

GMVC Newsletter May 2021

Vol 13 No.5

Chairman's Notes, contributed by Geoff Hampson

Hello and welcome to our May Newsletter.

Hopefully singing together is now in sight starting with some rehearsals outdoors before taking a staged and safe approach to going indoors once all restrictions are lifted in June if things go to plan. Obviously as yet nothing on the concert front has been rearranged, we are still getting enquiries for 2022 as well as a few commitments still remaining for the rest of this year but of course these are in the balance as we wait to see how restrictions begin to ease over the coming few weeks.

I am sure like Sheila and myself you are all looking forwards to enjoying some real family time together and perhaps a holiday, although anything abroad still seems somewhat off at the moment as most countries are still trying to catch up on their vaccine programs.

It is good to see Peter Baker and Eric Coxon out of hospital and on their road to recovery and we all wish them well and are looking forward to seeing them when they have fully recovered.

Gerald Rogers has also had a few days in hospital after a fall at home, he is now back at home and feeling better, so we wish him well and again look forward to seeing him soon.

Bernard Arnold is back to his normal self after his fall having two black eyes and cuts and bruises he assures me it has not affected his good looks!?. Our very own Napoleon (David Wright) still has his arm in a sling after a fall on a morning trip into Burton. We have advised him that it is white liquid in the fridge you put on his breakfast cereals, not brown stuff in the tins! Only joking he is actually very frustrated because he needs to keep the sling on for another three weeks. David and Chrissie spend most of their time helping others and doing good works and David has been volunteering at Meacham's excellent Vaccine Centre. He has also been doing his very best to make sure the choir are ready to return to business as usual when we can. His excellent weekly catch ups are enjoyed by both the choir and our supporters so once again it's a big thank you from us all.

Hopefully by the time I am sitting down to write my piece for the next newsletter we will all have had the opportunity to meet up and sing together and will have a bit more news on the concert front. We are always on the lookout for new singers so what better time to get anyone interested to come along and join us. The benefit to your health and wellbeing are without doubt and you will be made most welcome.

SPC Committee, contributed by Mick Robey

We have not had a meeting to report on but, depending on how government legislation works out and presuming we are allowed to return to some form of our original normality, we have a few future dates for you to note in your diaries and something for you to look forward to.

CHOIR DINNER:- We have gone ahead and booked the GMVC Choir Dinner, again at "The Appleby" at Appleby Magna on **Saturday 20th November 2021**. Obviously we have taken this step in an effort to be at the front of the expected rush once our "freedom" is confirmed. Rob Grummett will be delighted to receive your reservations.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT:- We have also decided that our very popular "Christmas Concert" will take place on **Saturday 11th December** and hopefully at St. Peter and St. Paul's Catholic Church although this venue has yet to be confirmed.

CHOIR TOUR:- Finally for now we have booked the Choir Tour for 2022. The reason for being so early is that we have received an invitation from the Churches involved in our 2019 tour to Norfolk for a repeat performance! The dates of **Friday 20th May to Monday 23rd May** were requested and we are moving quickly to get a suitable hotel as again, "staycation" is already having an effect. One thing we have ascertained is that we will not be staying at the same hotel as

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management have increased prices by 150% but we do have other options. Now the dates are confirmed members and friends can look to the future and book their own holiday(s) for 2022!

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		

GROW YOUR OWN!

Contributed by Mick Robey

Have you been to a restaurant or for a pint during the last month? In my case the answer is no because I don't fancy eating out at a restaurant with a top coat on and secondly, because I didn't look forward to joining the thousands who went mad at the bewitching hour and acting as if there were no tomorrow! I must admit though on one warm day we did venture out (about 6 mile) for a picnic but this was more for convenience than anything else although it was nice to be able to do it following a slight relaxation of restrictions. We are all looking forward to May 17 and a further relaxation of restrictions but caution is the byword as Covid 19 is still present but thankfully, all the statistics are going in the right direction in the UK. I just hope that caution is not thrown to the wind and the trend changes direction. Thankfully, all my nearest and dearest, including you dear reader, will have had one if not two vaccine jabs and we will be able to commence live practicing and concerts very soon.

Cyberspace will be a little quieter this weekend. Professional footballers are uniting in a four day boycott of social media in protest at the abuse and racism aimed at players. What a brilliant idea to highlight the failure of social media companies to control content on their platforms. Every club involved in both the men's and women's game at the highest levels will switch off their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts thus depriving the tech companies of millions of hits, reflecting on their advertisers. When used correctly, social media has many advantages but used incorrectly like racial abuse or abuse of children with no real consequences for the perpetrators, then I support this action. Maybe now the platforms will take more responsibility for what they allow and take action by taking down offensive posts and help to prosecute offenders. We could all help this worthwhile cause by giving social media a rest for a few days.

The driest April for 60 odd years and freezing temperatures at night has meant what is usually the busiest gardening month of the year has been among the quietest. Planting has been virtually non-existent, the ground is like concrete and young plants would not survive without water and the nightly frost would seriously damage them but do not despair, nature always has a way of redeeming itself and when the conditions are right again for planting they will soon catch up. At least the lawns (if you followed my advice to slowly reduce grass length to an optimum 1 inch) have survived the frost well and can now be given their rich in Nitrogen spring feed. Whichever product you use, carefully follow the instructions on the packet. I personally use a combined weed and feed which is applied a minimum of 3 days after cutting. Then if it has not rained for 3 days after treatment, it must be "washed in". Allow a further minimum of 3 days before cutting again but discard the grass cuttings, don't compost them.

My only plantings in the soil outside this past month were parsnips (previously grown in toilet roll middles in the greenhouse), beetroot, and early and late potatoes. A word of warning about early potatoes, now is the time to check and see if the stems are showing above the soil. If you can see any green at all, pull some soil up to cover the growth as the frost will damage them. Continue with this procedure until the chance of frost has disappeared. My neighbour on the allotment set early potatoes in tubs in the greenhouse and the frost still caught them and sent all the leaves brown. In the greenhouse I have sown lettuce, sweetcorn, cabbage, cauliflower, courgettes and cucumber in small pots which will need potting on when they are large enough. Consecutive sowings of lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower etc can be made this month. Also outside this month, as soon as there is sufficient moisture in the soil, Radish, Spring Onions, Carrots, Peas and herbs may be sown and I must sow in a seed bed my Brussels, Leeks and Purple Sprouting which I failed to do last month due to the mini drought.

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All my tomato plants are about 6 inches tall now and will soon be ready for planting out so daily checks are recommended to remove all side shoots. Also in the greenhouse I have 600 bedding plants! I order small plug plants from a commercial grower and pot them on into large seed trays. Half of them I use to make 12 hanging baskets and the other half I use in the borders around the house. May is the month for creating your hanging baskets but don't hang them out until June as the late frosts will kill them off. I can thoroughly recommend having a go at creating your own hanging baskets, it's very therapeutic, time consuming, cheaper than buying ready to hang ones, easy to do and very rewarding. The beauty is that you can create them with your own choice of favourite flowers and colours. All you require is a good sized wire basket (say 15inch) and liner, multi-purpose potting compost, 6 trailing Lobelia for the sides, 2 Surfinia (trailing Petunias) and a selection of Begonia, Busy Lizzie, Petunia (say 4 of each) and a bush Fuschia for the centre to add height (change flower types to your own preferences). I add water gel crystals and slow release fertiliser granules to the compost which are not necessary but I find this addition gives better results. The compost must never dry out so daily watering is a must, more if necessary otherwise the flowers will very quickly die. Three weeks after planting weekly feeding commences with a tomato plant feed or a better and cheaper one that I use but cannot name as I am not allowed to advertise. Next time you visit a good supermarket or garden centre and see the rows of bedding plants on display and fancy having a go at making your own, go for it. I am only a telephone call away or either you will only have to be shown once how it's done! But the second option carries the cost of a mug of tea/coffee!

Enjoy this Springtime with a little more freedom and have a go at setting some seeds of whatever you fancy or creating a beautiful hanging basket. You will certainly enjoy watching the new growth springing into life which works wonders for your mental health but don't take me as an example! I look forward to even more telephone calls this month about your new achievements.

Secretary's Update – contributed by David Wright

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR - CONCERT/EVENTS 2021

All Concerts are being reviewed on a month by month basis

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
TBC	Commemorative Concert St. Mary's Church Stretton	DE13 0HD	TBA
06/11/21	RBL Centenary Concert Brass & Voices Gresley Old Hall	DE11 9QW	TBA
11/12/2021	Christmas Concert St Peter & St Paul's Church Newhall	DE11 0BD	TBA

I am still, un-able to re-book any of the events that we have missed during 2020. We have now agreed, in principle to do a Joint Concert with the Gresley Brass Band for The RBL Swadlincote Branch who celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year. It is also the 100th anniversary of the Poppy Appeal. We have also planned two further Concerts that will hopefully be confirmed by June 21 2021 when we expect all Covid restrictions to be lifted..

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We may also be able to accommodate further concerts as time allows. I will keep you informed as and when these bookings are confirmed.

Stay Safe and Well

David Wright

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 28th February 2021