

**WORRALL MALE VOICE CHOIR**  
**(Registered Charity No. 515038)**

**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011**

As I write this Newsletter it is bucketing down with rain and the trees are turning into their browns and gold of autumn. The "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is with us once again and I hate to say it but, Christmas will be upon us before we know it. The shops have already started on their promotions and there are still nearly four months to go!!

Our first official "outing" this year was in April for the wedding of Philip Gosney and Tanja Houmand Olsen at St. Mark's Church, Grenoside. Tanja is from Denmark and had asked the Choir to sing a favourite hymn in Danish during the service and it went a treat. Some of you may well have heard this story told at Choir concerts but it is such a touching story I'm sure the Gosney family will not mind it being retold for those who have not heard it before. One of the pieces in the Choir's repertoire is a piece of Slavonic liturgy called "Tibyay Payom" and Tanja and Philip had asked for it to be sung before the wedding service. Unbeknown to us, one of the Danish guests was a lady who had fled from Yugoslavia to Copenhagen some years ago during the troubles. It was her first visit to the UK and she was already pretty overcome with everything, but when the choir started singing "Tibyay Payom", she could not believe she was hearing us sing, in Serbian, a hymn which she had sung when she attended Church back in her homeland. We gather it was a rather tearful moment which no doubt evoked a lot of memories for the lady. Our Annual Spring Concert on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May was held at Knowle Top Chapel in Stannington. Our guest at the concert was Rachel Crisp from Brighouse who was the winner of our Douglas Crossland Shield at the 2010 David Clover Festival for Singers. It was an excellent concert and Rachel was a real "trooper" during one of her pieces. Part way through the piece she completely forgot the words. She stopped and started again only to do the same thing a second time in exactly the same place. She stopped, started again and this time completed the piece to receive rapturous applause for her guts and determination. Speaking to her afterwards, she was at a loss to explain what had happened. She had sung the song literally dozens of times at concerts and had never ever forgotten the words before.

Following that we undertook our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Tour of Devon. On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June we were booked to do a lunchtime recital in the Chapter House of Exeter Cathedral which went well, although not well attended. Then on the Thursday evening we travelled to Paignton for a concert with Brixham Orpheus MVC. On our arrival at the venue, St. Andrew's Church, all our party were provided with a very good buffet tea by the ladies of the church which was very much appreciated. It was an excellent concert supported by a lady soloist, Margaret Johnstone and a very funny compere in Cap'n Bob Curtis, a retired lifeboat coxswain.

Our Annual Autumn Concert this year is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at Wadsley Church. Our guest for this concert will be the winner of the Doug. Crossland Shield from this years' David Clover Festival, Abigail Broughton from Sutton in Ashfield. Abigail is currently studying in London at the Royal Academy of Music doing a four year vocal studies undergraduate course which she hopes will lead to achieving her goal of becoming a professional opera singer. We are very grateful to Abigail who is travelling back from London just to sing with us at this concert so we hope we have a full house to make her trip worthwhile.

As stated in the March Newsletter, on the 1<sup>st</sup> October we are looking forward to one of the biggest "events" in our 2011 calendar - one of our second basses, Barney Goodman, is at long last getting married to Judy. They are actually getting married on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 in Tuscany, Italy but we will sing at their blessing service on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October in Ecclesfield Church at 13-30 hrs. Needless to say we are delighted to be part of their special day and hope we can do them proud with "My Luv is like a Red, Red Rose", (yes that is how "Luv" is spelt in the title and not me having a senior moment), "The Rose" and "Gwahoddiad", requested to be sung in Welsh.

We have two Christmas Concert already planned for 2011 when we will hopefully do a repeat of 2010 with carol concerts which had to be cancelled because of the weather. These are at the new Forge Valley School in Stannington and our own Carol Concert at Sacred Heart in Hillsborough. We will be joined by Loxley Silver Band at both these events.

One date you might like to put in your diary for next year is Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012. We are organising another three male voice choir concert in the International Hall at Ponds Forge Leisure Centre in Sheffield, similar to the "Come and Sing" concert we held there in 2010. We will be joined once again by our good friends Bolsterstone and

New Mill Male Voice Choirs and Sheffield Youth Orchestra. The concert will be in aid of Help for Heroes and will have something of a Remembrance Day theme. More of this in future Newsletters.

As usual, our Support Group is holding an Autumn Fayre again this year in Wisewood Church Hall, Ben Lane on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011 from 11-00 a.m. to 2-00 p.m. If you are looking for a bargain why not come along. Refreshments will be on sale for you to enjoy a well deserved cuppa or possibly an English breakfast, a sandwich or a slice of home made cake after all that shopping. The Support Group do a superb job and we are indebted to them all for their fund raising efforts on behalf of the Choir.

The Friends of Worrall Male Voice Choir scheme is open to all. If you are interested in becoming a "Friend" please give me a call on 0114 234 4374 or E Mail me at

[Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk) and I will be delighted to send you an application form.

Alternatively you can download the form from our website on [www.worrallmvc.org.uk](http://www.worrallmvc.org.uk) and click on "Friends". Membership is just £15.00 per year for a single member and £30 for family membership. Members enjoy news on all Choir activities via the Newsletter and Diary Sheet, priority booking for Choir concerts, social events and excursions, a free ticket per member to the Annual Carol Concert and concessions on other concert ticket as available.

The Choir is always looking to recruit new members so gentlemen, if you enjoy singing why not come along to a rehearsal and see what Male Voice Choir singing is all about. We rehearse on Monday and Friday evening from 7-30 p.m. in Worrall Independent Chapel, Towngate Road, Worrall and you will be made very welcome. New Choristers do not necessarily need to be greatly experienced singers when they join - it is potential that counts, not achievement. Foremost, we are looking for a "good ear" for music and a strong desire to sing. We are geared up to helping people 'discover their voice'. Our Musical Director, Nigel Russell and our Accompanist, Steve Vickers are very experienced at leading singers who have never sung before who can't read music.

If you are on E Mail and would like to help us cut down on the amount of paper we use you could receive the Newsletter electronically. Drop me an E Mail to

[Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@worrallmvc.org.uk) and let me know if you would like to receive the Newsletter this way in future.

As usual, there is an up to date Diary Sheet included at the back of the Newsletter. We thank you once again for your continued support of the Choir and will be delighted to see you at any of the concerts or events listed.