

WORRALL MALE VOICE CHOIR

(Registered Charity No. 515038)

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

Another year to remember so far both personally and chorally.

"Out of the blue" one morning in December 2014, a letter fell on our door mat. It was a letter inviting me to apply for an invitation to attend one of Her Majesty's Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace (you don't just get an invite apparently you have to apply to be invited !!). The citation was "for outstanding services to male voice choir singing in the Sheffield area". I suppose 40 odd years as Chairman and Secretary of the Choir does count for something but to be recognised in this way was the farthest thing from my mind. As you can imagine, I was "gob smacked" as they say to think that doing something which I had enjoyed and loved as a hobby for over 40 years was being recognised in this way. Needless to say it did not take me long to send off the relevant paperwork and apply for an invitation which was duly awarded. As my citation was for services to MVC singing I wanted to represent the Choir and go in my Choir uniform. As the dress code for gentlemen was morning suit, lounge suits or military uniform I had to apply to the Palace to be allowed to wear it and this was granted. Following a three hour tour of Meadowhall to buy Margaret a new hat (ladies must wear a hat) the big day eventually arrived and with some trepidation we made our way to the Palace to join a queue some three quarters of a mile long when we arrived. We were awe struck to say the least. There were an estimated 8,000 people there all in their military uniforms, traditional dress and finery. We made our way through the main entrance and into the Palace gardens and at 4-00 p.m. exactly Her Majesty, Prince Philip and the Royal party arrived at the top of the steps from the Palace to the garden (I say garden but it covers some 40 acres including a huge lake !). Following the National Anthem they proceeded to promenade through the gardens talking to people picked at random from the crowd by officials. We were served tea, sandwiches and cakes and then mingled with the rest of the crowd listening to two military bands and talking to other visitors. At 6-00 p.m. Her Majesty and the Duke returned to the top of the steps and the National Anthem was played again before they retired back into the Palace. The day was over but one we will both remember for the rest of our lives. If anyone has been thinking about visiting the Palace then I can assure you, whilst we only saw a tiny part of it, it is well worth seeing.

Now back to choral matters. On Saturday 27th June we organised another concert in aid of Help for Heroes Phoenix House Rehabilitation Centre, Catterick in the Victoria Hall, Norfolk Street.

We were joined by our friends from Bolsterstone MVC and combine to form one large male voice choir. Our special guests were the original Military WAGS - (Wives, Affiliates, Girlfriends and Servicewomen's) Choir from Catterick and it was a magical evening supported by a nearly full house. We also had the service cadets from the Navy, Air Force and Royal Marines who were magnificent throughout helping with ticket collection, programme sales etc. The Navy cadets opened the concert by playing a short programme for drums and bell lyres. I am delighted to report that the concert raised £1,419.00. The Choir made up the difference and a donation £1,500 has been made to Help For Heroes.

The following week, Saturday 4th July we were at Millhouses Methodist Church to help raise funds for Rowan School, a school in Dore which teaches physically and mentally disabled children. Our guest was the very talented Anna Bradburn, the recorder virtuoso who was in concert with us last year at Wisewood Church. The school are trying to raise money to buy a new mini bus so the children can have trips out. The concert, whilst not very well attended did manage to raise over £200 for the school.

On Friday 25th September we are back on home ground with a concert in Worrall Chapel to help raise funds for Worrall Environmental Group. We will be joined once again by Anna Bradburn. Our Annual Carol Concert is booked at Wesley Hall on Friday 18th December when our special guests will once again be the Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers. They were very well received at last years' concert and a number of people wanted to see them again. We are only too happy to oblige.

Looking forward to 2016, we have been invited to sing in the "Men of Steel" concert in Scunthorpe on Saturday 21st May with Lesley Garrett. We sang in the original "Men of Steel" some 25 years ago and Scunthorpe MVC are organising a 25th anniversary concert with the original MVC's who sang in it 25 years ago. Hopefully I will have more details for the March 2016 Newsletter.

Our recruitment campaign for new members never ceases. Any men in the area who enjoy singing and would like to have a go at choral singing with a very sociable bunch of blokes will be made more than welcome. No experience is necessary; it is your potential which counts. If you have a desire to sing but cannot read music, if the dots and lines on a page of music look like a foreign language to you, don't worry. You will be taught by two excellent musicians in our M.D. Nigel and our Accompanist Steve who will help you develop that potential. If you are not sure what is involved and would like more information, why not give me a call on 0114 2344 374 or E -

mail Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk with your questions and I will try my best to answer them. Better still, why not come along and have a listen or have a sing. We would be delighted if you gave it a try. There are no voice tests and no firm commitment at this stage but we sincerely hope that you find it interesting enough to come to a Choir rehearsal and hopefully become a member of the Choir.

Our Support Group has booked its Autumn Fayre again this year in Wisewood Church Hall, Ben Lane on Saturday 17th October from 11-00 a.m. to 2-00 p.m. If you have any bric-a-brac, toys, books CD's, DVD etc that you want to get rid of and think we could sell, please give me a call and I will arrange for them to be collected. As usual there will be plenty of bargains and refreshments will be on sale. The Support Group does a superb job in helping to raise funds for the Choir and we are forever grateful for all the hard work they put in on our behalf. The Choir receives no sponsorship of any kind. All our finances have to be raised by our own efforts through concerts, the sale of Carol Books, CD's, donations and a lot of hard work so here are my usual "plugs" for your support of the Choir.

As always, we would be delighted to welcome any followers of the Choir to "The Friends of Worrall Male Voice Choir" scheme which is open to anyone. If you are interested in becoming a "Friend" or would like any information about the Choir and how it operates, please give me a call on 0114 234 4374 or E Mail me at Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk and I will be delighted to send you an application form. Alternatively you can download the form from our website on www.worrallmvc.org.uk and click on "Friends". Membership is just £15.00 per year for a single member and £30 for family membership. Members enjoy news on all Choir activities via the Newsletter and Diary Sheet, priority booking for Choir concerts, social events and excursions, a free ticket per member to the Annual Carol Concert and concessions on other concert ticket as available.

Do you shop on line? If so you might like to consider supporting the Choir financially without any cost to yourself by joining "easyfundraising". This is an easy way to raise funds for Worrall Male Voice Choir. You can shop at any of over 2,000 well known retailers listed on easyfundraising.org.uk and a percentage of what you spend is passed to Worrall Male Voice Choir at no additional cost to you. Retailers include Amazon, M&S, Vodaphone, eBay, Tesco, Viking and many more. Please register today and support Worrall Male Voice Choir at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/worrallmalevoicechoir>

You can also help by making easysearch.org.uk your search engine and every search of the internet you do, easyfundraising will donate a halfpenny to Worrall Male Voice Choir.

If you are on E Mail and would like to help us cut down on the amount of paper we use you could receive the Newsletter electronically. Drop me an E Mail to Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk and let me know if you would like to receive the Newsletter this way in future.

As usual, there is an up to date Diary Sheet with the Newsletter. We thank you once again for your continued support of the Choir and will be delighted to see you at any of the concerts or events listed. You can also now follow the Choir on Facebook.



Ian Pasley - Secretary Worrall Male Voice Choir.