

# WHITEHAVEN MALE VOICE CHOIR



## NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION

ISSUE NO. 1 (JANUARY 2007)

### INTRODUCTION

The idea of producing this newsletter on behalf of Whitehaven Male Voice Choir came about following the launch of the website, when several members of the Choir commented on the usefulness of the future concerts listing. I thought a concert listing incorporated as part of a quarterly newsletter might be a good idea.

### THE CHOIR YEAR - 2006

2006 was another very successful year for the Choir, with participation in twenty-one concerts raising a staggering £9861.67 for charities throughout Cumbria. (Not including what was raised at The Royal Albert Hall for Cancer Research UK.)

Highlights for the Choir in 2006 included the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Benedictine Mission in Whitehaven and West Cumbria, a concert at the prestigious Theatre By The Lake in Keswick and just to put the icing on the cake, in November we once again sang in The Royal Albert Hall.

Follow this, some might have said! Well we did, with a sell-out Christmas Celebration Concert in St James' Church. The wonderful singing of Giuseppe Deligia, the re-formed Setheria Brass and the standing ovation, combined to make a truly magical night!



# WHITEHAVEN MALE VOICE CHOIR



## THE CHOIR YEAR - 2007

In June 2007 the Choir celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday! Events planned to commemorate this include a display of the Choir's historical memorabilia in the Beacon, following its refurbishment sometime in the Summer. Our 'Annual Concert' on June 10<sup>th</sup> with wonderful Welsh mezzo soprano Kate Woolveridge and on September 8<sup>th</sup> our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration dinner.

One of the Choir's goals for 2007 is to increase the membership. So hopefully I won't be the youngest member any longer, a title I've held more or less continuously since I joined 16 years ago, aged 16!

## CHOIR WEBSITE

Since the launch of the website on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2006 we've had some nice comments and praise about the Choir and website from such far flung places as Australia, New Zealand, America and George's daughter on Oakbank. This appears to be raising the Choir's profile around the world and nearer to home and hopefully might get us some new members. (There's even a map on how to get to our rehearsals!)

Do try to have a look if you can, you don't need to be a computer whiz, Whitehaven library staff are very helpful and over 60s get an hours FREE use of the internet a day in any library. (And no excuses that you're not over 60!). Website address is [wmvc.co.uk](http://wmvc.co.uk)

Any comments good or bad are very welcome.

At the end of the day, it's **YOUR** choir and **YOUR** website!

## GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

On Boxing day 2006 Derrick and Phyllis Coid celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and I bet Phyllis wishes she had a pound for everyone who said she deserved a medal for those 50 years! Belated congratulations and best wishes to Derrick and Phyllis.

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to see anything in particular in future issues of this newsletter please let me know, either at rehearsal or telephone: 590993. At the end of the day, it's **YOUR** choir and **YOUR** newsletter!

# WHITEHAVEN MALE VOICE CHOIR



## MEMBERS MUSICAL PROFILE



Name: Graeme Wishart

Age: 32

Note: When I spoke to Don about the idea for a newsletter, he suggested incorporating a members profile. To set the ball rolling and for the first issue I've decided to include myself.

My love of singing and performing on stage began at an early age, encouraged by my Dad, Tom, who was a founder member of Whitehaven Male Voice Choir and like myself, as a teenager was singing in Male Voice Choirs (Cleator Moor Male Voice Choir, when he was 17.)

As a young boy I accompanied my Dad to rehearsals for Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatic Society shows, which in those days were mainly the Savoy Operas of Gilbert & Sullivan. A special treat (as I saw it) was to be allowed to watch the fully costumed dress rehearsal. 'Show week' was something wonderful. As well as watching the Saturday night performance I also spent other nights backstage with my Aunt, Jean Wishart, who for many years was wardrobe mistress and ladies make-up supervisor. Oh, happy days!

When I was 11 my Dad played the title role in *The Mikado*, I watched the show 3 nights out of the 7 night run! Here began my love of the operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan. In which I've been fortunate to play several of the principal roles with the Operatic Society, as well as singing the majority of the Bass/Baritone principal solos with Eileen Lithgoe's G&S concert choir. As a young boy, I also attended rehearsals with my Dad for *The Crucifixion* and *Olivet to Calvary* which my Uncle, Bob Wishart conducted every year in churches throughout West Cumbria. Never could I have imagined then, that years later I would have the pleasure to sing the Bass solos in *The Crucifixion* myself.

In 1990, the year I left school and started an electrical apprenticeship at Sellafeld, I was invited to join the Male Voice Choir, by my Uncle Bob, who at the time was the musical director. It was ten weeks prior to the 'Annual Concert' when I joined and I learnt the music and was on stage for that as my first concert. The undoubted highlight for me in my Male Voice Choir life was our first trip to sing in Cardiff Arms Park in 1992. As an 18 year old among over 8000 other male choristers with world famous soloists in such a venue was awe inspiring. It's an experience I'll never forget. I enjoy being part of Whitehaven Male Voice Choir tremendously, as well as keeping up the family tradition.

# WHITEHAVEN MALE VOICE CHOIR



**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ATTACH THIS CONCERT LIST TO SOMEWHERE PROMINENT (I FIND THE FRIDGE DOOR WORKS WELL.) SO THEN YOU'LL HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR FORGETTING CONCERTS!**

## FUTURE CONCERTS/EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Information</i>
Friday January 19 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Maryport Civic Hall	Concert with Maryport Orchestral Society
Friday January 26 <sup>th</sup> 2007	United Reformed Church, Market Place, Whitehaven	With soloist Diane Hunter
Friday February 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2007	St Gregory's Church, Westfield, Workington	With soloists Gillian Rothery and Vanessa Cowley
Tuesday February 13 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Gt. Broughton Village Hall	Soloist to be confirmed
Wednesday March 7 <sup>th</sup> 2007 (to be confirmed)	Moor Row working men's club (to be confirmed)	Fish & chip supper (to be confirmed)
Friday March 16 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Egremont Market Hall	With W.C.C.S. Junior Choir and Egremont Town Band
Wednesday March 21 <sup>st</sup> 2007	St John's Church, Hensingham	Soloist to be confirmed
Friday April 20 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Westnewton Village Hall	Soloist to be confirmed
Sunday June 10 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Whitehaven Civic Hall	Annual Concert with Kate Woolveridge
Saturday September 8 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Whitehaven Civic Hall	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner
Saturday September 15 <sup>th</sup> 2007	St Nicholas' Church, Whitehaven	Fund raising coffee day (All help gratefully appreciated)
Saturday December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2007	St Beghs Church, Whitehaven	Annual Christmas concert Soloist to be confirmed
Saturday October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2009 (to be confirmed)	Royal Albert Hall, London (to be confirmed)	Festival of Brass and Voices (to be confirmed)

## ON A LIGHTER NOTE (NO OFFENSE INTENDED)

Q: What is the missing link between the Bass and the ape?

A: The Baritone.

Q: How many Tenors does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Six. One to do it and five to say, "It's too high for him."