

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1986

By Norman Martin
Registrar & Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Tuesday January 4th

The year started with another Australian publicity programme. The choristers were called back early after the Christmas break to make a video film to promote the Australian tour. It was indeed an eventful day as the first snow of the winter fell and disrupted the travelling schedules. But despite this, 70 choristers braved the elements. As they entered the rehearsal room they must have thought a film epic was being filmed. The room was decked out with arc lights, cameras, trolley and a multiplicity of electrical technology. The next problems to be resolved was that owing to illness Mr John Cynan Jones was unable to attend and because of the weather Mr John Beddoe was unable to attend. As always the senior officers solved this problem by requesting the help of Mr Ieuan Morgan who helped with his usual happy approach and accustomed efficiency. The filming started at 2.30pm and finished at 6.30pm and throughout this taxing period the cheerfulness, co-operation and discipline of the choristers shone through, leaving a most appreciative film crew to complete a first class video recording.

FEBRUARY

Thursday February 6th

For the second time only a concert had to be postponed due to adverse climatic conditions. The first time was in 1979 in Hull. This time the journey was short but a hazardous route – to Brecon!

Saturday February 22nd

Assembly Rooms, Bath

With the first concert of the year the Choir returned to the Assembly Rooms in Bath. The engagement was organised by the Lions Club of Bath, together with Radstock and Misomer Norton, and the proceeds in aid of a Cardiac Recorder for the Bath Ambulance Service. The buses left Treorchy at 4.15pm, reaching Bath at 6.45pm and under the guidance of Robert Griffiths, the stage was rearranged with tiers and chairs and the concert started. With 95 on stage (after some difficulty!), an appreciative audience, but Sam unfortunately ill, Mair shouldered the extra burden with her usual efficiency and standards. Jenny played the piano superbly well and a jovial John Cynan ensured this was an exemplary start to the concert season. MC for the evening was Ken Matthews and thanks to the concert £1,500 was raised. It was a thrilling start for Mike Fleming (1T) who made his first stage appearance. After the concert the late buses enjoyed the hospitality of the Bath Rugby Club.

Tuesday February 25th

The AGM was held at the rehearsal room. For dedication to his work of recording the progress of the Choir for the past 24 years, the title of Honorary Archivist was conferred upon Norman Martin, Registrar. In the voting for the Vice Chairmanship between Haydn Erasmus and Cliburn Willis something happened for the first time – such was the popularity of each candidate that the result was a tie. On the second ballot Mr Willis was declared the Vice Chairman. The motion for the change in Choir dress was carried. Blue shirts and black bowties now replace white shirts and red frill and red bowtie.

MARCH

Saturday March 8th

The Marine Centre, Great Yarmouth

The Choir paid their second visit to Great Yarmouth with a concert once more in The Marine Centre. Leaving Treorchy at 8am and emergency stop was made at 9.45am as the side of Elwyn's bus was suddenly open! Stopping in Bedford for lunch the Choir reached the venue at 4.30pm on the bitterly cold and foggy day. Tea was served for the 100 people from only one waitress! The service was greatly improved by John Mallin and Ken Baldwin. A seating rehearsal was held and then the choristers dispersed to the Hotel Cavendish, which was difficult to find because of the fog! The concert started at 8pm for an audience of 800 people. Mair and Sam joined 80 choristers on stage (it would have been 90 had Alun Morris not fallen ill). Jenny played wonderfully and under the guiding hand of John Cynan the seal was set for an enjoyable evening. Some choristers felt that because of the awning over the stage the sound was not as good as it ought to be, but this was not reflected by the enthusiastic applause from the audience. Dilwyn Llewellyn (1T) had a special mention with regard the dangerous nature of his work. After the concert many stayed in the theatre bar before returning to the hotel. On Sunday the buses left 9.30am, one stayed in Bedford for lunch and the other stopped off at Milton Keynes RFC.

Thursday March 13th

Central Hall, Bargoed

How time flies! Tonight the Choir returned to the same venue where it appeared 29 years ago in February 1957. the concert was organised by Deri Mini Rugby Club. With such a fine hall and 95 choristers on stage, it was a most enjoyable concert. Clive White (2B) made his first concert appearance. Sam and Jenny performed as soloists with Jenny and John Cynan on fine form. With bouquets for the ladies and ties for the men, along with a plaque presented to Chairman Robert Griffiths, the audience were most satisfied and the funds of Deri Mini RFC was substantially improved. After the concert some of the choristers enjoyed the hospitality of the Bargoed Rugby Club.

Tuesday March 18th

St David's Hall, Cardiff

Returning to St David's Hall, the Choir appeared in the "Cardiff Festival Of Choirs". Also taking part was the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir, Wrexham Sirenian Ladies Choir, Verona James (contralto), Wynford Evans (tenor) and the festival orchestra conducted by Terry Jones. The concert was broadcast by HTV with compere Arfon Haines Davies. It formed two television programmes for S4C/ Despite the departure of the buses – 6pm – 86 choristers appeared on stage and the concert was started and finished by the singing of the Treorchy men. The buses left at 10pm with the late bus enjoying the pleasures of Pentyrch RFC.

Saturday March 22nd

John O'Gaunt School, Hungerford

The Choir paid its first visit to Hungerford with a concert in John O'Gaunt School. A staging rehearsal took place on arrival at 5.40pm and tea was served. Before the start of the concert John Cynan Jones realised he had no shoes and was looking for a size

10. Luckily Bert Stephens (1B) was able to assist! It was a typical school hall which didn't have very good acoustics. However with a full house and an amusing MC, it was an enjoyable concert all round. After the show the facilities of the bar were again enjoyed, with the early bus leaving at 11.15pm. The return journey was a difficult one due to very high winds and crossing the Severn Bridge was quite an experience.

Friday March 28th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

It was the "coming of age" engagement in the Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy when the combination of the band and choir gave its 21st consecutive annual concert. It was the first time the band appeared under its new name of the Parc & Dare National Fuel Distributors Band, thus displaying the sponsors name. This concert has not lost any of its appeal and once again the hall was full. Both performances were up to standard and the evening was a very successful one. Despite the piano requiring the running repairs by John Mallin and Daryl Stacey, Jenny performed brilliantly as always and was presented with a bouquet by Mr Robert Griffiths, Chairman. Also for the first time a raffle was held in the interval. After the concert choristers wives and friends enjoyed the hospitality of the Businessmen Club.

APRIL

Saturday April 12th

Town Hall, Walsall

The Choir returned to Walsall to give a concert organised once again by Honorary Member John Tucker. Leaving Treorchy at 2.30pm the buses stopped at the Castell Mynach where a group of the opposite sex were pushing a car. So gallant as ever out jumped several choristers to complete the operation! At 5.40pm we arrived at the County Hotel for a meal before departing for the Town Hall where a short rehearsal was held. The concert started at 7.35pm and with such a fine hall, a capacity audience, 87 choristers on stage, Jenny, Mair and John Cynan the evening was "set fair" for a splendid concert. The enjoyed of the evening's performance was displayed by the standing ovation. A memorable concert for David Phillips (2T) as he made his first stage appearance. During the concert "Happy Birthday" was sung for Pat Jenning and the proceeds of £3,000 were divided between the RNLI and the Choir. The RNLI also presented their inscribed plaque to the Choir.

Thursday April 17th

School Hall, Monmouth

It was "breaking new ground" time when the Choir paid its first visit to Monmouth. To enable as many choristers as possible to attend the bus left Treorchy as late as possible. As Daryl Stacey was unavoidably late for the concert the Conductor, seeing him at the back of the hall, invited him on stage. So Daryl, much to his embarrassment, had to walk through the hall in full view of the audience to take his place on stage. Because he wasn't feeling well Bryn Jones (2B) did not stage for the second half and before the singing of "Myfanwy", G. Williams (2B) also had to leave the stage due to ill health. Unfortunately the hall was not acoustically suitable while the piano let a lot to be desired! With everyone battling on, the capacity audience showed their pleasure at the evening's performance in the usual manner. The proceeds were in aid of Muscular Dystrophy and the funds were enriched by over £1,000.

Sunday April 20th

At the rehearsal room this evening the choristers were addressed by Mr Watts of Quantas Airlines and My Doug Firstbrook, Liaison Officer for the Australian Tour. Mr Watts advised the choristers on the pros and cons of the airflights, the procedure of obtaining visas and the joys and pitfalls of Bahrain and Singapore stops. Mr Firstbrook, the prime mover in getting the tour off the ground, spoke of the general conditions of South Australia, including clothes, wines, food and beer! He cautioned the choristers on the overwhelming hospitality that would be forthcoming.

Tuesday April 22nd

At the Committee Meeting this evening a letter of resignation was received from Mr John Beddoe, Deputy Conductor.

Saturday April 26th

Fairfield Hall, Croydon

Another Croydon concert arranged by Bob Barrett. The buses left at 1.15pm arriving at the Hall at 5.55pm for a rehearsal with organised David Bell. The concert began at 8pm and almost immediately the atmosphere was full of anticipation for a first class evening. This proved to be correct as with 79 choristers and Mair revelling in the hall's wonderful acoustics, a marvellous concert prevailed. Jenny tinkled merrily away on a first class piano and David Bell's sensitive accompaniment all under the direction of John Cynan's hand who was obviously pleased at everyone's efforts. The 1,000 strong audience enjoyed the fine standard of singing and the evening's entertainment was indeed excellent. At the end of the last group of songs, all arranged by Mike Sammes who was present in the audience, John Cynan invited him onto the stage. This he did to the applause of the audience and a standing ovation from the choristers. Such was the enjoyment of the audience that at a request, "Morte Christe" was sung again, which was met with an overwhelming feeling of joy and satisfaction. After the concert a pleasant time was enjoyed in the bar before the bus travelled home, reaching Treorchy at 4am.

MAY

Thursday May 8th

Llantrisant Leisure Centre

Although only 10 miles down the valley, the Choir paid its first visit to Llantrisant. It was to appear in the final of the Llantrisant Festival with Cantorion Creigiau and Arfon Haines Davies (HTV). With an audience of 500, Jenny playing on a splendid piano, Sam making a welcomed return as soloist and both choirs enjoying the pleasant atmosphere, it was a most satisfying concert, especially for Mervyn John (1B) making his initial appearance. Another surprised chorister was Colin Rogers (2T) because at the commencement of the second half "Happy Birthday" was sung for him on his 36th birthday. It was also pleasing to see Wyn Davie staging again and Wally Breeze after a period of more than two years. The choirs combined to accompany Mair Roberts were "Unwaith Eto" to bring the evening's performance to a thrilling climax. Bouquets were presented to Mair, Jenny and Kate.

Saturday May 10th

On the steps of St Peter's Church, Pentre, 88 choristers gathered to have the Australian photograph taken. This is the first photograph of the choristers wearing the new official dress.

Thursday May 15th

Christ College, Brecon

To fulfil the concert in Brecon, which was postponed in February due to adverse weather conditions, the choristers wore the official dress suits of blue shirts and black bowties for the first time. Unfortunately with change errors are made and one chorister turned up with the old outfit! The concert was held in the music hall of Christ College, which was full with 300 people. The concert will be remembered by Jack Moses (2T) as "Happy Birthday" was sung for him at the commencement of the second half. The concert was organised by the Brecon and Christ College Music Society and it proved to be a most enjoyable one.

Saturday May 17th

Longton Methodist Hall, Stoke on Trent

For a return visit to Stoke, after a period of 10 years, a surprise awaited choristers on the Deacon's bus as a woman was sat for the first time in the driver's seat! This honour befell Vera Gillard who drove the bus to the changover of drivers at the BBC studio! On arrival at Stoke the hall, of "cathedral-like" proportions, was reached and at the rehearsal it was obvious this was acoustically superb. The concert started at 7.30pm and with his remarks the MC thanked the Choir for accepting the engagement, especially to "Whistling" Morgan! With a large, most appreciative audience, Sam and Mair, Jenny and the Choir revelling in the magnificent acoustics, the concert was a most enjoyable one.

Before the commencement of the second half the MC announced that a lady from New Zealand had made a special effort to attend. A lady, in hospital, was unable to attend so a record was autographed for her. There were also members of two local male choirs present. At the end of the concert the MC praised everyone, especially the "princess at the piano" and presented her with a pink carnation. He also presented a bouquet to Mair, a parcel to Sam and a white carnation of John Cynan. After the concert the early bus arrived home at 3am.

JUNE

Thursday June 5th

Wiggins Teape, Cardiff

The Choir was once again privileged and honoured to appear before royalty. This time it was HRH The Princess Royal. Princess Anne was in the Wiggins Teape factory in Cardiff to open a new section of the factory. This engagement was made possibly owing to Lyn Feldon (1T) who works with Wiggins Teape firm. The buses left Treorchy at 12.30pm and arrived at the factory where choristers were treated to a first class buffet. They then assembled on a stage in the open air to entertain the people for about half an hour before the interval. During the second half Princess Anne was present. The buses left for home at 3.50pm. A memorable occasion for John Rosser (2B) making his initial stage appearance. The Choir Robert Griffiths was invited to the reception area after the performance and met the Princess. HRH expressed to him

her appreciation of the singing and wished the Choir a happy and successful Australian tour.

Saturday June 14th
Shaftsbury School

The Choir paid its first visit to Shaftsbury in glorious sunshine. Travelling through the picturesque scenery of Bath and Warminster, the choir arrived in Shaftsbury School where a splendid buffet tea took place before a rehearsal. The concert began at 7pm to a capacity audience which included the Mayor. During the performance G. Williams (2B) ably assisted by G Kynaston (1B) took photographs of the evening's performance for the Australian tour. For some known reason the singing of "More Christe" was not quite right so the conductor stopped the performance and restarted the item. "Happy Birthday" was sung to a member of the audience and after the singing of "Unwaith Eto" John Cynan Jones indicated to the Choir that it was also Mair's birthday and she left the stage to "Happy Birthday" being sung for her! The concert ended with a standing ovation and the late bus enjoyed the hospitality of the Royal Chase Hotel.

Thursday June 19th
Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

Once again the Choir was honoured and privileged to take part in the centenary of a Rhondda organisation. This time it was Treorchy Rugby Club and together with the Parc & Dare National Fuel Distributors Band the concert was held in the Park & Dare Hall. It started at 7.15pm and John Cynan gave Bryan Davies a build up at the piano only the lid wouldn't open! Much to the amusement of the audience extra muscle power was needed to open it! During the interval Mr Robert Griffiths announced the death of a "pillar of musical strength" of the Rhondda in Mdm Danford George and the audience stood in memory of her. He then spoke of the benefit to the community of the Treorchy RFC in fostering the rugby and social side of their activities. There was a close association between the Choir and the rugby club for many years and a Choir plaque, suitable inscribed was presented to the club. During the second half "We'll Keep a Welcome" was sung to a member of the audience who, although born locally had spent most of her life in USA and was currently paying a visit. With the band and Choir in splendid form it proved a concert worthy of the occasion. Indeed a memorable one for Mike Pullin (2B) making his first appearance. After the concert the Choir remained on stage and after the audience and band left more Australia photographs were taken. Once completed the choristers left to spend a convivial evening in the Treorchy RFC Clubhouse.

Saturday June 28th
Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes

On a glorious summer's day the Choir travelled to Milton Keynes, arriving at the rugby club at 5.30pm. Here a welcomed refreshing drink was duly sampled with a chicken salad lunch before the Chairman presented a scroll to the Choir, making them honorary members of the Milton Keynes Rugby Union Football Club. Mr Cli Willis (Vice Chairman) admirably responded to this wonderful gesture. Leaving the club at 6.25 the Choir travelled to Stantonbury Leisure Centre for the 7.15pm start of the concert. With a large and most appreciative audience, the concert proved a successful one despite the hot conditions. Such was the enjoyment of the audience that they stood applauding until every chorister had left the hall. Bouquets were presented to

the ladies and a club rugby tie to the conductor. It was a memorable concert for Jane Gordon who was making her first appearance as accompanist of the Choir.

JULY

Thursday July 3rd

At the rehearsal Mr Robert Griffiths brought to the members the recommendation of the Life Membership Committee that Life Membership be bestowed on Mr Cliff Chislett (Librarian 1B) and John Hopkins (1T). He spoke of the value of them to the Choir not only as excellent choristers but also the extra services they have given the organisation. Cliff joined in 1954 and has been a most conscientious librarian since 1969. John joined in 1959 and served as a Committee man from 1965 to 1982. The recommendation was unanimously passed. Mr John Cynan Jones expressed his delighted at the awards, stating that they were richly deserved.

Saturday July 9th

Victoria Methodist Church, Weston-super-Mare

The Choir gave its first concert in Weston by performing at the Victoria Methodist Church. They arrived at 3.20pm so that the "Scan" filming schedule for S4C's programme "Corau Mawr / Great Choirs" could take place before the 7pm concert start. The splendid church was celebrating its silver jubilee and the capacity audience, including the Mayor and Mayoress, showed their appreciation and enjoyment by affording a standing ovation at the end of the concert. Part of the proceeds were in aid of "Save the Children" fund and a £500 cheque was presented to the fund. The role of the accompanist was again in the capable hands of Jane Gordon.

Thursday July 10th

St Peter's Church, Pentre

With the last concert of the half yearly programme it was a "home fixture" with a concert in St Peter's Church, Pentre. It was gratifying to find a full house and the concert began, after such necessary work of staging the Choir, with an item last sung in 1962 – "With a Voice of Singing". The artists was in the "Jones mould" as Eldrydd Cynan Jones was the soprano soloist, together with the Treorchy Comprehensive School Band Ensemble. It was a most satisfying concert for the organisers, the Rhondda Lawn Tennis Club, and Friends of the Mid Rhondda Music, who shared the proceeds. It was pleasing when the compere announced that Jenny was in the audience.

Saturday July 21st – Friday July 27th

Filming of the television programme "Corau Mawr" for Scan, S4C.

On Saturday the following choristers met at the New Inn, Ton Pentre for a "clothes fitting" session at 11am: Islwyn Morgan, Bryn Howells, Reg Stephens, Tom Pate, Edmund Evans, John Francis, Mike Gale, Roger Morse, Norman Martin, Keith Thomas, David Pritchard, Jack Moses, Haydn Erasmus, Cliff Chislett, Sam Griffiths, Len Gale, John Mallin, Robert Griffiths, John Davies, John Callaghan and Alun Davies. They were fitted out with clothes of the 1890s period and this, needless to say, caused a great deal of hilarity to everyone present – choristers and television personnel too!

On Sunday the choristers reported to the New Inn to start the recording, to find that the television personnel had been hard at work setting up the scene of a typical pub room of the 1890s period. The filming began at 11am and in a moment of inspiration at 12.30pm Islwyn Morgan asked the producer to supply some water as the lights were causing their throats to dry. The producer read the situation very well and ordered a “pint of the best” for everyone, thus with renewed effort the filming continued until lunch at 2pm. The task restarted an hour later and was finished at 3.50pm. During the period of filming both “Myfanwy” and “I Bob Yn” were sung at least 12 times, all under the watchful eye and hands of John Cynan who then left the stage! It was then time for some filming on Nantgwyddon Road off the Bwlch Road. Choristers walked and talked as they went along, much to the amusement of passing passengers in cars and buses! They returned to the New Inn at 5pm to change. Thus ended a “long day”.

On Thursday the making of the film continued in the rehearsal room, which again resembled a television studio. The filming included performances of “Llef”, “My Way” and “Send in the Clowns”. Once again the recordings were made several times and the filming finished at 9.45pm.

On the following day the last piece of filming took place where they entered the “Hollywood” scene of wives gathering in the garden of Mr and Mrs John Davies’ house. They were filmed to discuss the choir and their husband’s commitment. To balance this aspect choristers assembled in the Maindy Conservative Club to be filmed in a relaxing mood.

SEPTEMBER

Thursday September 11th

St George’s Church, Cwmparc

The Choir returned to Cwmparc to celebrate the 90th anniversary of St George’s Church. It was the first concert after the summer break and the first appearance of Jennifer Jones Harp Ensemble – children of the Ynyswen Welsh School that are being taught by her. The accompanist for Eldrydd was Jonathan Gulliford, the accompanist of the Pontypridd Male Choir. The audience of 300 included Choir President Cliff Taylor and the Mayor of the Rhondda. With 92 choristers on stage it proved a suitable tribute for the occasion.

Saturday September 13th

Bishop Cleeve School

On a rainy, cloudy “Battle of Britain” day the Choir returned to Bishop Cleeve. Leaving Treorchy at 4pm and travelling through the rain they reached Bishop Cleeve School at 7pm for the 7.30pm concert before a capacity audience, which included the organiser of the Canada Tour, Harold Woodey. With Mair renewing her role as soloist and Jenny back to sparkling form and 91 choristers on stage all under the capable control of John Cynan, it was an enjoyable concert. The proceeds as always were for the school’s PTA. The concert finished at 10pm and this time refreshments were provided in the Tuthe Barn

Tuesday September 16th

Tonight's rehearsal proved to be a most eventful one. Life Membership was conferred on Cliff Chislett and John Hopkins. Mr Griffiths extolled the virtues of these members, both as faithful choristers and their value of their contributions to the organisation of the Choir. He then welcomed members of the Montreal Welsh Male Choir and invited their conductor, Stanley Waters, to address the Choir. Mr Waters thanked the Choir for the continued friendship and presented a wooden replica of the Treorchy Choir's badge to Mr Jones. Mr Waters stated that during the last tour of Canada, he gained a "manager" – Mr Cliburn Willis.

Saturday September 27th

Penyrheol Leisure Centre, Gorseinon

It was "challenge time" again when the Choir paid a return visit to Gorseinon with a concert organised by Cor Meibion Pontarddulais. It was held in Penyrheol Leisure Centre and was a belated 25th anniversary concert for "The Bont". The hall was full and despite a curtained stage and very warm conditions, the event was a great success. There was a delightful children's choir, a first class piano and 95 choristers on the stage. At the end a basket of flowers was presented to Jenny and a commemorative plaque was presented to the Choir. After the concert the early bus left at 10pm while the late bus enjoyed the hospitality of Pontarddulais Rugby Club.

OCTOBER

Tuesday October 2nd

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

With a concert in the Park and Dare Theatre the Choir attained another rung on its achievement ladder:

- It celebrated the 40th anniversary of the reformation of the Treorchy Male Choir
- It was the fifth successive annual concert
- For the first time the concert was sponsored. The benefactors were Wiggin Teape Company in Cardiff
- It was the Choir's last engagement prior to the Australian Tour.

Such was the popularity of the concert that the demand for tickets exceeded the seating capacity of the hall. To answer such support, the choristers responded with a magnificent 108 on stage. This was the largest number on stage as shown by the attendance records since 1963. as always the singing echoed the warm appreciative audience and with Jenny playing beautifully, Derek Walk as a superb baritone artist and his first class accompanist Richard Sharp all performing at their peak, the Choir and John Cynan ensured a memorable engagement. This was certainly memorable for three founder members on stage, Cliburn Willis, Haydn Erasmus and Dan Williams. At the commencement of the second half the Chairman, Robert Griffiths, introduced Mayor of Rhondda Cllr John Davies who, after a short speech, presented three framed Rhondda scrolls to be presented to the appropriate civic leaders in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne during the tour. The chairman thanked him and stated that best wishes for the tour had been received from Mr Neil Kinnock through the good offices of Mr Allan Rogers, Rhondda's MP. The momentous concert finished at 10pm and a convivial hour was spent in the theatre bar.

NOVEMBER

Sunday November 16th

Grosvenor House Hotel, London

The Choir was honoured and privileged to appear in another celebration of a popular artist. This time it was Sir Harry Secombe and the Choir was asked to appear in the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London where a celebration dinner was held to commemorate his 40th anniversary in showbusiness. It was held in the great hall of the hotel and owing to the restricted stage area only 40 choristers were required. As the engagement was put to the general body of the Choir and had to be finalised at last Thursday's rehearsal, the number of choristers available was not much greater than 40. Indeed some choristers withdrew and reserves had to be drafted in. The bus left at 11.20am and after a round about pick up drove to London on a wet and miserable day, reaching the hotel at 3pm. The members stayed in the hotel until 5.45pm for rehearsals and what a pleasant surprise when Linde Macpherson, our Australian sweetheart, was in the hotel awaiting our arrival. The dinner was a glittering affair with many celebrities present including Ron Moody MC, The Beverly Sisters, Lulu, Leslie Crowther, Barry Cryer, Viscount Tonyandy, Sir Geraint Evans, Jimmy Tarbuck and many others. To respond to such a memorable occasion, with Jenny playing from the balcony and the Choir giving a first class performance, the thunderous standing ovation to "My Way" was shown by the distinguished audience.

Saturday November 22nd

The Choir held its 40th anniversary dinner and dance at the Seabank Hotel in Porthcawl. The chief guest was Mr Alun Williams BBC. A special guest was Linde Macpherson which the James Hardie Industries had flown over to attend the function. After a pleasant meal and a few short speeches, a happy evening was spent celebrating the glorious 40th year.

Friday November 28th

University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff

At the special request of Alun Williams BBC and in support of the worthy cause of the Wales Diabetes Research Trust, the Choir returned to the University Hospital in Cardiff. Mr Williams was in sparkling form. Mair and the Choir of 94 gave a very enjoyable concert. As Jenny was previously committed to play in the New Theatre, the services of Jonathan Gulliford, accompanist of Pontypridd Male Choir, were obtained. For the first time the Choir was sat in front of Mair as she performed! An added pleasure was the fact that John Cynan accompanied her. The proceeds were in aid of a building for the trust.

Saturday November 29th

Maesteg Town Hall

This was the last concert of a truly unforgettable year. It was held in Maesteg Town Hall and was organised once again by Rhys Thomas with all proceeds in aid of the Choir. On a typical foggy, wet and miserable night, 89 choristers travelled by bus and cars to show their appreciation of Rhys's efforts. John Cynan thanked everyone who assisted in organising the concert including Maesteg Male Choir and the Maesteg Children's Choir. With a full house, including the Mayor, four very pleasing artists and Jonathan at the piano, all under the control of John Cynan, the year's concert programme came to a successful end.

DECEMBER

Sunday December 7th

In the last fling of the year 45 choristers went to Abertonllwyd Street in Treherbert. The reason for this effort was that a student from Gloucester was entering a national photograph competition and asked permission to photograph the Choir at a local site. Unfortunately the weather conditions were totally unsuitable for an outside location and so the photograph was taken in the Dunraven Hotel.