

## GMVC Newsletter January 2019

Vol 12 No.1

**Chairman's Notes**, contributed by Geoff Hampson  
Hello and welcome to our January 2019 Newsletter.

First of all, I would like, on behalf of the choir to wish all our readers a "Happy New Year". It's scary how quickly 2018 has come and gone as it really doesn't seem long since I was sitting at my PC doing this at the start of the year.

I hope you all had a good Christmas, enjoying all the festivities with family and friends and didn't eat too much, although that is a bit difficult with all the lovely food on offer. Well it certainly is for me, and yes, I know someone is going to be bursting to say I can see it is but when you have worked "*Down the Pit*" you have heard it all before thus getting a bit immune to such whit.

I well remember being very proud of my first two-seater soft top sport car. Turning up for the first time in the car park with the top down expecting the chaps coming on shift with me to be impressed and wanting to have a look. Instead one of them said, "Blimey! I bet your legs ache peddling that thing all the way here!!!" to the utter amusement of everybody in ear shot.

All seemed to enjoy the Christmas Concert and again we were ably supported by MAVORO and our wives and partners so thanks to all who helped.

It's now time for us all to focus on 2019 and we will start as usual with our annual concert at **Newlands House**. We all look forward to going as we are made most welcome and it is a privilege to see the care and dedication of the staff. The welfare of the patients there is without question.

Then we are off to pastures anew to sing at **Farnsfield Methodist Church** near Mansfield so again something to look forward to.

January is also the time for our **AGM** and it is important that we all make the effort to attend. It is our choir so it's vital we get things right and are reasonably happy with the outcome. It's impossible to please all of the people all of the time, we all know and understand that, but we have to try hard to please most of the people most of the time.

We have now been doing the Newsletter for 11 years, something we were keen to start when I first took over as Chairman and therefore have found myself, a reluctant writer, having to do the chairman's notes 132 times!! So much for big ideas! I must add I have been ably supported by Derek who updates the calendar, Clive and now Mick who add in their bits from the SPC Committee and of course the thoughts of Mick which keep us all amused but if anyone else wishes to try their hand with interesting snippets or an interesting tale please feel free to submit them to our editor, Eric.

Here is one that tickled me over Christmas.

My granddaughter who will be four in a couple of weeks still has her dummy when she goes to bed, and has to return it in the morning, which is all she has ever been allowed to have. In an attempt to get her out of the habit her Mum and Dad both came up with what they thought might be a cunning plan.

Obviously I had no idea what this was all about until Mum said "Amber, as you're nearly four, and after four you don't really have a dummy any more, Daddy and I thought it would be a good idea for you to leave it out on the night of your birthday for the fairies, who will take it and leave you something in return".

Amber: "Why?" Mum: "Well that would be a nice thing to do". Amber: "Well what do they do with them?" Mum: "Well the same thing they do with the teeth perhaps" Amber: "Well what do they do with the teeth?", came a hasty reply, feeling confident that she had now got the upper hand in the negotiations.

Mum now at a bit of a loose end replied, "Oh well I am not really sure. Do you know Grandma?" who in an attempt to sit on the fence said she wasn't sure either. I am now chuckling to myself listening to this three-year old running rings around

# GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



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her Mum and Grandma, sure that her dummy was going nowhere. Thinking that I might perhaps come up with something to satisfy her, knowing how much she likes to save little shiny trinkets and things, calling them her jewels, I said "Well teeth are a bit shiny, so they must turn them into jewels"

There was a little pause so there was I thinking I have cracked it, then as quick as a flash came the reply. "Only the clean ones Grandad!!!"

On a more personal note I would like to wish you all a "Happy New Year" and look forward to the coming year. Here at Gresley Male Voice Choir we are all looking forward to sharing our music once again with all who support us.

## **SPC Report**, contributed by Mick Robey

Another year of new and exciting events for GMVC has passed by and once again we can look back on our performances and the variety of different and new venues with pride for a job well done. So, as we embark on our "New Year" journey, may I on behalf of the Special Purposes Committee, wish each and every member and everyone associated with GMVC a very Happy, Prosperous and Successful New Year!

This year we again look forward to new venues, new tour destination, returns for joint concerts and returns to some of our favourite venues by popular request – a whole mix of exciting concerts lie ahead of us. Now is the time to enter them into your diary so that you don't miss out!

Our first and very popular engagement is our annual visit to **Newlands House** at Netherseal where the patients look forward to and really appreciate our visit. This commences at 2 p.m. on **Sunday 13 January**.

This is followed with a visit to **Farnsfield Methodist Church (NG22 8JP)** in Nottinghamshire on **Saturday 19 January**, a former venue of Moira MVC. As it is only a small venue, we are told that the concert is not for the public in general but we will be taking our "usual" supporters. The journey time is over an hour away so we will be travelling by coach departing Swadlincote (Emmanuel Church or Bus Station) at 5.15 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. concert start. We anticipate arriving back in Swadlincote around 11 p.m. The coach fare will be the usual £5/person but must be reserved with myself as we only have 49 seats available.

**Saturday 9 March** sees us returning to **The Palace, Ibstock** where we so much enjoyed our previous visits. We shall be returning again to the same venue on **Saturday 14 September** to appear in a joint concert with the Gresley Band.

A return visit to the **Riverside Church, Burton on Trent** follows on **Saturday 23 March**.

Almost a 7 week gap (at the moment) before our 2019 Tour departs on **Friday 10 May to Norfolk**. We shall be stopping off at Sandringham for lunch en-route and also a short rendering of something appropriate in Her Majesty's local little church on the estate. A Saturday evening concert will be performed in the Parish Church of Aylsham and a joint concert with the "New Sheringham Singers" will take place in Sheringham on the Sunday afternoon. We depart for home on **Monday 13 May** via Norwich where at 2 p.m. we shall be giving an hour long "Recital" in the Cathedral.

On our return from Norfolk we are straight back into action as GMVC are hosting the East Midlands Group of the National Association of Choirs annual concert at **Gresley Old Hall** on **Saturday 18 May**. This will be an opportunity for you to hear choirs from the East Midlands and of differing genres.

Our **Charity Concert** this year takes place on **Saturday 8 June** in **Eggington Memorial Hall** and will be in aid of the charity "Invest in M. E."

**Saturday 7 September** again brings our annual visit to the **Great Meeting Unitarian Church at Hinckley**.

There are a few gaps in our calendar at the moment but several concerts are awaiting verification and final details to be worked out so it would be inappropriate to put them in print at the moment. Of course, our seasonal festivity events are still to be discussed, dissected, suggested and concluded (Early days).

*For Committee Members, the next SPC meeting will take place on 4 February. Venue to be confirmed.*

## **MAVORO Ladies Club**, contributed by Thea King

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	Thea King	- 01283 561352
Marian Cooper	- 01283 212890	Josie Ivens	- 01283 212914
Pat Hurd	- 01283 542746		

## **MAVORO Programme 2019**, submitted by Maureen Hickman

January 4<sup>th</sup> AGM

### **"A Life Changing Christmas!"**, contributed by Mick Robey

In last month's issue I wrote the following "I am really looking forward to Christmas this year as all my children and grandchildren will be with us on Christmas Day" etc. Well it came true but as some of you are aware, things did not go entirely to plan and my Christmas was far from peaceful.

Three weeks before Christmas my wife had a fall and broke the bones in her left wrist. A visit to the hospital resulted in X-rays, temporary plaster and an appointment with a consultant. This consultation, equipped with the evidential X-rays revealing floating bones and other bits, prompted the Consultant to inform us that an operation was necessary as metallic pins and plates were required to reinforce the structure. Sandra is an avid viewer of Casualty and Holby City but it would appear this training did not allay the look of fear on her face when told this news. Trying to ease the obvious doubts the Consultant went on to explain that in the general scheme of things, it was a relatively minor operation. "What"! I vehemently exploded – "This is life changing"!!!

"O no it's not" – said the Consultant.

"O yes it is" – said I.

"O no it's not" – said the Consultant.

"O yes it is" - said I.

He then asked on what medical grounds I had based my conclusions.

I asked if he was married to which he replied that he was still single and living at home with his mother. "That explains it then" I said. As far as my wife is concerned, I agreed it was an inconvenience, but to me it was still life changing. Sandra was not even allowed to pick up a cup of tea with her left hand for 6 weeks hence – Me - head cook, bottle washer, baker, ironer, cleaner etc. etc. and all with Christmas on the way.

Still, it brought several rewards which I must mention. My grandchildren arrived from Abu Dhabi on the Friday before Christmas and every morning of the 6 days they were with us I was awakened with the sweetness of a gentle kiss. The only trouble was, they were still on A.D. time and it was at 6.30 a.m. daily except for Christmas Day when it was 5.45 a.m.!

The other thing was before their arrival on the Friday I baked 4 dozen Mince Pies, Jam and Lemon Curd tarts for Christmas. By Christmas Eve the tarts had all been scoffed so I found myself baking again for the influx on Christmas Day. I took that as a recommendation for my baking!

One could read into this story the moral of "The best made plans of mice and men" or "There is always some good comes out of every disaster". But looking more deeply, the Consultant and I had differing views depending on how we viewed the

outcome. We both looked at the situation from our own perspectives and what we both wanted to achieve. Obviously, the man with all the training, experience and expertise had to come first in order for my wishes to be achieved at a later date.

At GMVC we have 50 members – hence 50 different opinions and 50 different perspectives. In 2019 let us democratically continue to voice those 50 different opinions and perspectives but also wisely consider the other 49! Then, maybe later rather than sooner, we shall all achieve our one aim which is to provide the community at large with choral music performed to the highest possible standard.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all!!

**Secretary's Update** – contributed by Derek Bartlett

## GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR - CONCERT/EVENTS 2019

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
Sun 13 Jan	<b>Leonard Cheshire Disability</b> Newlands House 2 pm	DE12 8DA	Blue + Bowtie
Sat 19 Jan	<b>Farnsfield Methodist Church</b> <b>Chapel Lane, Newark, Nottm.</b> 7.15 pm (private concert)	NG22 8JP	Blue + Bowtie.
Sat 9 Mar	<b>The Palace</b> High St., Ibstock	LE67 6LH	t.b.a.
Sat 23 Mar	<b>Riverside Church</b> High St., Burton on Trent	DE14 1LD	t.b.a.
Fri 10 May	<b>Norfolk 4 day Tour</b>		t.b.a.
Sat 18 May	<b>NAC Group Concert</b> Gresley Old Hall	DE11 QW	t.b.a.
Sat 8 June	<b>Charity Concert</b> <b>Invest in ME</b> Eggington Memorial Hall Church Rd., Eggington	DE65 6HP	t.b.a.
Sat 7 Sept	<b>The Gt. Meeting Unitarian Chapel</b> <b>Hinckley</b> 7.30 pm	LE10 1PP	t.b.a.
Sat 14 Sept	With <b>Gresley Colliery Band</b> <b>The Palace High St., Ibstock</b>	LE67 6LH	t.b.a.
Sat 9 Nov	<b>St Laurence's Church Measham</b>	DE12 7HZ	t.b.a.



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## 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](http://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>.

We have been beavering away to build **a new more modern website** which will be able to grow greater than before. If you wish to see “work in progress” click on the link <https://sites.google.com/view/gresleymalevoicechoir/home-page> to see what it will eventually look like when the old site is closed. We will still retain the original web address as before. If you have any thoughts on extra facilities you may like to have incorporated please email the [Choir](#) as normal.

Eric Coxon 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019