

**February
2017**

Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir

Diary Dates

4th Feb	St John's Allestree	7.45
17th Feb	St. Michael's Alvaston	7.30
3rd March	Village Hall Findern	7.45
10th March	St Clements Horsley	7.45
18th March	Leylands Broadway	7.45
25/26th March	Wroxham weekend trip	
31st March	Len Cheshire Homes, Alfreton	7.45

Lucky Numbers January winners

9th	Steve Walker
15th	Brian Norris
23rd	Peter Bradley
30th	Malcolm Richardson



**This season so far,
we've helped to raise**

£4320

Performing charity concerts in Derbyshire since 1956

Choir sing for Jack's 90th birthday party

A couple of years ago the choir were invited to perform at Horsley Woodhouse by church warden Jack Taylor. Our first concert of 2017 was a return visit to Horsley but on this occasion we were performing in celebration of Jack's impending 90th birthday. The venue was laid out in a more relaxed and



intimate style to the more regimented concert seating and this led to a more relaxed atmosphere throughout the evening with regular comedic references to Jack's life from compere Kevin Griffiths. The choir delivered a programme of popular choral songs including solos from Colin Beniston and Tony Davenport; a duet from Chris Hare and John Newsham and a piano duet from Anne Allen and Louise Buxton. We were all invited to enjoy the post performance buffet during which we collected a sum of £145 from the audience which will be donated to our nominated charity for this year; Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.

2017/18 concert programme

Members of the choir committee are already hard at work making arrangements for next year's concert programme. We already have a number of interested parties who wish to host concerts but it would be nice to include some venues and organisations where we have never performed before. If anyone has a contact or knows of someone who might like to book the choir please speak to any member of the committee within the next few weeks.

Bob Wood

It is with sadness that we report the passing of former Deputy Chief Constable Bob Wood. Bob who had retired from the force some years ago was a holder of the Queens Police Medal. A keen supporter of the choir, Bob and his wife Eileen even joined the choir on a trip to Osnabruck in Germany to see the choir perform. He was well known to many of the longer serving members of the choir. We pass on our condolences to his wife Eileen and other members of his family.

Interested in joining the choir?

E-mail : DCMVEnquiry@virginmedia.com or call 01332 606356

Confident choir deliver “best ever” concert



Confidence is an amazingly powerful attribute and can deliver some fantastic results. The primary school hall at Holbrook proved to possess a wonderful acoustic and our joint concert with the school choir turned out to be in the words of a couple of choristers the “best ever” they had experienced to date. There is no doubt that by the time we had sung our third song of the evening, “Rachie” there was a visible confidence and sense of great enjoyment amongst the 26 choristers present on the night. There were many other notable performances including “Bring him Home” and Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah”. This was the choir’s debut performance of Hallelujah and it was delivered perfectly with a particularly good solo piece from baritone Tim Limberger. The children of the school choir performed four songs in total including some excellent choreography to two of the numbers. Needless to say our younger colleagues in song stole the show and received a standing ovation from the audience in the second half. As ever many thanks must go to our musical team and particularly Louise Buxton who was suffering the pain of a slipped disc but soldiered on in great pain. At one point she was heard to exclaim through gritted teeth, “the show must go on” The retiring collection raised £105 toward this year’s nominated charity.



Find us @ www.dcmvchoir.com



Contribution of long serving members recognised

There are times in every organisation when a feeling of change occurs and the choir is probably experiencing such a period of transition at the moment. Whilst some people “come and go”, in recent months we have experienced the loss of five long serving members.

Alma Clark's involvement with the choir has been widely chronicled; most recently by Len Briddon who made considerable reference to her contribution to the choir in his recent three part article published in the Derby Telegraph. Alma is always pleased to receive a visit from any member of the choir and expressed great joy at receiving her photo book. In typical fashion, Alma not only thanked us for our visit but insisted on making a donation to our funds to assist our future prosperity.

John Tomlinson chose to retire from the choir toward the end of our last concert season and his contribution was duly noted at that time. Dave Carver and Kevin Griffiths visited John and his wife Joan recently and presented John with a photo book which records many of his concert performances with the choir in recent years. John was delighted to receive the gift and kindly shared his gratitude with the choir in a letter which was read out to all members present at our Monday night rehearsal

The other three resignations of late have also been involved members of our baritone section which normally would cause great concern to our musical director at the loss of such an experienced group of singers.

Fortunately however we have been blessed with the arrival of a number of very competent singers in this section and look forward to a great contribution from all of our remaining baritone voices.

Earlier in this season, Jim Noble also decided it was time to put down his musical scores and retire from our musical community. Jim has been struggling with his hearing for some considerable time and had got to a point where he could no longer hear the piano sufficiently to keep in tune. Jim has been a hard working member for many years and would often be the first arrival at both rehearsals and concerts in order to sort out the seating and other items of equipment for the rest of the choir. Jim has almost always accompanied by Judy and together they added a



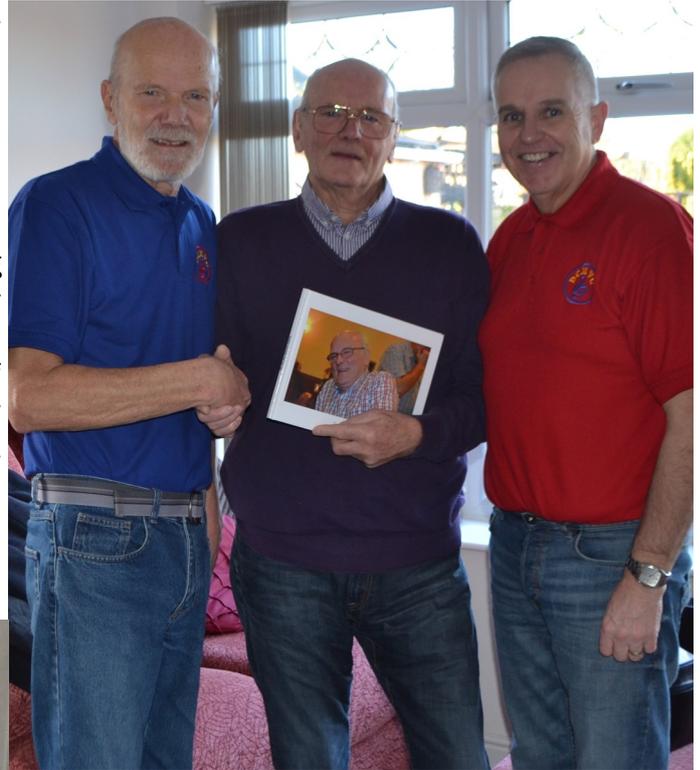
Find us @ www.dcmvchoir.com



Contribution of long serving members recognised

wonderful sense of fun and great positivity to our community which will be sadly missed by us all.

Toward the end of January, Colin Beniston also decided that his career with the constabulary choir had come to an end. Colin possesses a most wonderful baritone voice and has been a key player within this section since joining the choir back in 1970 and then re-joining after a period away in 1981. Colin has a great love for old Victorian parlour songs, operatic choruses and negro spirituals. Colin was a regular soloist at many of our concerts and he would regularly delve into his library of music to entertain the audience. There is no doubt that anyone who knew Colin would recognise him as a "true gentleman" and his conduct and manner was a perfect example to other choristers in how we should represent the Derbyshire Constabulary.



These recent resignations mark a significant change in the makeup of the choir and set us a considerable challenge for the future. Given the enormous length of service that these good people have committed to the choir, there is a certain sense of responsibility placed upon those of us who remain. To ensure the viability of our choir for the next twenty years will demand commitment, resilience and an ability to cope with whatever changes the future may demand of us.

Keith Bonnett's involvement with the choir has also been widely reported over recent years as Keith himself has been a regular contributor to the Bygones section of the Derby Telegraph and has recorded his involvement with the constabulary choir in many of his submissions. Keith is bitterly disappointed that he has been unable to complete this concert season which would have been his fortieth - a truly remarkable record and wonderful commitment to the choir. Brenda regularly accompanied Keith to concerts and their presence will be missed by us all.

