

ISSUE #21
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CHEPSTOW MALE VOICE CHOIR



VICE-PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

On March 10, 1988, twenty five choristers met to form Chepstow Male Voice Choir with Pamela Morgan as their Musical Director and Elaine Rigby as their Accompanist. Bill Morgan was elected Chairman with Geoff Walker as Secretary. Practices were held initially in the Leisure Centre, then briefly in Thornwell Road School before settling at the Dell School where we have rehearsed ever since.

The Choir's first engagement of Warwick's coat of arms on the He had carried out the first 1524. Since 1988 the Choir has gone from strength to strength; it has doubled in numbers and established an international reputation for itself.

July 17 will see us appearing in St Mary's Church, Chepstow for a concert as part of the Chepstow Festival, just a few days over 20 years since our first concert there in the same festival. Here's to the next 20 years!

FULL HOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS

A capacity audience of 550 enjoyed a feast of variety for the Choir's Christmas Concert in the Leisure Centre on December 15. We were delighted to welcome Holly Holyoake as our soloist and the 20 year old soprano enthralled the audience with her varied programme.

The concert was to have included a children's choir from a local school but illness in the music staff meant we had to make other arrangements at short notice. True to form, our accompanist Rosemarie Lewis contacted the Primrose Hill School Choir from Lydney where she also acts as accompanist and persuaded them to appear with us. What a treat!

Their conductor Rachael Parker lead the 20 young children in a performance lacking any trace of stage-fright! They were captivating and sang a memorable 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' with us before Holly and the Choir closed with 'O Holy Night'.

What a wonderful prelude to Christmas.



ZIMBABWE ACCOL-AID

The Choir continues to raise funds for the Atholl Evans Hospital in Zimbabwe.

Towards the end of 2007, Brian Howard asked the Choir if they would sort out any unwanted good quality clothing to be sent to his brother, Gordon, in Harare for distribution to local people who are having such a hard time under the existing regime. Our contributions helped to collect over 4 tonnes of clothing which has been containerised and sent via Durban.

Then in the New Year's Honours List we were delighted to see that both Gordon



and his wife Kathleen had been awarded the MBE for their services over many years to the sick and aged.

Congratulations to them both and our best wishes for an early improvement in the fortunes of this embattled country.

PYRENEES IN SEPTEMBER

Arrangements are all finalised for our visit to Tarbes in September. Watch this space!