



GMVC Newsletter November 2021

Vol 13 No.11

Chairman's Notes, contributed by Geoff Hampson

Hello and welcome to our November Newsletter.

Will we ever be free of this dreaded Covid, not for some considerable time I fear so it seems life just has to go on especially for those of us who just see time evaporating before our eyes. No time to lose then as far as our singing goes I say so let's push on with choir business and I promise not to mention that C word again in our news.

We have just one concert this month and that is joining Gresley Colliery Band singing for Swadlincote British Legions 100 year Anniversary Celebration on the 6th of November at Gresley Old Hall. It should be a very poignant evening, a mix of words and music tinged with all the emotive emotions built in to the founding bricks of their great organisation. I know my Dad and Grandad found great companionship from their membership after their time in the forces during the first and second world wars. Indeed, some of our choir members still do today.

Then we will be racing towards Christmas, what a luxury we have this year, it is the first time I can ever remember having a bit of time to relax and enjoy learning some Christmas music during my time with the choir as we usually find ourselves performing concerts almost to the very end of November. As a young chorister I can remember the Oxford Carol Book being handed out after the School summer holidays and after swiftly going through the music for the weeks services the last part of choir practice would be spent on Christmas music.

It is particularly sad to report that Gerald Rogers has now gone into a Care Home after finding independent living not possible due to loss of mobility.

Gerald's contribution to our choir has been immense, he is without doubt an outstanding organist and pianist. He played organ for the choir for many years and when Roy Davies retired as choir MD he formed the Boys Choir. Roy soon asked Gerald to the position of the Boys Choir Accompanist. When the Boys Choir was disbanded Gerald was asked to come and play for us at our Wednesday Rehearsal as we had been managing without one for sometime. Typically Gerald fit in perfectly from day one and soon came back on Fridays and for Concerts playing the organ. You could hand Gerald a piece of music and he would look at it for a couple of seconds and then just play it and age didn't seem to dim this ability one jot until his eye sight started to fail and he worried about making a mistake. Not that he ever did but the worry of what he felt might let us down got a bit too much so he decided to take a back seat but still came to choir practice.

Over the last 50 plus years and as a Life Member still continuing Gerald has been an absolute rock to our choir and every single choir member has the utmost respect for Gerald, always there ready to do whatever was required when asked.

*He is now living at Abacus Care Home 42-44 Rolleston Rd, Burton-on-Trent DE13 0JZ. Phone. 01283 533166
I understand from speaking to Graeme Drayton it is possible to make an appointment and see him.*

Finally but no mean least we wish Tony Mulcahy well after a spell in hospital and still quite immobile after an injury at the gym. We look forward to seeing him back at choir as soon as he is able. It's also good to see Phil Bath and Eric Coxon back at choir at practice.

SPC Report, contributed by Mick Robey

At our planning meeting in October we were at last delighted to get back to planning for our Christmas festivities and hopefully return to the successful itinerary we have practised for the past few years.

Choir Christmas Dinner Saturday 20 November: This will again be held at the **Appleby Inn Hotel**.

The menus are now in circulation and your choices, reservations and payment are now urgently required by Rob Grummett.

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS



Christmas Raffle: Tickets are now in circulation priced at just £1 for a book of five tickets. We have a fresh Turkey (well we haven't got it yet!) as a first prize, a Christmas Hamper as second prize and 6 bottles of wine for third prize. The tickets also state numerous other prizes and we make our usual appeal to members and friends for gifts of other prizes and also groceries to make up the hamper. These will be graciously received on any practice night. The Grand Prize Draw will take place at our Christmas Concert which leads me on to:-

Christmas Concert Saturday 11 December. This will take place at **St. Peter and St. Pauls Catholic Church, Swadlincote** commencing at 7.15 p.m. and will be a fabulous evening of fun, friendship and food for all the family. There will be plenty of Christmas music both old and new from the choir and lots of opportunities for you to join in the well loved Christmas Carols. Mince pies and coffee will be served at the interval and there will be ample car parking around the Church and in the adjacent school playground. The draw for the raffle will be made after the interval and the lucky prize winners will see their winning tickets on display when exiting the Church. Tickets for this very popular event are now on sale priced at only £6.

MAVORO Ladies Club, contributed by Maureen Hickman & Hilda Oates

We would like to remind all Ladies that the next meeting will be on Friday 5th Nov 21 @ 7.30pm at

*The Newhall Methodist Church
Chapel Street
Newhall
DE11 0JU*

We would like to see as many people attending, as possible, as the main topic will be "the future of Mavoro"

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

HALLOWEEN Contributed by Mick Robey

This weekend is Halloween so will you be dressing up and going out "Trick or Treating"? Halloween's origins date back to an ancient Celtic festival of 2,000 years ago and celebrated mostly in Britain and other parts of Europe. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest - the beginning of the dark, cold winter, and a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, (All Hallow tide) the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred and so had a big party to scare away the ghosts, spirits and weird creatures with strange powers that could wander about on Earth. Later, with the Christian religion, the day became known as All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) - the day before All Saints' Day on 1

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



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November. Over the centuries, Halloween transitioned from a pagan ritual to a day of parties, costumes, lanterns and trick or treating for kids and adults.

Irish immigrants to the United States raised the popularity of Halloween during the 19th century and it's in America that Halloween has really taken off. During the 20th century it became more and more popular, with [traditions like pumpkin carving](#) and [trick or treating](#) becoming part of TV shows, books and especially movies where the sole aim is to "scare everyone to death", hardly celebratory in my book. If you require that type of reaction I would advise you visit a petrol station where a viewing of the price structure would create the same effect or open your next energy bill for a complete and utter shock! If it's an horrific experience you are after just watch the "News" on the telly to view volcanic eruptions, houses and cars being washed away by flood water and the countless homes and habitat being destroyed by fire. I am afraid I won't be dressing up to scare anyone during this pagan festival (I don't need to dress up I hear some of you say!).

So what else has been happening this week? A survey by the BBC revealed that 82% of people aged over 16 said they still wore face coverings in public. The words of Victor Meldrew come very much to the fore – "I don't believe it"! When I fetch my morning paper from the local supermarket I would put the figure at no more than 20% which was also borne out on GMVC's recent appearances in Burton's shopping precincts. On the same subject, there appears to be more face coverings in Marks and Spencer than in Tesco and also

B & M customers appeared to be very much in the minority where face coverings are concerned. Have the government thought that this could be a class or age issue! It appears that as soon as restrictions went away it was thought the virus had too. The mass return to breathing and coughing over each other at close quarters in our tens of thousands at events such as football matches, has helped to push new Covid cases past 40,000 per day and hospital admissions to almost 1,000 per day. I wonder if the general public think wearing a mask is worth the inconvenience. On my recent visits to NHS facilities e.g. hospitals and doctors surgeries, I can categorically state face coverings were 100% present without exception. Is it because the NHS still insist on face coverings and one's attention is immediately drawn to health issues. Away from the health scenario the public in the main are not concerned. I prefer to err on the side of caution as I said last month, I want to enjoy Christmas. Roll on Monday when I attend for my booster jab.

And finally..... I heard on the radio this week that Adele is appearing in concert in Hyde Park. I didn't catch the date but tickets are now on sale starting at £100 per seat up to £570 per seat and this is for just one outdoor evening performance. I would hope it is taking place in the summer as there will not be any heating on and certainly no cover over the cheaper seats if it rains! I just can't help thinking what value GMVC gives for up to a "tenner"

Secretary's Update – contributed by David Wright

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR - CONCERT/EVENTS 2021

The dates below are confirmed bookings as we now have the "All Clear"
Please bear in mind there could be further amendments to the list below, dependent on the Venues

Uniform colour and start times all to be arranged.

Tickets available from 07399 417995

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

DATE	VENUE	Post Code	Uniform
06/11/21	RBL Centenary Concert Brass & Voices Gresley Old Hall	DE11 9QW	Black Suit Red Bow Tie
27/11/21	Flash Choir in the Octagon Centre and Coopers Square Starts at 10.30am	DE14 3TN	

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



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11/12/2021	Christmas Concert St Peter & St Paul's Church Newhall	DE11 0BD	TBA
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Tickets for the RBL Commemorative Concert are on sale now and can be obtained from Peter Edwards on 07780 447117 or by email at peter_edwards0009@yahoo.com
Plans are being put in place for surprise appearances at various venues so **please watch out for the info, I will email you with details as they are con**

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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Eric Coxon 31st October 2021