



Christmas Newsletter 2023



Once again, a very positive year for our Choir, Dare to Sing, so a big thank you to all you dedicated choristers and our super music team of Llinos and Anna for making it such a success. It never ceases to amaze me the commitment and enthusiasm generated to keep our Choir the thriving, popular organisation it has become.

I must also mention and thank our loyal group of patrons who help and support us in everything we do and help spread the Choirs spirit throughout the community.

As you read through this newsletter you will see what a busy year it has been with us joining some of the more established Welsh male choirs. Our name is certainly getting around!

As some of you are aware we lost our wonderful Choir President, Ruth Madoc, just under a year ago. It was a shame that she was with us for such a short time as she had great plans to work with the Choir.

Moving forward I would like to announce that we have been lucky to have an acceptance as our new president from a lovely lady by the name of Shelly Rees Owen who is an actor and is well-known for her appearances on the Pobol y Cwm television programme. She has also been nominated for a Welsh Bafta Award and has appeared in many TV dramas. We look forward to her involvement in the future of Dare to Sing. And what has our Choir in store for the future? I'll mention just a few events.

In the new year, on the 16th of February, we will be performing at Saint David's Church, Neath with Pelenna Male Choir, and a guest artist. On the 23rd of February we will be supporting Treorchy Male Voice Choir in their Saint David's Day concert at Saint Elvan's Church. On the 2nd of March we will be singing in Green Street Chapel in the morning and in the afternoon, we will be at Cwmdare club for a Welsh afternoon tea in support of the Eisteddfod. A busy day in store! On May 11th we will be hosting our annual concert with our friends from Aber Valley Male Voice Choir, so lots to look forward to!

And what about the big news in the pipeline! Our planned trip to Lake Garda to join their Annual Choir Festival to take place in October. I know that most of you are really looking forward to this tour and I'm sure that we will 'wow' them with our songs as we did in our last overseas tour to Croatia. More information will be provided as soon as the details are finalized.

Finally, a big thank you to our loyal committee members who pull together, often behind the scenes, to ensure the smooth running of our Choir in making it the success that it is today. Well done ladies!

And finally, may I wish you all the compliments of the season, I hope that Christmas and the New Year brings you all that you wish for.

Denise Manning Chairperson

Highlights this year...

2023 has been a busy year! In April we were honoured to be asked to take part in Pendyrus Male Choir's evening of music in St Elvan's church. It was a thrilling evening and we especially enjoyed joining the men and solo artists in a rousing rendition of One Day More at the finale. We were also honoured that they saw fit to invite us again to their September concert at Tonyrefail Community School. It was here that we had the good fortune to meet our new president Shelly Rees Owen and we are looking forward to a great future with her.



Waiting in the wings in St Elvan's!



Our new President, Shelly Rees Owen.

Brecon Food Festival

We had a great time in June at the Brecon Food Festival, it made for a great day out for the ladies!



Fun in the sun in Brecon!



National Eisteddfod Proclamation Procession The sun was shining on the town on June the 24th for the Eisteddfod Proclamation Procession. The ladies were thrilled to take part, and we are very much looking forward to the Eisteddfod in RCT in 2024. What a sight that was to see! That same sunny June weekend, after enjoying our summer social evening at Cwmdare Club, we were up bright and early the next morning to take part in the 100-year Anniversary Ceremony of the Aberdare Cenotaph.



Eisteddfod Proclamation Parade



In the summer we were also honoured to again take part in the annual Caradogfest Gala Concert, along with the massed choirs of Cwmbach, Cwmdare and Pelenna MVC. It was a delight to also see local talent Cat Southall and Ragsy make an appearance. We are already looking forward to next year's event which promises to be bigger and better than ever!

We also made our now regular appearance on remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph for the singing of hymns, it was lovely to see a huge turnout on a very wet day, and see the new 100 anniversary commemorative plaque unveiled.

Christmas Events!

This Christmas you can see us in St Elvan's Church on December the 9th, with the Lewis Merthyr band and Town Church Primary School Choir.

We will also be entertaining the shoppers at IKEA on December 16th in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Charity.

Hereford Trip. In October, we were thrilled to be invited back again to sing with the Hereford Police Choir, this time in the beautiful St Margaret's Church, Wellington. Combined with an afternoon of shopping and good food in Hereford, it was a great way to kick off the festive season.



DARE TO SING 2023 BURSARY AWARD

This year we were pleased to award our fifth bursary to Esyslt Minett. Esyslt was nominated by Mrs Davidson, Leader of Music at St John Baptist High School. She is 13 years old and self-taught on the piano since just before lockdown. She has progressed from single handed to both hands, fairly quickly. She loves to play, and has a really eclectic taste in music, playing anything from The Beatles, Elton John, Queen, to a little bit of classical, and modern pop songs. She has recently this past year been learning music for church, and has now started playing in church on the electric organ. She also won the school Eisteddfod playing a modern pop song she had memorised by heart. But she just loves to learn and has such a passion for playing. We wish Esyslt lots of luck and enjoyment with her studies and music in the future.



Esyslt receiving her cheque from our Chair Denise Manning and Treasurer Moira Evans



Charity Fundraising.

Each year we support a number of local charities. Last Christmas we once again donated to the Salvation Army food bank in Aberdare, and during the summer supported the National Trust by performing in Duffryn Gardens. This Christmas we will be supporting Maggie's and Noahs Ark charity concerts.



Coming soon in 2024...

16th February – St David's Church Neath as guests of Pelenna Male Choir.

23rd February – St Elvan's Church Aberdare as guests of Treorchy MVC

2nd March – morning, Green St Chapel St David's Day event., afternoon, Cwmdare Club afternoon tea in aid of the 2024 Eisteddfod.

11th May – Dare to Sing Annual Concert with invited guests Aber Valley MVC.

October – Choir Tour to Lake Garda.

Plus, many more to be announced!

Keep up with our latest news, concerts, and videos on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/daretosing/>

Twitter: @daretosingchoir

Our New website: www.Daretosing.co.uk

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@daretosingladieschoir7301>



As a choir we have been very fortunate to have the support of Digital Communities Wales who have provided training to some of our ladies enabling us to continue in our mission to become a paperless choir. This will continue in the new year so thanks to them for all their help!

Thanks also to St Elvan's, Cwmdare Club, our fabulous musical team and all our fabulous Patrons.

Thanks also to our many enthusiastic photographers, including Gillian Matthews, Joanna Hartley and Llinos Davies.

Contacts:

To join our waiting list email: daretosing2017@gmail.com or message us through the website and social media.

For concert and event enquiries email: DTSeventscoordinator@gmail.com

For all other inquiries email: Secretarydaretosing@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Choristers, Patrons, Family and Friends.

See you all in 2024 and KEEP SINGING!



