

Newsletter



Editor's Introduction - Fred Harrison

Daffodils remind us of the advent of Spring as we look back on recent events in the Society's year, appreciate Andy's generous remarks, pay tribute to Maude and Mike, two of our long-time members, note that a picture may be worth a thousand words, whilst also recognising on the back page that a lot of content has sometimes to be crammed into a few tight paragraphs.

I also point out that the back page now carries our new dedicated website address. If you've not yet sampled it, please do. Ed Criswick does a great job there with much up-to-date information. It has also

recently shown its effectiveness in recruiting new members.

And congratulations to Simon Ames, Society Friend, whose Surrey Mirror reviews appear regularly on our pages, for his award of the OBE in the New Year Honours List for charitable services, in particular as Honorary Secretary of the Air Squadron.

Finally, many thanks to all our contributors, and to Messrs. Crow Watkin for their continuing support with the printing.

Messiah by Candlelight - 20th November 2010 - A Review by Simon Ames

The concert was a complete sell-out, a fine result for this enterprising Society whose purpose to provide fine music has been enhanced with special theatre-style lighting for the stage and, for this occasion, an array of coloured candles that flickered gently all along the window galleries. An enchanting scene.

Those who enjoy Handel's greatest oratorio often say that they cannot get enough of it. This turned out to be a performance that could satisfy any appetite.

BCS brought dignity and style to the setting, elevated meaning to the inspirational beauty of the words and music. This was Andrew Phillips, the Society's Music Director, at his best in baroque.

Angela Kazimierczuk (soprano) balanced the fast-moving aria 'Rejoice Greatly' with the tender and emphatic 'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth' with fine skill and clarity. David Bates' role as counter-tenor embraced the robust 'O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings from Zion' with the humbler 'He was



The Organ

The Organist



Despised' Paul Bradley was masterful in the recitative tenor role. Jamie Hall was a convincing and authoritative baritone, notably with the aria 'Why Do The Nations So Furiously Rage' which calls for command and presence.

Amongst the ranks of the Chameleon Arts Baroque Orchestra, Philip Barratt, Organist and DoM at London's Savoy Chapel, played the key continuo role at the delightful hand-made chamber organ with masterful, flowing ease.

Perhaps the finest of the chorales produced by the choir was their powerful and inspired rendering of the mighty Hallelujah Chorus. Overall, the entire performance was a significant achievement, well rewarded with a standing ovation.

(Photos - Simon Ames)

A View from the Front - Andy Phillips

I can't help thinking, as I glance at the clear blue February sky, that I could have made things a lot easier for myself by following my family into the safe and secure world of science and engineering. My brother, an electronics genius, is about to retire from his own company on a big fat pension. My father was a highly respected design engineer in the field of pneumatics who worked on the development of air pressure controllers for many different industries.

For me, there is no prospect of a big fat pension (should I ever have the time to hang up my vocal chords) though I guess there is a similarity with my father's career in that we both deal with the control of air pressure!

But then, if I'd followed the MPC (maths, physics, chemistry) A Level route at school (as demanded by my parents) I'd have missed

the enormous privilege of working with the members of Brockham Choral Society.

I am really fortunate to have been dragged 'from my comfy bed' to join such a friendly, enthusiastic and talented group of individuals. It's so good to be making music again and to be sharing the journey with people who want to learn, who want to improve both individually and collectively and more than anything else want to share their joy of music. It's good to see Brockham Choral Society developing into a truly successful choir - with an exciting social life, a solid administrative foundation and a list of increasingly successful performances.

Pah! Who needs MPC when you have BCS?

Christmas Celebrations, 11th December



Powell Corderoy Primary School (upper)
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (lower)



Mardi Brass



The male chorus, both sacred and profane!



The ladies' chorus - just profane! Simon Dinsdale at the Organ

(Sacred photos - Fred Harrison, Profane photos - Soo Abram (not quite true!))

What is a "Rubbing Out Party"? - Sue Tanton

This is when a few choir members get together to share a convivial meal (a BCS speciality, but different in that the guests have to work for their supper!) and rub out the markings from copies used by the choir at the preceding concert, before return to the Performing Arts Library. For Messiah the volunteers totalled 10 hours rubbing out (and supper time on top) despite choir members themselves having a few days rub-out time after the concert before hand-in.

Based on our observation of the state of the copies this time around, we would like to suggest a few tips to make the job easier in future:

- When there is time before hand-in please do your own thorough rubbing out. This includes markings left by other choirs - we pride ourselves that BCS returns entirely clean copies, even if others don't.
- It really isn't necessary to cross out all the solo pages - use a paper clip or post-its to mark the pages where you will be singing.

- If you are a Soprano your music will always be on the top line - so it shouldn't be necessary to highlight it in the left margin (unless there is a 2nd Soprano part).
 - For other parts, now that we are getting so much more professional as a choir, consider whether you can manage without always marking the line on which your part appears.
 - Ink or biro should never be used - and soft (BB) pencil is easier to rub out than hard (H).
- Finally please return copies promptly - the choir is fined for the late return of the whole set if just one copy is missing. Having said all this, as with all BCS events, the rubbing out party is fun - and others are welcome to join us to cut down the time it takes each person! Speak to Anne Tennant or Jenni L-P!

The "Elijah" Workshop, February 5th



Admin.



Coffee Makers

Fenella and Colin, the New and the Old (members!)

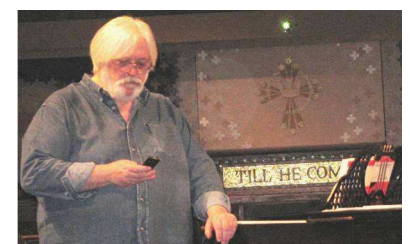


Cakes: Yummy!



The Ensemble

The Director, with cryptic message!



Cheesy Vegetable Slice - Jules Welch-Williams

(Prepared for Maude's party, below; recipe asked for by various members)

1 chopped onion
2 medium grated potatoes
2 small grated carrots
2 small grated courgettes
250g crumbled feta cheese
125g grated cheddar cheese
6 sheets filo pastry
60g butter
2 beaten eggs

- Combine onion, potatoes, carrots & courgettes in a bowl
- Add feta & cheddar cheeses
- place 1 sheet of pastry in baking dish, 23 x 28cm, and brush lightly with melted butter
- repeat with 2 more sheets
- press vegetable & cheese mixture on top of pastry into dish
- beat eggs until frothy & pour over mixture
- cover with 3 remaining buttered sheets of pastry and finish off with melted butter.
- cut into squares & bake at 180C for 35 mins.



Maude's Birthday Party - Jackie Rance

(Photos: Ed Criswick)

Sunday 10th of the 10th 2010, an auspicious date, as the Chinese might say, dawned bright and sunny. This boded well for a wonderful 90th Birthday Party for Maude.



We gathered at Hill House Farm thanks to the generosity of Maureen and Gareth Jones who had once again opened their home for a Brockham Choral Society social occasion. Thanks to them and also to Jules, Estelle and their talented team of creative cooks for producing such a lovely spread for lunch.

They say that the sun shines on the righteous; this day was no exception. The weather was glorious. So much so that the

meal and succeeding proceedings, introduced by Chairman Jenni, continued by Fred, with a spoken tribute by Alan, and a birthday cake, were enjoyed outside in the autumn sunshine.

Maude, who wears her years with ease, looked lovely at the party, surrounded by family and friends. She responded not only with speech but, on request, in song, with one of her Christopher Robin party pieces, impromptu, a capella, and al fresco! It is hard to believe that she has reached 90! Maude has been a member of Brockham Choral Society for 40 -odd years and is living proof of the efficacy of singing for good health. We are thrilled that she came back to sing with us in "The Messiah", and hopes to perform in "Elijah".



Maude's enthusiasm and zest for life bubbles out of her. She still works regularly in a Reigate Charity shop.

So let's give three hearty cheers for Maude; and wish her many congratulations on reaching such a milestone birthday.

Mike Jarvis, a tribute - David John

Mike Jarvis, long time member of the Society until he and Gill moved to York in June 2008, sadly died in September last year. His funeral service, which took place in the Choir of York Minster on September 28th, was attended by a godly representation of his Brockham friends. Tony Newell bade farewell to Gill and Mike in the November 2008 Newsletter. Here, David John adds his own memories of Mike. (Editor)

Most of us who had the good fortune to know Mike will have fond and happy memories of him. For me and many others he gave support and encouragement. He quickly became a friend and through his good humour (when I got used to it), his genuine interest in people and unfailing good advice, my enjoyment in singing grew.

Mike's contribution to the Choir was immense. He was encouraged to join by Chris Pratt in the seventies; a time when he was a pirate on the Redhill Market Hall stage. Fortunately for us he did 'jump ship', soon found his fine tenor voice and never went on the stage again.

He became Chairman in the early 80's when BCS was beginning to tackle some of the more challenging works in the choral repertoire. The Choir continued to develop through the 90's and to the present day. Mike's time as treasurer from the mid 90's to 2007 was key to this development. His experience, dedication and imagination ensured that the funds were always available for first class soloists, instrumentalists, rehearsal pianists and conductors; at the same time subscriptions were kept at modest levels.



Bi-annual tours are now well-established. The first, to Bruges, was organised by Mike, who ensured it was great fun. Perhaps part of the success was due to his "first in, last out" policy at the hotel bar. The 'tour' was thus established and Mike organised the following three tours - all equally successful.

I cannot think of a BCS activity in which Mike Jarvis did not participate whole-heartedly. I know that the Society was very important to him and the opportunity to make great music amongst so many friends was, for him, both thrilling and a source of joy.

What is left to say but.. thank you Mike, we are so pleased you didn't go back on the stage.



Brockham Choral Society

www.brockhamchoral.org



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CHOIR COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------|
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| 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 |
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| | (Jules Welch-Williams) | juliennewelch@hotmail.com | 01306877393 |
| 100 Club | Tony Earnshaw | | |
| General & NFMS Rep. | Nick Hands-Clark | nick.hands-clarke@friendsprovident.co.uk | 01306 887870 |
| General | Angela Haeems | rahaeems@aol.com | 01737 249975 |
| Friends Secretary | Moira Sinden | raingod@tiscali.co.uk | 0208 7700764 |
| (Membership Secretary) | Romey Criswick | romeycriswick@tiscali.co.uk | 01372 739858 |
| (Ticket Sales) | Maria Chadwick | mariachad1953@aol.com | 01306 886711 |
| (Grants Co-ordinator) | Sue Tanton | sue.tanton.home@btintemet.com | 01306885939 |

Dates for your Diary

Annual Dinner
Saturday 5 March 7.30 - 10pm
Newdigate Village Hall

Spring Concert
Saturday 16 April 7.30pm
St Martins Church, Dorking
"Elijah", Mendelssohn
(note rehearsal, Thurs. 14 April)

CD Rehearsals go on
Tuesday 19 April 8pm

CD Recording
Thursday 2 June, rehearsal.
Saturday/Sunday 4/5 June,
Recording sessions,
St. Barnabus Church, Ranmore

Tour Rehearsals begin
Tuesday 14 June 8pm

The "Jolly"
Saturday 16 July 7pm
Hillhouse Farm
Misbrooks Green

Tour Final Rehearsal
Sunday 24 July 11 - 4pm
Friends Provident

Yorkshire Tour
Thursday 28 July to
Monday 1 August

Teas on the Green,
Sunday 7 August 2.5pm
Brockham Church Hall

AGM
Tuesday 6 September 8pm
Powell Corderoy School

Rehearsals begin
Tuesday 13 September 8pm
Powell Corderoy School

Autumn Concert
Sat. 19 November 7.30pm
St Martin's Church, Dorking
Poulenc "Gloria", Verdi "4 Sacred Pieces". (note rehearsal Thursday 17 November)

Christmas Concerts
Friday 2 December
Reigate Priory..
Saturday 10 Dec. 3pm & 7pm
St Martin's Church, Dorking

For continuing details see the Website:
Much information there!

Part Representatives

Please inform your Representative if you cannot attend a Rehearsal.

| | | |
|----------|--------------|---------------|
| Sopranos | Janet Budd | 01737 843077 |
| Altos | Moira Sinden | 0208 770 0764 |
| Tenors | David John | 01306 730376 |
| Basses | Ray White | 01306 888959 |

Vacancy After quite some years as the BCS archivist, Sandy Luff now wishes to vacate the position. If you would like to serve the Society in this way, please talk to Chairman Jenni. Sandy will be pleased to give details about what the role entails.

Members' News.

- Welcome to the following members who joined since last September's Newsletter:

Sopranos.

Jane Machin: joined after coming to the Summer Concert; has sung with Andy before.

Fenella Whinney: has sung with BCS before; enticed back by Elijah.

Altos.

Alison Jesson: friend of Estelle; sings with Dorking Community Choir; attracted by our programme.

Chris Griffin: friend & neighbour of Alison; also sings with Dorking Community Choir, up for more challenging singing.

Jenny Regan: wanted to sing with a local choir; found us via our website.

Basses.

Antony Bagshaw: wanted to get back to singing, found us via our website.

David Godding: sang with Gravesham Choir in Gravesend; recently moved into the area; found us via our website.

- Frances Watson, much revered alto, whimsical poetess, long-time Newsletter editor, moved with husband Clive to Suffolk last Autumn. Their address is High Winds, St. Michael's Bay, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9EH.

Ed the Treasurer reports:

- Congrats. to Sue Tanton for netting a grant of £1000 (last year £500) from the HR Taylor Trust, and £200 via Waitrose Dorking's Oct. divvy.
- The Quiz Night, 24 Oct. (noted by Anne Tennent as being a good time had by all, with wine, fish & chips, winning team "F-Minus", 2nd "The Clangers", last "First Past the Bus Pass") raised £442, of which £190 came from the raffle.
- Messiah, 20 Nov., Income £5853, Expenditure £7467, lost £1614 (less than budgeted loss of £2421). 335 tickets sold (246 via members).
- Andy's Anagrams, 9 Dec., raised £147, and he donated the champagne prize!
- The Carol Concerts, 11 Dec. sold 90 afternoon tickets, 62 evening. Income £1212; overall loss £1344 as against budgeted surplus of £574. The Teenage Cancer Trust collection raised £680 (£1260 last year when attendance was much higher).
- Do your on-line shopping via www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brockhamcs or www.Easysearch.org.uk and the retailer gifts a small sum back to the Choir.
- Excitement - At the Messiah rehearsal, apart from loss of light, the double bass player's G-string snapped as Ed passed her - pure coincidence!