



T CS Celebrates its 45th Anniversary

The Celebration took the form of a garden party on Sunday 31st July in the lovely garden of Amberley Rectory on a rather grey day. The display of concert programmes, and photographs of the choir taken at various times through the Society's history were a source of great interest especially noting how people had changed in the intervening time! In spite of the tendency to light drizzle the afternoon was much enjoyed by all those present. Our Chairman, Anne Shipton, welcomed everyone:

"It is good to see so many members, past and present, here today. We also welcome patrons and friends. It is a great pleasure to have you with us. 45 years is certainly a milestone for the



society and a great tribute to you all that we are still a flourishing choir. We have had our ups and downs, but we are still here!

I think Molly Neale, our founder, would be proud of us. Two founder members, Estelle James and Shelagh Fitzarthur are still singing with us today. I hope that you will all have a chance to look on the photo board and see how we have all changed over the years.

I joined the choir in 1966 with two friends. We were welcomed with open arms particularly as we were all still at school. We brought the average age

of the choir down by quite a lot. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we have young people of school age in the choral society today? Your committee constantly discusses ideas for involving local schools but so far with not much success. However, let's be positive. We are all here and this is a celebration so let's enjoy ourselves.



Thanks must go to Sandra and Mike Tucker for allowing us to invade their house and garden and to the caterers, Catherine Bennett and Marjorie Harrison, who have worked so hard today to provide a fabulous spread.. But most of all, I would like to thank all of you because without you there would not be a choral society. Enjoy the party."

Anne

Conductor's Notes

I was very pleased with the way members pulled out all the stops at our Summer Concert. There were some thrilling moments, both loud and soft; indeed, I thought we achieved a number of very responsive performances. Perhaps the highlights for me were *Brigg Fair* (I thought Lewis Brown sang with great distinction), *My Romance* (of course!), Anne's delivery of *To keep my love alive* with the audience hanging on every new way of bumping off unwanted husbands (and every cheesy rhyme!), and the great restraint, then climax of *You'll never walk alone*. I am glad we tackled the Rutter Madrigals, though they proved more difficult and controversial than I had foreseen. The hard work we put into them certainly paid off. There were a few ragged entries, probably my fault, and maybe words could be clearer from time to time, but it is a real pleasure to conduct the Tyndale Choral Society. And it was great to see a good audience.

The need to bring in helpers (who, I may say, all told me how much they enjoyed singing with us) underlines the importance of keeping up our recruiting efforts, particularly tenors and basses. We have a fine set of men's voices by many local choirs' standards, but it only needs a few to be unavailable, for whatever reason, to make it difficult to bring off the sort of repertoire I think you want. We need to keep our ears open for new members all the time.

So, we proceed to the more familiar world of Haydn and the idealised countryside of Bliss. I am pleased that the *Nelson Mass* seems to work so well with us; with the Tyndale Sinfonia's trumpets and strings, I am sure it will be memorable. I hope you will come to really enjoy the more elusive delights of *Pastorale*; the notes are not especially difficult,

CONCERT INFORMATION

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm
St James' Parish Church Dursley
with the Tyndale Sinfonia

Haydn ~ Missa in Angustiis
(*Nelson Mass*)

Bliss ~ Pastoral (Lie strewn the white rocks)

Concert rehearsals will be in Dursley Parish Church on Monday 31st October and 7th November at 7.30pm and on the the day of the concert at 2.30pm.

Dress:

Ladies: Long black skirt and black blouse.

Men: DJ or dark suit, white shirt and black bow tie.

AGM: Wed 23rd November at Dursley Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

but it needs a certain 'style' to come off. I look forward to helping get that style over the next couple of months.

To round the season off, I hope as many of you as possible will be able to sing carols at Amberley. I have been asked to include mostly familiar repertoire, but I hope you won't mind the occasional surprise!

Ian

From the chairman....

Dear Friends,

As we begin the second half of the season I urge you all to attend as many rehearsals as you possibly can. Let's make this concert one of our best! Please also let someone know if you are not able to attend – we had some very poorly attended rehearsals in the summer and it makes it very difficult for Ian, particularly, when he is trying to organize a rehearsal schedule.

The summer concert was fantastic and I hope that the choir enjoyed themselves as much as the audience did. I have received many complimentary remarks about our performance.

All those who attended the garden party had a great time and it was good to see friends who were past members and also some patrons. The photographs of the choir from its inception to the present day caused much hilarity. I intend to display them again for those people who were not able to come to the party.

We do very well with the weekly sales stall so if you have anything that you think is saleable please bring it along. It all helps towards fund raising, which is essential to the running of the society.

I look forward to seeing you all at the first rehearsal.

Anne

Critique of the Summer Concert

'With a song in my heart'

**at St Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge
on Saturday 16th July 2005**

This was an unashamedly popular, light programme which certainly matched the warm, sultry evening and obviously had much appeal

for the church was full. Perhaps the title of the concert - **With a Song in my Heart** - was the crowd-puller! The Tyndale choir are an impressive bunch and their 60 or so voices produced some excellent singing and sustained climaxes. Equally importantly, their diction is clearly enunciated and I could hear virtually all the words, so important in madrigals such as *It was a lover and his lass. When daisies pied* and *Draw on sweet night*. These and others by Rutter were well differentiated by the choir under its ebullient conductor (and arranger) Ian Harrold. The concert had begun with three folk songs sensitively arranged by Percy Grainger. *Brigg Fair* had a notable young soloist in Lewis Brown whose tenor is easily produced and characterful.

Three young female teachers calling themselves **A Touch of Wind** played two selections on their clarinets. Placed as they were in the north aisle, the indifferent acoustics led to the sounds produced being variable and the introductions difficult to hear. The more successful pieces, such as some *British folk songs*, contained fewer sustained notes and had more staccato passages. But, sorry, I found a certain monotony in the continuous sound of three clarinets.

Ian Harrold's arrangement of twelve or so songs by Richard Rodgers ended the programme on the required light-hearted note even though several of these pieces, for example, *This nearly was mine*, is surely an intimate song quite unsuited to a choir. That said, the songs were all well sung and soprano soloist Anne-Shipton's *To keep my love alive* received a well deserved encore. Other soloists all did well as did the secure accompanying pianist James Corbett. The concert ended with that tuneful oldie *A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square*. I know, 'cos I was there!

Donald Hollins

These reminiscences of the early days of the choir arose from a conversation between Julia (Secretary) and Rosemary Bowmer (a former Secretary of TCS) when she was invited to the Anniversary Garden Party.

Sweet Memories

I joined the choir in 1963 – the one date I can be certain about as it was the year my father died. Looking back, apart from singing hymns in church, I hadn't done any singing since leaving school during the war. So, with a certain amount of trepidation, I was taken by another member to my first practice. It was 'The Messiah' - well-known, easy to sing. I was in my seventh heaven.

We practised in those days in North Nibley Village Hall. Mollie Neale, the choir's founder and conductor, lived in a farm on the edge of the village and sang in the church choir. She was anxious to perform 'The Messiah' if she could recruit more singers. The advertisement in the 'Gazette' produced the Tyndale Choral Society!

It must have been extremely difficult for her, having a mixed ability choir, half of whom couldn't read music. She managed, in quite an extraordinary way, to bring us together to perform major choral works. We always had top rank soloists, with professionals forming the orchestra for the November concert. The summer concert was a smaller affair, primarily to raise funds for the winter concert.

I can't remember the date when we all received the material to make our long black skirts, cosy on a cold winter's night. These skirts were a wonderful disguise. Underneath we could wear woolly knickers and thick tights and fur lined boots. We could scarcely walk.

On one occasion, we were singing Vaughan Williams' 'Benedicte' in the Cathedral. At the practice, I learned what it was like to stand for an hour and a half on cold stone. I decided that when the cold sensation, climbing my legs, reached the

top, I would drop dead. Precautions had to be taken. My neighbours watched astonished as I laid my pile of old newspapers on the ground. My platform worked perfectly.

It is very difficult to write about the society without mentioning some of the characters who sang. There was the bass, with the bushy beard, who took umbrage at not being chosen to lead in the basses with "Whom seek ye?" in a Bach Passion. However, Mollie relented and all was well. Whenever I hear it, I think of his rich bass voice and strong Gloucestershire accent.

Then there was the loyal tenor who come to practices regularly from Ashby de la Zouche (I think it was) to Stinchcombe Village Hall, which was where practices were then held. He came by bus.

It was a great day for the Society when David Austin appeared on the scene. He formed a small chamber choir of experienced singers to give recitals over the winter. I was their first secretary and was responsible for changing the name from Tudor to Oriana Singers.

As the Oriana Singers were so much a part of the Tyndale, my memories must inevitably overlap. In the 70s, the Oriana decided to have a money raising event in the shape of an Austrian evening. There would be candles in bottles on tables, supper would be served with wine, I acquired a poster from the Austrian Embassy. We would sing Brahms and Austrian folk songs. At a committee meeting a member said that, as candles were terribly expensive, she would get her craftwork class to make them. We sold all the tickets. The evening was going splendidly.

Touching up my face in the interval, I noticed I had an odd appearance. My nostrils were completely black – as were everybody’s in the hall that night. By the end of the evening it was impossible to see to the end of the hall for the smoke... Clearly, the candle makers had forgotten some vital ingredient.

Like every organisation, the choir had its ups and downs almost reaching the point of closure at one stage. Luckily for us, Bob Clifford (who was then the County Music Advisor) rescued us, taking practices for a season and stabilising us. He brought humour back into our rehearsals.

Mollie always began every session with a funny story. One I particularly enjoyed was about a bass applying for a place in a chamber choir. This entailed an audition. The first question was, “What is your range?” After a long silence, the nervous recruit said, “About thirty feet...”

The Tyndale Choral Society has given incalculable pleasure to many people. May it continue for many years to come.

Rosemary Bowmer
TSC 1963-1981

Getting to know you!

As a further part of the occasional series to inform you about the members of the committee and their musical interests, Julia O'Connor Beach has agreed (arm twisted) to pen a few words to introduce herself.

A quick thumbnail sketch: I was born in nineteen.... - is that the phone?- in Coventry. I studied languages (German, Spanish, Russian) and business studies at Birmingham, then worked in Frankfurt am Main for seven years, working as a PA/administrator. I must have enjoyed it, but much of it is lost in an alcoholic haze. I married Brendan and moved back to England in 1985 to Newbury at first, then to Charfield in 1989. I don't work for money these days, but my last proper job was Estate Office Administrator for the Tortworth Estate Company, a traditional agricultural estate owned by Lord Ducie and his siblings.

As far as music is concerned, my taste is pretty well catholic. Whilst in Germany, I saw the great touring rock bands (for Audrey's benefit, these include the Rolling Stones, Queen, the Eagles, the Who, Santana, Bruce Springsteen), and loved every loud and colourful minute. I was equally thrilled by Stephane Grapelli, Julian Bream, the Dubliners, Jessye Norman... Nowadays, I am a volunteer steward at St George's, Brandon Hill, and thus attend about thirty concerts a year from

classical to folk, from jazz to world, and love all of it. Well, nearly all!

Singing? For my first school singing test, I was a bag of nerves, attempted 'Father Eternal' and kept running out of puff. Having scored 7/10 and a "Never mind, dear" from our music teacher, Miss Wallace, I never dared try out for the school choir or madrigal group. So it took some nerve to turn up at a TCS rehearsal one March evening... some might say a brass neck. I find singing with the TCS immensely enjoyable but very difficult indeed – it is all very new to me. However, when I have practised a piece enough to gain some measure of false confidence, I can then really begin to savour the physical and emotional benefits of the act of singing with others. Mind you, I'd probably be more vocally suited to a Rugby crowd at Twickenham. I think that's why Ian sometimes wears his Rugby shirt – he's hoping I'll take the hint. He'll be lucky.

With affection,
Julia O'Connor-Beach

Members

This is the current membership list held by the Secretary.
If your name does not appear below, please advise the Secretary of your details
so that our records can be kept up to date.

Sopranos

Fiona Chandler
Mavis Church
Glenis Ewer
Anne Glanville
Clare Harrison
Marjorie Harrison
Lesley Hewish
Diana Hobbs
Mary Ann Laybourne
Lynette Magnone
Doreen Manning L
Marion Miller
Kathryn Palmer
Angela Pendlebury
Anne Shipton Ch
Valerie Skinner
Claire Smallridge
Judith Taylor
Joyce Theaker
Lesley Townsend
Sandra Tucker
Ros Wakefield
Vanessa Weaver
Elizabeth Young

Altos

Catherine Bennett
Jill Brown
Jenny Coles
Gill Dickinson
Kate Delaney
Shelagh Fitzarthur
Betty Hebditch
Jacquelin Hill
Wenna Hills
Estelle James
Sally Lamerton
Lorna Lane Tr
Francis Neale
Anne Nuttall
Julia O'Connor Beach Sec
Lisa Randell
Kate Reeves
Wendy Richardson
Miriam Salman
Eve Tudgay
Sue Walshaw
Leslie Wrankmore

Tenors

Rev Philip Butcher
Jean Dabinett
Bill Emsley
John Ewer
Peter Harney
Audrey Sewell
Andrew Young

Basses

Brian Bolsher
John Hicks
Brian Kitching
Derek Manning
Brian Neale
Tim Page
John Palmer
Dick Skinner *
Geoff Whiley

Names in *italics* - committee members:

Ch - Chairman: *Sec* - Secretary: *Tr* - Treasurer: *L* - Librarian

* - Editor

Diary Dates and Other Matters ...

Committee Meetings

A meeting is planned for Tuesday 6th September. If there are matters which you want to be considered or raised, please see members of the committee as soon as possible.

New Members

Please encourage potential new members to come along to rehearsals at the start of the season, in particular, and make sure



New Members

To encourage new members, and give them an uncommitted opportunity to 'try us out' there will be another "Come along and sing session" at the 1st rehearsal on the 5th September. Please bring friends or acquaintances who might be interested. Please make them feel welcome.

you introduce them to the Secretary, Julia O'Connor Beach, so that she can welcome them and take their details.

Subscriptions: Since the 23rd May has passed, the subscription will now be £26.00, or £13.00 for full-time students. If you yourself pay tax, you can Gift Aid your subscriptions very simply so that the Society can reclaim the tax paid - a free bonus to the funds! The Treasurer,

Lorna Lane (alto) will be happy to provide details.

Fund Raising:

There will be a further fundraising Christmas concert at Amberley on Thursday 8th December so keep your eyes and ears open for details. More information on these will come later.

Sales Stall: The stall will again be in operation throughout the rest of the season. It makes an important contribution to the funds, so bring along books, plants and other produce, records, tapes and anything else that is saleable, and in any case visit the stall and buy.

Saturday 12th November:

Don't forget that help will be needed to erect and dismantle staging so please contact the Concert Manager (Catherine Bennett) and Assistant (Jacquelin Hill) with offers of assistance - *they need your help once again!*

Wednesday 23rd November -

Annual General Meeting in the Parish Centre, Dursley at 7.30pm.

AGMs are often thought of as boring but everyone is encouraged to come as it is a particular opportunity for members to raise questions/comments directly to the committee, as well as being a social occasion with supper as well. It would be good to see more of you there.

Your Committee

What you need to know – the various positions, an idea of the scope of the job, and the current incumbents.

The Committee members of a Registered Charity are technically Charity Trustees, and as such are governed by Charity Law – they have a duty of care and diligence, and are individually and collectively responsible for the efficient running of the Charity.

The three officers, appointed annually by the committee and confirmed at the AGM:

Chairman: Anne Shipton - stepping down this November - Captain of the ship.

Hon Treasurer: Lorna Lane. - all things financial.

Hon Secretary: Julia O'Connor-Beach - happy to step down any time. Minute taking, correspondence, etc.

The other members are appointed for a three year period and are ineligible to serve in the fourth year:

Concert Manager: Catherine Bennett. - staging matters.

Assistant Concert Manager: Jacquelin Hill - indispensable general helper.

Concert Secretary: Lynette Magnone - co-ordination of 'Front of house', hospitality, seating plan.

Fundraising: Sandra Tucker - co-ordination of fundraising efforts.

Friends Secretary: Frances Neale - recruiting and corresponding with Friends; seeking sponsorship.

Publicity Secretary: Jill Brown - promoting the Society and its concerts, recruitment, posters/programmes/tickets.

Librarian *ex officio*: Doreen Manning - obtaining, distributing, collecting and returning hired music; management of the TCS music library.

NFMS Secretary *ex officio*: Audrey Sewell - our representative to the Federation.

Musical Director: Ian Harrold attends *ex officio*, in an advisory (non-voting) capacity.

We also have Section Representatives, who ensure the attendance register is completed at rehearsal, befriend new members, and follow up any unexpected absenteeism... pastoral care, if you will. (The SRs are not required to attend the main committee meetings.)

Soprano SR: Marion Miller

Alto SR: Wendy Richardson

Tenor SR: John Ewer

Bass SR: Derek Manning

The Music Committee, which meets once a year in July to discuss the following year's concert programme (although the Musical Director does necessarily have the final say), has a representative from each section. Current members: John Ewer, Ian Harrold, Derek Manning, Wendy Richardson, Anne Shipton.

Do support them all in their work – after all, it could be you, next year!

Julia O'C-B