

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends

I hope you all enjoyed the June Show. I thought it was a cracker!! I think Paul and his Little Big Band took the Show to a new dimension - such wonderful musicians with a wonderful sound that made our job easy! My only disappointment was that the Wyvern was not completely sold out. I suppose this is a sign of the times and I didn't realise when I booked the theatre two years ago that it would be the football World Cup. I know everyone who attended the Show thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all my wonderful choir who worked so hard.

We have started working on the Cracker already and can I remind you that the tickets are now on sale at the Wyvern Box Office.

I have decided to only do one night for the Junior Show this year at the Arts Centre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Last year we had over 90 seats unsold and I think this year's June Show finally made up my mind for me. We cannot afford to run at a loss! It promises to be a fun-filled show.

At the time of writing I expect many of you are looking forward to your Summer holidays. Have a great time and a good rest. I am cruising around the British Isles. Can't wait!

Thank you all for your great support.

Love

*Sheila*





**HOLMES MUSIC PROUDLY PRESENTED A CHARITY  
CONCERT AT THE PHOENIX THEATRE, THE NEW COLLEGE  
ON SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010.**

As seen on ITV's This Morning Show Nicholas McCarthy played at this charity concert in aid of the Goldenhar\* Family Support Group (UK). Nicholas was born without his right hand and is one of only a few left handed pianists in the world. The 21 year old only took up the instrument seven years ago when he heard a friend playing a Beethoven's sonata and decided he wanted to follow suit despite the obvious difficulties. Three years later he was awarded a place at the junior department of the Guildhall School of Music where he studied with concert pianist Lucy Parham before going on to the Royal College of Music where he now studies with Ian Jones an International concert pianist and Steinway artist.

The concert also included pianist Olivia Dance, winner of the Supreme Championship at the 2010 Swindon Music Festival, Nathan Selladurai, classical guitarist, winner of Swindon's Young Musician and from Kentwood Kathy Hobson, Yvonne Walker, Graham Davison-Smith who sang a selection of classical songs accompanied by Sheila Harrod. The evening was presented by Shirley Ludford from Swindon 105.5.

\* Goldenhar, named after the doctor who identified it in 1952, is an umbrella term for a wide range of bone abnormalities affecting the face and sometimes the vertebrae. It is proven not to be genetic but no one yet knows why Goldenhar Syndrome happens.

**THE KENTWOOD SHOW CHOIR SHOW CASE AT THE  
WYVERN THEATRE, 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010**

(Reviewed by Ros Hollands for the Swindon Advertiser)

**CHOIR'S PERFECT PERFORMANCE**

As I walked into the Wyvern Theatre on the first night of The Kentwood Choir's showcase I was asked to make sure I said something nice about them. Well, what can I say except - WOW. From the minute the band, under the direction of West End MD Paul Maguire, struck the first note the audience knew they were in for a treat. Sheila Harrod and her choir are synonymous with the word perfection and I couldn't fault a thing. The voices, whether in the choir format, groups or solos, rang out above the splendid band and almost took the roof off. Congratulations also go out to the Wyvern's technical manager Mike Hay as the sound system was the best I have heard in an amateur show.

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The choir sang O Fortuna and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up. The arrangement, by Paul Maguire of Summertime sung superbly by Gill May and the choir was a highlight of my evening. I must mention the Youth and Junior Choirs. They are still the best Joseph choir I've heard. Sheila has always chosen the right songs for the voices. John Marshall blew my away with Those Canaan Days. All the men in Kentwood get my vote particularly Graham Davison-Smith's superb rendition of Luck Be a Lady.

I can't say fairer that that now can I? I'm sure the rest of the audience will agree with me - this time.

**Sheila always receives a large number of messages, cards, letters and emails after a show and here are some of the comments:**

.....I really wanted to congratulate you and Kentwood for another fab show and it was one of the best weekends ever. I don't recall ever going to a Kentwood show and seeing the full school on stage all at the same time including the band. Amazing!! A real shame that many of the Town's people have missed out on seeing the show and hearing that spectacular sound that came off the Wyvern stage both nights. Kentwood's music is a real big part of many peoples lives, not just to those involved but to those who give their support. "The sound of Kentwood's music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life".

Lady Gooch JP, Under Sheriff of Wiltshire wrote how much she really enjoyed the wonderful concert. It was so lively and amusing, a perfect blend of old favourites with a modern twist.....

Thank you; I just very much appreciate all the time and effort you and all the chaperones have to put in, and that without you the Juniors would not be able to enjoy the wonderful experience of performing at the Wyvern. The show was truly great, as usual it had everything, laughter, tears, wonder – that people with fulltime jobs can produce such an astonishingly high professional standard of performance. Yes, I am proud of my daughter but I am also proud that she belongs to the Kentwood 'family' of choirs. Above all else, I felt proud for Sheila, that she has the incredible ability to inspire today's youngsters to dedicate so much of their lives to music and show so much joy, energy and talent in all their performances. No matter what their futures hold, this experience will enrich their lives for ever and they will always know that beyond their music they have the ability to work hard and apply self-discipline to achieve excellence. A very special lady is Sheila and well deserved her standing ovation.



**During the interval of the June show I bumped into June and Alan Martin, Patrons of the choir for some 25 years who moved to Devon. I twisted his arm to write about their new lives and it duly appeared in the post last week. Thank you Alan.**

## GREETINGS FROM DEVON

It is now just over 8 years since we left Swindon for the less windy Plymouth down here in South West Devon, but we still make frequent visits back to Swindon to see our son and his family also many friends as well as topping up our musical souls with some Kentwood resonance. This year also marks our 25<sup>th</sup> following the choir and long may we still be able to.

If anyone tells you that there is not enough to do when you retire, we can affirm that we now wonder how we managed to find the time to go to work. We had not been here very long when a telephone call from the choir mistress of our local church asked us to join the church choir so now we regularly sing (not Kentwood standard) at most services as well as most weddings also, of course, the regular Monday evening practices and we verger at all funerals. Some few months after joining Alan was asked to be Churchwarden, has just completed his 6 year stint and is now taking a breather having handed the baton over to another member of the congregation. Both of us work in a Cancer Research UK charity shop one day each week and June completes her eighth year shortly whilst Alan reaches that in October. Of our other activities we both regularly attend plays, shows and concerts at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth Pavilion and other venues.

In our Close we are the oldest so we are now key holders to several of the houses and are often called upon to look after houses with or without cats, so we have to check our diaries frequently to ensure our availability when neighbours are away. However, we still get to visit many friends and family all over the country and to holiday spots we like, particularly Cornwall, which brings us back to Swindon when our two most recent trips were booked to coincide with the Kentwood concerts in April and June. We feel that the April one with the Aldbourne Band was probably one of the very best ever, but the sheer exuberance of the youngsters in "Joseph" in the June show almost persuaded us differently.

*June and Alan Martin  
Plymouth, Devon*





## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Tickets for the Kentwood Choir Concert at the Hilton Hotel on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August are now available and cost £7.50 each. There is always a great demand for tickets so don't miss out. (see list below for details).

In addition to providing the support line, Macmillan Grants and the Macmillan website, Macmillan will be funding the following cancer services in Wiltshire: at the GWH in Swindon they have nine Macmillan Healthcare Professionals including a Clinical Psychologist and a 'rarer cancers' Clinical Nurse Specialist. In Swindon and Salisbury they have two Welfare Benefits Advisors and they also have a Macmillan GP Advisor in Trowbridge.

Macmillan are indebted to Sheila Harrod and the Choir, the management of the Hilton Hotel and all those who generously give their services free of charge enabling them to stage this popular concert.

## FUTURE PUBLIC CONCERTS 2010

### July

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Ridgeway School. R Jankinson (01793 882104)

### August

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Hilton Hotel (for Macmillan). Jenny Rainbow (01793 882104)

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Wyvern Theatre Circle Bar. Rickie Leyton (01793 327521)

### September

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Church, Castle Eaton. Sheila Theobald (01285 810403)

### October

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Show at the Arts Centre (01973 614837)

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Blunsdon House Hotel. Alan Fletcher (01793 827589)

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Festival of Remembrance, Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481)

### November

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Christmas Cracker at 5pm and 8pm, Wyvern Theatre

### December

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Roves Farm. Rupert Burr (01793 763939)

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