

GMVC Newsletter October 2017

Vol. 10 No.10

Chairman's Notes, contributed by Geoff Hampson

Welcome to our October Newsletter

Gosh, dare we listen to the news these days? All this talk of war, possible failing economy due to Brexit and now the Australian Flu, enough to keep anyone awake!!

Well, I hope I can put all your minds at rest because here at Gresley, they have seen it all, some more than once and we are still going strong!

Perhaps a bit of a flippant view but never the less basically a fact although I feel sure like me you can't help but feel a little concerned about your children's and particularly grandchildren's future.

As our newsletter is about the choir and our supporters, best to move on I think.

September saw us back at Hinckley and also Appleby. Both were enjoyable concerts and it was good to be joined at Appleby by John's daughter Stephanie Addison. What a lovely voice!, especially when you consider she is still only sixteen.

She entertained us all with both classical and show songs and fortunately for me one of my favourites "Lascia Chio Pianga", one of Handel's most performed arias. Stephanie is now going on to study at Chethams School of Music so I feel sure we might well see her again in the future.

One concert for **October** and that is in aid of **Operation Christmas Child (shoe box appeal)** which some of our members help with by filling shoe boxes and Clive (Lawton) in particular gives many hours collecting and delivering the boxes both full and empty

It is time now for me to remind everyone that the **Autumn Celebrity Concert** is coming up very quickly and still much to learn on the music front, I am afraid chaps, so choir practice is going to be a little challenging but never the less as important as always.

Also, it is important for us all to promote the concert, we have two great singers who along with **Hayley Parkes**, their pianist are an impressive line-up and it is vital we get that message across. Such a concert in any big city would command a hefty price tag.

In keeping with our choirs original philosophy of bringing this type of concert to our local area, our tickets at £12 are unbelievable value for such a concert in a lovely concert hall.

What a lovely surprise to see **Terry Bassett** at choir practice. Terry is a Life Member but unfortunately had to stop singing with the choir after having health problems. Clive has been bringing him to practice and Terry has been enjoying sitting in the baritone section and singing along. I have been reliably informed he is as accurate as ever.

Terry helped me a lot when I first joined the choir and always put me right if I got something wrong!!

SPC Report, contributed by Mick Robey

Two concerts last month in venues both old and new to GMVC, had rather contrasting results. Our annual return to the **Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel in Hinckley** was as enjoyable as ever with a varied programme very well received by a smallish, but very appreciative audience.

This was followed by a performance at a new venue to GMVC in **Appleby Magna at the wonderful old parish church of St. Michael and All Angel's**. The old church was very limited in space at the place where the choir needed to perform due to the position of rigid existing furniture, resulting in a very cramped and non-uniform assembly of singing parts. Some singers could see the conductor, some could not and even the organist was positioned in the central aisle along with some of the audience! All this upheaval resulted in "not one of our better concerts".

Just one concert has been arranged this month prior to the run-up to our celebrity "**Autumn Concert**" on **November 18th**.

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

This will be on **Saturday 7th October** at the **Riverside Church on High Street in Burton (DE14 1LD)** commencing at **7.30 p.m. and is in aid of the charity Operation Christmas Child.**

A reminder to Committee members; **our next meeting will be held on Monday 9 October at Stanton Methodist Church commencing at 7 p.m.**

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	Thea King	- 01283 561352
Marian Cooper	- 01283 212890	Josie Ivens	- 01283 212914

Oct 6 th	Six Great Fictional Detectives	<i>Paul Newsham</i>
Nov 3 rd	Plant Hunters	<i>John Hawkins</i>
Dec 1 st	Party Night Victorian Style Christmas	<i>Jo Golby</i>
Jan 5 th	AGM (2018)	

"TENOR OR BASS FOR BEST RESULTS?", contributed by Mick Robey

What a fantastic gardening year it has been! In all my 50+ years as an allotment holder I cannot remember one so prolific. Many of you have reported to me how well you have done with your kidney beans and several remarked "The best tomatoes I have ever grown" and I share your success stories. Mind you, it has taken me 50+ years to get to where I am today – just a bit further on, but I have gained a little experience along the way. I now know which way up to plant onions and potatoes!

This year all my soft fruit has been at least 50% bigger, apples and pears are 4 to 5 inches diameter, winter sprouts are already 4 feet high and winter cauliflowers are almost 3 feet tall which all bodes well for the winter months. I usually have an apple for dessert but with the size of my Cox's, it's enough for the main course! Then, dare I mention my "taters" – it's October and I still have 3 varieties to get up. I got a root of early spuds up yesterday for our evening meal – 1 root = 7lbs. That's a supermarket bag-full from just one root - the only downside is they are too long for the chip pan!

So, what is the secret for this tremendous growth? If I was an expert I could hazard a guess but I maintain there are no experts in gardening, not even on T.V. who are only part time gardeners anyway. But I have my theory which I always relate to the other allotment holders who enquire of the reason for my successes – **I always sing to them!**

To be a "front row" singer at GMVC you have to be competent with all the words and notes which can only be achieved with constant repetition and practise. So, all my time spent on my allotment I am constantly practising. Mind you, last year's practise piece of "Rhythm of Life" was not particularly liked by either myself nor it seems by my plants. But here is the proof of my theory. This year I invited one of our "top tenors" over to sing to them and, whilst he was pilfering/harvesting my produce, his rendition of "Unchained Melody" I have to admit, was absolutely divine – and even the plants loved it.

This still leaves me with a problem as to the validity of my theory. Do the plants prefer the voice of a tenor to that of a bass, or was it just in the choice of music? Dare I think what sort of results I would get from a baritone or even a second tenor – probably somewhere in between. The only way of proving this is for one of each section to come over and sing to my plants but they would all have to agree on the same song.

I am open to suggestions but it certainly won't be "Down by the Sally Gardens"!!

"It's Nostalgia", Burton Mail, 18th September 2017, contributed by Bryan Hollins

Dramatic Rescue of Weather Vane Kestrel

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

When an unexpected guest dropped in on St Chad's Church in Hunter Street, he was treated to a bird's eye view of the town. This bird's eye view involved hanging upside down at the top of the church tower unable to fly or free itself. It is thought the visitor - a kestrel, arrived during the night when a storm blew him off course.

The stranded kestrel was first noticed by the vicar, Reverend Peter Smith, in **July 1980**. It was tangled in a piece of cord fastened to the bird's leg which had attached itself to the church weather vane - about 112ft from floor level. Reverend Peter Smith said: "He was hanging there by his leg, fluttering and struggling. He must have blown into the tower during the night." The fire brigade were called first thing in the morning and tried to free the bird by scaling the tower. However, this soon proved impossible.



The next step was to get the turntable ladder. Under the direction of assistant divisional officer David Atterbury, the firemen tried to manoeuvre the ladder to achieve the best angle to free the bird. But failure struck again as the ladder fully extended was only 96ft tall and a long way from the hapless bird!!

Thankfully, the vicar came to the rescue with a pair of telescopic secateurs. The 12ft long cutters were just long enough to bridge the gap between the turntable ladder and the bird.

Leading firefighter **Robert Hurd** was chosen to compete the task which by now had attracted a small crowd. Climbing to the top of the ladder carrying the secateurs was no easy task and at first it looked as if this technique would be a failure too. Thankfully the kestrel fluttered towards the fireman and the cord was cut. The bird - now very weak and shaken - fluttered away and landed on a house in Shakespeare Road.

Bob had a long distinguished career in the fire service and now retired, is a stalwart member of the GMVC Baritone section. Incidentally, this year, Bob used his lack of fear of heights to collect a swarm of honey bees from the roof of a building in Station St, Burton on Trent. This also featured recently in the Burton Daily Mail !!!!

Secretary's Update – contributed by Derek Bartlett

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR - CONCERT/EVENTS 2017/2018

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
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GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

2017

Sat 7 Oct	Concert In aid of Operation Christmas Child at Riverside Church 79-81 High Street Burton on Trent	DE14 1LD	Blue
Sat 18 Nov	ANNUAL CELEBRITY CONCERT With Damian Thantrey Baritone and Louise Innes Mezzo-soprano at Burton Town Hall Tickets £12	DE14 2EB	Black
Sun 26 Nov	Celery/Men's Sunday at Trinity Methodist Linton Heath 3 pm	DE12 6PD	Blue
Sat 2 Dec	CHRISTMAS FAYRE Swadlincote Town Hall 10 am – 1 pm	DE11 9DG	N/A
Sat 16 Dec	Annual Christmas Concert at St Peter & St Paul Catholic Church 7.15 pm Tickets £6 Children Free includes refreshments	DE11 0BD	Blue
Fri 22 Dec	Wedding St John the Baptiste <i>Church Lane Hammerwhich Burntwood at 12 noon</i>	WS7 0JW	Blue

2018

Sun 7 Jan	Leonard Cheshire Disability Newlands House 2 pm	DE12 8DA	Blue
Sat 10 Mar	The Palace, High Street, Ibstock 7.30 pm	LE67 6LH	t.b.a.
Sat 24 Mar	GMVC Joint Concert with City of Coventry MVC In aid of Spencer Park at Earlsdon Methodist Church, 223 Albany Rd. Coventry	CV5 6NF	t.b.a.
Sat 21 April	SDDC Chairman's Charity Concert in aid of Air Ambulance Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland at St George's Church, Ticknall	DE73 7JU	t.b.a.
Sat 16 June	ANNUAL CELEBRITY CONCERT GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND at Burton Town Hall	DE14 2EB	Black
Sat 30 June	GMVC Joint Concert with Rolls-Royce Ladies at the Rolls-Royce Nightingale Hall Moor Lane, Derby complex	DE24 9HY	t.b.a.
Sat 18 Aug	GMVC Charity Concert in aid of the Renal Dialysis Unit Samuel Johnson Community Hospital Lichfield at All Saints Church Church Rd Alrewas	DE13 7BT	t.b.a.
Sat 1 Sept	The Gt Meeting Unitarian Chapel Hinckley 7.30 pm	LE10 1PP	
Sat 10 Nov	WW1 CONCERT with Gresley Colliery Band at Burton Town Hall	DE14 2EB	t.b.a.

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 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,

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR



FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS - RADIO, TELEVISION and INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS

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/GresleyMaleVoiceChoir>

Eric Coxon 30th September 2017