

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My dear Friends

At the time of writing (Sunday 15th March) we have a wonderful true spring morning. Beautiful sunshine and the birds have started to nest in our boxes on the wall. All the new shoots are springing forth in the garden and it was just great to see the new born lambs in the fields. This is when my life is great. Spring is my favourite season of the year.

I am always thankful for the gift of music. Life is quite hectic in the studio for the next few weeks as we now start the Swindon Music Festival. This year the festival is celebrating 100 years! What an achievement! I can remember when I was Senior Vocal Champion in 1965 singing Handel's "Spring". Kentwood is very well represented at the festival this year. I have always said what a talented town we have - so many good musical groups and drama societies.

All hands on deck for the June show at the Wyvern Theatre. Please tell everyone so that we sell out our tickets. Gospel choruses, Frank Sinatra, Abba, Carmen, Jazz, Queen to name but a few acts. A show not to be missed.

Well I expect a lot of you are preparing for holidays. I must remember to sort out my bucket and spade from the garage! Have a great time wherever you go. Hopefully see you all in June at the Wyvern.

Much love,

Sheila



CONCERT REVIEWS

Our first concert of the year on 30th January was at St Mary's Church, Castle Eaton. Sheila Theobald organised the concert and she wrote the following:

"On behalf of St Mary's Church I would like to thank you because on a cold January evening in St Mary's Church our (Lady on the Thames) at Castle Eaton, Sheila Harrod led the Kentwood Choir and came and lit up the church with your smiles, fun and laughter and most of all with your voices. What an uplifting delight you all were. Also an added bonus on the piano was Paul Maguire with his own delightful style. Feed-back from all who came that evening were moved by your presence and I now have a list of names for tickets to buy for your show in June 09. What more can I say other than it was a great success and a big thank you to all of the Kentwood Choir. A Total of £730 profit was made towards the roof fund.

On Friday 27th February saw us at St Bartholomews Church at Wootton Bassett where we gave a concert in aid of the Wootton Bassett Rotary Club. They were raising money for their own charities and for the church funds.

Sunday 29th March saw us at the Blunsdon House Hotel giving a concert in aid SCOPE. Caroline Ockwell, the Project Services Coordinator gave us an overview of the charity which helps people with cerebral palsy. However, their remit is much wider than that as they support adults with all types of disabilities in their individual journey towards achieving their personal goals. They have been in Swindon since 1992 and have been responsible for the creation of several disability related projects within the town. The most recent project is the Swindon Rockets Power Chair Football club. Since it was first muted over 2 years ago and seeking help from the correct authorities, the club was launched. Over the last 9 months it has experienced tremendous growth with members of all ages. Their next goal is to play in the national league in September and to achieve this their players need specialist power chairs costing £4000 each, hence the reason for the concert. I am happy to report that the concert raised £800.





THE SWINDON MUSIC FESTIVAL (The Centenary)

The Kentwood School of Music again did extremely well at this year's music festival and here is the list of prize winners. Many congratulations to you all - you did Sheila and Kentwood proud.

Songs from Shows & Films- under 8 (The Sheila Marcer Trophy)		Lowri Hughes
Jazz Song - any voice (The Mervyn Penny Trophy)	2 nd	Becci Benson Natalie Barwell
Duet: Songs from Shows & Films (The Pauline Grant Memorial Trophy)	2 nd	Jill McCrae/Becci Benson Dorinda Dodson/Sam Humphreys
Piano Solo - 11 and under		Imogen Nelson
Nostalgia - Popular Song (1914 to end of 1940s) (The George Snook Nostalgia Trophy)		Becci Benson
Modern Pop Song (The Gary Beint Trophy)		Jill McCrae
Girls Solo - 12 and 13 (The Doris Parsons Trophy)		Alice Dixon
Songs from Shows & Films - 11 and 12 (The Clarry Bean Trophy)		Alice Dixon
Boys Folk Song - 8, 9 and 10 (The J P Sinclair Memorial Trophy)		Daniel Woodward
Girls or Boys Solo - under 8 (The Swindon Advertiser Cup)		Lowri Hughes
Girls Solo - 10 and 11 (The Holmes Music Girls Solo Trophy)		Mollie Hayward
Boys Solo - 8, 9 and 10 (The Alice Inwood Memorial Trophy)		Daniel Woodward
Songs from Shows & Films - 9 and 10 (The Lynn Hawkins Trophy)	2 nd	Daniel Woodward Bethany Hayward
Girls Solo - 14, 15 and 16 (The Yvonne Walker Trophy)		Catherine Forty

Kentwood showchoir

Light Opera - 13,14, 15 and 16 (The Reg Carter Memorial Trophy)	Jenna Molloy
Songs from Shows & Films - 15 and 16 (The Kentwood Trophy)	Catherine Forty
Songs from Shows & Films - 26 and over (The George Snook Trophy)	Graham Davison-Smith Becci Benson
Soprano Solo (The Cynthia Webb Challenge Trophy)	Natalie Barwell
Junior Vocal Champion (The R G Cripps Challenge Trophy)	Daniel Woodward
Senior Vocal Champion (The Free Church Council Challenge Trophy)	Graham Davison-Smith

Sam Humphreys, Jenna Molloy, Lily Dodson, Natalie Barwell (twice), Val Stump, Sharon Lloyd, Karin Balfe all achieved second places in other classes.

FUTURE CONCERTS 2009

3 April	St Mark's Church, Swindon. C Green (01793 721897)
4 April	Marlborough College with the Aldbourne Band. P Ockwell (01793 724374)
24 April	Bromham Social Centre. M Lloyd-Evans (01380 850366)
8 May	St Mary's Church, Fairford. J Williams (01285 712127)
12/13 June	Kentwood Showcase 2009, Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481)
17 July	St Mary's Church, Purton. S Price (01793 770696)
2 August	Hilton Hotel. G Thornton (01367 252535)
16 October	St Mary's Church, Rodbourne Cheney. L White (01793 533475)
22 October	Immanuel Church, Upham Road. M Baker (01793 642966)
29 Nov	Christmas Cracker, Wyvern Theatre. (01793 524481)
12 Dec	Evesham Methodist Church. B Powney (01386 760323)

**Editor: Mrs Yvonne Walker,
23 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret,
Swindon SN3 4LY.
Telephone: (01793)823849
e-mail: walker365@ntlworld.com**