

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My dear Friends

What a Show! I was thrilled with everything! A lot of hard work was put in by everyone and this I think was the success of the Show. It also helped that we had a great band of musicians led by Paul Maguire and such wonderful arrangements to perform. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way and for my wonderful patrons and friends for supporting us.

Congratulations are in order to Helen Ryan on the birth of baby Lewis and we have Laura Fritchley tying the knot in July.

I must start thinking of the Christmas Cracker and its contents! The Junior/Youth Show is well under way and looking good. You will have another chance to see the great ABBA selection.

Well, only a few day left before I travel on a couple of cruises. A short break with Yvonne, Debbie and Gill to Bruges and Guernsey. I stay on the ship when Chris joins me and we cruise around Great Britain - different!

I hope you all have great holidays if you are going away. If you are staying home, have a good rest in the garden!

Happy holidays,

Love
Sheila

PS See you at the Hilton on Sunday 2nd August. Tickets available from Jenny Rainbow 01793 882104



ALDBOURNE BAND SPRING CONCERT

The annual band concert held at Marlborough College with the Kentwood Show Choir was if anything better than ever and those present were entertained by some superb playing and singing. It was in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Wiltshire Blind Association and amongst the audience were several guide dogs who I trust enjoyed the concert as much as the rest of us. The band under their new leader, David Johnson, was in splendid form and seemed to be playing even better under his baton.

What can I say about the Kentwood Show Choir that has not been said before? In Sheila Harrod they have a musical gem whose enthusiasm and verve are very infectious. Their rendition of the music of Les Miserables was as good as any and the soloists in what is not easy music were excellent.

A delightful evening and as it should, left us wanting to hear more.

John Jacobs

(taken from 'The Dabchick')

A MEMORABLE CONCERT AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, FAIRFORD, GLOS

On Friday 8th May, the choir performed at St Marys Church in Fairford. The audience, in excess of 250 people, were charmed by a selection of show songs that had many of them laughing and crying intermittently.

The building, a 11th century church renowned for its glass windows gave off a magical glow as the setting sun cast its last rays into the building while Gill May performed Danny Boy as requested by the Irish contingency.

Since May 8th, Fairford has been a buzz with talk of the special event that occurred in Fairford that night. Those in the audience who were not already aware of the talent of the Kentwood Choir came to support the Cotswold Care Hospice charity and left in amazement, such that the Kentwood choir have been the talk of the town since.

Thank you to Sheila and the choir for raising approximately £2300

Jacqui Williams



KENTWOOD'S SHOW CASE 2009 AT THE WYVERN THEATRE, SWINDON ON 12th AND 13th JUNE

Ros Hollands from the Swindon Advertiser reviewed the concert and she wrote the following:

Choir with the voices of angels

"Someone asked me this week which words I would use this time for Kentwood Show Choir's production. I have watched them so many times over the years that I do seem to be running out of superlatives. However, I can only say that all those I have used before and a few more will suffice.

Sheila Harrod and the Kentwood Show Choir are indeed a joy to behold. I am never nervous in their company, whether with young singers or seasoned. We heard some wonderful arrangements by Paul Maguire who led a superb band of musicians. 'My Way,' sung by Sheila and the choir was a case in point.

I worry about Robert Harman, as he once again donned a dress for his comedy solo. Excellent stuff Robert. Oh and great legs!! I must mention Sharon Lloyd. I don't think I've heard 'Moonlight in Vermont' sung as well as she sang it. I don't say that very often. Graham Davison-Smith once again gave his all and Will Forty gave a good rendition of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' – my all time favourite song.

Staging and lighting was cleverly simple and very effective with the sound being the best I've heard in an amateur production. Sheila Harrod and the Kentwood Show Choir are synonymous with professionalism. No change there then.

SOME QUOTES FROM THE MANY LETTERS AND CARDS RECEIVED

'What a simply brilliant show, I loved it all - from the first note to the last. It was fantastically jam-packed....'

'Congratulations on another brilliant show. The group of 20 which we brought, many first timers, loved it all. Content, choreography, costumes and choirs – a great credit to you Sheila and your team. Loved the comedy spots and also the young soloists as well as the much admired long standing/founder choir members with some new names to us eg Will and Catherine Forty.'

'Brilliant show and awesome performances. I thought that it surpassed everything I'd previously seen. Artistic, moving and integrated performances, the whole thing gelled. People were waxing lyrical as we were leaving.'





MND ASSOCIATION

The MND Association were the recipients of a donation from the June Show and here are a few words about the charity.

This year Sheila and Chris very kindly suggested to me that the choir sponsor The Motor Neurone Disease Association. This meant that the local fundraising committee for MND could sell raffle tickets at both performances and have a bucket collection at the end of each performance. The choir would also give a donation to the charity from the proceeds of the concerts. When I told the fund raising committee they were thrilled and we started planning for the event straight away! Sheila had asked that someone speak on behalf of MND at the Wyvern and it was eventually decided that I should undertake this task. Much as I love singing I was not sure if I would be up to this – speaking to such a large audience seemed daunting but with the help of my notes I managed it even if I was nervous and so relieved when it was over each night!

I got involved with the North Wilts Fundraising Group for around 5 years, as in 2002 my Dad was diagnosed with MND. Motor Neurone Disease is relatively rare but still kills 3 people in the UK every week. The impact on the sufferer and their family is devastating.

MND is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks the upper and lower motor neurones. Degeneration of the motor neurones leads to weakness and wasting of muscles, causing increased loss of mobility in the limbs and difficulties with speech, swallowing and breathing. There is no cure at the present time although money from fundraising does go into research as well as helping sufferers and their families cope with living with MND.

The local group meet on the first Thursday of the month at Prospect Hospice. We are a small, friendly group and every member works hard to continue raising money for MND through activities including car boot sales, sponsored walks, supermarket collections and garden parties. Recently the group has purchased three electric wheelchairs with the help of the Wheelchair Partnerships. These wheelchairs are currently being used by sufferers in our local area. The group are also keen to recruit Association Visitors, their role being to visit and support sufferers and their families living with MND. Excellent, comprehensive training is available if any of you reading this think you could fulfil this role.

To find out more you should log on to mndnorthwilts.org where you will find all the information and contact details you need or you can speak to me. If you have any spare time and would like to get more involved with MND or suggest fund-raising ideas please feel free to make suggestions – we are always very willing to consider new ideas.

I would like to personally thank Sheila and Chris for allowing us to organise the raffles as we raised over £900 – truly a wonderful sum that will make such a difference to sufferers of MND in our local area.

Very best wishes
Sharon Lloyd x

PS: There will be a walk (about 5 miles) in aid of MND on Sunday 20th September 2009 starting at 10am from the car park at Coate Water. All are welcome to do the walk or to sponsor Sharon and/or Yvonne!!!



FUTURE PUBLIC CONCERTS 2009

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| 17 July | St Mary's Church, Purton. S Price (01793 770696) |
| 2 Aug | Hilton Hotel. J Rainbow (01793 882104). Please note change of contact for tickets. |
| 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) |

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