our choir has followed from.

A group of chaps at chapel wanting or coerced into singing, having no idea how good they might turn out to be, apart from a Methodist Minister who was so impressed by what he saw and heard. He encouraged them to do something they hardly dare believe they could, just like the art teacher in the "Pit Man Painters". I for one still feel so privileged to enjoy just such opportunities GMVC offers us as members.

There were other things that reminded me about my time in the choir.

The miners club constitution, always referred to before embarking on a new venture. It is always important to remember that back then all of the various clubs were a completely new venture and very precious one at that.

Times and preferences change and there are all sorts of opportunities today but our choir is just as precious to us today as it was to the original choir members back then and they only felt the health benefits that are agreed by science today.

Unfortunately I find myself having to report another retirement from singing. This time it is **Roy Bishop** from our second tenor section.

Roy joined the choir in 1983 and clocked up his 35th year presentation at our WW1 Centenary Celebration Concert in 2018 and it was very fitting that we could get his awards presented by someone from the Royal Airforce as Roy carried out his National Service in the Royal Airforce. 2020 means he has been a very committed and valued singer for 37 years and again like John will continue as a life member so will still be very much part of our choir.

Let's hope that by the time I sit down to do the next newsletter the weather will have improved!

SPC Report, contributed by Mick Robey

Over the last month our planning for the future has continued at quite a pace and has proved very successful in some cases and not so much in others. We were bitterly disappointed that Llanelli Male Voice Choir has had a change of heart regarding our agreed joint concert in August during our tour of Wales. As mentioned last month, arranging concerts has been very difficult this year due to the majority of male voice choirs in Wales closing down for their annual holiday in August. Although Llanelli MVC had agreed, it appears the choristers were adamant that the August holiday period remains free as it has slowly been eroded for the past couple of years. Enquiries with 3 more choirs also proved unsuccessful but we continue in our efforts.

We have two concert appearances this month. The first one taking place on **Saturday 7 March at St. James Church, Barton – under - Needwood, DE13 8AA** with a 7.15 pm start. Our second concert is another return to the **Ibstock Palace LE67 6LH** commencing at 7.30 p.m. Two very different venues but, as in past visits to them both, the same very warm welcome to both choristers and audience alike.

A quick reminder of our first concert in April as it occurs right at the beginning of the month and possibly before some of you receive the newsletter. On **Saturday 4 April** we host another joint concert in the **Priory Centre, Stretton** at 7.15 p.m. We welcome as our guests a ladies choir based in Uttoxeter, the **Heath Chorus**. We have not met them before but they come highly recommended so we are looking forward tremendously to hearing them.

MAVORO Ladies Club, contributed by Maureen Hickman

Friends and family are most welcome to join us for our social occasions. If you would like any more information about our ladies' evenings or events, please contact any of the numbers below:

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Hilda Oates | - 01283 536144 | Maureen Hickman | - 01283 703218 |
| Jan Masterman | - 01283 814553 | Sue Littlewood. | - 01283 810291 |
| Josie Ivens | - 01283 212914 | Pat Hurd | - 01283 542746 |
| Janet Auwkit | - 07902 498391 | | |

MAVORO Programme 2020

		Aug 7 th	Meal
March 6 th	My Journey With Glass <i>Di Vernon</i>	Sept 4 th	Watching With Mothe <i>Kath Reynolds</i>
April 3 th	Old Kit Bag <i>Gillian & Alan Talbot</i>	Oct 2 nd	Charabanc Tour <i>Alan Hiley</i>
May 1 st	Garden Birds <i>Kevin Reynolds</i>	Nov 6 th	Our Counties Food & Drink <i>Paul Newsham</i>
June 5 th	Painting Demonstration <i>Jayne Good</i>	Dec 4 th	Christmas Party Ken Wears His Christmas Hat <i>Ken Knowles</i>
July 3 rd	Smile Please Say Cheese <i>Ian Rogerson</i>	Jan 8 th	2021 AGM

Tips (Continued), contributed by Mick Robey

Do you remember my sermon from last month when I preached about the lack of loyalty with Banks, Car Insurance companies and energy suppliers? How I talked about the “old days” when we were loyal to a few well-known company suppliers and Banks but now there is no reward for loyalty. Well I switched my bank account and now I am waiting for my £280 reward. I don't know if I prompted another member to do the same because he is expecting in excess of £300. If he did take my advice, I am still waiting for my 10 per cent commission! There was also another benefit which I had not foreseen – the “old” account closes 6 days before the new one is activated to enable all the details to be switched over. During this time I told a little lie. I informed my wife that because of the change-over we would not have banking facilities for those 6 days so we would not be able to spend anything on the “cards”. Result – 6 days profit from no spending!

My plan now was to tell you that Spring was just around the corner, but looking out of the window the corner is under water! Earlier this week we had our gardening club AGM and I spoke about how we suffered last year as “The beast from the East” was swiftly followed by a prolonged dry spell which had the water diviners working overtime, unsuccessfully, (Now they have all been made redundant!). Unfortunately, whilst early crops did well between the two extremes, most of the Brassica's suffered. This year looks like another catastrophic year for the gardener with incessant rain since the beginning of last November. It's going to be weeks before the soil can be prepared for planting, so vegetables are going to be late, but ideal for rice and runner beans!

This brings to me a few thoughts I have had of tips for those of you that do not have vegetable growing space but have small flower beds. Read on because I do not tip very often! Set a few “Little Gem” lettuce seeds in a small plant pot on the window sill to germinate. Prick them out into bigger pots when they are ready. Then plant them in your borders along with your bedding plants. They will not look out of place and can be cut for your salads when ready and replaced with successive crops. Another tip is to grow Kidney Beans in your larger flower garden. The red or white flowers (depending on variety) will certainly enhance your flower garden and then you will have lovely beans for your dinner when they have matured. The kidney or runner bean was brought to this country in 1493 by Columbus and for many years was only grown for its decorative appearance in flower borders. For those with minimal growing space e.g. a tub on the patio or a window sill, I would recommend continuous salad leaves which can be cut everyday as required. At the moment I have an abundance of packets of salad and herb seeds if you require any. They are free to a good home and are all this year's seeds.

Finally, on the nature trail – I have an enormous Pampas Grass outside my front window which is at least six feet across, so it's time for a severe pruning. I have cut back the leaves by at least half and now the plan is to put a match to it to burn as much of the trunk as I can. Then, with a large sharp saw, reduce the trunk to about 18 inches maximum diameter. Two things are holding me up from completing this at the moment. One is the wind as I shall get flames 10 foot high which could be a fire hazard to my neighbour's houses, second is the 8 foot flower plumes which I leave for the sparrows. It is an absolute delight to see them coming each day and removing the plumes which make ideal nesting material.

Secretary's Update – contributed by David Wright

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR - CONCERT/EVENTS 2020

Please bear in mind there could be further amendments to the list below, extra concerts,
Uniform colour and start times all subject to change.

Tickets available from 07399 417995

Or online via "We Got Tickets" <http://www.wegotickets.com/gmvc>

DATE	VENUE	Post Code	Uniform
Sat 7 Mar	St James Church Barton Under Needwood 7.30 Tickets TBC	DE13 8AA	Blue + Blue/Gold TIE

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

Sat 21 Mar	Ibstock Palace, Ibstock, Leicestershire 7.30 pm Tickets £10	LE67 6LH	Blue + Blue/Gold TIE
Sat 4 Apr	Joint Concert with Heath Chorus Priory Centre, Stretton. 7.30 pm Tickets £7	DE13 0HE	Black + Red Bow Tie
Sun 19 Apr	St Matthews Church Burton Road, Overseal 3 pm Concert & 5 pm Afternoon Tea Tickets £8	DE12 6LQ	Blue + Blue/Gold TIE
Sat 30 May	St Mary's & St Modwens 78 Guild Street, Burton 7.30 pm Tickets TBA	DE14 1NB	TBA
Sat 13 Jun	Kegworth Methodist Church Primary School, High Street, Kegworth 7.15 pm Tickets £7	DE74 2DA	Blue + Blue/Gold TIE
Sat 27 Jun	Joint Concert with Desford Colliery Band St John the Baptist, Hugglescote 7.15 pm Tickets £10	LE67 2BQ	Black + Red Bow Tie
	Choir Tour Weekend (Wed. 12.08.20 – Sun. 16.08.20)		TBC
Sat 22 Aug	Choir Charity Concert Teams 4 U St Mary's Church Church Road, Stretton 7.30 pm Tickets £8	DE13 0HD	Blue + Blue/Gold Bow Tie
Sat 5 Sep	The Gt. Meeting Unitarian Chapel, Hinckley, Leicestershire. 7:30 pm Tickets TBA	LE10 1PP	Blue + Blue/Gold TIE
Fri 18 Sep	Derby Catenian Circle 100 year celebration St Mary's Church Derby 7.15 pm Tickets TBA	DE1 3AX	Black + Red Bow Tie
Sat 26 Sep	Joint Concert with Gresley Band Ibstock Palace. 7.30 Tickets £10	LE67 6LH	Blue + Blue/Gold Bow Tie
Sat 21 Nov	Choir Annual Meal Appleby Inn Hotel, Atherstone Road. Appleby Parva 7 pm Tickets £22 + £1 prize Draw	DE12 7BE	Informal
Sat 19 Dec	St Peter & St Pauls Church 70 Newhall Road Swadlincote 7.30 pm Tickets £7	DE11 0BD	TBA

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

GMVC Website and Facebook

GMVC has now a new more modern Website with a new address www.gresleychoir.com

GMVC would like to acknowledge the generous support of the family of the late Mr. Roy Atkins and his son Andy, through his company [WebCertain](#), in securing the availability of our new web address "gresleychoir.com" for a further 5 years. If you need to know **anything**, about Gresley Male Voice Choir, visit our Website www.gresleychoir.com. It's full of pictures, videos and information about the Choir. If you need to email the Website or any of the Officers or Committee, email gmv.choir@gmail.com. Also, if you wish to keep in touch with events, other members and supporters of the Choir, look at our **Facebook** page, web address: <https://www.facebook.com/GMVC1904>

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If you wish, you can also request all data we hold on you to be deleted. If you receive your Newsletter as a printed copy and wish to cease receiving it each month, then please ring Mr D Wright, 07545 472774

Eric Coxon 29th February 2020