

# TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



## BRIEF HISTORY 1982

By Norman Martin  
Registrar & Honorary Archivist

## JANUARY

### **Thursday January 21st**

After rehearsal on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> the country suffered its worst climatic conditions for decades. A severe downfall of snow, and drifts many feet deep, which brought the Rhondda to a virtual standstill. It took a fortnight to resume activities and rehearsals recommenced at Bethlehem Chapel as the schools had not yet reopened after the Christmas holidays.

### **Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Colston Hall, Bristol**

The Choir started its 1982 concert schedule with a return visit to the Colston Hall, Bristol. The concert was organised by the International Police Association, and it must have been a disappointment for them to see the hall was approximately half full. Indeed this was the lowest audience attendance since the Choir first appeared there. Despite this, the concert was an enjoyable one, as the audience was most appreciate. Jenny looked delightful in her new green and white concert dress and it was fitting that in the “Year of the Scout”, the Northwind Scout and Guide Band (whose average age was 12 years) appeared with the Choir. It must be said that with all the exuberance of youth they certainly livened up the evening. Unfortunately on the bus after the concert Cas Powell (2T) was taken ill and after being given attention by Cyril Pritchard (1B), the bus was able to make its return journey. The Rodneys were entertained at the Horfield Barracks, the station of the 37<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment TAVR where on arrival were given a meal (curry) and a drink. At the end of a very pleasant evening the Regimental Plaque was presented to Islwyn Morgan.

## FEBRUARY

### **Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Methodist Church, Blackwood**

A re-visit to the Methodist Church, Blackwood with a concert organised by the Blackwood Round Table. The proceeds were in aid of providing an E.C.G. machine to the local hospital. There was an added interest as the concert was being recorded for a film depicting some aspects of the Welsh way of life. This film will be shown on the new Channel 4. Mr Archibald, who was in charge of filming, stated that they had already done such a type of film in England and Scotland. It was fitting all round, as the capacity audience made a great contribution to the fund, the artists Wyn Davies and Josephine Jones being on “top note” and the Choir, raising to the occasion, giving one of its better concerts. This ensured that the film would enhance this aspect of Welsh life.

### **Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **The Pavilion, Porthcawl.**

The Choir returned to the Pavilion (they last appeared here in November 1975) with a concert organised by the Porthcawl Lions Club. On arrival, each chorister was given an imitation red rose to wear for the concert and when pinned to the lapel had a pleasing effect. With the continued illness of Sam Griffiths, Josephine Jones again appeared with Wyn Davies as soloist. The proceeds were in aid of the “Wales in Trust” appeal and to this end a £1,000 cheque was presented by the Lions Club to Mr

Knight, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, to this appeal. The members of the late bus had an enjoyable afterglow hour in the Seagull where they received an appetising chicken salad and five beer checks.

### **Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Annual General Meeting was held in the rehearsal room at 3pm. Mr David Brown (1B) was elected Vice Chairman. Roger Morse (1T) and Rhys Thomas (1B) were also eligible. Mr Cly Willis is now the Chairman and was installed by Mr Islwyn Morgan (Sec). This occurred because of the death of the Chairman Mr W. J. "Donna" Griffiths, and, owing to the respect and esteem in which he was held no other chairman was elected for 1982. The past chairman's plaque will be presented to Mrs Griffiths at her home next Thursday. Long Service (21) scrolls were presented to David Howley (1T), Keith Thomas (2T), David Powell (2T) and Islwyn Jones (2B).

### **Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Methodist Central Hall, Coventry**

After a decade the Choir revisited the Methodist Central Hall in Coventry with an engagement shared by the "Virtuoso in Brass". As this was a St David's Day Concert it commenced with the singing of the Welsh National Anthem. With Jenny perched precariously alongside the elevated piano, and despite the low number of choristers (66) the concert was enjoyed by the large audience. After the concert the late bus was entertained in the Trinity Guild Rugby Club, where at the end of the night the choristers received a book, "Blood Sweat and Beers", depicting the history of the Club.

## **MARCH**

### **Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>**

The funeral of John B. Lewis (1B) who died last Tuesday night took place today. John had been a chorister for 10 years and Mr J.C.Jones paid a tribute to him for his faithfulness to the Choir and to his quiet, sincere personality.

### **Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **City Hall, Hull**

The Choir set out on its longest trek to fulfil an engagement in Hull, which required the Choir travelling 625 mile round trip. Leaving Treorchy at 8.30am, the buses arrived at Warrington (for the usual break) at 12.30pm and left at 2pm. Arriving in Hull at 4.15pm the choristers booked into the Centre Hotel and made their way to the City Hall for tea at 5.30pm – soup, hot dinner, chocolate gateaux, a most satisfying meal! After the seating rehearsal it was back to the hotel to change into concert attire, to return to the City Hall for the concert at 7.30pm. As this is one of the Choir's favourite venues, both acoustically and audience appreciation, and despite the disappointing number of choristers, the challenge was met by the Choir giving one of its better performances. This was matched by the singing of the soloists and the playing of the accompanist, resplendent in her burgundy dress. The near capacity audience left the Choir, artists and accompanist in no doubt of their enjoyment of the evening's performance by their attentive listening and generous applause. After the concert a convivial evening was spent in the hotel. After and English breakfast the buses left at 9.30am, arriving in Walsall at 12.45pm, leaving at 2.30pm and arriving home at 5.15pm.

## APRIL

### **Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Albert Hall, Nottingham**

The Choir set forth on the Nottingham Trail with a sixth visit to that city under the auspices of John Player & Sons. The arrangements were the same as previously, staying in the Savoy Hotel with the concert in the Albert Hall. The journey started with the buses leaving Treorchy at 11am and as they were travelling along the motorway those on Dave's bus received a rude awakening. There was a loud, frightening bang as one of the back tyres blew out, and pieces of tyre fragments flew past the window. The Choir arrived at the Savoy Hotel at 4pm and at 5pm were sat down for a splendid meal of beef dinner, four vegetables, apple pie and cream. The concert in the Albert Hall again proved an excellent one with the Choir performing "Send in the Clowns" for the first time and "Bryn Myrddin". Jenny wore a new sapphire blue dress, navy blue choker and sapphire pendant. Josephine and Sam were in "top note" form and there was an appreciative audience. After the concert the usual convivial evening took place in the Savoy Hotel. The buses left at 9.45am after a first-class cooked breakfast, one going to Cosford RAF Station, the other returning home and arriving back at 2pm. Thus another enjoyable weekend in Nottingham ended.

### **Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy**

This was the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive Annual Good Friday Concert with the Parc & Dare Band. Again the president Mr Clifford Taylor introduced Mr Alex Jones MP. Despite the fact that it is a long-running engagement the hall was full and with the band playing and singing the concert was a successful one. "Comrades in Arms" was sung with the band although no rehearsal with them had been held.

### **Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest**

The Choir made their first appearance at the Polytechnic of Wales, Treforest with a concert organised by the Educational Institute of Design, Craft and Technology. This concert was sponsored by Trustee Savings Band and the guest of the evening was Sir Alex Smith. The UPCS Band, who shared the programme, left for a tour of Germany after the concert.

### **Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Salisbury Cathedral**

After a period of 15 years and on the day of the Rugby Union Cup Final between Cardiff and Bridgend (the result 12 all, but Cardiff were awarded the cup as they scored the only try of the game), the Choir travelled to Salisbury. At the meeting place of the buses on the A46 Leighton James (1B) was taken ill and John Mallin went to a nearby house where he arranged to phone for an ambulance, and shortly afterwards it arrived and took Leighton to a hospital in Newport. The Choir continued its journey and arrived in the Red Lion at 6.20pm. Tea and sandwiches were served in the Churchill Rooms and the Choir arrived at the Cathedral at 7.15pm. The concert proceeds were in aid of Greathouse Cheshire Homes and owing to Jenny's attendance with the Welsh Keep Fit Team, Bryan Davies was the accompanist. Singing in this magnificent cathedral, which claims the highest steeple in the land, was a wonderful experience and the singing delighted the 400 people in the audience. It was a fine

beginning for Phillip Francis (2T) who made his debut with the Choir. As there was no interval the concert finished at 9.30pm and the early bus left at 9.45pm.

## MAY

### Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

The Choir travelled to Swansea to make its 10<sup>th</sup> record for the EMI Company in the Brangwyn Hall. The arrangements were the same as previously – commence at 2pm, tea at 5pm, finish at 9pm. The artist was Josephine Jones (soprano) while Sam Griffiths and Wyn Davies contributed to some Choir songs. At the organ was Mrs Hazel Davies. Many of the songs were performed for the first time by the Choir, being “The Lord’s Prayer”, “The Lonely Steppe”, “The Smile Beyond The Looking Glass”, “Ballero”, “An Evening Prayer”, “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” and “Jerusalem”.

### Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

The Choir paid a return visit to make another record. This time it was with Bryn Yemm. This was a “one off recording” of popular religious music, and to promote the sales a video recording was made of the Choir in full dress uniform which will be show in the major stores selling the record. The Choir arrived at 1.30pm with dinner at 5pm and the recording finishing at 6.45pm. The filming continued until 9.20pm. These songs were given their first performance: “How Great Thou Art”, “Soul of my Saviour”, “Ave Maria”, “The Old Rugged Cross” and “At the End of the Day”.

### Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### Assembly Rooms, Derby

On Cup Final Day (Queens Park Rangers 1 – Tottenham Hotspur 1) the Choir travelled to make its first appearance in Derby. The Choir left Treorchy at 1pm and arrived at the Assembly Rooms at 4.45pm. in the square in front of the rooms the members witnessed a festival of Morris Dancing. At the rehearsal it as found that the stage arrangements were not satisfactory. By hard work and enthusiasm by some members this was all put right to the satisfaction of Mr J.C .Jones. After the rehearsal tea was provided – a self-serve cup of tea and pre-packed sandwiches, taken in a standing position in a limited space in the kitchen! The concert was a revelation. Despite of the low numbers (61) the Choir rose to the occasion and with Josephine Jones and Jenny (with Mrs M. Wade acting as page turner) at their supreme best, together with the inspirational manner of Mr J.C. Jones, the 1,200 audience gave absolute quiet during each item, and gratifying applause after them – the performance pleased them. This fact was left in no doubt when the Choir received a standing ovation at the end of the concert. After the concert the members spent a pleasant hour in the Assembly Room Lounge..

## JUNE

### Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Albert Hall, Nottingham

The Choir made an “up and down” to Nottingham to perform in a concert in celebration of Mr Harris Mortimer, the famous personality in the brass band world,

who was 80 years of age. The buses left at 11.45am and after a pleasant bus trip in glorious weather, arrived at 4.30pm. the weather indeed decided Mr J.C. Jones to travel in shorts! After a rehearsal with the combined Coventry and Faden Bands, the choristers had tea. The concert started at 7.30pm in the Albert Hall to a packed house and this together with the glorious weather proved to be a “hothouse”! Fortunately the Choir left the stage after their items and thus had a cooling off period. As on so many occasions the choristers seemed to sense the importance of the engagement and performed magnificently, and with the band on top form, the happy atmosphere promoted by Harry Mortimer and the final touch of opening a bottle of champagne, from which a glass was given to Mr J.C. Jones and Jenny, the entire gathering wished him a “Happy Birthday”. Indeed a very pleasant evening. After the concert one bus returned home, arriving back at 3.30pm, while the rest of the choristers spent the night in the Savoy Hotel

### **Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad**

The Choir, together with the Upper Rhondda Comprehensive School Band appeared in the Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad in connection with the Rhondda Festival. The guest soloist was Josephine Jones who had just returned from American where she was the soloist with the tour undertaken by the Dowlais Male Choir. Owing to Jenny being with the Welsh Keep Fit Tem in Demark, Bryan Davies was the accompanist. As usual the band and the soloists were in excellent form and the Choir responded in no uncertain way. With an audience of 350 and the Choir giving its first public performance of J.S.Bach’s “Ave Maria”, the evening proved to be a most enjoyable one.

### **Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Sherman Theatre, Cardiff**

The Choir made its first appearance in the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. The concert was organised as a “Welsh Evening” for the delegates of the National Association of Colliery Overmen and Deputies (NACODS) who were attending their National Conference in Cardiff by the South Wales Branch of the Union. The choristers were the recipients of liquid refreshment before the start, and during the interval of the concert. Singing in the Sherman Theatre did not please the majority of the members as it did not appear to be acoustically suited, but reports by some of the audience after the concert allayed these fears. As Jenny was still away Bryan Davies was the accompanist and with Sam Griffiths and Josephine Jones in excellent form the delegates certainly had a “Welsh Evening”. In appreciation of the Choir Mr J.C. Jones, Bryan Davies, Sam Griffiths and Josephine Jones were presented with a miniature flame safety lamp. Mr C. Willis (Chairman), Mr I. Morgan (Secretary), Mr J. Mallin (Treasurer) attended a private function at the Parc Hotel after the concert at the invitation of the Branch Officers of NACODS.

## **JULY**

### **Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Civic Hall, Solihull**

On Ladies Final Day at Wimbledon (Miss Navratilova won 2 sets to 1 against Mrs Lloyd), the Choir set forth on their first visit to Solihull. The buses left Treorchy at 3pm arriving at the Civic Hall, at 6.30pm. the Choir immediately held a seating

rehearsal in the concert hall and found it not the best acoustically speaking venue. After the rehearsal the members were served with a splendid salad tea. The concert commenced at 8pm and with a full house, Josephine, Sam and the Choir at their individual best, the concert was a successful one – ending in a tremendous ovation. A pleasant start for Meirion Pengelli (2B) making his first concert appearance. After the concert a pleasant hour was spent at the hall bar, where many new friendships were made. Both buses left at midnight, arriving back at 3.30am. Indeed a very happy and successful first appearance in Solihull.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Cardiff**

After a lapse of nine years the Choir returned to the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre in Cardiff. As last time it was a Festival Concert whereby the winners of the eisteddfod performed and this time the winners came from an eisteddfod organised by the Health and Social Services Recreation Association (Wales). Delegates from all over the country attended the concert and in continuity was in the capable hands of Mr Alun Williams OBE of BBC Wales. With such an excellent MC together with the combined talents of the various winners, a soprano, lady pianist, euphonium player, tenor and the Choir, singing well up to standard (despite the long summer break and only one rehearsal). The evening was a most enjoyable one, especially for Mark Rees (2B) who was making his first concert appearance.

### **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **St David's Hall, Cardiff**

The Choir was privileged to appear in the new St David's Hall, Cardiff. This magnificent hall had recently been opened and this was the fourth concert to be held there and it fell to the Choir the honour to be the first amateur choir to appear there. The concert was organised by the Rotary Club of Cardiff in conjunction with the Salvation Army (Canton Division). The artists were the Canton S.A. Band, Susan Rees (a fine soprano) and the master trombonist Don Lusher. The members responded to the honour by providing the largest Choir of the season so far, indeed the Second Tenor were in full strength, and matching the splendour of the hall, by entertaining the capacity audience with some excellent singing. It must have been a thrilling experience for Eric Morgan (1T) who was making his first stage appearance. The compere was Mr Iwan Thomas BBC who maintained a professional continuity to the proceedings and with band, artists and choir in such good form it was a very satisfying engagement.

### **Thursday September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Cymmer Afan Comprehensive School**

The Choir made the short trip over the Bwlch to give their first concert in Cymmer Afan. It was held in the comprehensive school and the proceeds were in aid of the Urdd Eisteddfod which will be taking place in Port Talbot next year. The chairman of the Eisteddfod Executive Committee, Mr D. Hugh Thomas stated that his committee was pledged to raise £60,000 and this concert with a capacity audience, including the Mayor of Afan, made a valuable contribution to this target.

### **Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>**

For the second time the rehearsal room was visited by a party of American tourists. The visit to the Choir rehearsal is not a part of the itinerary of a travel agent, Boswell & Johnson of Cheltenham Spa, and the same courier Mrs Pat Woodhouse KP accompanied the party. Mr J.C. Jones made the visitors welcome as he explained each song we were rehearsing; and to complete the evening the second half of the rehearsal was taken up in providing a mini concert with “Cyfri’r Geifr”, “Men of Harlech”, “Laudamus”, “Little Innocent Lamb”, “Battle Hymn” and “Send in the Clowns” being performed. A convivial evening was arranged at the RAFA Club in Treorchy where food was provided by the ladies of the club and the sing-song by some of the choristers. The whole evening was covered by a reporter and photographer from the South Wales Echo.

## **OCTOBER**

### **Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Town Hall, Dudley**

After a period of four years the Choir reappeared in the Town Hall, Dudley. Again the organisers were the Rotary Club and the proceeds were in aid of a mobile cardiac unit. The Choir left Treorchy at 3.45pm, arriving in Dudley at 6.45pm. The concert commenced at 7.30pm and with a near capacity audience the fund benefited from £12,000. As always with such a fine hall, a good cause and an appreciative audience, the choristers rose to the occasion to give a successful concert. At the end of the concert the chairman after presenting the bouquets, stated that he would buy a round for all the choristers. That’s the best offer yet! After the usual feed, the early bus (with just 23 on board!) left at 11pm, arriving home at 1.30am. The late bus were entertained in the Masonic Hall.

### **Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **St Martin’s Church, Cardiff**

The Choir travelled to St Martin’s Church, Cardiff to make a BBC TV recording for two “Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol” programme. These will be shown on the new S4C channel on November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup>. The choristers wore lounge suits for the recording.

### **Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy**

The Choir gave their first Annual Autumn Concert in the Park & Dare. This venture proved to be a successful one from every point of view. The hall was full. Josephine Jones, Sam Griffiths and Wyn Davies were on excellent form. The Choir, despite the TV show last night, rose magnificently to the occasion. It was indeed an excellent start for the future Autumn Concerts.

### **Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Cathays Methodist Church, Cardiff**

The Choir was yet again privileged and honoured to give a concert in celebration of a centenary of a church. This time it was Cathays Methodist Church in Cardiff, a church we last visited 20 years ago. As Jenny was on holiday Bryan Davies was the accompanist, and in the audience were 102 visitors from New Zealand as the Maories Rugby Team is touring the country. These, together with the rest of the capacity

audience showed, by their appreciation of every item to have thoroughly enjoyed the concert. After the concert a get-together with the visitors and choristers took place at Glamorgan Wanderers Rugby Club arranged by John Mallin (2B). This was an outstanding success with the visitors showing that they could contribute to a successful evening. Such was the friendships formed that the Maories presented a plaque and two pennants to the Choir and a pair of cufflinks to Mr C. Willis, Chairman of the Choir.

### **Saturday / Sunday October 30th & 31<sup>st</sup>**

The Choir had recognition on the radio over the weekend. On Saturday the longest running programme “Desert Island Discs” with Roy Plumley, featured Mr George Thomas MP, Speaker of the House of Commons as its castaway. Of the eight records he chose, two were of the Treorchy Male Choir – “A Valley Called The Rhondda” and “We’ll Keep A Welcome”. On Sunday the BBC Wales “Choir of the Year” programme saw one of the Choirs sing “Y Fedwen Arian”. Commenting on this the judge played the Treorchy version as the standard to be achieved.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Choir’s rehearsal room was again privileged with a visit from the Maories. Eighty men and women were present and Mr J.C. Jones explained the arts and crafts of Choir training. The Maories play their last game of the tour against Wales in Cardiff, and as a memento of their visit two photographs of the Choir singing in St David’s Hall was presented to them. In response the Maories presented a wooden carving, typical of their heritage, to the Choir. With the singing of “We’ll Keep A Welcome” they left to enjoy the rest of the evening at Treorchy Rugby Club.

### **Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Civic Hall, Wolverhampton**

On the day the Maories tour ended with a fixture against a Welsh 15 at the Arms Park \*Wales 25 – Maories 19) the Choir travelled to Wolverhampton. This was organised by John Tucker for the Forresters. The charities benefiting from this engagement was Parkinsons Disease Fund and Jimmy Saville Stoke Mandaville Hospital Fund. The Choir left Treorchy at 1.30pm on a wet, cold afternoon, arriving in the Clevedon Arms at 4.45pm for chicken and chips and at 5.30pm the choristers were taken to the hotels, the Connaught and York. The concert started at 7.30pm and as it was Armistice time each member wore a poppy in his lapel. Again the response of the 1,700 audience showed their enjoyment of the Choir and soloists Josephine Jones and Sam Griffiths. After the concert a convivial evening was spent in the Starlit Rooms in the Connaught Hotel. After an English breakfast the buses left at 9.50am, on bus going home and the other enjoying the hospitality of the Crickhowell Army Camp. A very pleasant weekend.

### **Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Cwmbran Stadium Sports Centre**

To the assistance of another male choir, Treorchy rallied forth to pay their first visit to the Cwmbran Stadium Sports Centre to give a concert to boost the fund to enable the Cwmbran Male Choir to tour North America. With a most appreciative capacity audience, 81 choristers staging and an excellent hall acoustically, the evening was

most satisfactory. At the end of the concert the Conductor and the male artists, Wyn Davies, were presented with red carnation buttonholes and Jenny and Mair Roberts received bouquets. The Chairman of the Cwmbran Male Choir thanked everyone for their support, especially Treorchy and in appreciation the Conductor of the Cwmbran Choir, Mr Gareth Whitcombe, presented us with their Choir plaque. In reply Mr J.C. Jones implored the citizens of Cwmbran to fully support their Choir. The evening ended with a get-together where a splendid buffet was enjoyed by everyone present.

### **Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Choir held its Dinner and Dance at the Penrhys Community Centre. After an excellent dinner the speeches were ably handed by the Chairman, Mr Cliburn Willis, and the whole evening organised by Mr Mike Gale (Assistant Secretary) proved to be a first class social evening for the choristers, their wives and friends.

## **DECEMBER**

### **Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Trinity Church, Penarth**

For the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the Salvation Army, the Choir was privileged to give a concert in the Trinity Church, Penarth. It was in this church, and for the same organisation, that the Choir appeared four years ago. As before the church was full to enjoy the singing, and also to witness an unusual occurrence. Wyn Davies started his performance with “Dafydd Y Garreg Wen” but as soon as he attempted to sing he suffered an asthma attack, unfortunately he was unable to take any further part in the concert. To fill the breach the conductor called the ever faithful Sam Griffiths from the ranks, and he nearly did not make it because as he approached the rostrum he stumbled and fell. Fortunately he was not hurt and sang in the male solo items for the evening. The Choir gave their first public performances of “The Smile Beyond The Looking Glass” and “The Lord’s Prayer”.

### **Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Fairfield Hall, Croydon**

Again the popularity of the Choir filled the Fairfield Hall. This was the third visit of the Choir and the second under arrangements with Mr Bob Barratt. The artists were Sam Griffiths and Josephine Jones and they, together with the Choir, received enthusiastic applause from a most appreciative audience. This was an “up and downer” and the Choir left Treorchy at 2pm, the choristers returning home at 3.30am. Some choristers decided to stay the night at their own expense.

### **December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

Over the last week the Choir has been featured in the Financial Times, Sunday Mirror, on the radio and television. The reason for this spotlight was that the Choir had accepted an engagement, offered by Sir Geraint Evans, to sing in Westminster Hall on the occasion of the retirement of Jo Grimmond from the Parliamentary scene, This engagement was accepted on the information that this was to honour the man and that representatives from all political fields would be there. Then one day an article was printed in the Financial Times stating the Choir was appearing at the Hall to raise funds for the SDP Party. That started the ball rolling. Mr Islwyn Morgan and Mr John Davies were besieged by press and radio representatives to explain the significance of

the article. Both emphatically denied any knowledge of these arrangements, and the Choir cancelled the engagement.

**Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Royal Centre, Nottingham**

The year's concert programme ended with an incredible "first". For the engagement in the Royal Centre, Nottingham the Choir travelled by plane. Leaving Treorchy at 3.14pm the Brewers Buses arrived at Rhoose Airport at 4.20pm. The plane, a Viscount of the British Air Ferries, left at 5.10pm and tea, coffee and biscuits were served immediately after take-off. The members enjoyed this while viewing the fantastic patterns of various coloured lights as the plane passed over the various cities and towns. London, 20 miles away, was a particularly breathtaking view. The plane touched down at 6.10pm at the East Midlands airport where buses were waiting to transport us to Nottingham, 10 miles away. Arriving at the Royal Centre at 7pm, where rehearsals were held, the concert commenced at 8pm. The Royal Centre is a new building and is on the lines of the St David's Hall, and is a very fine, modern structure. At the end of the first half a short film was shown, commentary by Frank Bough, on the facilities offered by Nottingham Building Society, and while this was happening the choristers enjoyed refreshment. At the end of the concert, the 2,000 audience displayed their enjoyment of the artists, Sam Griffiths, Josephine Jones and the Choir with a standing ovation. The audience were again shown a film, the Robin Hood Marathon 1982, while the choristers adjourned to the bar, where a first-class buffet was provided and the refreshments were free. Later some of the audience joined in and new friendships were made. Leaving at 11.40pm, the bus arrived at the airport at 12.15am and take off was 12.25am, arriving at Rhoose after a pleasant flight, at 1.3am. The choristers arrived back in Treorchy at 2.30am. As the plane was full, some choristers travelled by bus to Nottingham and stayed the night at the Savoy Hotel. The concert was organised by the Nottingham Building Society and the proceeds were in aid of the RNLI. Thus the year's concert programme ended on a "high note" with a most enjoyable evening.