



Christmas Newsletter 2019

So here we are again, another year under our belts, and it's been another year where we have seen more progress and successes. We also experienced our first overseas tour and what a success that was. It provided us with a great experience that will enable us to build on in the future.

So, what else happened during the year? It started with our Christmas concert with Treharris Male Voice choir, which, because of the fire in Cwmdare Club was held in Saint John's School. The fire also prevented us from organising our party night before Christmas so we held it in January in the Rugby Club and that was a night to remember with hilarious entertainment provided by Tracey and the gang and a few songs provided by a few waifs and stray choristers loosely known as the Dollies.

Also in January we welcomed several new choristers who quickly came up to speed and are now a great supporting part of our choir. Well done girls!

Then it was all speed to get us ready for Croatia and I must at this point give thanks to those on the committee who worked hard organising behind the scenes to make that trip both successful and memorable.

As the year progressed we had a number of concerts. The Botanical Gardens, the Coal Exchange in Cardiff, Hay Festival, and what about our first annual concert in Saint Margaret's Church in Mountain Ash? That was a special night with a packed audience with a great support from the Mountain Ash Rugby Club singers and an amazing performance by Andrew Chinnock on the piano. And what a performance from our bursary award winner, Mali Watkins, who enthralled us all with her wonderful harp playing.

I think it is worth at this point mentioning our new bursary award arrangement. It was great to see that the idea was embraced so enthusiastically by our choristers and additionally providing great PR for the choir in giving something back to the community. Next year we will be bothering the head of music at Saint John's School to recommend their most promising musical student.

Our future is certainly looking bright. We are now in a great position with enough songs in our repertoire to hold our own concerts so from now on we don't have to rely on others to fill our events. So, with that in mind the Committee are hard at work investigating new and exciting projects for the coming year and further future events.

Looking forward we have our Christmas concert at Nelson Community Centre with the Treharris boys. In January on Saturday 18th we will be holding our choir's post-Christmas party in Cwmdare Club. Don't miss this, as there may be a few surprises. On the following Saturday we are with the Cardiff RFC Choir in St John's Church in the Hayes, Cardiff. Later in the year we will be performing in Hereford with the Police Choir. There are also lots more in the cooking pot for the year, which is turning out to be one of our busiest so far.

Next year will be our fifth year of the choir's beginning and it would be nice to celebrate it with something special. So watch this space.

To conclude, I would like to thank our remarkable music team, Llinos and Rebecca, for their dedication and professionalism during the last year with a special thanks to our new young apprentice accompanist Faye Jones. My thanks must also go to our wonderful committee whose dedication and commitment provide a solid structure for all that goes on at the sharp end.

Finally I must also thank our devoted patrons who provide support and financial help. Be assured that this support is much appreciated and as a thank you we would like to invite you to our 'patrons evening' at the Cwmdare Club on Monday 17th February.

Thank you and a very Merry Christmas to you all. Denise Manning Chairperson.

Croatia!

Our biggest achievement in 2019 was getting a large number of our choristers and supporters to Croatia on our first big trip abroad in May to the FAKS Choral festival. It was a huge success and all had a wonderful time. Watch this space for a new voyage being planned very soon!



A visit to the Welsh Botanical Gardens saw us venturing west, on a bank holiday Saturday in May. We also indulged in an afternoon tea and a buggy ride!



150th Anniversary of Aberdare Park

In July we were honoured to take part in the celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of Aberdare Park, singing with other local choirs.



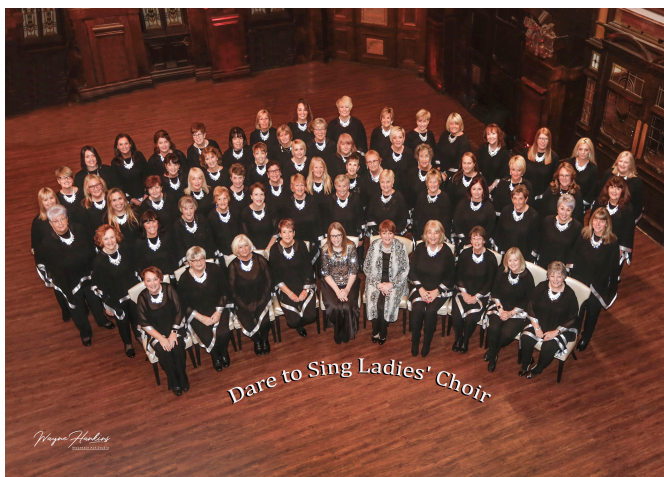
Fun...draising and parties!!!!

There is always great support from all the ladies in our social events and fundraising. Thank you to all who have helped and donated this year.



The Coal Exchange Hotel

In November we had the amazing opportunity to perform at the iconic Coal Exchange Building in Cardiff Bay at the Monumental Masons dinner. A beautiful venue with fabulous acoustics! Our glamorous ladies felt very at home!



First Autumn Concert – A Great Success!!

In October we held our first autumn concert at St Margaret's Church, Mountain Ash. Supported by the fabulous Mountain Ash RFC singers and the talented Pianist Mr Andrew Chinnock it was a night for the choir to be proud of. We're already looking forward to this becoming an annual event



Hay-on-Wye Winter Festival

At the end of November we had the chance of a day out in the beautiful town of Hay, performing at their weekend winter festival. This gave us a chance to try out our lovely new coats and scarves, practice our Christmas programme, and enjoy a good social!



A warm welcome to our new apprentice accompanist Faye Jones.

Faye is sixteen years old and a sixth form pupil at St. John Baptist High School, Aberdare. Her interests are music, art, English literature and dance. Faye began studying music from an early age, firstly learning to play piano and then progressing onto clarinet, tenor horn and percussion. She is a member of R.C.T. Youth Orchestra, 4 Counties Youth Orchestra, Rhondda Symphony Orchestra, Hibernian Brass Band, Showcase Performing Arts and Ballet Soar Merthyr. She enjoys playing the organ at St. Winifred's, alongside Rebecca. Faye is very grateful for the invitation to shadow Rebecca on Piano with Dare to Sing and would like to say a big thank you for this opportunity. Look out for Faye in our forthcoming concerts in 2020 and the choir wishes her very best in all her future studies.

DARE TO SING BURSARY AWARD

We were extremely proud in November to award our first bursary to help a young, talented student in the valley at the start of their music studies and career. At our autumn concert Mali Watkins, a student at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun delighted us with her performance on the harp and we were thrilled to present her with the 2019 award.



Keep up with our latest news, concerts and videos on Facebook, Twitter, Daretosing.co.uk and our new YouTube channel: DareToSing Ladies Choir!

Forthcoming Events for 2020

Christmas Party this year to be held on Saturday 18th January at Cwmdare Club.

January 25th – Concert with Cardiff Arms Park MVC at St Johns Church – The Hayes

February 17th – Patrons evening

April 25th – Concert in Hereford with the Police Choir

May – Our 5th Birthday Party!!!

Thank you to... as always, Llinos and Rebecca, we couldn't do any of it without you both. Big thanks also to Emma Mann and everyone at Cwmdare Club, and a huge thank you to our patrons, friends, family and supporters.

Merry Christmas

Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020 for all choristers, patrons, families and friends.



Keep Singing!



