

WHITEHAVEN MALE VOICE CHOIR



NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION
ISSUE NO. 2 (APRIL 2007)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second edition of the choir's quarterly newsletter. In this edition you'll find articles on the forthcoming exhibition of the choir's history to be held at The Beacon, information on this year's 'Annual Concert', a profile on Joe Wynne and an up-to-date concert/event listing.

BEACON EXHIBITION - May 7th to June 17th

Following last year's concert at The Beacon (Whitehaven's harbourside tourist attraction), the choir were invited to display an exhibition of their history at this venue. This will be officially opened by Copeland MP Jamie Reed on Monday May 7th with the choir singing at 10:30am. The exhibition runs until Sunday June 17th. This includes the Maritime Festival weekend, which should encourage lots of visitors to The Beacon, even though the majority of the building will be closed for refurbishment. The organisers Sue Raine, Joan Woodend and Graeme Wishart are open to suggestions for what the choir would like to see displayed. One idea, is to have the exhibition manned by volunteer choir members during the maritime weekend, to allow face to face contact with visitors and the opportunity to sell choir CD's.

ANNUAL CONCERT - JUNE 10th at 8:00pm

This year's 'Annual Concert' will be on Sunday June 10th in the Civic Hall. This year's guest is the wonderful Welsh mezzo-soprano Kate Woolveridge, who entertained our 'Annual Concert' audience back in 2003. Tickets priced at £6.00 and (£5.00 Concessions) will soon be available from Don Messenger.

HAIG COLLIERY MINING MUSEUM CONCERT - JULY 14th at 2:30pm

The Choir have been invited to perform a summer afternoon concert at Haig Colliery Mining Museum, Kells. This is one of a series of concerts taking place at the museum throughout the summer.

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MONDAY REHEARSALS

Prior to this year's 'Annual Concert' Monday rehearsals will commence on Monday May 15th (venue to be confirmed.)

ANNUAL CHOIR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

The annual choir membership fee of £10 is now due. Please forward cash or cheque to the treasurer Bill Raine.

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!

FUTURE CONCERTS/EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Information</i>
<i>Friday April 20th 2007</i>	<i>Westnewton Village Hall</i>	<i>Soloist: Helen Moore</i>
<i>Monday May 7th to</i>	<i>The Beacon, Whitehaven</i>	<i>Exhibition of choir's history &</i>
<i>Sunday June 10th 2007</i>	<i>Whitehaven Civic Hall</i>	<i>Annual Concert</i>
<i>Wednesday July 4th 2007</i>	<i>Egremont Methodist Church</i>	<i>Soloist: Pauline Southward</i>
<i>Saturday July 14th 2007</i>	<i>Haig Colliery Mining Museum</i>	<i>Summer concert</i>
<i>Saturday September 8th 2007</i>	<i>Whitehaven Civic Hall</i>	<i>30th Anniversary Party</i>
<i>Saturday September 15th 2007</i>	<i>St Nicholas' Church,</i>	<i>Fund raising coffee day</i>
<i>Saturday December 15th 2007</i>	<i>St Beghs Church, Whitehaven</i>	<i>Annual Christmas concert</i>
<i>Saturday October 31st 2009</i>	<i>Royal Albert Hall, London</i>	<i>Festival of Brass and Voices</i>

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MEMBERS MUSICAL PROFILE

Name: Joe Wynne

This edition's musical profile features Joe Wynne, who is at present the only founder choir member singing in the choir.

I have always had an interest in music. As a boy I heard my father sing, usually on Friday, Saturday or Sunday evenings after a good night in the pub! He had a good tenor voice and the neighbours used to come outside to request a song. I never sang myself until my wife and her friend joined Whitehaven Theatre Group. After taking her and collecting her from rehearsals, I got to know the people in the Theatre Group, where I was soon talked into helping backstage. Then gradually into small parts, just to make the numbers up, as the late Ken Phillips (Musical Director) would say.

Soon he had me singing in the chorus. My first show was Dancing Years in 1972. In following years I performed in South Pacific, Oklahoma, Fiddler on the Roof and The Merry Widow to name a few.

One of the highlights of my time with the Theatre Group was a pantomime called 'Aladdin and His Magic Guitar' in 1982. In which Len Chapman (whom you all know) and myself, were given the honour of dancing together to Swan Lake, Lenny looked good in his tutu, and I was rather smart in my tights and wellies!

My last show with the Theatre Group was Oklahoma in 1987 playing The Sheriff. During the late 80's to mid 90's I was in St Begh's Choir, during which time we travelled to Belmont Abbey in Herefordshire. We also sang around the old folk's homes each Christmas.

Prior to that in 1977, one of the Theatre Group, Ronnie Corless asked a few of us if we would be interested in forming a Male Voice Choir, if he could get an interested Musical Director, which the late Baxter Shaw was keen enough to take on. Some of the lads in Whitehaven Operatic Society were also very keen. We had a meeting in the Chase Hotel and the choir was put in motion.

I have enjoyed being just a small part of the choir, and have had some good highlights, such as singing at Cardiff in The World Choir in 1992 and 1993, and of course The Royal Albert Hall in London. But of course the concert to think about is our next one, every time.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Q: What happened to Bach after he had 20 children?

A: His Organ Baroque!

Q: What did Mozart recently say to a noisy visitor?

A: "Shhhh! I'm decomposing!"