



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINDER CHILDREN'S CHOIRS OF THE HIGH PEAK

THE

# Kinder Chorister

Issue 30 AUTUMN 2010

## Exciting 20th Anniversary celebrations in 2011

**N**EXT year will be KCC's 20th Anniversary Year! Who would have thought in June 1991, when Founder Director Joyce Ellis called the meeting for prospective parents and choristers at Hayfield School, that 20 years later our young people would have become such an important part of the High Peak music scene and an acclaimed international award-winning choir?

"No doubt at some point we shall tell the story again of the Choirs' formation, however, this is not the time," said Joyce. "Our purpose now is to whet our supporters' appetites and tickle their fancies as to what is in store for everyone in what the Trust and the Choirs are hoping will be an anniversary year to remember!

"We shall start the celebratory year with our Summer Concert for all choirs and trainees on Saturday, June 25, at Buxton Opera House. However, this time it will be a *Gala Anniversary Concert* with extra surprises! I am hoping that as many of our alumni as possible will come to join in and that there will be a real KCC celebratory atmosphere, not to mention the after-



concert get-together in the Old Hall! "In July the Concert Choir and Youth Choir will be off on their biennial concert tour of Normandy (July 2-10). There are some excellent venues to look forward to there. The choirs have built up a group of admirers who attend our concerts when we visit the area. All the choristers really look forward to this trip. Those who have been before are already getting excited about it; those who will be new to it feel the excitement and enjoy being told about everyone's favourite things to do.

"In the autumn of 2011, besides our usual *Bux Fizz* concert and a guest appearance for Grappenhall Concert Society we have a special, exciting concert, this time in the beautiful Painted Hall at Chatsworth, to be hosted by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire 'in the gracious presence of HRH Princess Alexandra!' The Duchess is the Choirs' President and we are thrilled by this invitation. We feel honoured that the Duke and Duchess are entering into our special year by hosting the evening and inviting the Princess, one of the most popular members of the Royal Family since I can remember!" said Joyce.

## 'Creating something bigger than ourselves'

**I**n a sincere letter of thanks after her four years as a Kinder Chorister, Beth Heasman eloquently expressed the essence of what Kinder Children's Choirs meant to her and, indeed, to hundreds of other young people and the High Peak community as a whole, during the past 20 years.

The worthy High Peak journal *The Buxton Advertiser*, sensing the importance of the message, featured Beth's letter with due prominence in their issue of October 21.

The newspaper's Editor Mr John Phillips declared that 'for a change it was a pleasure to receive such a good news letter' with such a positive take on today's young people.

"Being part of the choir gave me many new exciting experiences that otherwise I would never have had," wrote Beth. "These experiences coupled with a diverse range of music helped broaden our minds and makes us more open to new ideas and possibilities at the time when we are growing up and starting to

Beth captures the essence of what KCC means to choristers and the community

work out where we stand in the world...the values and expectations instilled by Miss Ellis are likely to have impacts on how we approach a whole range of situations as we get older.

"Through the Kinder Choirs and Miss Ellis hundreds of different young people with

different hopes, ideas and motives have somehow managed to come together to create something bigger than ourselves..."

Beth's letter represents a powerful message that hopefully will strike a resonant chord with potential funders as the Kinder Choir Trust endeavours to secure vital support for the coming years amidst the turmoil of the current difficult financial climate.

**GRANT funding from various sources that has supported KCC during the past few years has now expired. The Trust is anxiously seeking new funding to meet our budgets for 2011-12. We would be pleased to hear from any reader who knows of potential funders. The Patron scheme is a vital source in the KCC budget. and we remain eager to attract as many new Patrons to our list as is possible. Beth's sincere, unsolicited message aptly depicts KCC's ethos and is surely a powerful commendation in aid of our quest for this financial support.**

**ROBERT MULHOLLAND, Founder Trustee**

Photo: lord-martin photography by permission of Chatsworth House Trust

## Santa won't come unless we learn our words...

THE Choirs have a busy Christmas period this year with some of the choristers performing in five concerts in a period of less than three weeks.

In addition to the choirs we also have our team of roadies, front of house helpers and chaperones on duty at the same time. Wherever the choir goes, the invaluable team goes as well. Little wonder, then that we all go "Flop" as soon as we have finished the Christmas season! However,

*Book now for the Christmas concerts...*

Christmas is for the children, and it is wonderful to see the excitement rise by the week as we get closer to THE DAY! But all these Christmas concerts have to be fitted in first and Santa won't come unless everyone knows their words and tunes! As usual the choirs have a great mix of old and new carols, popular songs and favourites.

Please see the *Dates for your Diary* on the back page to make your selection of which date and venue you fancy and how to book.



Photo: Robert Mulholland

# WORLD ACCLAIM FOR CONCERT CHOIR AT LLANGOLLEN EISTEDDFOD

THE Concert Choir loves going to Llangollen. In recent years we have taken part in the International Music Eisteddfod during the Summer when we do not go to Normandy. This summer was a Llangollen year.

The age range for the Junior Children's Choirs Class was raised for this year's event, from "11 and under" to "13 and under", making it a more realistic task to form a choir from KJS (Kinder Junior Singers). So two choirs were entered, the Concert Choir on the Wednesday of Llangollen week, and KJS on the Thursday. I always regard Llangollen as one of the most prestigious competitions to win. It is truly international and every choir has to submit a recent recording of their performance standard before they are accepted.

Each year the first thing I do when I arrive is look in the programme to see who else is competing and I still feel nervous when I see the list of choirs I know with such well-known track records. Then there is the list of the international choirs who are usually excellent. Clearly, it would not be worth their while travelling half way

across the world if they didn't intend to be at the top of their game.

Yes, I do get collywobbles when I first see the programme! And I think everyone in the Choir gets collywobbles when they first walk on to that huge stage. I am always conscious of the long walk to the conductor's stand and it seems to take an age to get there!

*'What excitement and jubilation! - We were three marks ahead of the runner-up from Australia.'*

Apart from one year (1998), the lowest the Concert Choir placing is sixth in a field of more than 20 choirs. Since our debut in 1995, we have been placed next to last; sixth, fifth twice; fourth twice; runner-up twice and first twice!

Our first win was in 1997 and, for some reason, I felt that we would not win again, probably because the upper age limit was changed some years ago from 16 to 18, and we are a very wide age range for such a category, and, of course, we don't voice test or demand auditions of our newcomers! This year there were 21 choirs in the competition, 11 coming from as far away as Australia, the USA, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, and South Africa.

Part of the drama of the competition is the solemn moment when the remarks and marks are read out.

Everyone tries to guess if they've done well from the remarks. This year we didn't have any inclination from our comments until the actual marks were read out and, there we were, at the top of the list! What excitement and jubilation!

We were three marks in front of the choir from Australia which came second, suggesting that we were well ahead and there was no fudged decision from the distinguished panel of adjudicators (Ralph Allwood, Peter Broadbent and John Fitzpatrick).

Speaking to Ralph Allwood afterwards, he told me that the adjudicators had felt that there was more contrast and musicianship in our choice of programme.

The next day, Kinder Junior Singers arrived to do their bit. Of course, they felt that they had to measure up to the Concert Choir by winning their class. I felt that on the whole KJS had performed well. However out of 12 choirs we were really trounced by the Welsh choirs and came in at sixth place. Not our day, but at Llangollen you never know. It may be the turn of KJS in the future.

**JOYCE ELLIS**



Photo: Nevil Jeffrey

# It's been a been another busy Autumn for the Concert and Youth Choirs

The Concert Choir and Youth Choir have had a particularly busy Autumn this year. The new term kicked off with a weekend away at the Low Wood Bay Hotel on Windermere.

Because the choirs have lost nine mature voices (20% of concert and youth choirs) to university since last Christmas, it was felt that we needed a weekend to re-group and to find the balance again.

The choristers worked hard but time was still found to swim in the pool and visit the jacuzzi hot tub. The hotel is 4-star rated and the manager, Nevil Jeffrey, and the staff were so welcoming. Nothing was too much trouble from making up all the beds and camp beds in the rooms to providing the children with multi choice meals. The youngsters all seemed to enjoy this quality and hard work and may hope to go again!

The following Friday the choirs were off to Chatsworth to sing at the wedding reception of our choir Trust Chairman, Clive James and his lady, Jayne. It was a sumptuous do, and the choir really enjoyed their performance, even though it was late before they got on stage.

As we know, our lot is always there if there is a chance of a party! Unfortunately, the parents were meeting the choristers off the coach so, after they had performed, the choir only heard a bit of the jazz band playing, and they had gone by the time the fire-eaters performed. Thank you, Clive and Jayne, and we wish you so much happiness together.

The next weekend brought us to *Bux Fizz!* This is the third year that we have presented this concert, each time with a different soloist for the choirs (Concert Choir, Youth Choir and KJS) to sing with. The international operatic tenor, John Hudson was our guest artist and he was in fine voice in the wonderful acoustics of St John's Church. The combination of John and

the choirs presented a concert that was outstanding for its atmosphere and humour as well as the quality of singing right from the first chorus of *Gloria*.

I am so sorry that there was a relatively small audience for a concert of such quality and excellence. Where was everyone? The smaller audience, together with a drop in numbers at the Buxton Opera House, is extremely disappointing for us all. The children give their all as they perform and deserve their full houses.

The decline in audiences meant that much needed income for ticket receipts was down by £2000 on recent years. (Please do try and encourage family and friends to support the KCC concerts.)

Melbourne Church was the next port of call for the choirs on October 16. This is a new venue. I have wanted the choir to perform there for some time as we are not as well-known as we would like to be in the south of the County.

Our friend Susan Perkins, wife of former High Sheriff, Richard Perkins, agreed to organise the concert as an event for the Friends of Melbourne Church. We were made most welcome and the concert in the beautiful old Norman church was rewarded by an enthusiastic standing ovation! Thank you, Susan, for making the concert possible. We are delighted to have been asked to return next September.

The choir was in fine form on the way home with the adrenaline still running. There was another concert at the back of the coach with everyone lustily singing all their old favourites from the choir repertoire, including the senior boys singing everything in falsetto with the girls! Anyone who didn't know would have thought we'd got the Beach Boys on board!

**JOYCE ELLIS**

**Ahoy there!** Choristers get a taste of the wharfside atmosphere at Lake Windermere.

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI ! LET'S JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

I AM hoping that as many of our former choristers as possible will wish to be involved in our 20th Anniversary Year in 2011.

After all, without their contribution as members of the choirs we would not have progressed to our 20th year!

In addition to as many alumni as possible on stage for the Buxton Opera House concert in June, I am also hoping that former choristers will get together to organise a fund-raising event.

Any of you "oldies" who can help, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. Thanks in anticipation.

**JOYCE ELLIS** Email:

joyceellis.woodsideside@ukgateway.net

**The Christmas present that lasts all year!**

## HALLELUJAH !

The latest Kinder Children's Choir CD is now available

The CD includes new recordings of **And the Glory** and **Hallelujah Chorus** from Handel's **The Messiah** and other favourites from our recent repertoire.

**Available at £12.00**

**For details telephone Cathy Lee**

**01663 750 187**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday, December 4:** All Kinder Children's Choirs and trainees in a Christmas Concert at Tideswell Church, 7.30pm Tickets from Jean Forrest and Tideswell Post Office

**Friday, December 10:** Kinder Youth Choir in concert for the NSPCC, Capesthorne Hall, Cheshire.

**Friday, December 17:** Kinder Children's Choir, Kinder Youth Choir and Kinder Junior Singers in a Candlelight concert, Chapel-en-le-Frith Methodist Church, 7.30pm Tickets: Jean Forrest

**Saturday, December 18:** All Kinder Children's Choirs and Trainees in a Family Christmas Concert at the Octagon, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, 4.00pm, with Eyore, the Celebrity Donkey, Father Christmas. Tickets from Jean Forrest and Brooke-Taylor, Solicitors, Buxton

**Thursday, December 23:** Kinder Children's Choir at the Bridgewater Hall in *Carols and Classics* with Daniel Norman, tenor, Crispian Steele-Perkins, trumpet, Manchester Chorale, Robin Stapleton, conductor, Manchester Concert Orchestra. Tickets: Bridgewater Hall

**Friday-Sunday January 28-30:** Weekend Hartington Youth Hostel for Kinder Junior Singers.

**Saturday, March 5:** Kinder Children's Choir and Youth Choir in concert at St George's Church, New Mills, 7.30pm Concert in aid of the church roof.

**Sunday, March 13:** All Kinder Children's Choirs and trainees in *Kinder Choir and Friends* with local schools at The Octagon, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, 3.00pm. Tickets from Jean Forrest and Brooke-Taylor, solicitors, Buxton

**Saturday, March 19:** All Kinder Children's Choirs and trainees in *Kinder Choir and Friends* with local schools at The Art Theatre, New Mills, 7.00pm. Tickets from Jean Forrest

**Saturday, April 9:** Kinder Youth Choir in *Sing for your Supper* South Creake, Norfolk.

**Wednesday, April 13:** KCC Concert, St John's Church, Buxton, with special guests Farnham Youth Choir, 7.30pm

**Saturday, May 7:** Kinder Children's Choir and Youth Choir, Bakewell Parish Church, 7.30pm.

**Saturday, June 25:** 20th Anniversary Gala Concert at Buxton Opera House. Booking now open at the Buxton Opera House Box Office Tel : 0845 127 2190

**Saturday July 2-Sunday July 10:** Kinder Children's Choir and Kinder Youth Choir in Concert Tour of Normandy.

**Saturday, October 1:** *Bux Fizz* at St John's Church, Buxton with Kinder Children's Choir, Youth Choir and Kinder Junior Singers, and special guest Soprano Giselle Allen 7.30pm. Tickets from Jean Forrest and Brooke-Taylor, solicitors, Buxton

**Saturday, October 8:** Kinder Children's Choir and Youth Choir in a Royal Gala Concert in the Painted Hall at Chatsworth, 7.15pm. To be hosted by The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in the gracious presence of HRH the Princes Alexandra. Tickets by invitation.

**Saturday, October 15:** Kinder Children's Choir and Youth Choir, Grappenhall Church near Warrington, 7.30pm.

**Concert tickets and information from: Jean Forrest Tel: 01663 743041**

**or download an order form from our web site [www.kinderchildrenschoirs.org.uk](http://www.kinderchildrenschoirs.org.uk)**

## DOES YOUR CHILD LOVE TO SING OR WISH TO LEARN?

**TRAINING sessions for new recruits are open to all children, between the ages of 7 to 18 years. Girls meet on a Monday early evening and boys on Tuesdays.**

**Anyone interested should contact Joyce Ellis:**

Telephone 01663 746025 or e-mail : [kinder.childrenschoirs@ukgateway.net](mailto:kinder.childrenschoirs@ukgateway.net)

**The Trust of the Kinder Children's Choirs of the High Peak**  
is a Registered Charity - number 1043079.

President: Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire  
Founder and Music Director: Joyce Ellis.

Trustees: Clive James (Chairman), Peter Barnes,  
Richard Harding, Robert Mulholland.  
Project manager: Carol Prowse.

*The Kinder Chorister* newsletter is published  
by the Trust of the Kinder Children's Choirs of the High Peak,  
Registered office: 15 Eccles Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith SK239RP.  
Designed and printed by Peak Press Ltd Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak, England, SK23 9RQ  
For further information, Press inquiries or pictures contact: Robert Mulholland,  
Frith Lee, Crossings Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak SK23 9RY.  
Tel 01298 812262/812738 Fax 01298 815220. e-mail: [bob@peakpress.co.uk](mailto:bob@peakpress.co.uk)  
Visit website: [www.kinderchildrenschoirs.org.uk](http://www.kinderchildrenschoirs.org.uk)

## Thanks to our Sponsors and Patrons

### SPONSORS

Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund; Barnabas Charitable Trust; Mr A. W. Berens FCA; The Bingham Trust; Brooke-Taylor solicitors; Bullocks Coaches, Buxton Car Centre, C&E Cantor Trust, Chris Oakes; Mr & Mrs P. Rooney; The Marjorie and Edgar Knight Charitable Trust; Tarmac Central plc; Verndale Systems Ltd.

### PATRONS

**Life Patrons:** Dr & Mrs R.G.B. Willis;  
Mrs Rosie Harding.

Mr K. R. Alderson, Mr & Mrs Allen-Williams, Col B.C.F. Arkle MBE and Mrs Arkle, Dr & Mrs P.H. Astill, Sir John and Lady Bather, Mr A. W. Berens FCA, Mr A Bingham MP & Mrs J. Bingham, Mr & Mrs D.E. Boden, Mr & Mrs M Boissier, Mr J.R. Bradley, Mrs M. Brooke, Mr & Mrs C. Brown, Mr & Mrs D. Brown, Mrs M.G. Buckley, Mr & Mrs J. M. Buick, Miss Susan Bullock, Mr P. Butler, Mr E. Card, Mr and Mrs G. Clarke, Mrs J. Collier, Mr R. F. Davidson, Mrs B. Dunbar, Mr & Mrs B. Fletcher, Mr D.S. Fram, Dr J.N. Francis, Mrs T. Fraser, Mrs E. Givens, Mrs J. Gostick, Mr J. Griffiths, Mrs G Griffiths, Mr & Mrs R. Harding, Mr and Mrs M. Hare, Dr M.C. Hayes Allen, Mr & Mrs J. Heaton, Mrs M. Heelis, Mr C. Hendry MP and Mrs S. Hendry, Mr & Mrs P. Heyworth, Mr & Mrs R.D. Hollands, Mr & Mrs D Hollis, Mr & Mrs N. Holt, Mrs S. N. Hope, Mr & Mrs K. Hope, Mrs V. Howard, Mr H. L. Howe, Mr & Mrs E.V. Jackson, Mrs J. L. Jaggars, Mr & Mrs C. James, Mrs D.M. Jeffrey DL BA FRSA, The Hon. David and Rev Mrs J. Legh, Mr & Mrs T. Levitt, Mrs P. M. Lines, Dr J Littlehailes, Mr & Mrs B. Loader, Mrs C. Maloney, Mr & Mrs K. Martin, Drs W.O. & D.A. Maxwell, Miss Frances McCafferty, Mrs J.L. Mellor, Mr & Mrs P. Metcalfe, Mr & Mrs G.A. Needham, Mr & Mrs J.C. Newling, Mr E. P. Nuttall, Mr & Mrs J. Olivier, Mr & Mrs C.A. Packham, Mr & Mrs T. A. Parfitt, Mrs Z Penrose, Mr & Mrs R.A.H. Perkins, Miss L. C. Plowright, Mr A. Proudlove, Mr & Mrs R.K. Prowse, Mr & Mrs A. Reeves, Miss S. R. Reynolds, Mr & Mrs E. J. Ridal, Dr D. J. & Mrs Riddell,  
Mrs G Ridgway-Jerome, Mr T.K. Robinson OBE & Mrs P Robinson, Mrs V. Rooney, Mr & Mrs P. Rutter, Mrs V. Sands, Mr & Mrs R. Scholes, Mr R. Shields, Mr & Mrs G.A.M. Simmonds, Mrs M. Simons, Mr R. Slatford OBE, Rev and Mrs D. Sparkes, Dr G.O. Taylor MBE & Mrs Taylor, Dr E. H. & Mrs R. A. Thomas, Mrs H Thompson MBE, Mrs B. Waterhouse, Mrs J. I. Waterhouse, Mr I. Watt, Mrs B. Wilkinson, Mr W. Wilkes, Mr H. L. Williams, Mrs M. M. Williams.

■ **To become a Patron or sponsor, please contact scheme administrator: Carole Hassell. Telephone: 01457854543 e-mail: [chassell@nohassell.f9.co.uk](mailto:chassell@nohassell.f9.co.uk)**