

## GMVC Newsletter April 2016

Vol. 9 No.4

**Chairman's Notes**, contributed by Geoff Hampson

Hello and Welcome to our Newsletter for April 2016

We are now officially in the season of Spring when everywhere starts to brighten up and the lighter nights seem to cheer us all up. It is also the time of year when we start the usual slog of learning new music. As always we tend to doubt whether we will ever get to grips with some of the pieces and even if we will like them. However, as time goes by and we start to understand and learn each piece, like the daffodils in spring, we start enjoying them and can't wait to perform them in concert.

Talking of concerts, what about the **Atmosphere Glee Concert** at Trinity Church in Ashby?

I have to confess I didn't really know what to expect, it was certainly something we hadn't embarked upon before.

The whole evening was a delight, at times joyous, warm, emotional and certainly uplifting.

To be able to make such a generous donation was quite special we must thank our own **Robert Grummett** for that.

It was Robert who set about getting a suitable venue and also made all of the arrangements with the Atmosphere Glee Choir, the Church and the car park.

We were also indebted to the very kind but unknown benefactor that covered our expenses at the Church and as always **MAVORO** for helping with the drinks and **Chrissy Wright** who did the raffle.

What a contrast between our two concerts in March, Unbelievable!, however the outcome was completely the same.

Total satisfaction for all involved and our audiences, they will both be concerts we will all fondly remember and perhaps the latter may have more of a lasting effect on our outlook to life.

I am a bit of a fan of the spot on radio at lunch times, once a week called "What Makes us Human".

I have to confess the odd one goes completely over my head. (hardly surprising as most things are above my head) It's usually interesting to hear well-known people's views but I believe everyone that attended the Glee concert will have experienced all the emotions of what makes us human and hopefully left the concert a slightly better person for it.

I hope you all had a good Easter and are all refreshed and ready for our April Concerts.

Firstly at Bernard and Cynthia's Chapel in **Stoke Golding** where we are assured a warm welcome.

Then it is off to a new venue for us at **Ticknall Church** for a **St Georges Day Concert**.

Derek and I have been to look at the venue and it feels special as soon as you enter the church yard.

We are still rehearsing at **Newhall Central Methodist Church** at the moment as our home venue is still awaiting any remedial work to be carried out before we can return.

Finally I would like to wish **Gerry Oates** well with his on-going treatment, and **Malcolm Watson** well who is recovering from recent illness.

My mother was admitted to hospital and taken into a room with three cubicles for an assessment on arrival at the A and E at Burton. When we were allowed in to see her someone from the curtains around the next bed, to my amazement, started singing "Take Me Home". I recognised the voice and popped my head round to find Malcolm singing away. Little did I know he had seen me come into the ward.

It amused everyone but actually he had been rushed in earlier in a very poorly state but a little sing still made him smile.

Fortunately he is now on the mend. They moved Malcolm off to a ward and moved **Mick Jenson** along with **Margaret** into his place so it seemed like the whole ward was full of either choir members or in Mick and Margaret's case loyal choir supporters. Again though, a quite poorly Mick was still smiling at the thought of Malcolm singing "Take Me Home", I am sure as an ex miner one of Mick's favourites.

Unfortunately and very sadly **Mick Jenson** has since passed away and I for one will certainly miss his banter on arriving at our concerts and our thoughts go out to his family.

# GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

The theme throughout is that music has the power to connect with all. To help us all reach potentials no matter how challenged, whether it's the sheer excellence of each individual musician in **Grimethorpe Colliery Band** or our choir members collectively striving along with the help of our musicians to perform and entertain to the very best of our abilities. **Atmosphere Glee** who sing with a passion and spirit we sometimes find hard to match. Or Malcolm making us all smile in the face of adversity down at the hospital.

Is this what makes us all human? I very much hope so and hope all this helps us to continue with the enthusiasm and drive necessary to make our choir a success. Nothing comes without effort but all comes to those who are prepared to try hard enough.

That what's I took from the **Atmosphere Glee** concert, I don't think winning the lottery would have brought a bigger smile to those young peoples faces!

**SPC Report**, contributed by Mick Robey

A different venue and a different face! We were grateful to the authorities of **Stanton Methodist Church** for letting us hold our March meeting on their premises due to the on going building problems at West Street and we were delighted to welcome **Peter Cooke** to swell our ranks.

What a refreshing and enjoyable concert we all experienced at Ashby when we joined forces with the **Atmosphere Glee Choir**. Following on so quickly after our recent extremely successful concert with **Grimethorpe Colliery Band** and with very low pre-concert ticket sales, no-one anticipated what a wonderful and emotional evening was in store for us.

Grimethorpe is comprised of some of the best musicians in the country playing the best instruments money can buy. Probably the purchase price of just one instrument costs more than the total annual running costs of the Glee Choir but the enjoyment they each received and the smile on their individual faces was priceless. With the individual disabilities each member of this choir endures, it is a mammoth task for them to learn words and music but it was a very creditable performance they staged for us.

They then added a completely new dimension to our performance when they joined us in singing "Can you feel the love tonight" and again in the singing and rhythmic dancing of "When the Saints go marching in". We have had an amateur conductor in the audience at our concerts for the past few years and it was a delight when Karl handed the baton to Lee for our performance of "Love, could I only tell thee". Didn't he do well? Yet another highlight during an evening containing so many!

**European Tour News:** – Despite further contact with more male voice choirs in the area, our search for another joint concert has proved unsuccessful due to the fact that Europe closes down for the holiday season of July and August. Many choirs replied they would love to host us for joint concerts but unfortunately, not during July and August. On the positive side, we have been invited to participate in the Sunday morning Mass at St. Gerlach Church in Houthern, about 2 miles from our base in Valkenburg. We have also agreed to hire St. Jan's Church on Vrijtof Square in Maastricht on the Friday evening to perform our own concert.

Our list of performances at the moment are :-

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July – Own concert at 7.30 p.m. in St. Jan's Church, Vrijtof Square, Maastricht.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Gerlach Church, Houthern.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Joint concert at 4 p.m. with Borgharen Mannenkoor at Borgharen.

There will also be a short performance in Aachen Cathedral on either the Thursday or Saturday during our day visit to the city.

**Cornwall Tour 2017** – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017. All choir members have received information on the above proposed tour to Cornwall next year to participate in the **Cornwall Festival of Male Voice Choirs** which involves choices of Daytime Concerts, Evening concerts, Evening Gala Concerts and competitions.

It is imperative that everyone replies by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April** so that it can be assessed whether we have a viable number of choir members to participate.

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## 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  
Jan Masterman - 01283 814553  
Marian Cooper - 01283 212890

Maureen Hickman - 01283 703218  
Thea King - 01283 561352  
Josie Ivens - 01283 212914

## MAVORO Programme 2016

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Armless in India	<i>Richard Booth</i>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bees + (Honey for sale)	<i>Pat Hurd</i>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Streets of London	<i>Paul Newsham</i>
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Derbyshire Curiosities	<i>Keith Blood</i>
Aug 5 <sup>th</sup>	Meal	
Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Derby Mountain Rescue	<i>Alan Winfield</i>
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chocolate	<i>Barry Colenso</i>
Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	One War, One Wreck and The Lot of Women	<i>John Redfern</i>
Dec 2 <sup>th</sup>	Party Night (Christmas Quiz with a difference)	<i>Paul Newsham</i>
Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	AGM (2017)	

## “Taxes and Benefits “ contributed by Mick Robey

April is due and as usual, a seemingly quiet month is ahead, or so I used to think. Now it is a very dramatic month, which can have life-changing capabilities, depending on your point of view. I know Easter was early this year but usually we celebrate Easter in April with the new life of spring flowers, the hedgerows and trees coming into leaf, the end of winter and looking forward to a wonderful summer. That is one point of view. The other is a disaster because it is the end of one fiscal year and the start of another. In short it is time to start paying out.

April 1<sup>st</sup> and it is time to pay the dreaded increased Council Tax for the year. April 1<sup>st</sup> and it is time to pay the dreaded increased Water Rates for the year. April 1<sup>st</sup> is April Fools' Day and we all must be fools for joining these clubs in the first place. The same goes for the Income Tax club, which is renewed at the start of April every year and I do not ever remember signing up to this venture all those years ago. By way of a thank you for being a good citizen and paying up my taxes promptly, the Chancellor has rewarded me with a £3 per week increase on my pension and what's more, he has been overjoyed at telling me this was coming for the past 12 months. He was not that keen on Budget Day last year to tell me that my baccy and booze bill was increasing by £3 per week, not in 12 months time but from 6 o'clock that same evening.

It seems when the Chancellor gives me anything I have to wait 12 months for it but when he wants anything back, he takes it immediately. Like my new Income Tax allowance I have been advised I am getting – but I have to wait until next April before it becomes operative. What I have been waiting for to arrive for the past 12 months has immediately disappeared in taxes due on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

April, or more correctly March and April are joyous ones for some as they celebrate their wedding anniversaries. Many of you “silver surfers” will remember the rush to get married in years gone by before the end of the tax year, because one could then claim a tax rebate for the whole year for the new lady in your life. That loop hole (benefit) was soon closed but if you are one of those celebrating an anniversary, congratulations on being one of the few to beat the Chancellor!

Yes, the month of April can be a life changing experience in many ways. We have just celebrated two such events in the last month with the **Grimethorpe** and **Atmosphere Glee Choir** concerts. There are more due in April and in fact right through to 2017. Come to think of it, we're having one this Friday – and every Friday and Wednesday through to 2017. Unlike the Chancellor, the benefits of GMVC are available to all immediately.....you won't have to wait 12 months to receive them!

Secretary's Update – contributed by Derek Bartlett

## GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR - CONCERT/EVENTS 2016

### Note: Uniform Colour Changes

**Note New Exciting Venues:** St George's Church Ticknall and St Paul's Church Burton – both with stunning architecture and wonderful acoustics.

Please bear in mind there could be further amendments to the list below, extra concerts,

Uniform colour and start times all subject to change.

All Concerts **start 7.30 pm** except where stated.

Tickets available from 07399 417995 or 01283 569677

DATE	VENUE	Post Code	Uniform
<b>2016</b>			
Sat 2 April	Stoke Golding Methodist 7.15 pm	CV13 6HP	<b>BLUE</b>
Sat 23 April	<b>New Venue</b> St George's Church Ticknall 7 pm Tickets £7 inc refreshments	DE73 7JU	<b>Black</b>
Sat 11 June	<b>New Venue</b> St Paul's Church Rangemore Street, Burton	DE14 2ED	<b>Blue</b>
Sat 25 June	<b>GMVC CHARITY CONCERT</b> in aid of <b>TEENAGE CANCER TRUST</b> at St Mary's Church Stretton 7.15 pm Tickets £7	DE13 0HD	Blue
Sat 16 July	<b>80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rangemore British Legion</b> All Saints Church Rangemore	DE13 9RW	Blue
Tues 26 July – Tues 2 Aug	<b>EUROPEAN TOUR</b> to Holland, Belgium & Germany		t.b.a.
Sat 20 Aug	<b>BRASS &amp; VOICES</b> with Rolls Royce Band at Rolls Royce Pavillion Derby Tickets £7	DE24 9HY	Black
Sat 3 Sept	The Gt. Meeting Unitarian Chapel, Hinckley	LE10 1PP	Blue
Sat 8 Oct	<b>AUTUMN CONCERT</b> St Peter & St Paul Catholic Church 70 Newhall Road Swadlincote	DE11 0BD	Black.
Sat 15 Oct	7.15 pm Tkts £12 inc programme <b>GMVC Concert</b> Christ Church Linton & Castle Gresley 7.15 pm Tkts. £7 inc glass wine	DE12 6RB	Blue
<b>FRIDAY</b> 18 Nov	<b>WW1 Commemorative Concert</b> with Gresley Colliery Band & Emery Ensemble at Burton Town Hall 7.00 pm Tickets £12	DE14 2EB	Black.
Sat 3 Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS FAYRE</b> at Swadlincote Town Hall 10 am – 1 pm	DE11 9DG	n/a
Sat 10 Dec	<b>SEASONAL CONCERT</b> 7.15 pm Tickets £6 Child Free	t.b.a.	Blue

### GMVC Website and Facebook

GMVC would like to acknowledge the generous support of Mr Roy Atkins and his son Andy, through his company WebCertain, in securing the availability of our web address "gresleychoir.org" until 2022.

If you need to know **anything**, about Gresley Male Voice Choir, visit our Website, [www.gresleychoir.org](http://www.gresleychoir.org) 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](mailto: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/GresleyMaleVoiceChoir>

# GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

E Coxon 29th March 2016