



Leonard Gale

First Bass 1959-2009; Long Service & Life Member, Fifty Year Member

October 17th 1924 - June 17th 2011

Treorchy Male Choir has lost one of its statesmen with the passing of Len Gale and the collective grief felt by everyone involved in the organisation is testament to the high esteem in which he was held.

Len epitomised the archetypal chorister, who devoted decades to the continued success of the Choir but did so without glory or attention. He was a quiet, unassuming man whose great enjoyment in life was to perform as part of the Choir and remain surrounded by his dear friends. Len possessed a beautiful baritone voice. This, coupled with his command of tonic solfa, made him an ideal mentor for many young choristers joining the ranks.

He lived his entire life in Ton Pentre and although remained a bachelor, was part of a close-knit, loving family through his sister Mavis. Len found great joy, satisfaction, love and comfort of seeing her children, grandchildren and indeed great-grandchildren grow and flourish. Len's working life was spent in the coal industry and for more than forty years he was a finance clerk. On leaving school he joined the Ocean Colliery prior to nationalisation and remained in post with the NCB until his retirement. Music and religious worship were a massive part of Len's life. A devoted Christian, Len was an integral part of the Choir at St David's Church in Ton Pentre before joining St John's the Baptist when the former church was demolished. Between the two places of worship, Len's faithful service was astonishing. He spent more than 80 years singing in the choir and playing a significant role in the many activities taking place there.

At a young age he joined the Morgannwg Gleemen Choir and became their Treasurer until they disbanded in the late 1950s. Len

had felt very much at home as a member of a male voice choir and joined his good friend, Reg Stephens, in the ranks of the Treorchy Male Choir in 1959. For the next fifty years Len revelled in every activity the Choir had to offer. A dedicated and respected member of the First Bass section, Len enjoyed a wonderful life as a chorister, rarely missing a concert or rehearsal. He was a Long Service Member and received the accolade of Life Membership.

Len undertook many overseas tours to Switzerland, Canada, USA and Australia. He also enjoyed the three-week tour of Australia and New Zealand in 2009 and later that year was presented with a gold watch at the Choir's Annual Autumn Concert in recognition of fifty years of unbroken service. His love of travel was evident by the many holidays enjoyed abroad with his good friends, Reg and brothers Islwyn and Mal Morgan and over the years Portugal became a second home.

Len Gale will be long remembered by his many friends in the Treorchy Male Choir. Today we salute his memory and mourn his passing.