



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My Dear Friends

The Spring is my favourite season of the year. I love all the new growth on the trees, plants and flowers. Even some of the hedgehogs are coming out of hibernation early!

I try hard to give Kentwood the Easter weekend free to be with their families. At the time of writing the Swindon Music Festival is in full swing. Kentwood is well represented and I feel festivals have their place in life for confidence building and "pacing one another on the road to musical excellence".

Everyone is working hard for our Kentwood Showcase on 22nd June at the Wyvern Theatre. It is great to be back at the Wyvern to give a fully staged show. Great music, band and costumes!

Quite a few students are now taking the Associated Board of London examinations this month. Kentwood rarely stops!

It would be great to see more patrons at our smaller concerts. The concerts are always listed in this newsletter. I personally would like to get feed back from you:

- a) write a review of the concert maybe;
- b) tell us your favourite songs and why;
- c) what songs would you like to hear.

We could even print some of your comments in this newsletter.

Don't forget to go into the website www.kentwoodshowchoir.co.uk - very interesting.

Will sign off now to do some teaching.

Kindest regards

Sheila



SOME OF THE LETTERS, CARDS RECEIVED

To The Kentwood Show Choir

We would like to say a very BIG thanks for what you did for us on Thursday night. We raised £335. Many thanks and we hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Dennis and June

Bourton Club

Dear Sheila

On behalf of Prospect Hospice, I would like to thank you and all of the Kentwood Choir for the further kind and generous donation of £575.10 from the Kentwood Christmas Cracker. I have written to the Wyvern as well. Although I'm sorry I was not able to attend, I hear that both performances went very well. Your continued support is very much appreciated by the patients, volunteers and staff alike.

Please rest assured that continued contributions such as yours really do meet a continuing need. Of course, at the individual level, they can be seen as priceless. To give a sense of the value that your gift could provide, it will cost £300 to pay for a nurse to look after someone overnight. Thank you for your further help and trusting in your continued commitment. Without the support from you and others like you, we couldn't make each day count for our patients and their families. Kind regards

Jane Kendall

Community Fundraiser

Dear Sheila and Choir Members

I just wanted to say an enormous THANK YOU to you for providing such an extravaganza of music for our concert on Saturday evening. The feedback I have already had is that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of music and meeting the choir members.

Bringing the six young men from 'The Ridgeway School' was certainly an added bonus; let us hope that their musical abilities are far reaching.

So very many thanks once again. Your sincerely

Diana Shepherd

FONCS



THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE DAILY MAIL RECENTLY

Why Cleo missed our fireman's ball

Back in the mid-fifties, I was a leading fireman at Barley Fire Station, and I'd been voted into the job of social secretary. On one particular evening we were finalising the details for the station annual dance. We had agreed on the venue, the catering and who to invite and then discussed music. It was soon clear it was a foregone conclusion - it had to be Fred Pearson and his quartet from Dewsbury.

As a new broom sweeping clean, I'd written to several bands in order to have a change. But I'd had only one reply from a band who were available and I was waiting for the chance to put my idea forward. On receiving the OK from the chairman, I proposed that we have a band from Leeds. 'What do they call themselves?' asked the chairman.

'They don't seem to have a name.' I frantically searched for the letter. 'The letter is from a Mr Dankworth.'

'How much does he charge?'

'Well, he wants,' I hesitated, then plunged in, '£7 10s.' There were loud gasps and some of them burst out laughing.

'How much do we pay Fred Pearson?' someone asked. I fiddled through my correspondence and found his letter. 'It's gone up this year to £3 15s, and also there are five suppers to pay for.'

'This chap in Leeds will want suppers. How many are there?'

'He doesn't say.' I then produced what I had thought would be my trump card. 'He also has a girl singer we can have.'

'Is she included in the charge?'

'No' I replied, 'she is an extra 30s.'

'She must be good to charge thirty bob,' said the chairman.

'What do they call her?'

I looked at the letter. 'It says here, Cleo Laine.'

There was a general shaking of heads. 'Never heard of her,' was the consensus.

'Right, we'll vote on it,' said the chairman. We did, and it was a clear win for Fred from Dewsbury.

Later that evening, I wrote the two letters, one to Fred Pearson confirming the booking and the other to John Dankworth thanking him. I wondered if he was any good, and whether his singer would ever get anywhere.

Charles Gething

Morecambe, Lancs

I wonder if Charles travelled to the Barbican, London on 27th February 2008 as Sheila, Chris, Roy and I did and experienced the most wonderful evening of music given by Sir John Dankworth, Dame Cleo Lane, with their musicians, guests and the London Symphony Orchestra in celebration of both their 80th birthdays. Marvellous!

Yvonne Walker



NO NURSING HOME FOR ME

About 2 years ago my husband and I were on a cruise through the western Mediterranean aboard a Princess liner. At dinner we noticed an elderly lady sitting alone along the rail of the grand stairway in the main dining room. I also noticed that all the staff, ships officers and waiters all seemed very familiar with this lady. I asked our waiter who the lady was, expecting to be told that she owned the line, but he said he only knew that she had been on board for the last four cruises, back to back.

As we left the dining room one evening I caught her eye and stopped to say hello. We chatted and I said 'I understand you've been on this ship for the last four cruises'. I stated 'I don't understand' and she replied without a pause 'It's cheaper than a nursing home'

So, there will be no nursing home in my future. When I get old and feeble, I am going to get on a Princess Cruise Ship. The average cost for a nursing home is £100 per day. I have checked reservations at Princess and I can get a long term discount and senior discount price of £70 per day. That leaves £30 a day for:

1. Gratuities which will be £3.50 per day.
2. I will have as many as 10 meals a day if I can waddle to the restaurant or I can have room service (which means I can have breakfast in bed every day of the week).
3. Princess has as many as three swimming pools, a gym, free washing machines and dryers and shows every night.
4. They have free toothpaste and razors and free soap and shampoo.
5. They will even treat you like a customer not a patient. An extra £2.50 worth of tips will have the entire staff scrambling to help you.
6. I will get to meet new people every 7 or 14 days.
7. TV broken? Light bulb need changing? Need to have the mattress replaced? No problem! They will fix everything and apologise for your inconvenience.
8. Clean sheets and towels every day and you don't even have to ask for them.
9. If you fall in the nursing home and creak a hip you are at the mercy of the NHS. If you fall and break a hip on the Princess ship they will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

Now hold on for the best! Do you want to see South America, The Panama Canal, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Asia or name where you want to go? Princess will have a ship ready to go. So don't look for me in a nursing home, just call shore to ship!

PS And don't forget, when you die they just dump you over the side at no charge!

Jane Shrimpton

Did you guess!!



THE SWINDON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2008

This year's Swindon Music Festival was reported as being one of the best. All three adjudicators commented on the high standard of work attained, especially in the vocal classes, and the exceptional teaching going on in Swindon. We should be very proud of all the Kentwood people who took part and here are our prize winners.

Duet - Songs from Shows and Films (The Pauline Grant Memorial Trophy)	1 st Dorinda Dodson Sam Humphreys
Victorian or Edwardian Parlour Song (The Sheila Harrod Trophy)	Rebecca Grout
Nostalgia - Popular Song	2 nd Katy Embling
Jazz Song (The Mervyn Penny Trophy)	1 st Jill McCrea 2 nd Natalie Barwell
Songs from Shows and Films (8 & Under) (The Sheila Marcer Trophy)	1 st Emily Smith 2 nd Esme Humphreys 3 rd Lowri Hughes
Songs from Shows and Films (9 & 10) (The Lynn Hawkins Trophy)	Eleanor Dixon
Girls Solo (12 & 13) (The Doris Parsons Trophy)	Lily Dodson
Songs from Shows and Films (11 & 12)	2 nd Alice Dixon
Duet - Classical (The Don Oliver Memorial Trophy)	Dorinda Dodson Sam Humphreys
Modern Pop Song	2 nd Becci Benson
Folk Song (8 & 9) (The Ann and Tony Donaldson Trophy)	Emily Smith
Girls Solo (8 & 9) (The Jack Marcer Trophy)	Imogen Nelson
Girls Solo (10 & 11) (Holmes Music Girls' Solo Trophy)	Alice Dixon
Light Opera	2 nd Bridget Cowling
Songs from Shows and Films (17 - under 26) (The Vera Bennett Trophy)	1 st Katy Embling 2 nd Susanna Arnold 3 rd Natalie Barwell
Folk Song (14 - 16) (The Sarah Jefferies Trophy)	Jenna Molloy

Light Opera (13 - 16)	2 nd Lily Dodson
Songs from Shows and Films (15 & 16) (The Kentwood Trophy)	Jenna Molloy
Songs from Shows and Films (over 26) (The George Snook Trophy)	1 st Becci Benson 2 nd Jill McCrea
Mature Voice	2 nd Bridget Cowling
Mezzo Soprano (The Phyllis Mann Trophy)	1 st Rebecca Grout 2 nd Grace Kerrigan
Male Solo (The Arthur Walters Trophy)	Will Forty



FUTURE CONCERTS 2008

23 April	St George's Day at Civic Offices, Swindon (Tickets from Wyvern)
27 April	St Luke's Church, Pinner (2pm). P Williams (02088 660098)
8 May	St Margarets School, Calne. K Cordon (01249 857220)
22 June	Wyvern Show - two performances at 3pm and 7pm.
5 July	Corn Exchange, Hungerford. R Kellow (01488 682745)
12 July	All Saint Church, Evesham. C Vizor (01386 641397)
3 August	Macmillan, Hilton Hotel, Swindon. G Thornton (01367 252535)
29 August	Warnford School, Highworth. S Holt (01793 762421)
6 September	Chilbolton, Northwood House. D Wild (01264 860358)
4 October	Assembly Hall, Melksham. S White (01225 704428)
31 October	Memorial Hall, Shrivenham. E Ware (01793 783026)
1&2 November	Junior Show, Arts Centre. (01793 614837)
30 November	Christmas Cracker, Wyvern Theatre

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