50th Anniversary

THE SHORT HISTORY OF MILLHOUSE GREEN MALE VOICE CHOIR

1967 TO 2017

by Melvyn Dyson

Produced to celebrate the choir's 50th Anniversary

Melvyn Dyson

THE SHORT HISTORY OF MILLHOUSE GREEN MALE VOICE CHOIR

1967 TO 2017

Based on information contained in the Choir's minute book and archive with personal recollections

PROGRAMME:

CHOIR:
"TWO ROSES" Arr: Werner
"HOB A DERRY DANO" Arr: Charles Wood
"THINK ON ME" Arr: Lady Scott-Diack
(Soloist - J.Fitzhenry)
****

C. SAUNDERS GROUP:

CHOIR:
"COMRADES IN ARMS" Arr: Adams
"IN THE GLOAMING" Arr: Lady Authur Hill
(Soloist - F.Galliford)
"THE OLD WOMAN" Arr: H.S.Roberton
****

"BERNARDS BABES"

CHOIR:
"ALL IN THE APRIL EVENING" Arr: H.S. Roberton
"COME TO THE FAIR" Arr: Easthorpe Martin
"SPIN-SPIN Arr: Hugo Jungst
****

C. SAUNDERS GROUP:

CHOIR:
"PASSING BY" Arr: Edward.C.Purcell
"ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT" Arr: H.S.Roberton
"REDEMPTION" Arr: E. Crossley

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September 1967 - Choir's First Concert Programme



October 1967 - First Photo of choir

Back: Ken Webb, Eric Barden, Peter Walsh, Peter Green, Peter Crossley, Dennis Faxon, Don White, Roy Jubb, Frank Crossand, Willie Green

Middle: John Gibbons, Jack Norton, Fred Butcher, Jack Jubb, Bill Atkinson, Bob Wiseman, Reg Day, Chad Lockwood

Front: Frank Cox, Noel Faxon, Eric Crossley, Jean Milner, Fred Galliford, Cyril Cherry

- **Millhouse Green is a village on the edge of the Pennines close to the historic market town of Penistone, between Huddersfield, Barnsley and Sheffield.**

1966 AND 1967

In 1966 in The Blacksmith Arms Pub in Millhouse Green they used to have sing-alongs at the weekends. It was at one of these around Christmas time when Peter Green suggested "why don't we form a Male Voice Choir?" A notice was put up to see what interest there would be. Around thirty people put their names on the list. A meeting was called and Officials and Committee selected. They were Chairman: C. Lockwood, Secretary: P. Green, Treasurer: J. Gibbons, Committee: W. Green, F. Butcher, F. Cox, K. Pratt, H. Rydal, A. Proud, P. Beever and K. Deane. E. Crossley, who was a local Brass Band Conductor, accepted the position as Conductor of the Choir. Mrs. J. Milner was appointed Accompanist.

It was agreed that the Choir become affiliated to the West Riding Education Authority Evening Classes so they could practice in Millhouse Green School and the Authority pay for the School Room, Lighting, Conductor and Accompanist and also provide music from their library.

The first practice was to take place on February 12th 1967. Membership of the Choir would be twenty five shillings (old money) with ten shillings being for Choir funds and fifteen shillings to the West Riding Authority. Uniform to be white shirt, bow tie and dark trousers. Committee Meetings to be held in the Blacksmith Arms. Mr. T. Hardisty, Landlord of the Blacksmith Arms became the first President.

To raise funds a Tote Double was set up. This was run by K. Deane. Domino cards were passed round at practice and in December a Christmas draw was held. Enthusiasm was soon generated to the extent that the Choir were soon having three practices a week. In May P. Beever and K. Pratt resigned from the Committee with F. Crossland, K. Webb and F. Galliford being voted to replace them.

The first Concert was given in Millhouse Green Institute on the 2nd September 1967.

The first Annual General Meeting was held 10th August 1967 when the same Officials and Committee were elected with additions of D. White as Assistant Secretary, P. Crossley as Librarian and R. Wiseman as Deputy Conductor. On the Social side, the Choir had held a Dinner in April and in October held a Dinner and Dance at The Queens Hotel in Barnsley. The Choir became a Member of the National Association of Choirs. In December P. Green resigned as Secretary with D. White becoming Secretary and K. Webb as Assistant.

1968

Early in the year Dress Suits were purchased.

In January the Choir organised their first Major Concert in Penistone Town Hall, with Wharncliffe Silkstone Band, Thurlstone Hand Bell Ringers and the Choir. Ticket prices were three shillings and sixpence Stalls and four shillings Balcony (old money). A record does not appear to have been kept of Concerts attended but reading through the Minute Book Concerts in The Milton Hall, Elsecar, Holmfirth Civic Hall, Millhouse Green Institute and Local O.A.P Organisations were mentioned, also one with Rockingham Colliery Band, in November in Penistone Town Hall. The Choir agreed to pay £2.00 to any Member who had been off work more than eight weeks.

March saw the Choir enter their first Music Festival at Ecclesfield. Comments from the Adjudicator was that they were very smart walking on but when they sang they sounded like a Brass Band. Later in the year also entered Holmfirth Festival and came second in the Open Competition to their delight. (This Adjudicator must have liked Brass Bands)!

July saw the Choir withdraw from the West Riding Evening Classes and from now on ran under their own steam.

At the A.G.M., D. Shawcross was voted in as Treasurer, C. Hallas as Deputy Conductor and F. Crossland as Property Steward. Mrs. J. Milner was not re-engaged as Accompanist and Mrs. A. Jubb was appointed in her place.

A Ladies Committee was formed and ran Jumble Sales, refreshments at Concerts etc. In November D. White resigned as Secretary with L. Green moving from Assistant Secretary to replace him.



October 1969

Back: Noel Faxon, Stephen Cherry, Larry Taylor, Roy Jubb, Peter Crossley, ?, Chad Lockwood, Fred Galliford, Ron Turner
Third: Frank Crossland, ? Derek Shawcross, ?, Alan Booth, Jack Norton, David Turner, Cecil Hallas
Second: Eric Venner, Peter Walsh, Brian Lovell, Jack Jubb, Chris Roebuck, Jack Throssel, Alan Parker
Front: Cyril Cherry, Oliver Roebuck, Audrey Jubb, Eric Crossley, ?, Bernard Turner

1969

In January 1969 T. Hardisty resigned from the position of President with Mr. D. Booth accepting the post.

It was passed at a Committee Meeting that Sunday night Concerts in Clubs and Pubs be discontinued and other engagements are left to the Committee's Discretion.

The Choir formed what is now known as The Penistone Competitive Music Festival. It started out as a Male Voice Choir Competition to celebrate the Penistone Urban District Council Centenary. The Committee were concerned about attendance and discipline at both Practices and Concerts and asked the Chairman to address the Choir (all Members of the Choir worked and most worked shifts, so attendance was difficult at times).

In September the Choir and Committee of Millhouse Green Institute could not come to an agreement on the fee for the Choir to keep practising in the Institute and for a while the Choir moved to the West End Chapel in Thurlstone (now flats) but before the end of the year, agreement was reached and the Choir moved back. At the time the Choir looked into the possibility of buying a plot of land and building a place of their own, but when agreement with the Institute was reached this was not continued with.

Festivals entered were the Mrs. Sunderland in Huddersfield and Holmfirth. Concerts mentioned in the Minute Book included local O.A.P. Groups, local Chapels, in Penistone Town Hall with Rockingham Band and concluded the year with a Christmas Concert in Millhouse Green Institute.

1970

In January 1970 L. Green resigned as Secretary with C. Hallas being appointed. Also in January a Dinner and Dance was held at The Queen Hotel in Barnsley. Mr. J. Bashforth took over the Accompanist Duties for a while, as Mrs. Jubb was ill.

The Male Voice Choir Competition held to celebrate the Penistone U.D.C. Centenary in 1969 was renamed "The Penistone Competitive Music Festival" with classes for Ladies Choirs and Children's Choirs added.

In May there was a discussion about doing a little more Club work, but no decision was reached, certain Members feeling that Pub and Club work was not in the best interests of the Choir.

In June after the National Association of Choirs A.G.M. at Batley, C. Cherry reported that at the meeting it was stressed that Legal requirements are necessary for a Choir who raise funds and certain regulation regarding Charities to be met. It was proposed that a Constitution for the Choir be drawn up. In November it was decided to call a Public Meeting to discuss the widening of the Penistone Competitive Music Festival from the current Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir Committee to a General Committee drawn from the public. The Ladies Committee presented the Choir with thirty six new ties. Due to illness C. Lockwood resigned as Chairman with C. Cherry being appointed. The same venues for Concerts are mentioned in the Minute Book with the Choir ending the year with a Concert with Penistone Combined Choir.

1971

There were three Extraordinary General Meetings called in 1971. The first in January when there were concerns at the recent low attendance at practices and concerts. Questions were asked, one being could the practices be started on time even if there was only a few members present particularly for members who had to leave early to go on night shift. It was also agreed to try practices again on a Sunday morning (but in March referred back to Monday and Thursday evenings).

In March the second meeting was held when a Constitution for Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir was presented. After amendments were made, it was passed and could now be printed and circulated.
The third one in August was called because there was a little unrest in the Choir. The result from this Meeting was that Mr. E. Crossley left the Choir. The position of Conductor was to be advertised and Mrs. N. Tomlinson a local teacher and well known singer be asked to take over temporarily.

In March Mr. C. Cherry resigned from the position of Chairman and Mr. C. Lockwood (back after illness) was re-elected.

At the Annual General Meeting in September Mr. P. Hinchcliffe was elected President. Mr. A. Hey was elected as Secretary with Mr. C. Hallas moving to Assistant. The sickness payments which were started in February 1968 were abolished. From the applicants for Conductor Mr. G. Barlow from Wath-on-Dearne was appointed (see photo and write up).

The Minute Book does not mention many Concerts in 1971 but the Choir had entered two Festivals: Penistone and Holmfirth.



Mr. Geoffrey Barlow recently became conductor of Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir. He lives in Wath-on-Dearne and was choirmaster at St. James' Church there for 12 years. He has been in charge of Mexborough Ladies Choir for 12 years; has conducted an over 60s choir for 18 months; and is deputy conductor of Rawmarsh Choral Society.

Millhouse Choir are attending several festivals this year, including Mexborough in March and Horsforth in April.

1972 to 1979

In January in the seventies the Ladies Committee organised a New Year's Party for Members and Friends.



First trophy

IF at first you don't succeed . . . Robert Bruce would have been proud of Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir, near Penistone.

For the singers have at last hit the keynote of success, winning their first major trophy in a music festival.

They were competing at Horsforth, near Leeds, in their fourth competition under the guidance of new musical director, Mr. Geoff Barlow.

Competition success has always eluded the choir since their formation six years ago, although they did extremely well with concerts and were responsible for the launching of the annual Penistone Competitive Music Festival.

Membership — around the 30 mark — is on the increase again and anyone interested is welcome to attend rehearsal at Millhouse Institute on Monday and Thursday evenings. 1972.

1972 saw the Choir win their first Major Trophy at a Music Festival at Horsforth, Nr. Leeds. In the seventies the Choir took part in two or three Music Festivals each year winning at Elsecar, Hoyland and Mexborough (1973 and 1977), Morecambe (1974), Harrogate (1975).

In 1972 due to lack of privacy at The Blacksmith Arms the Committee moved their meeting to The Commercial Inn in Thurlstone, but in October the following year moved back to The Blacksmith Arms because The Commercial Inn wanted to charge £1.00 for the use of the room and the Committee would not pay. September 1972 saw Mrs. A. Jubb resign from the position of Accompanist. Mrs. O. Barlow helped out at first but then was appointed as the new Accompanist.

Throughout the seventies the Choir were kept very busy with concerts doing between twelve and seventeen concerts each year.

In the Summer 1974 concerns were expressed about attendance at rehearsals with Choir Membership being 28, some rehearsals had been down to 50%. It was decided to hold one practice a week and discuss the situation again at the Annual General Meeting. At the A.G.M. it was decided to hold one practice a week in spring and summer and two practices in autumn and winter. At the 1974 Annual

General Meeting Mr. R. Gott was appointed Secretary with Mr. A. Hey moving to Assistant. Mr. P. H. Hinchcliffe gave notice he would not stand for re-election as President. Mrs. N. Tomlinson was appointed in his place.



Choir member Mr Cyril Hallas with a copy of the LP

A record contribution

MILLHOUSE Green Male Voice Choir's latest record will benefit not only members but the blind and old people of the district.

Penistone and District Old Folk's Welfare Committee and Penistone Aids for the Blind will each receive 5p from every record sold and that could come to £100 for each charity if the first batch of 2,100 records is sold.

Choir secretary Mr Frank Crossland said the choir hoped to sell more than the first batch. "We sold more than this with our first record and we all have outlets so we hope to sell more this time.

"We decided to help the charities after being approached by the committees. At the time, all our money was tied up, but we promised to help later and this is our contribution."

The LP, which is now on sale, was recorded in Penistone Church School. With part of the profits the choir hope to buy new evening suits.

AUG 16 1978

In the seventies the Choir made two records 1975 being the first, this was recorded in Thurlstone Parish Church with Christmas music on one side and general choir pieces on the other. This was a major success for the choir selling 2,500 copies. The second was recorded in 1978 in St. John's School, in Penistone. From the profits of the record a donation was made to two Charities, one being Penistone aid to the Blind and the other to Penistone Old Folks Committee (In later years all old folk were promoted to Senior Citizens). Our form of making funds for the choir was by collecting waste paper, the first ton collected was sold for £13.00. Thanks was given to George Williamson for his hard work.

In April 1976 the choir was kitted out with new shirts, jackets and trousers and the Ladies Committee purchased one pair of socks for each member of the choir. At the 1976 A.G.M. Mr. Frank Crossland was appointed Secretary.

In 1977 they celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a dinner at "The Hillsborough Suite" in Sheffield. Each member of the Ladies Committee was presented with two roses.

In April 1978 the choir took part in the local group of The National Association of Choirs Mass Concert in Sheffield City Hall. At the Annual General Meeting in 1978 Mr. Derek Shawcross retired from the position of Treasurer with Mr. Ray Hutchinson being appointed in his place.

Mr. R. Barlow said he was disturbed to find that members of the choir wished to arrange concerts in pubs. He said he was against this type of entertainment because he believed it would do the choir no good, but the Committee said this was a good way to advertise the choir and bring in some income.

In 1979 Mr. C. Lockwood resigned the position of Chairman due to ill health, Mr. R. Deane took over until the A.G.M. when Mr. R. Gott was elected. The Secretary (Mr. F. Crossland) said it would give the Choir more prestige if they booked better class entertainment for concerts. This was agreed and a concert titled "Celebrity Concert" was put in motion. Mrs. N. Tomlinson resigned as President with Mr. Morgan-Giles accepting the post.

Photo for cover of the choir's second record - 1978



Back: G. Jones, P.Green, E. Venner, A. Bell, R. Simpson, E. Lockwood, K. Ball, H. Board, R. Hutchinson, S. Butcher, J. Gibsons, R. Jubb, A. Booth, A. Hey, S. Hutchinson, R. Gott, J. Throssel, C Hallas, K. Deane, D. Shawcross
Front: F. Galliford, L. Taylor, P. Ashworth, F. Crossland, G. Barlow, O. Barlow, C. Lockwood, K. Schofield, G. Williamson, B. Turner, R. Turner

1980 to 1985

1st March 1980 was the date of the first Celebrity Concert held in Penistone Town Hall (as it was called then). Guests were Derek Blackwell, Internationally known tenor and Keith Swallow, well known pianist being on the radio regularly. A buffet supper after the concert was arranged in the Rose and Crown Pub at which a presentation was made to Mr. C. Lockwood on retiring from the Choir. He was the first Chairman of the Choir and except for a six month period held the Chair until April 1979.

At the 1980 A.G.M. Mr. A. Hey was elected Chairman.

28th February 1981 saw Hammonds Sauce Brass Band as Guests for the second Celebrity Concert. Mrs. Pauline Hall was guest accompanist for the choir. It had been agreed with Mrs. O. Barlow due to health problems that she would play for choir practices and local concerts.



MILLHOUSE GREEN Male Voice Choir at their celebrity concert at Penistone Town Hall on Saturday. Feb 28th 1981

1981 - Second Celebrity Concert

Choir and band prove you can't beat live sound

Brass bands and choirs never sound the same on record; despite today's technology, no recording can beat the live sound.

And this point was proved on Saturday when Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir and the famous Hammonds Sauce Works Band shared the platform at a celebrity concert at Penistone Town Hall.

'Celebrity' was the right word — a view that I'm sure was shared by the large and appreciative audience.

After 12 months' work arranging and rehearsing for the concert, the choir deserved the success enjoyed by the presentation.

It's not often we have the chance locally to hear a band of such calibre and although they overshadowed the choir by their sheer volume and the excitement of the big band sound, the hosts played no small part in making it an enjoyable evening.

Conducted by Geoffrey Whitham, the band displayed their expertise and versatility in items which ranged from a Strauss medley to a George ershwin selection.

Soloists Alan Exley (cor- et), with his playing of "Zel- a, Zelda", and David Matth- wman (trombone), with "Melody and Peace", received long and loud applause.

But the highlight of the band's performance was their playing of "Finlandia" and the finale section of items from "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell".

The choir seemed rather quiet after the band, but when you became accustomed to the different sound, the harmonious voices singing such items as "Vive l'Amout" and "The Lord is My Shepherd", were very well received.

Favourites of mine were "Night" by Schubert and "Sunset Poem", by Dylan Thomas, arranged by musical director, Geoffrey Barlow, in interesting style.

The combined items of "Finlandia" and, particularly, "The Soldiers' Chorus" (Faust) ended each section of the concert on the right high note.

I am not sufficiently qualified to pick out the finer points of either band of choir. I only know what I like to hear and Saturday's concert provided plenty of very listenable music.

The compere, Geoffrey Tempest, did an excellent job, as did accompanist, Pauline Hall.

Geoff Barlow said at the choir rehearsal: "It will be all right on the night" and he was right; it was.

C.T.

1981

Festival work continued in this period coming first at Mexborough (1981-1982) and Penistone (1983).

October 10th 1981. A choir dinner was held at Middlewood Hall. 1981 A.G.M. Mr. D. Jones was appointed Secretary.

1982 James Shepherd Versatile Brass were guests at the third Celebrity Concert with Pauline Hall being guest accompanist for the choir. At the 1982 A.G.M. Mr. N. Stewart became President. November saw Mr. D. Jones resign from the position of Secretary with Mr. F. Crossland taking over. Mrs. O. Barlow gave notice that she was retiring but would still carry on as accompanist until a replacement was found.

1983 Guests for the fourth Celebrity Concert were Keith Swallow (Pianist) and Patricia Bennet (Soprano) with Barbara Senior being guest accompanist for the choir.

In March 1983 Miss Jean Cantrell was appointed accompanist but in September was not re-engaged. Miss L. Littlewood was appointed but in September 1984 left the choir. Mrs. C. Knowles took over.

1st June Mr. F. Crossland (Secretary) said he was leaving the area to live down South. Melvyn Dyson took over. A presentation was made to Frank for all his hard work for the choir.

1st October 1983 the choir took part in The National Association of Choirs Local Group Concert in Sheffield City Hall. In this period concerts were averaging twelve per year.

A new venue for the Choir was singing at a dinner in Sheffield Victoria Hotel.

1984 Celebrity Guests were The Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band. Mr. Barlow asked the Committee "where was the choir going". Were they just carrying on week in week out, year in year out or going to look ahead say five years. After hearing Mr. Barlow's views the Committee Nominated sub-titles to be discussed for the future. At the 1984 A.G.M. Mr. R. Gott was appointed Chairman but in December he announced he had taken a new job and was leaving the area. Mr. A. Hey took over the position. Landlord Mr. R. Simpson was leaving the Blacksmith Arms so the room would not be available for committee meetings. It was agreed to hold future meetings in the Institute. Reading through the Minute Book propositions have been put forward at various times to move the Meetings from the pub but it seemed that the ones who liked a pint always won.

1985 Celebrity Concert Guests were The James Shepherd Versatile Brass who were appearing for the second time.

For the 1986 Celebrity Concert it was agreed we would try and engage Black Dyke Mills Brass Band. Secretary M. Dyson had trouble finding an address for them, so he rang The Huddersfield Examiner Brass Band correspondent Ron Massey. Whilst on the phone Ron asked if the choir be interested in singing in The Royal Albert Hall, London. A concert was being arranged for a 1000 Male Voice Concert in Aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research. In November 1987 A. Hey and G. Cox attended a meeting in Huddersfield, reported back and the Choir agreed to take part (more about this later).

At 1985 A.G.M. Mr. G. Cox was elected Chairman. Then the choir was shocked to be told that accompanist Mr. C. Knowles was leaving but would stay until after the Christmas Concerts. Then Mr. Barlow said he was leaving also but would stay until a replacement was found. He said he had no quarrel with the choir but, after being with the choir fifteen years, he felt the choir would benefit if someone else took over. Adverts were put in the local press for musical director and accompanist, but unfortunately the choir had a bigger shock when suddenly on December 31st Mr. Barlow passed away. This left the choir without a musical director or accompanist.

1986

An urgent committee meeting was called on the 2nd January 1986. It was agreed at the meeting that the concerts booked for the end of March and April be cancelled, but to try and get a conductor and accompanist for the Celebrity Concert on March 8th with Guests Black Dyke Mills Band. It was agreed to rename the Celebrity Concert and call it "The Geoffrey Barlow Memorial Concert". After getting in touch with one or two local conductors and having no luck, the Secretary, M. Dyson, got in touch with the Secretary of Dodworth Male

Voice Choir, David Aston, who said that their assistant conductor would probably help. So Ken Doughty was approached and was only too pleased to help. Mrs. Pauline Hall, who had guested for the choir before, agreed to be accompanist for practices and the Celebrity Concert.

A meeting was arranged and a programme agreed, all ready for practice on 13th January. The 6th January practice had been cancelled because this was the day of Mr. Barlow's Funeral. The Memorial Concert was attended by Mrs. Barlow and family, also Geoff's Mother. In the audience were quite a few past members of the choir. They were invited to join the choir on stage in their last item "Morte Christe" and some of them did.

In February three candidates for the conductor's position had applied and been interviewed; from these, Valerie Peat was invited to take the position. Andrew Moore, aged seventeen, was offered the post of accompanist. Mr. Barlow had been a long-standing member of Mexborough Musical Festival and in his memory the choir presented them with a Trophy and for this were invited to sing at the end of the Festival on 15th March.



New items from choir in concert

GUESTS at Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir's annual celebrity concert at the Town Hall on Saturday were City of Sheffield Youth Brass Band.

The choir under their new conductor, Val Peat, had several new items to offer.

The Choir's version of "The Way You Look Tonight" was sung beautifully, the voices blending perfectly.

The young band varied their programme too with such arrangements as Nana Mouskouri's "Only Love," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "Oh, what a Beautiful Morning."

Compere was Peter Bell and accompanist Andrew Moore.

Band conductor was David Brock.

In May the choir took part in the National Association of Choirs Group and Concert in the City Hall, Sheffield. Two concerts with Tickhill Male Voice Choir were had, one home and one away. At the end of November they joined forces with Rockingham Band for a Concert in Aid of the Diabetic Association in The Civic Hall, Barnsley.

To end the year, a concert with Shepley Band in Shepley Church and a concert in Millhouse Green Institute. Twelve engagements for the Year.

At the A.G.M. G. Cox moved to Vice Chairman, R. Hutchinson moved from Treasurer to Chairman, A. Booth took the position of Treasurer, Mr. A. McKay accepted the position of President and Ken Doughty accepted the position of assistant conductor. In October, as it was getting near to their 20th Anniversary, a dinner was held at Middlewood Hall.

1987 to 1993

1987 Celebrity Guests were The Award Winning the City of Sheffield Youth Brass Band. In July the choir travelled over the border into Lancashire for a Mass Male Voice Choir Concert in the G-Mex Centre in Manchester with Guests Maryetta and Vernon Midgley. As said earlier the choir agreed to take part in a 1000 Yorkshire Voices Concert in The Royal Albert Hall, London, on Friday November 20th. The choir travelled down to London; Saturday morning practice in The Royal Albert Hall and Concert in the evening with Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band and Keith Swallow on Piano. The Concert ended with the Massed Choirs, Band and audience singing "Jerusalem", a great sound, a great feeling. Choir Members said that footballers dreamed of playing at Wembley. Singing in The Royal Albert Hall was a dream for any singer. £35,000 was raised from the concert for Yorkshire Cancer Research. A Coach trip around London on the Sunday morning and dinner on the way home completed a memorable weekend. In all, the Choir took part in thirteen engagements during 1987.

A concert in St. Marks Church, Grenoside was a new venue for the Choir and for the second year they sang in The Civic Hall, Barnsley, with Rockingham Brass Band in aid of The Diabetic Association. In September Andrew Moore left the choir and Mr. Stephen Vickers was appointed as the new accompanist.

1988 Celebrity Guests were The Leyland DAF Brass Band - another excellent concert after which the Choir and Band moved down to the Scout Hut where the Ladies Committee put on an excellent supper. In 1988 the National Association of Choirs altered their A.G.M. from a one day event to a weekend, the first being at Skegness. Secretary M. Dyson with his wife Janet represented the Choir and Penistone Ladies and did so every year until 2012.



The ninth Annual Celebrity Concert by Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir at The Metro, Penistone, featured the Leyland Daf Band. Principals Stephen Vickers, Bernard Baker, Richard Evans, Valerie Robinson, Valerie Peat, Melvyn Dyson, Kenneth Dowty and Ray Hutchinson are pictured prior to the performance. (Photo: Colin Appleyard, Sheffield 862309). MARCH 19TH 1988

In March Valerie Peat became Mrs. Valerie Jones. She married Arthur Jones from the tenor section in the morning and conducted our choir in a concert in the Town Hall in the afternoon. In 1988 the choir took part in thirteen engagements and two festivals (no success). In May and August they were invited to sing in Wortley Hall as entertainment for the people on holiday. Wortley Hall was used as a holiday Hotel in the summer at that time. At the A.G.M. Mr. G. Cox was appointed Chairman.

1989 was a very busy year with seventeen engagements. Celebrity Guests were the Yorkshire Imperial Brass Band and another excellent was supper put on by the Ladies. In June took part in the National Association of Choirs, Group 9 massed concert in York Minster. Same again for the people on holiday at Wortley Hall. In August Mr. P. Ellam from the baritone section got married, the choir sang at the reception. At the A.G.M. Mr. S. Hanwell was appointed Chairman.

1990 In January Mrs. Valerie Jones gave notice she was leaving the choir. Her last concert would be the Celebrity Concert when Guests were The Levington Yamaha Brass Band. Mr. Stephen Vickers (accompanist) was appointed Conductor and Mr. Jack Nortcliffe from the baritone section took over temporarily as accompanist. The choir were back to the average thirteen engagements with new venues being Flockton Zion Chapel and Middlestown Chapel and also took part in a Festival of Brass and Voices Concert in The Metrodome, Barnsley, which was part of the Mayors Festival Week. Around August time no application had been received for the position of accompanist when Ken Burdin, while doing some work for Mr. and Mrs. John and Margaret Gouldsbrough at their home, found out that John was a singer and Margaret was a singer and also accompanist for local Operatic Societies. So Ken invited John to join Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir and then invited Margaret to come also. Margaret said she could not come to sing because it was a Male Voice Choir, but Ken pointed out to her that we were wanting an accompanist, so Margaret came along and was appointed after the A.G.M.

Hepworth Building Products sponsored the Choir for twelve months.



1991 Celebrity Concert
Representatives of Sellers Band, Stephen Vickers, Margaret Gouldsbrough and Barbara Marshall (Compere)

1991 Only nine engagements and one Festival (no success). Celebrity Guests were The Sellers Eng. Brass Band. We did our first joint concert with Penistone Ladies Choir. Another new venue was The Loxley Country Club.

In November 1991 for the second time travelled down to London for the weekend to sing in The Royal Albert Hall for Yorkshire Cancer Research; another brilliant weekend. At the A.G.M. Mr. R. Hutchinson was appointed Chairman.

1992 was the Choir's 25 Anniversary Year and to celebrate this a dinner dance was held at Wortley Hall on March 14th. Speeches were given by the President Mr. Alan McKay and Chairman Mr. Ray Hutchinson, then everyone moved to the ballroom, after a spell of dancing the choir were called together and sang "Two Roses". Then past members were invited to join the choir and sing "Morte Christe". The Ladies Committee were each presented with two roses. A 25th anniversary cake was made by Barbara Green. The Thirteenth Annual Celebrity Concert was re-named The Silver Jubilee Concert when Guests were once again Sellers Eng. Brass Band.

New venues for the choir included a joint concert with The City of Sheffield Youth Brass Band in the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield. Thorpe Salvin Church, Stocksbridge Golf Club (at which Margaret our accompanist was Ladies Captain). We were invited by Penistone Grammar School to sing in a concert celebrating the school's 600th anniversary. The highlight of the year was singing in The National Association of Choirs Group 9 Concert and in the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Fourteen concerts were held in 1992.

Choir's Silver Jubilee Celebrity Concert 1992



MILLHOUSE GREEN MALE VOICE CHOIR

Back: Peter Green, Peter Mace, Tony Hampshire, Ron Patrick, Geoff Cox, Steve Belcher, John Gouldsbrough, Peter Ellam, Derek Shawcross.

Middle: Derek Newing, Kenny Ball, Ken Burdin Jim Norton, Roy Jubb, Steve Hanwell, Jack Throssel, Rex Roebuck.

Front: Chaz Lippeatt, Fred Galliford, Roland Simpson, Melvin Dyson, Ray Hutchinson, Alan Booth, Jack Nortcliffe, George Williamson, Ronnie Turner, Ken Dean

Not in photograph: Geoff Moore, Phil Carter, Ronnie Burton.

The first two Concerts in 1993 were at The Civic Hall, Barnsley in aid of The Children's Society, and the Fourteenth Celebrity Concert with Guests Stocksbridge Eng. Brass Band. These were conducted by Steven Vickers, then he left the choir.

Whilst visiting his brother-in-law's pub in Upperthong, Huddersfield, Ken Burdin mentioned that the choir was looking for a conductor. One of the customers in the Pub said "I'll come and conduct". He turned out to be Carl Browning who was an administrator for The National Association of Youth Choirs. Ken invited him to come to a rehearsal, after which he was appointed on a temporary basis because later in the year he was emigrating to New Zealand. He conducted two concerts whilst he was with us; in June at Wortley Hall for the people there on holiday and in September for the Roy Jubb Memorial Concert. Roy Jubb who had died in the year had been a member of Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir from just after its formation. He was also a member of Penistone Combined Choir and Hoylandswaine Church St. John's Singers. In his memory the choirs agreed to put on a Charity Concert and invited Penistone Ladies Choir to join them. The concert took place in Penistone Church and was compered by Rev. D. Birch, with Roy's wife and family and representatives of the charity attending.

The choir was still looking for a conductor in September when Carl said he would get someone. On the 20th September 1993, at our Monday practice, in walked Carl with Susan Christie. Susan was also an administrator for The National Association of Youth Choirs, she sang with Huddersfield Choral Society and also "The Master Singers" (and still does). She was Music Teacher and lived in Almondbury, Huddersfield. Sue was appointed as Musical Director and conducted the Christmas concerts. At the A.G.M. in October John Gouldsbrough was elected Chairman with Ray Hutchinson moving to Vice Chairman.



1994 to 1996

1994 Celebrity Guests were once again Stocksbridge Eng. Band.

A first for the choir was being invited to sing at a wedding in 1994 - two in fact, one being Peter Green's daughter.

In June entered Ecclesfield Music Festival coming first in the Male Voice Choir Class.

As the Roy Jubb Memorial Concert in 1993 was such a success, the choirs involved got together again in 1994 for a Charity Concert in aid of the British Diabetic Association.

November saw the choir go down to London to take part for the third time in The Yorkshire Cancer Research Concert in The Royal Albert Hall, another great weekend.

The choir had now settled down with their new Musical Director and were starting to attract new members. Thirteen engagements were held in 1994.

1995 and 1996 Celebrity Guests were David Urquhart Yorkshire Imperial Band.

In 1995 and 1996 the choir were very successful at Music Festivals winning seven first prizes (1995 Ecclesfield, Penistone and Blackpool) (1996 Wharfedale, Ecclesfield, Penistone and Blackpool).

In November 1995 the choir were asked to sing at the funeral of Fred Galliford. Choir Members had attended funerals of past members but this was the first time they had been asked to sing as a choir. Fred always joked that he was the longest serving member of the choir because he turned up for practice the week before it started.



Triumphant Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir pictured at a rehearsal with the trophies they have won this year: the Ecclesfield Music Festival Gerrard Shield; the Penistone Music Festival Trophy and the Jean Taylor Trophy. Picture: CAROLYN THORPE

In 1995 the choir took part in sixteen engagements concluding the year with singing as the entertainment at Tankersley Manor at three of their Christmas Dinners.

At the beginning of 1996 a letter was received from Morriston Ladies Choir from South Wales asking if we would be interested in doing a joint concert with them either home or away. The outcome being they came to Penistone in November and a very enjoyable and successful concert was held in the Metro Cinema.

In the summer a couple from Penistone were on holiday in Tenby when Morriston Ladies Choir was doing a concert there. The couple knew that they were coming to Penistone later in the year so introduced themselves to their conductor. At the concert in Penistone their conductor mentioned this and said it would be nice if they were in the audience that evening, they were.

1996 had been a very busy year with nineteen engagements, one being the wedding of Ronnie Burton's son.



May1st 1996 Wharfedale Music Festival Male Voice Choir Trophy

Back: R. Roebuck, D. Shawcross, J. Wood, R. Burton, G. Cox, S. Hanwell, J. Gouldsbrough, A. Johnson, D. Exley, R. Patrick, A. Jones, W. Bisby, P. Green

Middle: K. Deane, G. Williamson, P. Ackerley, P. Exley, M. Shaw

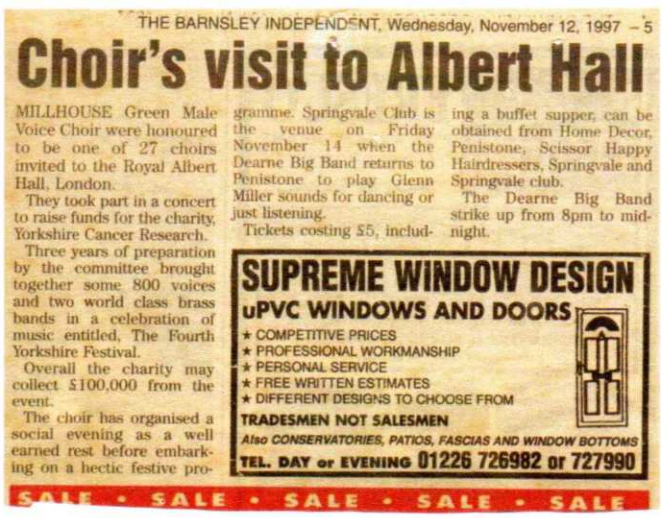
Front:J. Throssell, S. Wood, A. Booth, M. Gouldsbrough, S. Christie, K. Burdin, M. Dyson, D. Newing, K. Ball

1997 to 1998

1997 was the Choir's 30th Anniversary Year, on 1st March a dinner and dance was held at Wortley Hall.

Celebrity Guests this year were The James Shepherd Versatile Brass.

2nd to 4th May the choir went to Campbeltown in Scotland. This weekend was arranged by Harold Dyson, unfortunately Harold could not go because of illness. An early morning start made in a double decker bus arriving around 4.30pm. The choir stopped on the way at Gretna Green, Lock Lomond and a couple of other stops - a very long journey. A concert held with Campbeltown Band, a trip around the area, a visit to a distillery and entertainment in the Hotel with pipers, dancers and singers, made it a very enjoyable weekend. The choir had got the travel bug this year because in October they travelled down to London for the fourth visit to The Royal Albert Hall for The Yorkshire Cancer Research Concert - another excellent weekend.



THE BARNSLEY INDEPENDENT, Wednesday, November 12, 1997 – 5

Choir's visit to Albert Hall

MILLHOUSE Green Male Voice Choir were honoured to be one of 27 choirs invited to the Royal Albert Hall, London.

They took part in a concert to raise funds for the charity, Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Three years of preparation by the committee brought together some 800 voices and two world class brass bands in a celebration of music entitled, The Fourth Yorkshire Festival.

Overall the charity may collect £100,000 from the event.

The choir has organised a social evening as a well earned rest before embarking on a hectic festive programme. Springvale Club is the venue on Friday November 14 when the Dearne Big Band returns to Penistone to play Glenn Miller sounds for dancing or just listening.

Tickets costing £5, including a buffet supper, can be obtained from Home Decor, Penistone, Scissor Happy Hairdressers, Springvale and Springvale club.

The Dearne Big Band strike up from 8pm to midnight.

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In November they took part in The Eric Crossley Memorial Concert with Thurlstone Band and Penistone Ladies Choir. Eric, who was the choir's first conductor, had passed away earlier in the year.

On December 6th the choir were singing at The Green Moor and Hunshelf Senior Citizens party when, whilst singing a solo, Harold Dyson collapsed and died.

1997 had been another very busy year with twenty concerts and three weddings, one of which Phil Ackerley's from the baritone section of the choir.

The 1998 Celebrity Guests were The Rothwell Band. In April the choir joined with Dodworth Male Voice Choir to sing at Arthur Jones's Funeral.

In May travelled down to Swansea for the weekend and on arrival were met by the chairperson and secretary of Morriston Ladies Choir. On Friday evening a visit was made to a distillery in Cardiff whose owner was the Uncle of Tenor Chris Walker. A day in Swansea on the Saturday with an evening trip to Morriston for a Concert with the Local School Choir, with Morriston Ladies Choir joining in for the last item. On Sunday had a tour around the area and in the evening gave a Concert in Mumbles Chapel; another excellent weekend.



May 3rd 1998 Mumbles Methodist Church, Swansea

Back: D. Porthouse, N. Hewitt, D. Hill, J. Gouldsbrough, F. Butcher, R. Burton, L. Battye, D. Exley, A. Johnson, W. Bisby

Middle: J. Wood, D. Shawcross, P. Ackerley, W. Burkinshaw, J. Hind, B. Coles, M. Goodwin, P. Green

Front: R. Roebuck, J, Throssell, K. Deane, D. Armitage, A. Booth, S. Belcher, S. Christie, K. Burdin, M. Dyson, C. Walker

On 7th June a full day was spent recording a tape in Millhouse Green Institute. Came first at Wharfdale Festival then travelled on the Askrigg for a concert in Askrigg Church. The choir came first at Blackpool Festival for the third time. In September took part in Roy Firth Memorial Concert in Huddersfield Town Hall. Roy had been deputy conductor for The Royal Albert Hall Concerts and took most of the rehearsals. At the A.G.M. Mr. A. McKay M.P. resigned from the position of President with Mr. Cooke M.P. being elected in his place.

The Choir appointed four Trustees.

Another busy year with seventeen concerts, two festivals, two weddings and a funeral.

Photograph taken Nov 1998 Trophy for winner of Male Voice Choir Class at Blackpool 31st Oct 1998



Back: R. Burton, D. Hill, A.Howitt, P. Ackerley, R. Green, G. Moore, M. Goodwin
Third: F. Dickin, L. Battye, D. Wilkes, A. Johnson, W. Bisby
Second: J. Wood, M. Berryman, M. Baines, F. Butcher, C. Hallas, A. Belcher, M. Moffat, J. Gouldsbrough, K. Burdin, J. Hind, B. Coles
Front:K. Deane, R. Roebuck, D. Armitage, W. Burkinshaw, S. Christie, M. Dyson, G. Beever, K. Ball, D. Maddocks

1999 to 2000

In March 1999 Chairman John Gouldsbrough announced that the choir had been awarded Charity Status. He was thanked for his hard work in achieving this. Peter Green was also thanked for getting a £2000 grant from the Misses Barrie Charitable Fund.

This had been another busy year with seventeen concerts, four weddings and three funerals.

The Choir came first at Coalville in the open class with 90 marks, and first at Penistone in the Male Voice Choir Class.



Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir hit the top note at the weekend to take a major prize. The choir, under the direction of conductor Sue Christie, won the Barry Simonds Rose bowl. The choir were thrilled to gain 90 marks from adjudicators for one song and also the fact that it was the first time in ten years a male voice choir has won this open section. The choir also came second in the sacred songs class. COALVILLE JUNE 19TH 1999

Celebrity Guests were again The Rothwell Band. A new venue for the choir was singing in Pudsey Civic Hall for the M.S. Society, although they nearly did not make it because the coach broke down at Huddersfield. Fortunately, a local coach company helped out and got them there a little late. One or two choir members had gone by car and entertained the audience. Another new venue was the Paces Centre in High Green and they also put on a concert in Ingbirchworth Chapel for the Bluebell Wood Charity.

In June the choir was invited to John and Brenda Hinds 25th Wedding Anniversary party at Wortley Hall. In October was the weekend away in Torquay, where the choir gave a concert in St. Matthew's Church, Chelston on Saturday evening. A trip around the area on Sunday, including a visit to Buckfast Abbey, returning to the Church in the evening to take part in their Church Service. The Secretary, using Royles Travel from Ecclesfield, arranged the weekend.

In February 2000 Chairman John Gouldsbrough announced the choir had been awarded £4860 from the Awards for all Scheme towards uniforms, music and new piano. From this Alan Simmons was commissioned to write a piece of music for the choir. The Ladies Committee said they had now closed their account and presented the choir with a cheque from which a piano stool was purchased. The Ladies would still continue to provide refreshments at concerts when required and still do.

A website was set up for the choir by W. Bisby and the latest version continues to be operated by Chris Mills. This was another busy year with nineteen concerts, two festivals, two weddings and one funeral.

Celebrity Concert Guests were The Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band. The choir came first at both Penistone and Biddulph Festivals.

In April a dinner dance was held at Silkstone Lodge. Also in April the choir took part in The National Association of Choirs Annual Meeting Concert in Sheffield.

September 8th the choir were invited to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Butcher's Golden Wedding Party at Wortley Hall.



2000 - with Brixham Orpheus in Fore St. Methodist Church, Brixham

What had now become an Annual event was the weekend away which was again to Torquay when this year we visited the Kent Caverns, singing a couple of items down in the Caves. Travelled over to Brixham for a concert with Brixham Orpheus Male Voice Choir and visited Plymouth, arranged again by the Secretary and Royles Travel. In November The Yorkshire Cancer Research Concert was held at the Arena in Sheffield instead of The Royal Albert Hall, the choir took part once again.

2001 to 2002

2001 welcomed back Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band as Celebrity Guests.



Gareth Beaumont

On May 3rd the choir set off on their first trip abroad, to Lille in France, arranged by K. Burdin. Some of the party set off on Thursday afternoon and sailed overnight from Hull and the rest set off on Friday morning going over via Dover. Two concerts were performed in Lille. Visits were made to Ypres (Menin Gate) and St. Quentin Festival Parade. Sue our Musical Director had to withdraw from the trip at the last moment due to a family accident. The choir were very grateful to Gareth Beaumont for stepping in; he was joined by his wife who sang a solo at one of the concerts.

A first for the choir was singing at a Christening in St. Edwards Church, Barnsley. The parents had heard the choir sing earlier in the year at the same church whilst giving a concert for "Save the Children Fund". In July the choir had a day trip out to the Llangollen Musical Festival, not to sing, just to listen.

The choir came first in both classes at Penistone Festival and third at Biddulph. Peter Green was again successful in getting another £1000 grant from a Charitable Fund. As said earlier Alan Simmons who had been commissioned to write a piece of music came up with a piece called "Kings of Swing", a medley of songs from the swing era.

In September two days were spent recording a CD in Green Moor Chapel. Everything was going well until the man living next door decided to mow his lawn. This gave the choir a break, deciding his mower was not in tune!
During the year the choir lost two of its hard working members, Ken Deane and Jack Throssell. Ken a founder member, ran the tote and was a committee member. Jack had also been a committee member for most of the time he had been with the choir and vice chairman. The choir sang at his funeral.



September 2001 - Millennium Field, Green Moor after recording of CD

At the A.G.M. Mr. Richard Fletcher, Managing Director of Hoyland Fox accepted the position of President. In all, in 2001 the choir took part in nineteen concerts, two festivals, one funeral, one christening and one recording.

2002 started off with singing at a new venue, the Stocksbridge Salvation Army. Celebrity Guests this year were The Yorkshire Imperial Rothwell Band (D.U.T. Yorkshire Imperial and Rothwell Bands had now joined forces and were one Band).

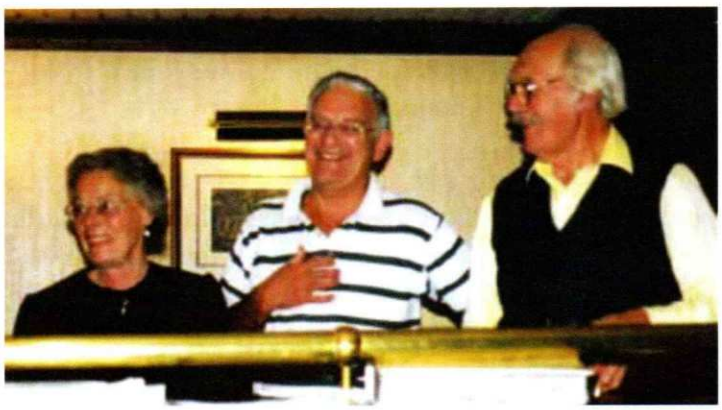


In June took part in Penistone Jubilee Concert on Penistone Show Ground arranged by the Round Table. Also in June Brixham Orpheus Male Voice Choir came to Penistone to join us in concert in the Paramount. The concert was sponsored by Mr. N. Dyson, Mr. J. Campbell and Penistone Town Council, proceeds from the concert of £1000 was presented to Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Scotland was the venue for this year's weekend away, stopping in Glasgow. A concert with East Fife Male Voice Choir in Kirkcaldy raised £1000 for Scotland Cancer Research. Visited Edinburgh and the Royal Yacht Britannia and while on board sang for the visitors.

The choir came first in both classes at Penistone Festival.

In November the choir lost another Member, David Maddocks, they sang at his funeral.



Janet and Melvyn Dyson are thanked by John Gouldsbrough for arranging the 2002 Scotland weekend

The last concert of the year was a new venue The Marsden Mechanics Hall with Marsden Band. Twenty concerts, one funeral and one festival were attended in 2002.

2003 to 2004

In January 2003 an invitation from Thurlstone Band was accepted, to join them in recording a CD of Christmas Music in Thurlstone Church.

Guests at the Celebrity Concert were again the D.U.T. Yorkshire Imperial Rothwell Band.

The choir came first at Derby Festival held in Derby Cathedral.

New venues in 2003 were concerts with Denby Dale Ladies Choir in Scissett School, sang at the Weights and Measures Conference in The Brooklands Hotel, Dodworth and also for the Caravan Club at Scout Dyke.



In November the Yorkshire Cancer Research Concert was moved back to The Royal Albert Hall, London with the choir taking part once again. Also in November, an invitation from Dodworth Male Voice Choir to take part in a workshop and concert at the Metrodome, Barnsley was accepted. Dodworth Male Voice Choir was celebrating their 50th Year and Alan Simmons had been commissioned to write a piece of music for the occasion. He called it "Five Shillings", and it was performed at the concert. Alan Simmons and Simon Hunt took the workshops and five male voice choirs took part in the concert.

In 2003 the choir took part in seventeen concerts, one festival and one recording.

A dinner and dance was arranged by Ken Burdin in Silkstone Lodge as a thank you to Sue Christie, Musical Director having completed 10 years with the choir. Margaret Gouldsbrough 13 years as accompanist, John Gouldsbrough 10 years as chairman, Alan Booth 17 years as treasurer and Melvyn Dyson 20 years as secretary; all were presented with a gift.

A draft of the rules for "Friends of Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir" were put to the Committee by Mac Moffat, this was accepted. So now instead of having a list of vice Presidents we now have a couple of vice Presidents and Friends of M.G.M.V.C.

Earlier in the year Terry and Janet Cater started doing some Sunday lunches to help cut the cost for the forthcoming trip to France. These then developed into social evenings held in Millhouse Green Institute and a Social Committee was formed.

2004 started with singing at the funeral of former vice President, Mr. Ben Goldthorpe.

Celebrity Guests were the Innovate Skelmanthorpe Band. For the first time gave Concerts in Tankersley Golf Club, Flockton Zion Chapel, Almondbury Chapel with Penistone Ladies Choir in Aid of Charity and Hoylandswaine Church.

In June the choir were invited to Ann and Bill Coles' 60th birthday party at Wortley Hall. They were also invited by Penistone Church to join Sellers Youth Band in a concert for funds for the Church. In December they joined another Band, The South Yorkshire Police Band, in Greenhill Church, Sheffield. Also a Christmas concert with Penistone Ladies Choir, the first of what turned out to be an annual event and raised thousands of pounds for Children's Charities. During the year the choir attended nineteen concerts and one funeral.

Margaret Gouldsbrough, accompanist, officially retired in October and was presented with a gift by the secretary. She was appointed assistant librarian and later librarian. Unfortunately or fortunately, whichever way you look at it, Margaret's replacement had to give backword so Margaret carried on.

The highlight of the year was the Choir's second trip to France arranged by Terry and Janet Cater. They had lived in France for a while so knew the area well. September 16th, Thursday lunch time, set off to Portsmouth for overnight crossing to Le Harve, breakfast in Honfleur, lunch at Lisieux and sang one item in the Cathedral.

We sang Pange Lingua Gloriosi, it was magic. It will never sound the same again. Two concerts were given, the first on the Saturday evening in Trevieres Church, the second in the auditorium in Bayeux on Sunday evening. Both received standing ovations. The Hotel was in Bayeux and over the weekend visits were made to Bayeux Tapestry, Normandy Battle Museum, British War Cemetery, Normandy War Beaches and Museums, Circular Theatre Arromanches, Pegasus Bridge and the Trenches. Monday morning set off to Cherbourg for fast Ferry to Portsmouth at 12.30, but it wasn't very fast because due to bad weather it was cancelled. So instead of arriving home Monday evening it was Tuesday lunch time, but still a very enjoyable and knowledgeable trip.

2005

The choir lost another member, Ronnie Burton from the bass section and committee member, and on January 5th 2005 sang at his funeral; also later in the year sang at Mr. P. Hinchliffe's funeral - a former vice President.

On March 1st 2005 Melanie Littlewood was welcomed as the new accompanist.

Celebrity Guests were again the Innovate Skelmanthorpe Band. Notable Concerts were in Upper Cumberworth Church, Silkstone Two Village Festival in Silkstone Church, with Old Silkstone Band in Silkstone Lodge and Penistone Mayor's Carol Service. It was a very good year for festivals, winning The Rutter Class at Wharfedale, two firsts at Penistone and, for



Sue Christie (musical director) being presented with trophies by the adjudicator David Kirby-Ashmore.

Millhouse Green choir return from festival with two firsts

THE Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir hit the right note at a festival in Blackpool last weekend, collecting two first prizes.

It won the male voice choir section and Susan Christie walked away as top conductor.

Choir member Terry Cater said: "We are a very good choir these days and that's thanks to the enthusiasm of Susan. She really brings the best out of all of us.

"In five years our quality has risen enormously and we are moving forward in terms of the places we play as well."

The choir will perform alongside the Penistone Ladies' Choir at a charity concert at St John's Church, Penistone on December 17

29 Oct 2005

the fourth time, Male Voice Choir class at Blackpool. The choir participated in thirteen concerts, three festivals, two funerals and one wedding in 2005.
At the A.G.M. John Gouldsbrough stood down from the position of chairman after twelve years. Terry Cater was elected as the new chairman.

October was the annual weekend away; this year it was in Cardiff at the Big Sleep Hotel. Friday evening rehearsal and social with Cowbridge Male Voice Choir. Saturday evening concert with Cowbridge Male Voice Choir in Cowbridge School. Visits were made to The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff Bay, The Welsh Millennium Centre/Theatre and the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's. This is one of Europe's biggest open-air Museums. There is 500 years of Welsh History gathered together in 100 acres of beautiful countryside. Whilst there, they sang two half hour spots in the Oakdale Working Men's Institute and a small group sang in the Chapel prior to the Welsh Service (it was a small group because the Chapel was not large enough to accommodate the entire choir). A Gala dinner on the Sunday evening before returning home on the Monday, ended another excellent weekend arranged by Terry and Janet Cater.

2006 to 2007

Celebrity Guests in 2006 were The Hade Edge (J. E. Dickinson) Band.

An invitation by Emley Fund Raisers to give a concert in Emley Church for their charity was accepted and has been repeated almost every year since. In June Cowbridge Male Voice Choir returned our visit to them last year by joining us in a concert in the Paramount.

In September two days were spent recording a C.D. in Thurlstone Church.

In November, for the sixth time, the choir took part in The Yorkshire Cancer Research Concert in The Royal Albert Hall, London.

The Choir sang at two weddings, one was the daughter of 2nd tenor Duncan Exley.

Although the choir had acquired one or two new members during the year, they also lost three members, and so, sang at the funerals of Malcolm Smith, Alan Johnson and Kenneth Ball. They also lost one of their keenest supporters when Sue Christie lost her Mother. The choir sang at her funeral, which was bravely conducted by Sue.

2006 had been a busy year with seventeen concerts, four funerals, two weddings, one festival and one recording.

2007 was the choir's 40th Anniversary Year and on February 10th they celebrated with a dinner dance in Wortley Hall. In April they held a Thanksgiving Service/Songs of Praise in Thurlstone Church, which was attended by quite a few past members. The service was put together by G. Moore. In July a School Music Festival was held in Penistone Paramount with all local schools taking part; this proved to be very successful. Also Anniversary Badges, Mugs and Paper



Millhouse Choir musical director Susan Christie with choir members Derek Shawcross and Peter Green. (D)

Choir scales new heights as it is on song for 40th anniversary

More than 40 years ago a group of men had a singalong on a Saturday night in the local pub. More than four decades later they are still going strong under the guise of Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir.

Weights were on sale. During the year the choir sang at two weddings one being John Hind's Son (vice Chairman and 2nd tenor) and the other Norman Hodgkinson's (Bass) Granddaughter.

The choir entered Cleethorpes Music Festival and came away with the Male Voice Trophy.

Celebrity Guests were The Sellers International Band. For the first time they gave a concert in Hepworth Church and also at The Mining Museum. A concert with the Mastersingers in Penistone Paramount was a busy night for Sue Christie, singing with the Mastersingers and Conducting the choir.

In August all choir members were invited to Mary and George Williamson's 60th Wedding Anniversary at Silkstone Lodge.
The Annual weekend away in September was to Amsterdam, again arranged by Terry and Janet Cater. Thursday 13th travelled to Hull, boarded the "Pride of Amsterdam" for an overnight crossing to Rotterdam. That evening members of the choir gave a concert on board ship. Saturday morning we visited Delph and in the afternoon moved on to the Hotel; the Holiday Inn at Leiden.

In the evening the choir gave a Concert in Noordwyk, receiving a standing ovation. Sunday morning we visited Amsterdam enjoying a Canal Boat Trip and in the afternoon toured round Amsterdam. In the evening of the same day we gave a Concert in Akersloot and received another standing ovation. Sunday morning visited another part of Amsterdam; afternoon visited Zaanse Schans before leaving to board ship from Rotterdam for overnight crossing for Home. This proved to be another excellent weekend.

At the A.G.M. Mr. J. Campbell accepted the position of President. During the year the choir membership reached fifty..

In 2007 fifteen concerts, one festival and two weddings were attended.

2008 to 2009

At the beginning of 2008 Accompanist Melanie Littlewood was on Maternity leave until May with June Asquith, Margaret Gouldsbrough and Jane Robertson deputising during her absence.

Celebrity Guests were the Old Silkstone Band.

A busy year with engagements notably with The Pennine Singers in Huddersfield (their M.D. being Gareth Beaumont, our Deputy M.D) and with Silkstone School Choir in Silkstone Church. Gave concert in St. John's Church, Owlerton, Sheffield. Penistone and District Arts Festival invited the choir to join Penistone Ladies and Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir in a concert in Penistone Church. Sang for the Shelley over 60 Club in Shelley Village Hall. This was followed with a concert in Denby Dale Church.

In November the Choir, who started The Penistone Competitive Music Festival back in 1968, took part in their 40th Anniversary Concert held in the Paramount. They successfully entered two festivals coming first at both Derby and Penistone.

Thurlstone Church 2007 after recording 40th Anniversary CD



Back: John Wood, Robert Slater, Arnold Belcher, Phil Ackerley, Frank Dickin, Keith Raynor, Roger Green, Geoff Moore, Mike Denton, Will Bisby

Third: Chris Powell, Brian Wills, Cecil Hallas, Doug Armitage, Bill Burkinshaw, Joe James, Neville Dyson, Ray Hutchinson, Mac Moffat, Duncan Exley, Geoff Beaver, Mike Goodwin

Second: Bill Coles, George Williamson, Jack Schofield, Norman Hodgkinson, Terry Cater, John Gouldsbrough, Darren Sykes, Chris Walker, Alan Burgin

Front: Derek Shawcross, Alan Booth, Melanie Littlewood, Sue Christie, Margaret Gouldsbrough, Melvyn Dyson, Peter Green

The Annual weekend away was to North Wales, setting off Friday for Criccieth (stopping for lunch in Llangollen). In the evening joined by Cor Meibion Dwyfor for a social. Saturday started with a visit to Portmerion then on to Betws-y-Coed; in the evening joined Cor Meibion Dwyfor for a concert in Porthmadoc Church. Sunday morning the choir left Criccieth calling at Llanberis on the way to Caernarfon where we gave a short concert in the Castle.



At the A.G.M. John Hind was appointed Chairman. The choir took part in eighteen concerts, two festivals, one wedding and one funeral in 2008, the funeral being in December when we lost Baritone Arnold Belcher.

A quieter year in 2009 with thirteen concerts. Celebrity Guests being The Sellers International Band. Concerts with two Ladies Choirs, Kala Ladies and Marsh Ladies and one for our Friends of Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir in Thurgoland Church. Two Male Voice Choirs also joined us in 2009. In June Cor Meibion Dwyfor from North Wales repaid our visit to them in 2008 and in October East Fife Male Voice Choir were our Guests. For these two visits the social committee were very busy putting on a sit down tea and supper after the concerts.

The yearly outing was to Chester when we joined Chester Ladies Choir for a concert in Hoole Church on the Friday evening. We had a day in Chester on the Saturday and in the evening travelled to Farndon and gave a concert in St. Chad's Church. On the way home on Sunday we visited Tatton Park. At the A.G.M. Terry Cater accepted the position of President.

2010

In January 2010 the Choir lost another member from the Baritone Section, Roy Watmough. They sang at his funeral and in September sang at the funeral of Neville Roebuck a former member, both in Green Moor Chapel.

Celebrity Guests were the Hepworth Band, we were also invited by Penistone Church to join Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band in a concert for Church Funds.

A new venue for the choir was a concert in Honley Church with the Holme Valley Singers. At the beginning of the year our President, Terry Cater, had a visit from one of his neighbours who worked for the B.B.C. She said they were having a piece of music written by Benjamin Till to a poem by Doreen Brigham, a lady from Harrogate. It was to be called "A Symphony for Yorkshire". A film would be made and shown as part of the Yorkshire Day Celebrations. They needed a Male Voice Choir to sing it and asked if Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir would be interested; the answer was yes. In May Benjamin Till came to a choir practice in Millhouse Green Institute and after listening to the choir agreed that they would be the ones to sing it. In June the choir went to the recording studios in Bramley, Leeds; a film crew came to a choir practice in Millhouse Green Institute. They also filmed the choir across the road in The Blacksmith Arms and on the hills. Others taking part in the

film were a Brass Band and Solo Artists. The film was shown on the B.B.C. Look North Programme and recording played on local radio stations. A D.V.D. was made with £5.00 from each sale being given to Children in Need.

The annual weekend away was to Scotland, staying in Edinburgh. Friday evening East Fife Male Voice Choir joined us for a concert in Priestfield Church in Edinburgh. Earlier in the year Melvyn (Secretary) had a telephone call from Enid Crossland, wife of former member Frank who, as mentioned earlier, had moved down South. She said their son lived in Edinburgh and she had heard the choir were going there and could she have some information about the concert, dates etc. She was making arrangements to visit their son and go to the concert but not telling Frank that we were singing. The plan worked a treat; his face when he walked in was a picture.



Kinnoull Church, Perth 2009

Back: John Wood, David Wake, Derek Richards, Mike Berryman, David Allaway, Mike Denton, Peter Green, Phil Ackerley Derek Hill, Frank Dickin

Third: Carey Williamson, George Williamson, Duncan Exley, Geoff Beever, Jim Oxley, Fred Hemsley, Terry Casey, Elwyn Parry, Keith Raynor

Second: Derek Shawcross, Chris Powell, John Worrell, Mac Moffat, Roger Green, Bill Coles, Joe James, Phil Buckley,

Front: Brian Wills, Jack Schofield, Chris Mills, John Hind, Steve Dixon, Melvyn Dyson, Sue Christie, Terry Cater, Alan Burgin, Steve Duniec, Mike Goodwin, Alan Booth, Neville Dyson, Bill Burkinshaw, Doug Armitage

Saturday morning spent in Edinburgh, late afternoon travelled to Perth for a concert in Kinoull Church. On Sunday the choir visited St. Andrews and along the Fife Coast. On the way home on Monday stopped off in Durham and performed a short concert in Durham Cathedral: another brilliant weekend arranged by Terry and Janet Cater.

In 2010 the choir participated in fourteen concerts, two funerals, one wedding and one film/recording.

At the A.G.M. Mr. C. Blantern of Hi Point Scaffolding accepted the position of President with his Company Sponsoring the choir. Also at the A.G.M. Stephen Dixon accepted the post of Chairman.

At the last concert of the year in Millhouse Green Institute, presentations were made to members of the choir who had twenty or more years of service.

2011 to 2012

Hepworth Band returned for a second visit for the Annual Celebrity Concert in 2011. At the concert Barbara Marshall, who had been compere at the Celebrity Concert for twenty years, was presented with a framed certificate making her a life member of the choir. Barbara had a very good Contralto Voice and in her early years sang in the clubs under a stage name. She played many a Leading Role in Penistone Operatic and other Local Societies Productions so what came as a surprise before the start of a concert was when she said "I'll just have a sherry to calm my nerves". I said why was she nervous, she had spent all these years on stage. She replied when she sang in Clubs and took part in the Operatic Societies she was not Barbara Marshall, so you see to get over nerves you have to be someone else.

New venues for the choir were a Lunch Time Concert in Wakefield Cathedral and Charity Concerts in Hemsworth Church and Rotherham Minster.



Rotherham Minster 2011

The choir sang at the funeral of Hazel Armitage, wife of Douglas from the Baritone section. In October we also sang at John Gouldsbrough's 90th Birthday Concert.

The annual weekend away was a second visit to North Wales, staying in Criccieth. Visit to Conwy and a concert with Cor Meibion Dwyfor Male Voice Choir in Porthmadog Church. On the way home we called at Alveston Hall (a Warner Leisure Hotel) for lunch and a short concert for the people on holiday.

The Choir entered the The Don Valley and Cleethorpes (1st) festivals.

In 2011 the choir participated in seventeen concerts, one funeral and two festivals.

2012 Celebrity Guests were Philamonic Brass.

We also took part in a concert in Huddersfield Town Hall in aid of Cancer Research U.K. with Colne Valley, Elland, Gledholt and Honley Male Voice Choirs and Grimethorpe Band.

The Choir travelled to Ollerton near Mansfield for a joint concert with the Dukeries Singers and also to Bramley to give a concert in the Methodist Church.

They sang at the funeral of Barbara Shawcross, wife of Founder Member Derek.

The annual weekend away was to Alveston Hall (Warners Leisure Hotel). On the way there we called at The National Memorial Arboritum and sang in the Chapel there. On Friday evening we gave a concert for the guests staying at Alveston Hall. On Saturday evening we gave a concert in Nantwich Church, on Sunday visited Trentham Park. On the way home on Monday called at Tideswell and gave concert in St. John the Baptist Church.



'Warner Pop Choir' sing Mamma Mia - Alveston Hall 2012

2012 the choir took part in fifteen concerts and two funerals.

At the A.G.M. presentations were made to Melvyn Dyson who was retiring from the position of secretary after twenty nine years and to Terry and Janet Cater who were retiring from the organizing of social events and weekends away.

David Allaway was appointed Chairman. The Secretary's position was split in two - Derek Richards as General Secretary and Phil Buckley as Concert Secretary. Keith Raynor took over the position of organizing social events and weekends away.

In December Terry Cater passed away, the choir sang at his funeral. Terry had been ill for quite a while but had soldiered on giving all to the choir. Melanie Littlewood accompanist left the choir at the end of the year.

2013 to 2014

January 2013 Cath Stevenson was appointed accompanist. Cath was not new to the choir, she had accompanied them before on the annual weekends away.

Celebrity guests were Meltham and Meltham Mills Band. Concerts included singing in the Victoria Hall, Sheffield in aid of Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind, The Dukeries Singers from Ollerton joined us in Penistone Church, joined Thurlstone Junior Band in the Catholic Church Penistone, gave what had now become a regular concert in Emley Church and took part in the Royal British Legion Service in Barnsley.

Earlier in the year the choir sang at the funerals of John Gouldsbrough and Norman Hodgkinson and, later in the year, joined with Waldershelf Singers in a memorial concert for Norman.

Weekend away was to Beverley with a joint concert Beverley Male Voice Choir and a visit to York.

2013, fourteen concerts, two funerals.

At the beginning of 2014 the choir sang at the funeral of Shirley Beever, wife of Geoff (2nd Tenor) and at the funeral of Fred Butcher a founder member. Also in November, sang at the funeral of Cynthia Schofield wife of Jack (Bass).

2014 Celebrity guests were the South Yorkshire Police Band. Concerts included John Gouldsbrough's Memorial Concert, Flower Festival in Millhouse Green/Thurlstone Chapel, Hoylandswaine Church, Thurlstone Church with Beverley Male Voice Choir, for the eleventh year Annual Christmas Charity Concert with Penistone Ladies and concluded the year with a joint concert with Miscellany in Lepton Church. The choir entered Penistone Festival (1st and 3rd). In November recorded the first half of a C.D. in Birdsedge Chapel.
Annual weekend away was to Kenilworth staying at the Holiday Inn. Friday evening joined by some Members of Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir for a social in the Hotel. Saturday visited Stratford upon Avon, joint concert with Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir in Stoneleigh Church. Sunday on the way home called at Leamington Spa.

The choir participated in thirteen concerts, three funerals and one festival in 2014.

At the A.G.M. David Allaway and Phil Buckley stood down from the positions of chairman and concert secretary. Keith Raynor took over as chairman, Derek Richards continued as secretary and added the role of concert secretary.

2015

February 12th the choir sang at Rex Roebuck's Funeral, Donations in memory of Rex were split between the choir and Green Moor Cricket Club. With their share the choir bought copies of a piece of music called "Anthem" with each copy having the inscription dedicated to the memory of Rex Roebuck, choir member 1985 to 2015.

Celebrity concert guests were again the South Yorkshire Police Band. In April it was announced that the social committee had disbanded.

Concerts included travelling down to Ollerton for a joint concert with The Dukeries Singers. K Shoes Male Voice Choir joined us in Thurlstone Church.

Later in the year the weekend away was to the Lake District, staying in Windermere with a visit to Kendal and a concert with K Shoes Male Voice Choir in Natland Church.



Natland, Cumbria - 2015

July 4th turned out to be a sad day for the choir, Alan Booth was taken ill while on the coach as they were setting off to Bramley for a concert in their Methodist Church; he got back off the coach at Penistone Church, but then collapsed and died. With the blessing of Kath (Alan's wife) the choir continued to Bramley and gave a superb performance. The choir sang at his funeral. Alan had been treasurer of the choir for twenty nine years and before that had been the librarian.

July 5th recorded the second half of the C.D. in Birdsedge Chapel.

July 17th Members and wives/partners were invited to Jean and Neville Dyson's Golden Wedding Celebrations at Wortley Hall.

Again gave Concert in Thurlstone Church with proceeds for Bluebell Wood Hospice. Christmas Concert was with Silkstone Common Junior School Choir and concluded the year singing in Millhouse Green Institute.
In 2015 the Choir participated in nine concerts, two funerals, one recording, one wedding and one Golden Wedding.

At the AGM Sue Christie announced she was going to retire and leave the Choir after the 2017 Celebrity Concert.

In November Chairman Keith Raynor and Secretary Derek Richards along with Diana Bramall, organizer of the concert, visited Bluebell Wood Hospice and presented a cheque for over £800.00

2016

Towards the end of 2015 Accompanist Cath Stevenson with husband Geoff moved to Cleveleys near Blackpool but she had still been coming over to Millhouse Green every week to attend Choir Practice. This was a long journey and therefore, Cath decided to leave the Choir but promised to support them till a replacement was found. In January Philip Sutcliffe was introduced to the Choir and after a few rehearsals was installed as the new Accompanist.

February 2016 Mac Moffat passed away after a long illness. The Choir sang at his funeral in Thurgoland Church.

For the third year running the South Yorkshire Police Band were the Celebrity Guests.

In June we were joined in Concert by The Mastersingers at "The Venue" in Stocksbridge. A busy night for Sue, conducting the Choir and Singing with the Mastersingers. Also in June we were joined by sixteen years old Imogen Davey (Flute and Piccolo) in Concert in Emley Church. This was arranged by Emley Fundraisers. Over the years Sue Christie M.D. has introduced quite a few young performers to join the Choir in Concert, providing them with exposure and experience on the Concert Platform.

August saw the Choir lose another member, Derek Shawcross, who sadly passed away. Derek was a Founder Member, Treasurer (1968 to 1978) and Committee Member. Derek had said he hoped he could get to Fifty Years as a Member of the Choir. Unfortunately, this was not to be. The Choir sang at his Funeral in Thurlstone Church. In September the Choir lost another member, John Worrell. The Choir sang at his funeral.

The 2016 weekend away was to Cardiff with excellent weather and sight- seeing around the area. On Saturday evening the Choir travelled over to Ogmore Vale for a Concert with their Male Voice Choir.

October 2016 at Ogmore Vale



Back: John Wood, Mike Berryman, Duncan Exley, David Allaway, Geoff Beever, John Wright, Peter Green, Will Bisby, Chris Marsh, Derek Hill, Frank Dickin, Keith Raynor

Middle: George Williamson, Phil Buckley, Peter Marsh, John Winn, Alan Hill, Roger Green, Mike Denton, Terry Casey, Doug Armitage, Mike Pope, Ryan Rudder

Front: Chris Powell, Brian Wills, Jack Schofield, Carey Williamson, Ray Hutchinson, Steve Dixon, Chris Mills, Melvyn Dyson, Fred Hemsley, Bill Coles, Neville Dyson, Paul Broadhead, Mike Goodwin

Accompanist: Philip Sutcliffe, *MD*: Sue Christie

On September 24th the Choir joined Penistone Ladies and Thurlstone Brass Band in a Concert in Penistone Paramount organised by Freemasons of Area 4 of the Province of Yorkshire, proceeds going to Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Charity. Judith Sims was Guest Conductor for the Choir, Sue Christie being away at her son's wedding.

In October we sang in The Victoria Hall, Sheffield in aid of Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind. In November the Choir gave a Concert in Thurlstone Church for Friends of the Choir.

In December the Choir gave Concerts in Emley Church, our Annual Concert in Penistone Church with guests Penistone Children's Choir and concluded the year with singing at a private dinner in Wortley Hall.

In 2016 there were twelve Concerts and three Funerals.

2017 - Golden Jubilee Year

To celebrate the Choir's Fifty Years there was a Dinner at Wortley Hall on February 11th 2017. An Anniversary Service has been arranged in Thurlstone Church on June 11th. Personalised Memorabilia in the form of China Mugs and small Momentoes have been purchased.
On April 8th Celebrity Guests are Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band.

At the end of April Sue Christie retires after 23 years as Musical Director and Rachel Atkinson takes up the post.



Margaret Gouldsbrough cuts the 50th Anniversary cake

Note to Peter Green:

Peter, you must have had many an idea over your lifetime, but your idea of forming a Male Voice Choir must have been one of your best.

The Male Voice Choir has given many a man an excellent hobby. We have visited and sung in some great places, entertained and raised over the years thousands of pounds for charity.

Note to the Ladies:

To all wives, partners, girlfriends and Friends of the Choir, past and present thank you for your help and support over the years. The Choir would not have been as successful as it has been without your help; putting on Jumble Sales in the early years doing refreshments at Concerts especially at the Celebrity Concert, selling raffle tickets, selling Concert tickets etc, etc, etc.
Once again thank you.

Current Choir Membership

Tenor 1
Will Bisby, Terry Casey, Bill Coles, Michael Denton, Steve Duniec, Peter Green, Fred Hemsley, Geoff Moore, Jim Oxley, Chris Walker.

Tenor 2
David Allaway, Geoff Beever, Steve Dixon, Melvyn Dyson, Duncan Exley, Roger Green, Alan Hill, Ray Hutchinson, Chris Mills, Chris Ownsworth, John Winn, John Wright.

Baritone
Phil Ackerley, Douglas Armitage, Paul Broadhead, Frank Dickin, Neville Dyson, Mike Goodwin, Derek Hill, John Hind, Bryan Marsh, Chris Marsh, Michael Pope, Keith Raynor, Ryan Rudder, Maurice Williams.

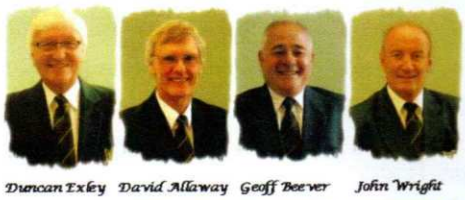
Bass
Mike Berryman, Philip Buckley, Cecil Hallas, William Johnson, Peter Marsh, Chris Powell, Derek Richards, Jack Schofield, Carey Williamson, Brian Wills, John Wood.







Top Tenors







Second Tenors







Baritones







Basses

Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir Festivals entered

1968 Ecclesfield, Holmfirth (2nd).
1969 Mrs. Sunderland- Huddersfield, Holmfirth.
1970 Ecclesfield.
1971 Holmfirth, Penistone.
1972 Mexborough (2nd), Horsforth (1st), Penistone (2nd), Barnsley.
1973 Elsecar and Hoyland (1st), Mexborough (1st and 3rd).
1974 Elsecar and Hoyland, Morecambe (1st).
1975 Morecambe (2nd and 3rd), Harrogate (1st).
1976 Blackburn (3rd), Mexborough (3rd), Penistone.
1977 Mexborough (1st and 2nd), Dearne District (2nd), Penistone.
1978 Mexborough (3rd), Penistone (3rd).
1980 Penistone (2nd).
1981 Mexborough (1st and 2nd), Penistone (2nd).
1982 Mexborough (1st and 3rd), Penistone (3rd).
1983 Dearne District, Penistone (1st).
1984 Mexborough, Penistone.
1988 Ecclesfield (3rd), Penistone (2nd).
1990 Penistone (3rd).
1991 Penistone (3rd and 3rd).
1994 Ecclesfield (1st).
1995 Ecclesfield (1st), Penistone (1st and 2nd), Blackpool (1st).
1996 Wharfedale (1st), Ecclesfield (1st), Penistone (1st and 3rd), Blackpool (1st).
1998 Wharfedale (1st), Blackpool (1st).
1999 Morecambe, Coalville (1st and 2nd), Penistone (1st).
2000 Penistone (1st and 1st), Biddulph (1st).
2001 Penistone (1st and 1st), Biddulph (3rd).
2002 Penistone (1st and 1st).
2003 Derby (1st).
2005 Wharfedale (1st and 3rd), Penistone (1st and 1st), Blackpool (1st).
2006 Wharfedale.
2007 Cleethorpes (1st).
2008 Derby (1st), Penistone (1st and 1st).
2011 Cleethorpes (1st and 1st).
2014 Penistone (1st and 3rd).





Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir
Weekends away

1987	November - London	Y.C.R. Concert Royal Albert Hall
1991	November - London	Y.C.R. Concert Royal Albert Hall
1994	November - London	Y.C.R. Concert Royal Albert Hall
1997	May - Campbeltown, Scotland	Concert with Campbeltown Band
1997	October - London	Y.C.R. Concert Royal Albert Hall
1998	May - Swansea	Concert with Morriston School Choir
1999	October - Torquay	Concert in Torquay Church
2000	November -	Concert with Brixham Male Voice Choir
2001	June - Lille, France	Two Concerts in Lille
2002	October - Kirkaldy, Scotland	Concert with East Fife Male Voice Choir and sang on Britannia.
2003	October - London	Y.C.R. Concert Royal Albert Hall
2004	September - Bayeux, France	Two Concerts
2005	September - Cardiff, Wales	Concert with Cowbridge Male Voice Choir
2006	November - London	Y.C.R. Concert Royal Albert Hall
2007	September - Amsterdam, Holland	Two Concerts, plus sang on the boat
2008	September - Criccieth, North Wales	Concert with Cor Meibion Dwyfor in Portmadog.
2009	September - Chester	Two Concerts, one with Chester Ladies
2010	October - Edinburgh, Scotland	Concert with East Fife Male Voice Choir Concerts in Perth and in Durham Cathedral.
2011	September - Criccieth, North Wales	Concert with Cor Meibion Dwyfor in Portmadog
2012	October - Alvaston Hall, Cheshire	Two Concerts, Nantwich Church and Tideswell Church
2013	September - Beverley	Concert with Beverley Male Voice Choir
2014	September - Kenilworth	Concert with Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir
2015	September - Bowness on Windermere	Concert with K Shoes Male Voice Choir
2016	September - Cardiff	Concert with Ogmore Vale Male Voice Choir

Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir
Celebrity Concert Guests

1980	Derek Blackwell and Keith Swallow
1981	Hammonds Sauce Works Band
1982	James Shepherd Versatile Brass
1983	Patricia Bennett and Keith Swallow
1984	Grimethorpe Colliery Band
1985	James Shepherd Versatile Brass
1986	Black Dyke Mills Band
1987	City of Sheffield Youth Brass Band
1988	Leyland DAF Band and Val Robinson
1989	I.M.I Yorkshire Imperial Band, Val Robinson and Geoff Littledyke
1990	Lewington Yamaha Brass Band
1991	Sellers Engineering Band
1992	Sellers Engineering Band
1993	Stocksbridge Engineering Band
1994	Stocksbridge Engineering Band
1995	D.U.T Yorkshire Imperial Band
1996	D.U.T Yorkshire Imperial Band
1997	James Shepherd Versatile Brass
1998	Rothwell Band
1999	Rothwell Band
2000	Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band
2001	Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band
2002	D.U.T Yorkshire Imperial Rothwell Band
2003	D.U.T Yorkshire Imperial Rothwell Band
2004	Innovate Skelmanthorpe Band
2005	Innovate Skelmanthorpe Band
2006	Hade Edge Band
2007	Sellers International Band
2008	Old Silkstone Band
2009	Sellers International Youth Band
2010	Hepworth Band
2011	Hepworth Band
2012	Philharmonic Brass
2013	Meltham and Meltham Mills Band
2014	South Yorkshire Police Band
2015	South Yorkshire Police Band
2016	South Yorkshire Police Band

KEY POST HOLDERS OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS

PRESIDENTS

Mr. T Hardisty	1967 - Jan 1969
Mr. D Booth	Jan 1968 - Aug 1971
Mr. P H Hinchcliffe	Sept 1971 - Sept 1974
Mrs N Tomlinson	Sept 1974 - Sept 1979
Mr Morgan-Giles	Sept 1979 - Sept 1982
Mr. N. Stewart	Sept 1982 – Sept 1986
Mr. A. McKay MP	Sept 1986 – Sept 1998
Mr. Cooke MP	Sept 1998 – Sept 2000
Mr. R. Fletcher	Sept 2000 – Sept 2007
Mr. J. Campbell	Sept 2007 – Dec 2008
No President	Dec 2008 – Sept 2009
Mr. T. Cater	Sept 2009 – Sept 2010
Mr. C. Blantern	Sept 2010 – Sept 2013

CHAIRMEN

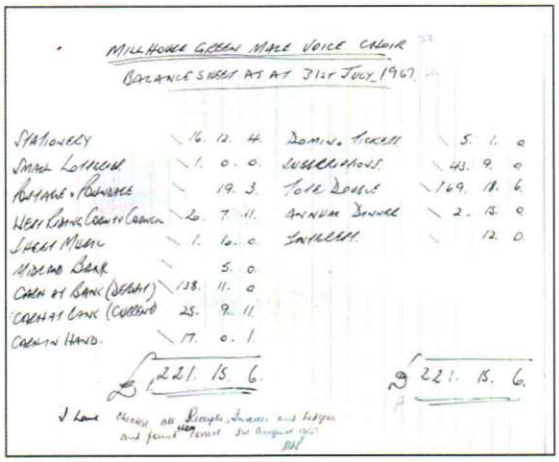
Mr. C. W. Lockwood	1967 to Sept 1970
Mr. C. Cherry	Sept 1970 – March 1971
Mr. C. W. Lockwood	March 1971 – April 1979
Mr. K. Deane	April 1979 – Sept 1979
Mr. R. Gott	Sept 1979 – Sept 1980
Mr. A. Hey	Sept 1980 – Sept 1984
Mr. R. Gott	Sept 1984 – March 1985
Mr. A. Hey	March 1985 – Sept 1985
Mr. G. Cox	Sept 1985 – Sept 1986
Mr. R. Hutchinson	Sept 1986 – Sept 1988
Mr. G. Cox	Sept 1988 – Sept 1989
Mr. S. Hanwell	Sept 1989 – Sept 1991
Mr. R. Hutchinson	Sept 1991 – Sept 1993
Mr. J. Gouldsbrough	Sept 1992 – Sept 2005
Mr. T. Cater	Sept 2005 – Sept 2008
Mr. J. Hind	Sept 2008 – Sept 2010
Mr. S. Dixon	Sept 2010 – Sept 2012
Mr. D. Allaway	Sept 2012 – Sept 2014
Mr. K. Raynor	Sept 2014

SECRETARIES

Mr. P. Green	1967 – Dec 1967
Mr. D. White	Dec 1967 – Aug 1969
Mr. L. Green	Aug 1969 – Jan 1970
Mr. C. Hallas	Jan 1970 – Sept 1971
Mr. A. Hey	Sept 1971 – Sept 1974
Mr. R. Gott	Sept 1974 – Sept 1976
Mr. F. Crossland	Sept 1976 – Sept 1981
Mr. D. Jones	Sept 1981 – Nov 1982
Mr. F. Crossland	Nov 1982 – June 1983
Mr. M. Dyson	June 1983 – Sept 2012
Mr. D. Richards General Sec	Sept 2012 – Sept 2014
Mr. P. Buckley Concert Sec	Sept 2012 – Sept 2014
Mr. D. Richards	Sept 2014

TREASURERS

Mr. J. Gibbons	1967 – Aug 1968
Mr. D. Shawcross	Aug 1968 – Sept 1978
Mr. R. Hutchinson	Sept 1978 – Sept 1986
Mr. A. Booth	Sept 1986 – July 2015
Mr. S. Dixon	Sept 2015



MILLHOUSE GREEN MALE VOICE CHOIR
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st JULY 1967

STATIONERY	16.	12. 4.	DOMINO TICKETS	5.	1. 0
SMALL LOTTERIES	1.	0. 0.	SUBSCRIPTIONS	43.	9. 0
POSTAGE & PACKAGE	19.	3.	FETE DOUBLE	169.	18. 6
WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL	26.	7. 11.	ANNUAL DINNER	2.	15. 0
SUNDRY MUSIC	1.	16. 0.	SUNDRIES		12. 0.
MIDLAND BANK		5. 0			
CASH AT BANK (DEPOSIT)	138.	11. 0			
CASH AT BANK (CURRENT)	25.	9. 11			
CASH IN HAND	17.	0. 1.			
£	221.	15. 6.	£	221.	15. 6.

I have checked the Receipts, Invoices and Cheques and found them correct. 3rd August 1967

Choir's First Balance Sheet

CONDUCTORS/MUSICAL DIRECTORS

Mr. E. Crossley	1967 – Sept 1971
Mr. N. Tomlinson (Temp)	Sept 1971 – Oct 1971
Mr. G. Barlow	Oct 1971 – Dec 1985
Mr. K. Doughty (Temp)	Jan 1986 – March 1986
Mrs. V. Peat (Jones)	March 1986 – March 1990
Mr. S. Vickers	March 1990 – March 1993
Mr. C. Browning	April 1993 – Sept 1993
Mrs. S. Christie	Sept 1993

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

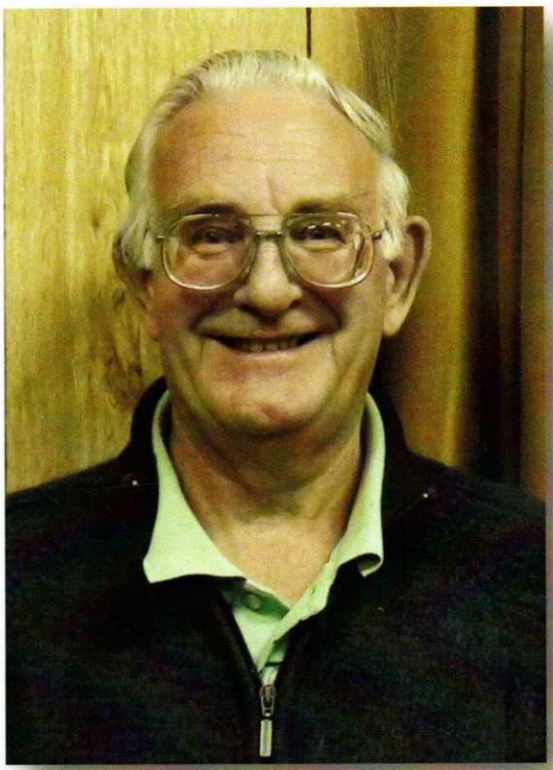
Mr. G. Beaumont
Gareth took the Choir to Lille in 2001 and has stood in for Sue when not available ever since.

ACCOMPANISTS

Miss J. Milner	1967 – Aug 1969
Mrs. A. Jubb	Aug 1969 – Sept 1972
Mr. J. Bashforth (Temp whilst Mrs. Jubb was ill).	
Mrs. O. Barlow	Jan 1973 – March 1983
Mr. P. Hall (Temp played Celebrity Concert 1982).	
Mrs. B. Senior (Temp played Celebrity Concert 1983).	
Mrs. J. Cantrell	March 1983 – Dec 1983
Miss. L. Littlewood	Dec 1983 – Sept 1984
Mrs. O. Barlow (Temp) Sept 1984 – Dec 1984	
Mrs. C. Knowles	Dec 1984 – Dec 1985
Mrs. P. Hall (Temp) Jan 1986 to March 1986	
Mr. A. Moore	March 1986 – Sept 1987
Mr. S. Vickers	Sept 1987 – March 1990
Mr. J. Nortcliffe	March 1990 – Dec 1990
Mrs. M. Gouldsbrough	Dec 1990 – March 2005
Mrs. J. Marsh (Temp)	*Dec 1995*
Miss M. Littlewood	March 2005 – Dec 2007
Miss J. Asquith (Temp	*Jan 2008 – Feb 2008*
Mrs. M. Gouldsbrough (Temp) Feb 2008 – May 2008	
Mrs. J. Robertson played Celebrity Concert 2008	
Miss M. Littlewood	May 2008 – Dec 2012
Mrs. C. Stevenson	Jan 2013 – Feb 2016
Mr. P. Sutcliffe	Feb 2016

At the time of going to print, the Choir have still got one Founder Member still singing.

Melvyn would like to thank Angela Dixon for typing the initial manuscript, Steve Dixon, Pip Wise and Chris Mills for editorial and production work and members of the Choir past and present who have contributed ideas, information and photographs contained in this publication.



Melvyn Dyson joined Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir in November 1979. He served as Secretary for the Choir for 29 years from June 1983 to September 2012. Melvyn's wife Janet sang with Penistone Ladies Choir and for 24 years Melvyn and Janet represented MGMVC and Penistone Ladies respectively at National Association of Choirs AGMs.

Melvyn produced this book to serve as a record of the Choir's history and as a reminder of the people who have made the Choir what it is today. Along the way there are glimpses of the way life has changed over the years and examples of how difficulties can generally been overcome with perseverance, cooperation and resourcefulness.