

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Choir updates.

Choir members are aware that more changes are afoot for members of the music team. Keith is anxious to rejoin the ranks of the bottom bass and Natasha reluctantly left us a little while back. Lucie Bebbington-Lewis has proficiently accompanied the choir at a number of practices recently and is now, officially, our Assistant Accompanist.

Countdown to December.

Next week we take part in the British Legion Remembrance Service in Holy Trinity Church, Pontnewydd. This is always a special occasion with a good choir turn out. It is our only engagement in November.

We've already started rehearsing (new) items that will be included in our Christmas concerts. This year there is less pressure to commit to memory items that are only sung at Christmas – we will use black folders to hold copies. We must ensure that we use them properly. New items include pieces arranged by our Musical Director Martyn that are already being enjoyed by choristers. Make sure that your music case contains the music that was listed for possible inclusion in our Christmas programme.

Latest events.

Cwmbran town centre was the setting for a Cancer Research supporting event on the morning of Saturday 19th October. Several organisations took part, including members of Pontnewydd Male Choir. Their participation was in response to a late invitation to open the event. Those who were there did a grand job under Keith's direction.

Ladies Committee.

While some of you are reading this there will be a lively group of ladies enjoying themselves in a McMillan coffee evening in the adjoining hall. We hope it's being a huge success for a worthwhile cause.

Here's a reminder about the trip to **Stratford-upon-Avon on Sunday 8th December** – the cost is £15. The coach will leave Cwmbran railway station car park at 9:00am and leave Stratford at 5:00pm. Contact Gwyneth Nutland on 01495 200551 if interested. The hard-working Ladies Committee hope the coach will be full – they deserve our support.

Choir web page.

We now have a new web site. The old one www.pontnewydd.org.uk has been removed and replaced with www.pontnewydd.com which is much easier to update and maintain. Webmaster Doug Hopkins is keeping it up-to-date with further development promised in the future. Chairman Ian Evans and Steve Spokes have also been involved and the result is a top class site. Google takes note when a web site is 'hit' frequently – so let's make sure pontnewyddmalechoir.com suffers a veritable barrage of hits.

Gnashing of teeth.

Sunday 27th October 2019 is a date that will be remembered as a tragic day in the history of a proud nation. Beaten but not bettered will be the opinion of trillions of (nearly) unbiased rugby supporters. A partially sighted referee and touch judges were aided and abetted by stupid tv judges – they claim. There are just one or two supporters who claim that any side who can beat The All-Blacks might be capable of becoming World Cup Winners! It needs to be said that the England team were obviously incredibly lucky because the All-Blacks played their second team - just in case they had to play Wales.

Seriously though – I understand that there will be one chorister who will be cheering for the fourteen welsh boys in the English team. (Play-offs for third place are not important unless the result is the right one.)

Just for fun.

What is the connection between a palindromic year, an offspring of a Maori butcher and PMC?

This should have been easy for PMC rugby followers.

“The World in Union” – an arrangement of part of Holst’s “Planet Suite” - became the theme tune for the 1991 Rugby World Cup and is being added to our repertoire. It was first recorded by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, whose Maori father was a butcher!

By the way: Australia beat England in the final and the referee was a Welshman!

Can you solve this cryptic clue?

One way to serve meat, keeping it within fine margins. (6 letters)

Royston Fisher.....Editor.