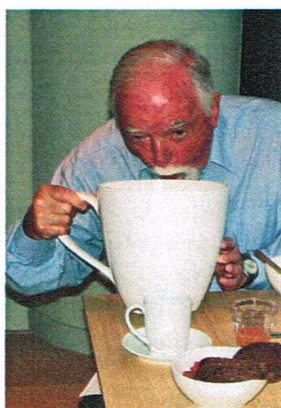


Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2008

Editor's Introduction - Fred Harrison

This issue looks back over some of the events which already may have receded in our memories: our last concert, the "Jolly", and the Dutch Tour - where even the teacups were noteworthy! We learn a little more about our much appreciated accompanist Marion



sad to record the deaths of two long-standing members of the Bass section, Ron Hooper, and John Pettigrew. Andy, our illustrious Musical Director reminds us of our immediate past and points us

toward further development. (He has already sought to improve our sight-reading skills with intervals 1-3-5, not to mention 2-4-6 and 7! Some of us non-instrumentalists

brought up on the Tonic Sol Fa system at our mother's knee still are prone to interpret intervals by recognising key signatures via the rules that the last flat is Fa or the last sharp Te. But happily the two approaches are compatible!)

Finally, thanks from the Editor to all our contributors, of both text and photographs.

Thanks also to Messrs Crow Watkin, Estate Agents, via the good offices of Angela Haeems, for providing the facilities to print the Newsletter.

Valete, Mike & Gill Jarvis



Mike and Gill moved to York at the end of June after many years of association with BCS.

Mike joined BCS in the 70's, and Gill was among our earliest soloists, also exercising her directing talents at the Harlequin Theatre, Redhill.

As in all things he did, Mike sought efficiency. His term as Chairman saw the Society's organisation start to move from "back of the envelope" to a framework on which his grateful successors could build.

Mike honed his vocal talents with the same singlemindedness. He created a new musical definition, to be found in the later edition of Grove— "al dente ma non troppo" following momentary trouble with a denture bridge during a "con brio" passage of the Monteverdi Vespers.

A healthy Treasury was Mike's final contribution to BCS. He nurtured everything from Gift Aid to Investments, and cast a critical eye on excessive ventures into orchestras and soloists.

We were privileged to enjoy all these talents, but above all the broad and charitable friendship which extended out and beyond BCS.

We wish him and Gill much happiness in their new home in York, and I was pleased to learn recently that after the inevitable stress of moving they have indeed settled in.

A.N.

A View from the Front - Andy Phillips

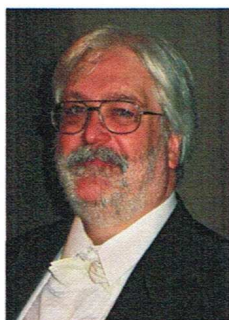
As I sit down to pen my periodic 'view from the front', the sun is shining and the warm air is wafting through the office on a gentle breeze. It must be October! We are a few weeks into the new season, having weathered a cold and rainy August and survived our first year together. I have experienced my first BCS tour - with just the slightest passing regret at the loss of my Tour Virgin status.

A considerable amount of water has passed under our collective bridge since the last publication of the Choir Newsletter in April; a hugely enjoyable and successful concert in May, a very agreeable sight-seeing tour of Holland's tree-

lined roads and squares in August and a huge amount of ongoing background work by the members of your committee.

Of some other significance was the EGM held May, a meeting called to discuss the terms of my appointment as Musical Director.

Many words were spoken on that evening and a great deal of positive support and goodwill was given to ratify my appointment to guide the choir on its musical journey. I think that most members are aware that the purpose of the meeting was



to draw up a joint agreement about the future of the choir and to ensure that there is support to follow and implement the changes which are necessary not only for the survival of the choir but for its development and future success. A near

unanimous show of hands gave us that mandate to move onwards and upwards along the path towards a flourishing, thriving choir. Sometimes the climb will be difficult, but it's critical that every member of the choir continues to focus on the personal and collective aims and ambitions which make being a part of Brockham Choral Society so fulfilling.



The May Concert 2008 - A Review by Simon Ames

A musical journey in song spanning 500 years was the theme for the Society's Spring concert, held at St Paul's Church in Dorking, where the modern seating and staging are valuable assets for organisers and audiences alike.

Pastime with Good Company was the title of the opening number, the choir processing to the stage as they sang, accompanied by a small woodwind group and a single drumbeat. They had chosen one of the rare songs composed by King Henry VIII – no less.

This toe-tapping introduction set the pattern for an illustrious evening of good music and entertainment, the carefully chosen songs ranged from the 500-year-old monarchy up to the modern works of Lloyd Webber.

Three English folk songs by Vaughan Williams were sung unaccompanied, including the delightful *Linden Lea*. With Marion Lea at the piano, the choir continued with Ireland's *Londonderry Air* and the bonny banks and braes of *Loch Lomond*. Baritone Andrew Mayor ascended the pulpit to deliver in fine style the *Five Mystical Songs* of Vaughan Williams, the choir contributing strongly for the well-known hymnal *Antiphon* – "Let all the world in every corner

sing."

After an excursion into Victorian England with Barnby's *Sweet & Low* and Sir Arthur Sullivan's mournful *The Long Day Closes*, Andrew Phillips put down his conductor's baton and joined with Andrew Mayor for a rousing duet *Watchman - What of the Night*.

The music of Noel Coward was a natural choice for a choir of this calibre and inventiveness and their delivery of the lilting *London Pride* was a delight. Coward's *Words & Music* was superbly brought to life by Anne Mitchell in a mini-cameo singing *I'm Mad about the Boy*, her attentions directed towards an unmoved, self-preening Fred Harrison.

Paul Halley's distinctive songs of the 1960's included *Soldier, Soldier* and *The Bailiff's Daughter* were positive inclusions, the programme finishing with a selection from the *CATS* production by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The finale that brought rapturous applause was the bouncy *Jellicoe* song.



A really thoughtful contribution to customer relations was the glass of sparkling rose on arrival and strawberries and cream during the interval, offered to all in the audience, Bravo!

The choir was well prepared; Andrew Phillips' musical direction was energetic and effective. Marion Lea provided top class, reliable piano accompaniment, as she always does.

Marion Lea, Profile of an Accompanist

Born in Bexhill-on-Sea, Marion had her first piano lessons with Jean Tucknott when she was seven. Philip Ledger, who later became Director of Music and Organist at Kings College Cambridge, was a pupil at the same time and they played duets together.

She gained her ARCM Performer's Diploma at sixteen, and at seventeen began her studies at the Royal Academy of Music, accompanying singers, instrumentalists and the Opera Class, and winning the Bach Prize (adjudicator Myra Hess!).

She also met husband Lawrie there, who became a violinist with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. She was the accompanist for instrumentalists auditioning for the orchestra, as well as playing the piano part in orchestral works and broadcasting on BBC West Region.

Later, moving to Epsom when Lawrie joined the Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as bringing up a family she worked as an orchestral pianist and accompanist for various London orchestras, on one occasion accompanying Nigel Kennedy in a competition.

She has played several times in Prom Concerts, often in modern works (with difficult time signatures!), and when very much younger played at one of Vaughan Williams' private carol parties at his home in Regents Park!

She continues to be in demand with music groups in Surrey, both as an accompanist and concert performer, particularly with choirs and individual singers. (She has sung herself with Epsom Chamber Choir.)

She's not only a musician, having made up for not taking A-levels by gaining a BA in French from London University in 1994 and an MA in French Language, Religion and Politics at Kings College London a few years later. She loves travelling and visiting fascinating countries such as Egypt and Peru. And she's appeared on television, as the piano-playing fingers for actress Joanna David, and on Face the Music with Joseph Cooper and Joyce Grenfell. I think we're pretty lucky to have her as our accompanist, don't you?

Members' News

A warm welcome to new members:

- Val Praud (2nd Soprano), friend of Estelle and Tony Earnshaw, sings in St. Paul's Church choir, works at Friends Provident.
- Jackie Westermann (2nd Alto), friend of Estelle, and Angela Sharwood; St. Paul's Church and Beare Green & Newdigate choirs; Yorkshire born (therefore good singing vowels!)
- Stephen Williams (2nd Tenor); also sings with Dorking Choral and the Martineau Singers, and plays with Dorking Brass Quintet;

with us until Christmas, courtesy of partner Julianne.

- Mike Benoy (1st Bass) Has sung for 7 years with Dorking Choral, enjoys Leith Hill Festival and will sing its Messiah next year

Sadly we record the deaths of John Pettigrew, 75, (pictured in our last Newsletter in female garb entertaining at the annual dinner), and Ron Hooper, 90, (Sea Fever specialist at "Jolly's"). BCS members joined the choirs at their funeral services.

The Summer Jolly, 12th July 2008 - Lyn Main

What a jolly event this was, a delicious supper from Maureen and her helpers, then an evening's entertainment in the tastefully decorated barn:

- The Hill House Trio with a Handel Sonata, returning, with Moira, in the second half after Kevin's impromptu keyboard interval treat to play "Come to the Fair". Kevin, actor, dancer (best pair of male legs in tights award), washer-up, also singing "You raise me up"
- Maude, our vintage soprano, singing "Old Violin"
- Anne Mitchell with R.R.Bennett's, composed in a train, "Let's Go and Live in the Country", and later, in beret and tights, with Reuben, beret and accordion, in a "très bonne" performance of "Plaisir d'Amour"
- Fred Prego, Carnegie Hall style, singing Nessun Dorma
- Ex-Glastonbury guitarists Romy and Ed, with sartorial appendages, singing "Crazy Man Michael" and "Sweet Thyme"
- New group, "Brockstaff" (Brockham Taffias Gareth and David) with a Welsh folk song "Oes Gaveratta" (white goat being milked!)
- Frances by special request repeating a clever ode inspired by her checkout days at Sainsbury's when they still paid by CHEQUE!
- Maureen and Marion treating us to a novel arrangement of "Marche Militaire", with hidden tunes and Marion falling into the greenery, unrehearsed and unharmed

- Nick Landauer, having earlier read Betjeman's poem "Miss Joan Hunter Dunn", now joining Reuben to heckle, with hilarious results, Fred H departing from his compèring role to recite "The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God"



Hell's Angel

- Jenny L.P., having played Rachmaninov on flute earlier, joining with Moira to restore calm, singing a Handel duet, and Andy, Jolly Virgin (!) and choral conductor leading the audience in a finale version of the Jolly Rover learnt in an earlier life as a Kawasaki-riding

Altogether a wonderful Brockham evening richly deserving the title of **Summer Jolly**. Thanks to all those who made the event so special.

We Weren't Vague.....The Tour - Moira Sinden

Despite a pause to repair the coach's wing mirror our trip to The Hague was nearly on schedule - in time for a guided walking tour paving the way for future visits to restaurants and bars.

Friday: Hotel breakfast - local specialities - the apple-cinnamon bread a must. Then depart for Amsterdam, via Haarlem for sightseeing. Free time in Amsterdam before coach pickup to church for evening concert with local choir (had to find new pickup point - traffic problems. Ed led and Fred's umbrella held aloft ensured no loss of bodies!). Brisk rehearsal with Magna Voce followed by rest/refreshment - sandwiches, salads, hot drinks, supplied by our good hosts. Changing into multi-coloured concert gear in cramped, get-to-know-you-better toilets! Dramatic start to the concert, Andy rushing off to collect forgotten music while the disciplined choir continued singing. Concert went well, including the joint items with Magna Voce, who had not sung in large venues before. Then our hosts supplied yet more food, and stronger liquid refreshment - a good social time. Journey back to The Hague - quiet inside the coach, but peals of thunder and splendid lightning flashes outside. And finally winding down in the bar until the wee small hours!

Saturday: Off to Leiden - later start to accommodate lack of sleep! Time to explore before and after lunch, back at the Hooglandse Kerk at 2:45pm for whistle-stop rehearsal - the "fifth best organ in Holland" is tricky; Peter worked miracles with it. Changed into concert dress: coloured bow ties and pashminas. A good performance, the relatively small audience either seated or drifting about in the huge church. The organ survived and the applause made it worthwhile. We returned to The Hague and hit the town!

Sunday: To the American Protestant Church in The Hague as stand-in choir at

morning service: above and behind the congregation - hymns, responses, prepared pieces. Jenni did very well in her solo - and a treat to watch Peter at the small organ. Tea and coffee with the minister and congregation afterward.

Monday: Journey home: reflecting on Duane's(?) ability to squeeze the coach into small places - thanking Mathilde, our guide, for all the glasses of water so thoughtfully provided, wishing her luck in going choral herself. Wonderful memories, including Friday's late-night storm, lovely views, windmills old and new, culinary delights, the rijstafel, the bar, and even missing the scheduled shuttle home!

Finally, huge thanks to David John for all his coordination of the Tour and to Andy for helping us sing with conviction.

Where to next please?

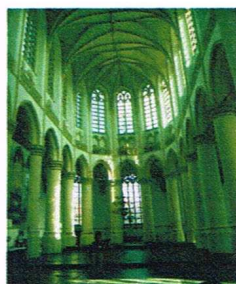


David John invited a few people to jot down some thoughts toward the end of the weekend. Here they are:

Being encouraged; to enjoy so many 'different' people and to sing; hearing a member of 'Magna Voce' say he was truly blessed by our choir and choir-master.

All are so friendly; great ability to keep going; wonderful standard of singing in sometimes difficult situations.

Sociability of chorus; great teamwork; leadership - Andy is fab; he has moulded our performances into something sensitive and moving; weekend has been totally and unexpectedly fun.



Brockham Choral Society

<http://surreycommunity.info/brockhamchoral/>



BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

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Dates for your Diary

Christmas Concert

Saturday 6 December 2008
7.30 pm, St Martin's
Church, Dorking:
Vaughan Williams,
Howells, Carols for Choirs
& Audience; mulled wine
and mince pies.

Carol Singing

Tuesday 9 December 2008
Reigate Beaumont Care
Home, Betchworth Broome
Park Nursing Home.

Spring Rehearsals

Start 6 January 2009

Valentine Dinner

Saturday 14 February 2009

Spring Concert

Saturday 28 March 2009
7.30pm,
St Martin's Church,
Dorking:
Bach St John Passion.

Stainer's Crucifixion

5 April, St Mary South
Holmwood; 11 April, St
Barnabus Ranmore; one
other tbc.

Summer Rehearsals

Start 14 April 2009

Summer Concert

Saturday 30 May 2009
7.30pm
St Paul's Church, Dorking:
American Programme.

Teas on the Green The Choir "Jolly"

June/July dates tbc.

CHOIR COMMITTEE

Conductor	Andy Phillips	office@chameleon-arts.co.uk	01252 873313
Chairman	Jenni Lee-Potter	Jenni.Lee-Potter@virgin.net	0208 393 9276
Secretary & Music Committee Liaison	Jenny Bartholomew	J.Bartholomew@downslaw.co.uk	01306 882927
Treasurer	Ed Criswick	ed_criswick@tiscali.co.uk	01372 739858
Librarian	Anne Tennent	anne@mollie.demon.co.uk	01372 274803
Concert Publicity	Reuben Suckling	reubendunleyhill@btconnect.com	01483 283957
Promotion/ Development/ Marketing	Nick Tanton Nick Hands-Clark (NFMS Rep.)	nick.tanton@btinternet.com nick.hands-clark@friendsprovident.co.uk	01306 885939 01306 887870
Cocert Manager & Ticket Sales	Maria Chadwick	mariachad1953@aol.com	01306 886711
Fundraising/ Social/ 100 Club	Estelle & Tony Earnshaw Jules Welch	estelle.earnshaw@dsl.pipex.com	01306 880053
Entertaining Friends	Angela Haeems	rahaeems@aol.com	01737 249975
Membership & Friends Secretary	Romey Criswick	romeycriswick@tiscali.co.uk	01372 739858

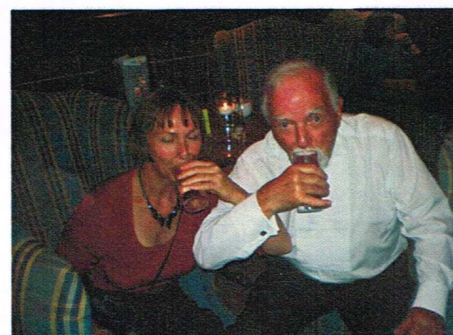
Part Representatives

**Please inform your Representative
if you cannot attend a Rehearsal.**

Sopranos	Janet Budd	01737 843077
Altos	Moirra Sinden	0208 770 0764
Tenors	Richard Ingle	01306 611268
Basses	Bruce Pennell	01306 882318

Random Notes

- BCS Rule No.1: The Musical Director is always right.
BCS Rule No.2: In the event that the Musical Director is wrong, please refer to Rule No.1.
- The profit (including Raffle and Bar) from the Quiz Night, 1 November 2008, was £615, an excellent result. Thanks to the organisers and helpers, and to all who came and enjoyed a fun evening.
- Q. What's the definition of perfect pitch?
A. Throwing a viola down a well without it touching the sides.



- And Moira still managed to write the Tour Report!

Mary's Mixed Green Bean and Mint Salad

This salad can be made with fresh or frozen beans, and for those of you who have enjoyed this at various Choir "Jollies", I have always used frozen vegetables!
Use a good mix of French beans, peas and lots of broad beans, (when I have had lots of courgettes I have used these as well). The next ingredient, and the most important, is a good French dressing, with lots of fresh mint, at least a bunch from the supermarket or lots and lots from the garden. When I make my dressing I put all the ingredients in a jar and give a good shake, then add the finely chopped mint and shake again.

I am sure you all have a good recipe for dressing, but I use 3 tbs wine vinegar to 9 tbs oil, the lat-

ter being half olive oil and half a lighter oil, (I use vegetable). You also need to add a teaspoon of Dijon mustard and generous seasoning. Cook all the beans to your own liking and refresh under cold water, but do not cool too much as you now pour over the mint dressing and leave to cool fully, turning once or twice to cover well. Make in the morning or day before to let the flavour mature! (like me !!!)
Now you all know how much of a cheat this salad is I will have to think of another to impress you with.
Enjoy,
Mary Suckling.