

October
2020

Choir News



Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir

Brace yourselves !!! it could be a long haul

It is now over six months since we have been able to assemble together as a choir and partake in something we all enjoy doing, singing. Only a few weeks ago we had developed plans to begin some form of physical rehearsal together at a new venue on Sherwin Street in Derby. Conveniently situated close to the Jonty Farmer, this venue would have provided a room sufficiently large to accommodate a group of about 14 who would have all been sufficiently social distanced to minimise any risk. We had also planned to reduce the length of rehearsal, again to reduce the risk caused by exposure to others. A full risk assessment had been undertaken and whilst the procedure we had planned still falls within government guidelines, it seemed inappropriate to recommence rehearsals given the rapid increase in Covid cases over the last few weeks.

We shall therefore have to be patient for a while longer maybe up to a further six months, who knows..

In the meantime, we have been able to place an order for our new CD and they should be with us by the middle of October. I had the privilege of listening to the master copy earlier this week and was blown away by the quality of some of the tracks. The difficulty we face now is finding a suitable mechanism by which we can sell the CDs. In the past most of our CDs were sold at concerts but as this route is no longer available to us



for the foreseeable future we will have to be more innovative and think of new ways to reach our customers. With that in mind I managed to get a quick interview on Radio Derby on Tuesday 29th September to promote the CD. I had a chat with Ian Skye and hopefully got a bit of free publicity which might help sales. If you would like to hear the interview it took place at 6.35am which is 1.35 into his show. It can



be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08rf0t4> and will be available until the end of October. We intend to sell the CD for £8 and donate £5 from each sale to the Derby Royal Hospital Charitable Trust.

As we are now in possession of some top quality tracks from our latest CD, we have also dabbled in producing a video featuring Golden Slumbers / Whiter Shade of Pale which was arranged by our very own Louise Buxton. The video will be posted on YouTube and our website in the next few days. The video entitled "A Time for Heroes" features many photographs of NHS workers and creates a very evocative image whilst listening to this beautiful track off our CD.

And finally, the lines of communication amongst choir members are becoming more strained and will continue to do so if we are apart for a further six months. If you wish to continue to receive a monthly newsletter can you please provide me with some interesting material from yourselves.



#BRINGBACKMYCHOIR



PC Lamb - Life on the beat



I am grateful to Chris Lamb for sharing some of his memories from his time in the police force. More to follow next month. Chris was transferred from Selby to Eastwood, Todmorden, in 1960. His beat composed of a railway, main road, canal and river and the hills and moors from Todmorden to Hebden Bridge. Population 1540 and acres of hills and moorland, Stoodley Pike on one side and Devil's Rock, Higher Eastwood on the other. (Pictured above: PC Lamb in front of Dobroyd Castle Approved School).

Chris takes up the story "One cold and moonlit night I was cycling, without lights, towards Todmorden when I saw further up the canal bank three small shapes on the canal bank coming towards me. I dropped my bike in the grass and hid behind a bush. As they approached I could hear them muttering. When they got to me I jumped out and saw that they were three teenagers covered from head to toe in flour, sugar and egg yolk. I recognised two as Tom and Ken from the local Dobroyd Castle Approved School but didn't know the other one so I handcuffed him to Ken and held Tom, marched them to the Eastwood police pillar and asked for transport. The Sergeant rolled up in his own car, took one look at them and said he would not have them in his car and called for the beat car from Walsden. When the driver turned up and saw them he was not a happy bunny as we put them into the back seat and drove them to Todmorden. They told me they had broken into the Co-op and had a flour fight with each other. They had absconded from the approved school earlier that night. (Pictured right - a couple of young hooligans.)



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Choir AGM 2020 held on Zoom platform



Due to social distancing restrictions, this year's annual general meeting was held using zoom. This undoubtedly affected the attendance of some members but unfortunately we must all adapt during the current challenges that face us. The meeting was attended by 17 choir members and took a little under an hour to execute the formal elements of the meeting including the acceptance of last years minutes, the acceptance of our financial report and the secretary's report. We were indebted to Eliis Pugh and his in depth knowledge of charity law and regulations. Under Ellis' guidance a proposal was tabled that we should adopt the new constitution required to give us full charity status.

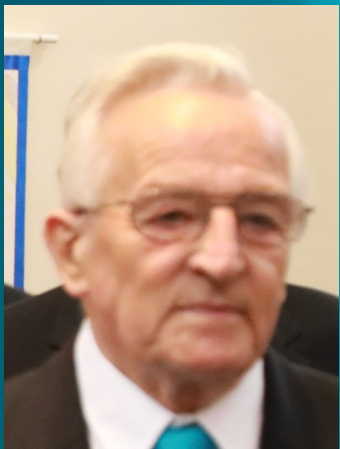
The proposal was voted for and received unanimous acceptance. Following the necessary formalities, the meeting was then formally closed and a new meeting of the "DCMVC Charitable Incorporated Organisation" convened.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing how we might operate during the continuing COVID 19 restrictions. The general consensus was that we should continue to "sit tight" until things settle down. It was suggested that we should make better use of video for publishing some of our music on our website and sites such as Youtube. A trial video of Golden Slumbers will be published in the next few days

It was a great opportunity to chat with other members as we have not physically met now for over six months and the meeting was sprinkled with a coating of light hearted banter. There was much curiosity about Peter Bradley who can be seen in the photo above sandwiched between Sean Powell and Michael Ireland. The fact that Peter was sitting in the dark drew many comments including "he hasn't paid his electric bill again" and "he's attending the meeting in the nude as a bet". Whatever the reason for the lack of light it was great to see Peter and the only disappointment was the absence of others.

The full constitution of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is available to all members on our website and will also be circulated to all via email.

After a period of over 64 years we have now formalised our charitable operations and can now describe ourselves as an official charity with Registered Charity Number 1189111.



Old Father Time continues to march on for choir members

No matter how hard they have tried to deny it, four of our colleagues have found that the sands of time continue to flow just as quickly during lockdown as they had done during normal life. Geoff Ball celebrated his landmark 40th birthday during lockdown. The occasion suffered our own master of the iambic pentameter, Malcolm Richardson to set forth in rhyme

*Happy the choir whose wish to grow,
a few more voices gathers in.
Who's this? with hair not white as snow
with wispy beard on youthful chin?*

*Young chap with talent, vocal skill,
and happy smile on constant view.
As baritone or bass can fill,
the gaps in our harmonious crew*

*He'll change some numbers doubtlessly,
choir medians won't be as before.
Age and IQ amounts will be,
the one decreased, the other more*

Not to be outdone the "Edward Lear" of the first tenors presented his own offering

*Their once was a guy called Geoff,
who sang in a double bass clef,
he moved to the baras,
whos pitch was bananas,
and now he's sat just to my left*

Eric Singleton, Peter Bradley and Kevin Griffiths also celebrated the anniversary of their births during the month. As the years roll on, birthday gifts hold less significance to most of us but Kevin was particularly pleased to receive a new kettle, a scratch post and an electric tyre inflator. "You know you're getting old when you're delighted to unwrap a tyre inflator", chortled Kevin.





A touch of class from ex Derbyshire Top Cop

As all of you will know, we have been contacted recently by ex Chief Constable of Derbyshire, Mick Creedon. In his emails he was generous and gracious enough to thank the choir for all the good work we had undertaken during his ten year's in post as Chief Constable. He clearly recognised the role we played as ambassadors for the force and the tremendous charitable fund raising that we have been involved in. Mr Creedon was particularly

grateful for the support we had provided each year at the force carol service, and he was also very complimentary about the surprise concert we held for him on the occasion of his recent retirement.



This was an unusual concert for us as it is not every day that we perform songs by the Eagles, the Clash and Bruce Springsteen amongst others.

Mr Creedon had suggested that we might consider approaching the new incumbent at Butterley with a view to re-establishing our relationship with the force. After due consultation of the membership we chose to politely decline this suggestion. Mr Creedon's response to our decision was as follows:

"Thanks for getting back Kevin and I do fully understand your position.

Best wishes for the future to you all and once again many thanks for all that you did in my ten years as Chief - and for the utterly memorable farewell gig which I watched again just the other day

Mick"

Pictured left are photos from a number of events where we supported the constabulary



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