

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My dear Friends

What a wonderful June Show and what a wonderful Hilton Concert! I felt both concerts were seeing Kentwood at its best and I find it very exciting and rewarding that Kentwood is still getting better. Nothing stands still in life for long and you either go forward or go backwards. Life has been very good indeed to the Show Choir! We have always had excellent musicians and this is certainly so at the moment. I feel I must thank everyone for all their extremely hard work - choir, musicians and everyone who works so hard behind the scenes. I used to write in my reports at Ridgeway School "Hard work must surely reap rewards". This is so very true isn't it?

I am now working hard with the Junior/Youth School for their show at the Arts Centre. 31st October and 1st November are dates to put in your diary. It is quite sad that I lose a few of the older ones to university every year but we still manage to give you a good show. I have decided not to start any more junior classes! I love them to bits but need to cut down on my work schedule a bit.

Have you got your tickets for the Cracker yet? I hope so. I have tried to think up a few new presents in the Cracker. I must remember to ring the Fairy Grotto soon! Time to finish and return to the studio! Love to you all.

Sheila

THE KENTWOOD SHOW CHOIR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the AGM will be held on **Tuesday 3 November 2009** at the St Margaret's Centre, Kenwin Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wilts commencing at **8.00pm**. Refreshments will be available following the meeting.



COUPLE OF LETTERS FROM OUR POST BAG

Dear Sheila, Girls and Boy!

Thank you, yet again for making Mum's(Win) 104th birthday party such a special and happy occasion. We really appreciate you all giving up your time. It was a day we will remember for ever.

Please accept the small donation to the choir. We look forward to the next concert.

Love,
Jan, Dor and Family

Dear Yvonne

What a wonderful concert you gave us last week at St Mary's Church, Purton in aid of the Purton and District Age Concern. We all felt that you created such a warm and happy atmosphere that drew the audience in - it felt like a big happy family - especially good on a day when the weather was so awful! You gave us such excellent entertainment as always. What talent you all have in your choir.

Thank you for making the arrangements. I have also written to Sheila as well but I wanted to thank you also. It was a shame that the audience wasn't bigger but, for those that were there, it was a really special evening. We are so grateful to the choir for waiving their fee – it's really appreciated and we feel really privileged to have the support of the Kentwood in the work we try to do.

Kind Regards

Sheila Price
Hon Sec





**CONCERT AT THE HILTON HOTEL 2nd AUGUST 2009
In Aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**

During a very busy fundraising year, it is a pleasure to report that the Kentwood Show Choir Concert is most definitely a highlight for us. The Choir has a great following and it is not difficult to understand why it attracts such large and enthusiastic audiences. It offers an evening of outstanding entertainment with a blend of all types of music, all performed to the highest standard under the superbly professional direction of Sheila. Despite having purchased tickets in advance, many of the audience queue well before the doors open at 7 pm so keen are they for the evening to begin!

The Hilton Hotel continues to be very generous in donating the Lydiard Suite and all the Hotel's facilities but naturally, we have to fit in with their bookings. This usually means that we can only have a date early in August and it must be a Sunday. As this is during the holiday period it could have been a problem for the Choir, but with such a breadth of talent available it does not seem to make a difference! Once again this year, we had the added bonus of the members of the extremely talented Youth Choir who were certainly greatly appreciated by the audience. The wonderful accompaniment of Paul Maguire and the great band gave us a feast of entertainment!

All the money raised goes to improving and maintaining cancer services in this area. With the addition of this, the 15th Concert's total, the Choir has raised over £34,000 since the Concerts began! It is an amazing amount of money and we are indebted to all who give their services free of charge enabling us to raise such huge sums. We are very grateful to David Wicks who has so generously provided us with his superb sound system since the Concerts began and also to the many who donate such good quality Raffle Prizes. It would be easy to be overwhelmed by the generosity and compassion often shown by the public for those who need help at a very traumatic period in their lives. The Macmillan Benefits Adviser who is based at the Citizens Advice Bureau, continues to be very busy and offers invaluable help to those completing complicated applications for benefits.

We are immensely grateful to Sheila and to you, members of her superb Choir, for your kindness and generosity in giving up your time to provide us with such a wonderful fundraising event. We feel very privileged to have your wonderful support and the people of Swindon and the rest of Wiltshire are very lucky to have a superb Choir so willing to make such an effort to support Charities and help them to raise much needed funds. We look forward to seeing you next year on August 1st.

Jenny Rainbow, Chairman



FUTURE PUBLIC CONCERTS 2009

- 16 Oct St Mary's Church, Rodbourne Cheney. L White (01793 533475)
22 Oct Immanuel Church, Upham Road. M Baker (01793 642966)
31 Oct/1 Nov Junior/Youth Choir Show at the Arts Centre (01793 614837)
29 Nov Christmas Cracker, Wyvern Theatre. (01793 524481). Two performances at 5pm and 8pm.
12 Dec Evesham Methodist Church. B Powney (01386 760323)

You may be interested to know that there is a curry night at the Bombay Lounge, West Swindon on Monday 19th October 2009 in aid of Motor Neurone Disease. Please see Sharon Lloyd or call her on 01793 706484 for more details.

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