

Beaminster Singers

Occasional Newsletter No. 22 Winter 2011

Musical Director - Hilary Kenway

Chairman - Kit White

Spring concert 2012.

**Saturday May 26th 2012 St Mary's
Beaminster.**

Please make a note of the date.

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday 4th January.

Please come early to collect your music and still be ready to start singing at 7.30pm.

Please note the subscription for the term is £25 and should be paid to Alaina Cameron as soon as possible and in any event not later than the 3rd week of the session.

Autumn Concert 2011

The day after the concert Hilary wrote:

Dear Everyone,

Very many thanks for what must be your most successful concert yet. Not only did you have a capacity audience, but they all enjoyed themselves immensely. Apparently people were there from all over Dorset (and further!!) and the number of compliments I received on your behalf were legion.

The opening *Tollite* was electrifying. One audience member who hadn't heard you before said that the hairs went up on the back of his neck and he thought to himself 'These people have sung before!' Several of our faithful fans said how exciting the whole sound was, singling out *Beatus Vir* and the Blake. Drawing a veil over the obvious fluffs in the Blake - 30 minutes is not enough to fine tune ensemble work with the brass on the day - it was a fine performance and the last two were particularly effective. Again, audience reaction was very favourable. The main buzz words were 'exciting, different, and wonderful!' - one lady said she found it hard to get back to the world of reality afterwards. She left a message on my answer phone at 10 this morning (Nov. 29th), so she was obviously impressed!

Personally, I felt the Mozart was extremely

musical - the phrasing really worked and the ensemble was good. The soloists all said they'd enjoyed themselves and how well you had done. *Libera Me* - despite a few ensemble problems—was beautiful and highly effective. The Parry was amazing! Very well done to you all - you certainly looked as if you were enjoying yourselves - mostly.

See you all again first week in January.

Have a good Christmas.

Love and best wishes to you all.

Hilary.

Thanks must also go to Pat and Clive Kennedy, Sue Counsell, Anthony Whale, Brian Earl and John Coley who came at short notice to help John Greenbank assemble the staging.

Also to members of the choir who helped in other ways AND to spouses who were dragooned into selling programmes, dispensing liquid refreshment in the interval and so on. We are so grateful for their willing support.

Committee

At the Annual General Meeting in November the following members were elected to the Committee.

Officers:

Kit White (Chairman)

Mandy Alford (Treasurer)

Linda le Breton (Secretary)

Catriona MacPhee (Librarian)

Geraldine Clotworthy (Making Music Representative)

Hilary Kenway (ex officio - Musical Director)

Ordinary members:

Alaina Cameron

Sue Counsell
Brian Godfrey
David Jenkins
Jill Tremelling.

At the meeting thanks were expressed to Sue Roberts who has been Secretary for several years and to Brian Ridley, John Greenbank and Eleanor Moore who have all served on the Committee during the past year.

Brian Earl's Cunning Christmas Conundrum

Brian Earl writes:

Hello everybody

I know what you're all thinking but...., Last year's conundrum was clearly far too simple because several of you got it right. I therefore made this year's a bit tougher, only to find that my brother—the official road-tester—completed it in just over two hours without any help from me whatsoever. This has never happened before. I've therefore come to the conclusion that it must be easier than I thought!

I offer it to you for the same princely sum as usual, one whole pound. All proceeds (well, there are no costs!) will go to the cash-strapped Beaminster Singers. Last year's conundrum proceeds were sufficient for about 12 bars of the second violin part in the summer concert, but I'm sure every little helps. Please let me know ASAP (brianearl53@btinternet.com) if you'd like me to send you a copy on the general release day of Monday 19th December at 9.00am. On receipt of your email I shall acknowledge your entry and add your name to my list. Cheers,
Brian.

A winter holiday break?

A two - bedroom apartment in St Ives is offered to choir members at a discount. Available November to February. For a full description go to www.stivesholidays.com/year2011/fst045.htm and for more details email John Coley (john-coley@lineone.net or phone 01308 868 615.

Deliberate(?) mistake.

A few sharp-eyed folk noticed in the last newsletter that in 2005 Austria lost the Ashes!

CD and Book Sale

(for choir funds)

Friday 27th January 6.30—8.30pm
in the Strode Room Beaminster.

Admission £2.00 to include refreshments.

Please put the date in your diary and bring your unwanted books and cds to sell.

Committee Organisation

Alaina Cameron writes:

Following the AGM the committee posts of Treasurer and Secretary have now been split into 3 posts. Mandy Alford is continuing as Treasurer and will deal with all financial matters as well as preparing artwork for posters, tickets, etc. etc..

Linda le Breton is Secretary and will deal with all administrative tasks such as bookings for venues, minute taking, concert organisation. Alaina Cameron is now Membership Secretary and will be dealing with all membership matters - collecting subscriptions, organising social events and liaising with all choir members — in other words the 'first port of call for members' queries.

Website

A reminder that we have an excellent website that has information about our concerts and downloadable rehearsal material. Do check it out on www.beaminstersingers.org.

Making music

We are affiliated to Making Music which is an organisation dedicated to promoting music making in all its forms throughout the country. They have an extensive programme of workshops and other events. If you are interested in knowing more of what opportunities are available for music making do ask Geraldine Clotworthy who has taken over as our representative.

Fund Raising

Throughout the year a number of different fund raising events are offered. Although the additional income is always useful there is also an important social element in the fund raising events. They are a great chance to get to know other members of the choir. So please do support our social events and if you have any ideas and are prepared to organise an event, please mention it to one of the committee.

Tailpiece

Two tourists were driving through Wales. As they were approaching Llanfairrechan they argued about the pronunciation of the town's name. They found a place for lunch and before placing their order asked the employee behind the counter to pronounce the name of where they were....very slowly.

The girl leaned over the counter and said

'Burrrrrr, Gerrrrrr, Kiiiiinnng'.