

Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir

April 2020

Newsletter



Well here we are in lockdown, trying to cope with a new way of living and the restrictions placed on us. No doubt when we come out of this, and we will come out of this, we will have a changed view of our own mortality and changed priorities.

On the 24 April we tried out a online Zoom social meeting and 8 of us choristers joined in, just to have a natter and a drink together. It is obviously not the same as face to face company, but it was still enjoyable.

We have agreed to meet up online again on Friday evenings. Hopefully more choristers will join us – if you wish to join please contact Kevin Harris who will send out joining instructions via email.

We did try a quick singalong to a backing track but there were serious time lag problems. Most of the virtual choir videos you see online are the result of some clever editing of individual chorister videos.

We discussed life in lockdown and how long it might last. Some thought the whole year would be wiped out and some hoped that we may be singing again around autumn. Whatever happened and whenever we do decide to restart choir, both choristers and audience will need to feel comfortable and safe.

We also worried that some choristers may take this break as a signal to retire from the choir particularly as, when we do restart, we will be into shortening day and darker nights.

Luckily, everybody seems well and is still with us. If you do need any help please get in touch with us and if we can help, we will.



Concert News:

We obviously postponed the Annual Concert at the Institute and some other concerts have now been postponed or cancelled.

Liz Owen & Daryl, whose wedding was due to take place on the 5 April 2020, have now rescheduled their wedding till 3 April 2021 and the choir is still booked for that new date.

The VE Day concert at St Michaels on 9 May 2020 has already been postponed by the national organisers and they are looking at a joint VE/VJ Day concert. This may be further postponed by the organisers – we wait to see. We also wait to hear about the Party in the Park Concert.



I have withdrawn the choir from another wedding on the 6th June 2020 which was due to take place at St Peter's, Blaina. No deposit had been paid or music selected for this wedding.

I will also be cancelling Exeter Male Voice Choirs' visit to us on the 27th June 2020 and will try to find a replacement date in 2021.

We have agreed with the Met to postpone the Tom Bundred concert planned for 1 August 2020. This has now been rescheduled for Saturday 31st July 2021.

The next concert is the choir trip to Portsmouth for the joint concert with Solent Male Voice Choir in October. This one remains on the books for now pending further information on Government restrictions and information from Solent MVC regarding their views and wishes.
