

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR



BRIEF HISTORY 1989

By Norman Martin
Registrar & Honorary Archivist

JANUARY

Tuesday January 10th

It was revealed at tonight's rehearsal that the engagement to celebrate the tricentenary of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in April will be gaced by the presence of HRH The Queen.

Thursday January 26th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

What better way to start off this year's engagement programme than with the proceeds donated to fly 50 less fortunate children to spend five days in Disneyworld, Florida. The concert was organised by British Airways's David Powell of the Dreamflight charity and it was gratifying to see a "full house" in the theatre. The artist as Jeff Hooper, a noted singer in the big band entertainment world. And particularly with the famous Syd Lawrence Orchestra. On this occasion he brought his own accompanist – four musicians – and the response to his fine singing left no doubt of the enjoyment it brought to the audience. The choristers felt some trepidation of their contribution as it was not known who the accompanist was to be, but confidence was restored when it turned out to be Sian Davies. Because of the lateness of knowing who the accompanist was to be, no programme was printed, but John Cynan announced the programme to the choristers when they were on stage and waiting for the curtain to rise. All mountains are to be climbed and with the purpose of the concert uppermost, the Choir rose to the challenge with the expected standard. It must have been a most satisfying first appearance for Glyn Pengelly and Russ Broughton, both off the Second Bass section.

Sunday January 29th

St David's Hall, Cardiff

The Choir was honoured to appear in another prestigious engagement at St David's Hall – it was the 80th birthday of George Thomas, Viscount Tonypandy, with proceeds in aid of the National Childrens' Home of which he is the Chairman. Leaving Treorchy at 2.30pm the Choir all signed a large birthday card, enjoyed a meal and had a rehearsal. The concert commenced at 7pm. With the Choir staged, Viscount Tonypandy was greeted with a standing ovation when he entered the theatre. The glittering galaxy of show business stars were introduced and took their places on stage. The performance format was that no further introductions were made, and each artist performed their allotted turn with the audience joining in with the hymn singing. The artists were the Welsh Guards,, soprano Susan Rees, Cliff Morgan, Angela Rippon, Bill Buckley, Sian Phillips, Ray Smith, Caryl Thomas (harp), Max Boyce, Richard Williams Childrens' Choir, Shirley Anne Field, Stuart Burrows, Roger Royale, Nerys Hughes, Peter Karrie and Penelopie Keith. The evening's highlight was the presentation to Viscount Tonypandy of a teapot and an ancient Chinese cup and saucer – very apt as the concert was sponsored by Glengettie Tea! They also gave the audience members a packet of tea! There was a large birthday cake decorated with his coat of arms and motto. With everyone's contribution being of the expected high standard, a capacity audience of many civic dignitaries, politicians and religious denominations, a marvellous atmosphere prevailed. It was an amotional and very enjoyable concert. The proceeds for the National Childrens' Home was swelled by £80,000.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday February 14th

On this Valentines Day rehearsal Vice Chairman Haydn Erasmus was pleased to announce that Mrs Marion (Mallan) Williams had accepted the post of accompanist of the Choir. Fate works in the most mysterious of ways, as Marian was the accompanist at the Bala National Eisteddfod in 1967 owing to the ill health of Tom Jones. Her association with the Choir lasted until 1971 when she left Treorchy to further her musical education. The warmth of the welcome given to her by the choristers displayed their pleasure in her accepting the post.

Thursday February 16th

Leisure Centre Abersychan

The second visit to this venue turned out to be quite eventful. Leaving home at 6.10pm it was obvious we would be late arriving in Cardiff as there was a new driver who didn't know the route and drove slowly. The entrance to Abersychan Leisure Centre was jammed with cars and choristers walked the rest of the way, with the concert not starting until 8.10pm – 40 minutes late! This was disconcerting for Marion as she made her first appearance! Despite all the frustrations, 88 choristers staged and with John Cynan in a jovial mood, the concert was a huge success. The audience, despite their long wait, showed their enjoyment of the concert with long and sustained applause. With John Cynan explaining Marion's debut performance, she received a special ovation from both the audience and choristers. The evening's entertainment was enhanced by the artist and accompanist, Brigitte Anne Thomas (soprano) and Roger Appleby. The MC was Gwyn Rees, a former chorister of the Choir from many years ago.

Saturday February 25th

Marine Centre, Great Yarmouth

For the third visit to Great Yarmouth, the Choir left home at 8.10am, taking refreshments from the Spar in Penygraig and making a stop in Slough before arriving in Great Yarmouth at 4.20pm. On arriving at the Birkland Hotel it was straight in and out to the Marine Centre for fish and chips. After a short rehearsal the choristers changed and returned for the concert at 7.30pm to a full house. With Marion gaining confidence and experience, the enjoyment of the concert was amply displayed by the audience. Edward Owen (2T) sister was in the audience and her request for "Eli Jenkins Prayer" was fulfilled. At the end of the concert the bar facilities were enjoyed by the choristers before returning to the hotel. On the following morning, after a hearty breakfast, the Choir left at 9.20am with one bus stopping at Pirbright Army Base for a refreshing afternoon! The second bus faced the most appalling weather conditions when crossing the Severn Bridge for home.

MARCH

Wednesday March 1st

St David's Hall, Cardiff

It was "combination time" as Treorchy, Pendyrus and Cwmbach combined for a St David's Day Gala Concert in St David's Hall, Cardiff. Together with the choirs were the South Glamorgan Youth Choir, Ann Williams King (soprano). Huw Priday (tenor)

and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra all under the inspired conductorship of Owain Arwel Hughes. On arrival at the hall each singer received a daffodil and a music folder. This was the first time that the Treorchy men used music folders in a concert. With such an array of dress and decorations the concert was not only a musical success but also a visual one. The whole programme, which last two hours, was televised by BBC 2 and S4C.

Saturday March 4th

Arts Centre, Warwick

The Choir paid their third visit to Warwick after leaving home at 3.10pm and arriving at the University by 6pm. On leaving the buses the choristers were guided through a warren of corridors to the Arts Centre for a rehearsal. After a short rehearsal and buffer, the concert began at 7.30pm and it was organised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on their centenary year. With all the necessary ingredients of a splendid venue, magnificent capacity audience, superb Mair, the Choir raising to the moment and inspirational John Cynan and Marion, it was a truly memorable evening. This was displayed by the tremendous applause and stamping of feet with shouts of “encore” from the audience. Immediately after the interval a short talk and slide show was given by Roger Lovegrove, on the purpose of the Society and the hopes and aspirations for the future. The concert finished at 10.20pm with presentations and a relaxing time was spent with the audience while the late bus sampled the wares at the Earlsdown Rugby Club. Within the last week the Choir has travelled a staggering 1,048 miles in total.

Thursday March 9th

Community Centre, Abercarn

Tonight the Choir paid its sixth visit to Abercarn. Leaving home at 5.55pm, the journey saw Philip Francis going home as he suffered from the effects of the bus’ diesel fumes. The concert began at 7.30pm and with Eldrydd Cynon Jones, Jonathan Gulliford, 78 choristers all under the able conductorship of John Cynan Jones, the capacity audience had another evening to remember. It was certainly a night Evan McCarter will not forget as Happy Birthday was performed for him to mark his 77th year. The concert finished with presentations and sandwiches in the refreshment room whilst the late bus visited Cwmcarn Rugby Club.

Tuesday March 14th

The Choir held the 42nd Annual General Meeting in the rehearsal room and despite monsoon-type weather conditions the attendance was excellent. Mr Cliburn Willis, whose term of office as Chairman came to an end, saw the installation of Haydn Erasmus in the Chair. Viv Payne (1B) received his Long Service Membership Certificate while Keith Williams (2B) was appointed Junior Auditor. The Balance Sheet was only signed by one auditor as the other was suffering ill health. This was put to the general body and it was unanimously passed to continue with the reading of the balance sheet.

Thursday March 23rd

A special AGM was held at 7pm following the presentation of 20 signatures to the Management Committee. The terms of reference was the purchasing of Choir dress and following discussion the recommendation of the committee was that no change should be made. On the same evening Mr David Powell, who organised the

Dreamflight to Disneyworld Charity Concert, presented a framed photograph to the Choir of those who will be travelling to Florida, USA.

Friday March 24th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

At the 24th consecutive Good Friday concert with the same team of the Parc & Dare Band there was two “firsts”. The first appearance of Mr Paul Cosh as the new Conductor of the Band and the appearance of Marion Williams as the new Accompanist of the Choir. On display were the magnificent cups won by the band last week as they were placed first in the Welsh Regional Finals in Swansea. With a full house, a happy atmosphere and plenty of fun, the evening was a great success.

APRIL

Saturday April 8th

Town Hall, Birmingham

The Choir returned to the Town Hall in Birmingham for their ninth visit. A short rehearsal followed by tea and sandwiches with the concert starting at 7.30pm. by previous standards the audience was less in number, but none-the-less enthusiastic and appreciative. With Mario performing magnificently and an inspiring performance of the Choir along with Mair introducing some new songs and John Cynan revelling in the tremendous acoustics of the hall, the concert was a most enjoyable one, especially for Carwyn Morris (2T) who made his first concert performance. The proceeds of the concert were in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Fund. The late bus enjoyed the hospitality of the Moseley Rugby Club.

Wednesday April 19th, Thursday 20th, Friday 21st

Over three days the Choir was privileged and extremely proud to appear in the most prestigious engagement of many a year – The Tricentenary of the Founding of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the presence of HRH Her Majesty the Queen. To facilitate the choristers requirements one bus travelled on Wednesday and the other on Thursday while several members travelled by car. The accommodation was quite a challenge at Nesscliff Training Camp. These consisted of a number of Nissen huts, each divided in half by a partition. The hut had the basic requirements of an unmade bed, a coal stove and a chair and locker! The ex-service choristers showed how to make beds but the lighting of the stove with paper, stick and coal was the premise of individual skill. After this reconnaissance of the camp, it was back to the Sergeant’s Mess for a convivial time with the troops. The choristers returned to their huts at the very late (or early hours!) and a distinctly cool, even freezing hut awaited them!

On Thursday the choristers were now “in the army” with a bright and early routine! Cooked breakfast awaited them but many didn’t have the “irons” of a knife, spoon, fork and cup and had to use their fingers! At 8.30am the choristers travelled to Powys Castle, the venue of the celebrations. Choristers made their way to the Great Lawn, the location of the Pageant. John Cynan was at the Choir dais as he had travelled up that morning with Alun Hughes, it was a cold, damp morning and the choristers milled around before being introduced to high ranking officers Major Parker and Colonel Vivian. The rest of the participants were rehearsing in various parts of the lawn and the Choir performed as and when required. Reinforcements arrived with the second bus by 10.30am and the full rehearsal run-through took place until lunch at

1.30pm. This proved another experience as several hundred people, including cadets, soldiers, US Marines, 23 RWF from USA and the choristers queued for food in a field kitchen! Large canisters of stew, bread, butter, very few utensils and plates swilled in water! This situation was fair game for the military, but standing in some muddy conditions (despite the metal footpaths) and eating stew from re-used plates with bread as a utensil left many choristers dumbfounded, disillusioned and underfed!

At 2.30pm the final "run through" of the whole event was held in the cold, rain and hailstones and mercifully finished by 4.10pm. Some of the choristers gathered wood to ensure their hut would be warmer. On arrival back at the barracks they were surprised to see Honorary Member Doug Firstbrook from Australia. He was in the valley and drove up to see "the boys". Back in the huts the choristers lit fires, had a cooked meal at 6pm and a night in the Sergeant's Mess.

On Friday it was early to rise at 6am. Breakfast was in the Sergeant's Mess with an excellent choice on offer. On arrival at the castle the choristers made their way through a mass of invited guest. As yesterday there were canvas chairs on the dais but as they were still wet it was decided the chairs be removed and the choristers stood throughout the entire pageant. The choristers wore a double layer of clothes and before staging John Cynan thanked everyone for their efforts and stated the value and importance of this engagement. The celebrations began at 10.20am with the entry of the band and officers and men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Her Majesty The Queen, dressed in pink, arrived at 10.45am to inspect the parade. When she returned to the Royal Box she read a message of congratulations to the regiment on their 300th birthday. The celebration then started, it was a magnificently colourful, uplifting and inspiring display by all taking part, of the history of the regiment from 1689 to the present day.

The first scene depicted the formation of the Regiment in Ludlow on March 16th 1689 by a group dressed in period costume. It was called the Fusilier Regiment of Wales. The word "Fusilier" came from the change of firearm used at the time. This was followed by the 23rd Regiment Royal Welsh Fusiliers from America. These were dressed in the exact replica of the magnificently coloured costumes from the American War of Independence. The group gave a display of battle tactics used at the time. Next on the scene was the superbly drilled squad of the US Marines whose expert display of rifle manipulation was breathtaking. The role of the Regiment in World War I was given by a group of cadets in authentic uniforms. It showed the utter and useless slaughter as they were "mowed down" by machine gun fire as they charged the enemy. All of these scenes were linked by a recorded commentary and music from the Band and Choir. The pageant finished with a short firework display and as Her Majesty the Queen left the Great Lawn, the Choir sang "Cwm Rhondda". To add icing to this cake it was Her Majesty's birthday and the Choir had the honour of singing "Happy Birthday" to her during the festivities. The celebrations ended at 11.50am and the choristers and guests made their way to lunch in a splendid marquee with seating and eating facilities.

It was made known that representatives of each organisation taking part would be invited to the Castle forecourt to be greeted at the Queen's pleasure. The privilege was fulfilled by Cliff Taylor, John Cynan Jones, Haydn Erasmus, Islwyn Morgan, Mike Gale, John Mallin, Cliff Chislett, Norman Martin, Sam Griffiths and Wyn

Davies. These individuals met at the Castle at 2pm and after a slight delay made their way to the allotted position. At the foot of the steps the Queen came out of the castle. She stopped at the three-tiered cake and her escort withdrew his sword and cut the cake, to the cheers of the groups! A piece of cake was given to each person in the groups after the Queen passed them. Her Majesty started her “walkabout” to her right, which meant the Choir was the last group to be approached. When this moment arrived her escort introduced John Cynan Jones, and he in turn introduced each member of the group. Indeed it was a great honour and privilege for each person, especially as it was accepted that it was an hour and privilege to the Treorchy Male Choir.

MAY

Saturday May 6th

Gateway Theatre, Stafford

Leaving home in glorious sunshine at 3.10pm, the Choir arrived at the venue for 6.15pm. following a short rehearsal as the accompanist was Sian Davies (Marion is not received as yet) and some top and tail of certain songs, the concert began at 7.30pm. Despite it being a beautiful summer’s evening, the theatre was filled to capacity and their enjoyment of the evening’s performance was amply demonstrated by the prolonged applause and shouts of “Encore!” John Cynan Jones explained that the singing of “You’ll Never Walk Alone” was in tribute to and in memory of the people of Liverpool following the Hillsborough Disaster. Following the concert the late bus enjoyed the delights of R.A.F.Stafford.

Thursday May 18th

St Alban’s Church, Splott

The Choir travelled to Cardiff to make their first appearance at St Alban’s Church in aid of the Church Building Fund. The buses left at 6.25pm, reaching the venue with ten minutes to spare! The concert began at 7.30pm and it was immediately obvious that this was not only a fine building, but acoustically superb. In response to these excellent conditions, the Choir and artist, Anne Hill, produced an excellent concert. The quality of the performances were rewarded by the tremendous reaction of the capacity audience, which included the standing MP Alun Michael. John Cynan was at his best, both speaking from the pulpit and getting the “hwyl” into the performance. Throughout the concert photographs were taken by a senior member of the church/ the choristers left at 10pm, with one bus sampling the delights of the Cardiff High Club.

JUNE

Saturday June 10th

Town Hall, Oxford

Leaving home at 2.25pm, the Choir took three hours to reach their venue in Oxford. A short rehearsal was held and before the opening several members of the Committee were invited to the Mayor’s Parlour to meet the Lord Mayor for a glass of sherry. The concert was memorable for several reasons. Firstly the splendid acoustics of this fine hall which was filled with a warm and appreciative audience. Tonight Eldrydd Cynan Jones performed along with Bryan Davies who was at his best caressing the keys. The

Choir responded well to the inspiration conducting of John Cynan and the appearance of Geoffrey Lloyd Roberts, an outstanding tenor, brought the house down. A thrilling start for J. Morgan and Doug Horsnell (1T) who made their first concert appearance.

Sunday June 25th

Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

It was off to Brangwyn Hall, Swansea to make a record with Gordon Lorenz and UK World. Leaving home at 9.15am, the recording started at 10.30am. A few problems had to be overcome in that Gordon Lorenz was stuck on the M5 and organist Huw Tregellys Willis was ill and couldn't attend. John Cynan acted as locum producer while the services of Robert Court were obtained. The recording proceeded and Gordon arrived at 11.30am. Dinner was taken at 12.20pm and the entire recording finished at 5.20pm. It was a long but rewarding day, especially for Dean Powell (1T), Roger Arundell (2T) and Paul Evans (1B) who made their first engagement appearances.

JULY

Tuesday July 4th

Llantwit Fardre Sports Centre

After a period of 29 years (1960) the Choir returned to Llantwit Fardre for a concert at the Leisure Centre Hall. Like most leisure centres the acoustics were difficult but with extra chairs being brought in to facilitate the overflow of tenors a pleasant evening ensued. The artists were Carreg Ateb who displayed admiration for the "lesser-haired" members of the tenor section! It was pleasing to have Marion back at the piano and after the presentations, the concert finished at 10.20pm.

Saturday July 8th

Civic Hall, Bedworth

The Choir returned for the sixth time to the Civic Hall, Bedworth. Leaving home at 2.10pm the buses arrived at 6.15pm and a pleasant buffet was enjoyed. With all the ingredients of previous performances there, the evening was most successful. In the audience was supported Mrs Hunter and "You'll Never Walk Alone" was performed in memory of her late husband. The sixth appearance of the Choir here corresponded with the sixth time Marion accompanied the Choir and with Mair performing wonderfully (and sun tanned following a visit to Cyprus!) the evening was an outstanding success. The late bus enjoyed refreshments at the Wig and Pen Hotel.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 30th

Town Hall, Kidderminster

With the first engagement after the summer recess, the Choir made its first visit to Kidderminster. The Town Hall was not a large venue but at the rehearsal it was soon discovered what a delightful place it was for singing. The concert was before a capacity audience, including the Mayoress. Mair was in sparkling form throughout. Marion was at her very best and the Choir sang to the best of their abilities to ensure John Cynan had a memorable concert – as it was his 600th engagement! He rose to the sense of the occasion at his relaxed and confident best. The evening was a total

success. An added enjoyment for John Cynan was his opportunity to play the magnificent organ for the community singing. The success of the night was plainly obvious by the tremendous reaction of the audience with the stamping of feet and shouts of "Encore!". One saddening note of the day was the fact that Ken Elliott passed away on Friday and following a moving tribute by John Cynan, "Arglwydd Mae Yn Nosi" was sung in his memory. Presentations were made to the performers and a shield was given to the Choir. The proceeds of the concert was shared between the Lea Castle Hospital and Headlines Head Injury Support Group. The late bus enjoyed the refreshments on offer at Kidderminster Rugby Club.

OCTOBER

Thursday October 5th

The burial of Ken Elliot took place today. He was a long serving chorister and it was gratifying to see such a large attendance of choristers and former choristers at the funeral. "Arglwydd Mae Yn Nosi" was sung at the house and "Arwelfa" at the graveside.

Friday October 6th

Paget Rooms, Penarth

After a lapse of 38 years the Choir returned to the Paget Rooms, Penarth/ again the engagement celebrated the centenary of the Children's Society. Although not a very good hall acoustically, the performances of all the artists were enthusiastically received by the capacity audience. The evening's programme was most amusingly compered by the television and radio personality Roger Royle. The participation of everyone was well worth the effort as between £2,500 and £3,000 was raised for the funds. After the concert a most excellent buffet was provided on the balcony of the hall and in response to a first-class meal, plus the persuasive personality of Ann Lush, "Myfanwy" was sung.

Thursday October 12th

Park & Dare Theatre, Treorchy

The 8th Annual Autumn Concert was held in the Park & Dare Theatre before a capacity audience which included Mayor D. Hughes, MP Alan Rogers and the ebullient Nigel Phillips of Christie Tyler. With the artists Eldrydd Cynan Jones, Geoffrey Lloyd Roberts and accompanist Bryan Davies, along with a brilliant large Choir under the direction of John Cynan, the reaction of the audience left no doubt of the success of the evening. It was a concert to remember for Norman Cox (1B) as not only was "Happy Birthday" performed, but he was the chief music stand remover! The presentations ended the concert and a pleasant extension of hours was had in the lounge bar.

Saturday October 14th

Town Hall, Walsall

The Choir made its fifth visit the Town Hall. En route they stopped at the County Hotel in Walsall for a splendid buffet before the concert commenced at 7.30pm. as the Town Hall is a favourite for the Choir, singing to the capacity audience was a pleasure. The response of the appreciative audience who displayed their delight concluded the belief that it was a successful night. Despite her illness, Mair sang to her usual standard and Marion accompanied with panache. It was a memorable

concert for Lyn Feldon (1T) as “Happy Birthday” was sung to him. With the presentation of bouquets the concert finished at 10.20pm. A successful engagement with proceeds in aid of the RNLI.

Sunday October 22nd

City Hall, Cardiff

It was time for the start of another Christie Tyler Furniture Fortnight at City Hall with a performance starting at 9.45pm. The guests dined on two levels and jazz artists George Melly, the famous singer, performed with his quartet. The Cory Band was adjacent to the Choir and was conducted to Howard Jones. As always Nigel Phillips was there to stamp his showmanship on the proceedings of the evening.

Monday October 23rd

City Hall, Cardiff

The second concert in the Furniture Fortnight performances

Tuesday October 24th

City Hall, Cardiff

The third concert in the Christie Tyler Furniture Fortnight. One of the guests was Eifion Owen who was an artist at the last function.

Wednesday October 25th

City Hall, Cardiff

The saga continues! In his final number the choristers, becoming “George Melly Backing Group”, sang “It ain’t what you do it’s the way that you do it!”

Thursday October 26th

City Hall, Cardiff

This concert marked the end of the first half of the engagement. At Nigel’s request, “My Way” was sung for his father who was one of the guests. The Chairman thanked the choristers for their magnificent response to the Christie Tyler Furniture Fortnight which was vastly improved from the last and this time it was “spot on”!

Friday October 27th

Despite being in the middle of a very busy schedule, the choristers entertained the All Blacks Supporters. There were 100 of them of 83 choristers in the rehearsal room and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all, John Cynan, at his descriptive best, gave a potted history of the Rhondda and the important part music had in its development. The entertainment finished with the presentation of the Choir plate to Dennis Young and a tape to each supporter present. He in turn presented the Choir with a “treble clef” plaque and the evening ended with everyone singing “Now Is The Hour”. It was then to Treorchy RFC for the rugby atmosphere as Llanelli face New Zealand tomorrow!

Sunday October 29th

City Hall, Cardiff

Back to City Hall for the second half of the Christie Tyler Furniture Fortnight.

Monday October 30th

City Hall, Cardiff

The venue continued to resound to the music of Choir, band and artist.

Tuesday October 31st

City Hall, Cardiff

Tonight's concert was made memorable as "Happy Birthday" was sung to two of the guests and "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" to an important figure in the furniture business.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday November 1st

City Hall, Cardiff

The penultimate concert and another satisfying performance.

Thursday November 2nd

City Hall, Cardiff

The "Last Night at the City Hall" was akin to a proms concert with a lively audience, cheering and plenty of flag-waving! To set the evening's performance Nigel Phillips entered in a white suit with a top hat and sang his introduction. To match this John Cynan was resplendent in his tails and red bow and cummerbund. An added delight was the appearance of Eldrydd Cynan Jones who sang "Land of Hope and Glory" with the Choir and Band and also "Unwaith Eto" with the Choir. The Managing Director of Christie Tyler made presentations to Goerge Melly and Nigel Phillips. At the end of the Furniture Fortnight the concert concluded at 12.15am and a very pleasant evening it was too!

Tuesday November 28th

At tonight's rehearsal the announcement of the death of Dan Williams saddened the choristers. Dan was a Founder Member, Life Member, former Chairman and had served as the PRO and Chairman of the Association of Male Choir. He was 64 years old last Friday and tragically died on the following morning. Islwyn Morgan and John Cynan spoke of the value of Dan to the Choir, his faithfulness, expert reading of tonic solfa and his role in the early days as he helped forge the name of the Choir. "Arglwydd Mae Yn Nosi" was sung in his memory.

Thursday November 30th

Dan was laid to rest today in Treorchy Cemetery. It was gratifying to see so many choristers and former choristers at the burial there they paid their last respects by singing "Arglwydd Mae Yn Nosi" and "Arwelfa".

DECEMBER

Saturday December 2nd

Town Hall, Maesteg

To appear in the Annual Concert of the Maesteg Gleemen, choristers travelled to Maesteg Town Hall. On a cold evening the concert took place with Mair Roberts as artist. The Choirs joined forces for three items, conducted by Roy Davies of the

Gleemen and the evening's performance was warmly appreciated by the capacity audience.

Friday December 7th

Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham.

Leaving Treorchy at 2.45pm, the choristers reached the Hall at 6.55pm following diversions on the motorway and the buses headed for the George Hotel where refreshments were served. The concert started with the choristers resplendent in their new dress suit which was being worn for the first time. Despite all the tribulations, with such a splendid hall and a magnificent audience, the concert was a memorable one. Following the performance the choristers returned to "The George" with choristers staying overnight before leaving at 9.45am on the following morning.

Tuesday December 12th

At tonight's rehearsal the Secretary informed the choristers that he had received a letter from a solicitor stating that the late Mr Phillips of Newport wished to show his appreciation of happiness at listening to the Choir in concerts, television and radio. In doing so he had bequeathed the Choir £1,000 in his Will.

Friday December 15th

Monmouth School

The Choir returned to Monmouth after three years for another concert in aid of Muscular Dystrophy. As each chorister passed through the hall, alongside the audience, they were applauded onto the stage. A special member of the audience, a Scotsman who had travelled for the concert, was presented with a signed LP. With tongue in cheek John Cynan announced the singing of "Crossing the Plan" would commemorate the 99th anniversary of the death of Chief Sitting Bull! The concert finished with three carols, for which John Cynan accompanied them on the school organ. The audience applauded the Choir out of the hall to a canteen for warm mulled wine.

Saturday December 16th

The Choir's Dinner and Dance was held in the South Glamorgan County Hall, Cardiff. The Chief Guest was Alun Williams (BBC) who was at his amusing best. It was pleasing to see our President Cliff Taylor had recovered sufficiently to be present along with Allan Rogers MP, Mayor of Rhondda Dyffrig Hughes and Nigel Phillips. A most satisfying end to a very busy year.

