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Voice • Male

The news from **Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir**

New Series Issue 9 April 2024

tauntondeanemvc.com



The Patrons' Concert - St James Church



In such a compact and beautiful church the choir and band were able to show their music at its best.

To celebrate the choir's connection with the Mayor of Taunton, Councillor Nick O'Donnell and Taunton Council's Chair, Mike Best as our patrons, the annual concert always brings its challenges and this year was no exception.

Being joined by the excellent Kingsbury Episcopi Band turned our event into a delightful and varied musical experience for the enthusiastic audience.

However, having two musical directors conducting at the same time needed a great deal of coordination. In the end, the result was a fantastic sound - quite unique.



*Careful coordination
Ruishton Village Hall
joint rehearsals*





Kingsbury Episcopi Band



*Tenors
and
Basses*



*Enthusiastic audience awaits
at St James' Church*



Note from Jo Comer

Hi Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir.

It was great to see you on Saturday evening – what a super concert! The video I shared online of the choir singing *Bring Him Home* has had over 7000 views on our Facebook Page!

Just a quick note to confirm that the retiring collection at Saturday evening's concert totalled £497.61 – an amazing amount!

Kind regards,
Jo Comer

Chair of Somerset Council

Mr M Best
County Hall
Taunton
Somerset TA1 4DY
Tel: (01823) 356804
Email: Mike.Best@somerset.gov.uk



20th February 2024

Dear Phil

I would like to express my thanks to you and the Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir for their memorable performance on Saturday 17th February at St James' Church, Taunton, which Liz and I very much enjoyed.

I have also written to the Kingsbury Episcopi Band and the Sea Cadets/Royal Marine Cadets to show my appreciation for their contribution to the evening.

I was delighted that the event was very well attended and I am certain that the Patrons' charities (Charis and Somerset Supports Ukraine), will be equally delighted with the monies donated during the event. Jo Comer, (Taunton Town Council) will inform us shortly of the total collection amount).

We very much look forward to attending another event in the near future.

Kind regards
Mike Best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Best'.

Nick's Notes

Firstly, well done for an excellent performance last Saturday at the Patrons' concert. The band as I knew were an excellent contrast to our singing and the variety of music from both sets of performers was most impressive. What a finale. *American Trilogy* sounded great from where I was.

The two newer songs, *How great Thou Art* went very well although there was a little lapse in concentration at one point. I will secure this week. *The Seal Lullaby* was ok but there are some pitching issues on occasions again, something that needs to be sorted out.

There were still good vibes from a well-received Patrons' concert and I understand that our rendition of *Bring Him Home* has had thousands of hits.

Peter has calculated that the concert raised £1,400.61; he describes this as a pretty good show, so well done all!

The History of Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir Patrons

It is thanks to Tony Slavin that Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir gained Mayoral patronage.

It was at a choir Annual General Meeting on 10th June 2009 that Tony put forward the motion that the choir should accept an offer given to it by the Mayor's Office.

The offer was that the Mayor should, in perpetuity, be the Patron of the Choir.

Tony's motion was unanimously approved.

Tony suggested that the mutual benefits might be as follows:

- The choir would have the prestige of displaying the patronage and logo in the choir's publicity.
- It would be recognised as having a concrete association with Taunton (Deane as it was then).
- It would enable opportunities to participate in Taunton Deane activities.
- The choir would have an association with an acclaimed ambassador of the town.
- It would be able to support Mayoral functions, given appropriate notice.
- and would be available to support the Mayor's charities appeals.

It was accepted that the Patronage did not bestow any right to financial contributions or grant aid by the council.

However, it did not bar the choir from making application for the same on occasion.

The choir would be able to display the town logo on its headed stationery.

It was agreed that this was the way forward.

Also there was a commemorative concert held at the Temple Methodist Church on 20th March 2010





The Inaugural Patronage Concert and Press Release



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The Deane House, Belvedere Road,
Taunton TA1 1HE
Tel: 01823 356407
press.office@tauntondeane.gov.uk

News release

11 March 2010

A musical evening to remember (or 'Two Choirs for the price of one')

TAUNTON will be alive with the sound of music on Saturday 20 March as two of the finest male voice choirs in the West Country join forces for a charity performance.

The choral groups – Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir and Barnstaple Male Voice Choir – will be singing at Temple Methodist Church in Taunton in aid of three good causes chosen **by Mayor of Taunton Deane, Cllr Bob Bowrah, BEM.** during his year in office.

Cllr Bowrah, who is the first Mayor to become Patron of the Taunton choir, is now hoping that as many people as possible will attend the evening not only to enjoy some magnificent music but also to support **SURE, the Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment, the Children's Hospice South West and SSAFA Forces Help.**

He said: "I am delighted that these two wonderful choirs are to sing together – it promises to be a fantastic evening with music that will appeal to so many tastes and ages, I hope that many people will come along and support my Charities and enjoy a great evening of entertainment.

"I am proud that I and future Mayors of Taunton Deane will be Patrons of the Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir – it is an honour."

The Taunton choir was formed in 1946 as the Wessex Singers and changed to Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir in 1962. It has a membership of 72 who enjoy singing together while raising funds for good causes.

The Barnstaple choir was founded in 1919 and between 1935 and 1952 made more than 20 broadcasts for the BBC. Today the choir has 60 members and raises about £10,000 a year for charity.

The programme for the evening, which starts at 7.15pm, includes both modern and classical pieces. Tickets cost £7 and are available from the Box Office at the Tacchi-Morris Centre (01823414141) in Monkton Heathfield, from Taunton Tourist Information Centre (01823xxxxx) in Paul Street, and on the door on the night.

ENDS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Editor's Notes:

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For more information about our services visit us online at www.tauntondeane.gov.uk

John Capell's Son, A Diary of Simon and his CGD



To All my fellow choristers,
I feel as one of your ex-Chairmen, I would like to explain my prolonged absence. You will all know how much I enjoy singing with you and really appreciate the support that I have received over many years.

Many of you will know that our son, Simon, has **CGD** and has been quite unwell both mentally and physically for a prolonged period of time.

Chronic Granulomatous Disorder (CGD) is a disorder that occurs when a type of white blood cell, called a *phagocyte*, doesn't work properly. Phagocytes help your body fight infections

Simon is to have a **Bone marrow transplant** in January, which will mean that we, as his main carers and supporters, will be based in or near London.

I will take you through the life changing procedure that Simon went through. There was a 25-30% that it would fail and he will not survive.

And so the Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant journey begins at the Ambulatory Care Room at University College Hospital London. The first bag of chemotherapy being infused after a PICC line was skilfully inserted.

It's going to be 8 days of conditioning/ chemotherapy before admission to the main hospital and then the transplant.

The care has been absolutely incredible - we both feel that Simon is receiving the best possible care with wonderful staff and excellent facilities.

We have everything crossed and really appreciate all the love, support and prayers that so many people are sending from all over this country and the world.

Tomorrow is one of the most significant days of our lives. He will have his Stem Cell Transplant. It is a new birthday for him. He will no longer have CGD and will be building new cells to put behind him so many years of pain.

We are so proud of Simon. He has endured many, many periods of illness but has always remained so positive and determined to overcome all adversity thrown at him. This will be an emotionally charged 24 hours. We are all so hopeful of a positive outcome and know that

there are some difficult weeks and months ahead. Support, love and prayer has been appreciated by us all, helping to give us strength to face the next chapter in Simon's life.

On Wednesday Simon had a Stem Cell Transplant - a miracle of modern medicine.

No longer does Simon have CGD! We are so unbelievably grateful to the donor, who could have provided this gift from anywhere in this country or Europe.

So this is to say to all my friends - Please encourage anyone who is young enough and/or prepared to donate stem cells to consider doing so. It's simple and painless but it will change someone's life.



It is indeed a miracle for which we are so grateful. All messages from you all, help to give us support and strength which will be needed over the coming weeks and months.

A few good days for Simon including the wonderful news that neutrophils are up and engraftment is happening. He may be discharged next week, which is absolutely excellent, but a little sooner than we all expected.

That's just an indication of how well things are going.

Today Simon is still exhausted, in fact the doctor's analogy earlier said that just walking 100m would be like a mile.

Miraculous Modern Medicine, Dedicated Doctors and wonderful, supportive, friendly, professional Nurses. ALL the above applies to our amazing experience of our incredible NHS over the last 5 weeks at University College Hospital in London.

Simon is now making very positive progress. It's amazing and emotional to say that Simon no longer has CGD. **John Capell**

Martin Turner - Baritone



Martin seems to have been very fortunate in his life and had a great deal of different experiences.

When working as a copywriter and with a colleague he built a large creative consultancy in Covent Garden. He and his friend were involved with companies, big and small, who needed a creative approach to their problems. Clients ranged from across a wide spectrum of businesses and included banks, financial institutions and Government ministers in the Palace of Westminster.

Later the company moved from Covent Garden to Fleet Street.

After three years Martin went home late one evening and said to his wife:

“I have had enough of twelve hour days and want to move out of London and sail away (in a small catamaran as it turned out) with you and our two young daughters to show them how other people in the world lived.”

After two years of sometimes frightening adventures and experiences with the boat as their home, they returned to the UK for GCSE course work for their daughter. They went to live in East Coker near Sherborne.

However, when they were on the boat, Martin rescued driftwood from the water and worked with the pieces using simple tools. Despite never having worked with his hands before, he found he had a skill and decided on a second career as a carver and sculptor.

Using the skills obtained he ended up working full-time on large and small private commissions and in several great houses and palaces - including Windsor Castle, the Palace of Westminster, the Rothschilds house, and Ground Zero.

Martin worked in the House of Commons (with his head) and the House of Lords (with his hands) which is why he can say that he has been fortunate and at 83 years old, he is still working.

He has run 87,000 miles, including three London to Brighton fifty-four mile races; twenty-nine marathons, two for England, one in Manila in the Philippines and the other in Nice, France. He can sometimes swim up to five miles in a week.

Martin loves the Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir and choral singing. He has slotted into the baritone section very quickly.

Northampton Tour

Every now and then, a choir outing unfolds flawlessly: no injuries, no disruptions to bookings, no hotel problems, just smooth transportation in a luxurious coach. The Northampton tour epitomised such a perfect excursion.



*Arrival at Marriott Hotel
Northampton*

Singing at two separate venues, the choir was greeted with overwhelmingly enthusiastic and warm welcomes from the host choir communities.

Everyone involved went out of their way to make the singers feel at home.

The initial event, which took place at Stamford

Methodist Church, was hosted by Corby Male Voice Choir under the direction of Jan Williams.

The following day's event was at Northampton Christ Church, conducted by the exceptionally flamboyant Stephen Bell, a conductor who commanded the proceedings with great flair, conducting with his entire being to the extent of almost dancing on the conductor's podium.



Northampton Male Voice Choir

Corby Male Voice Choir



Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir



A Note from Brian Lewis

Hello All,

It was a wonderful experience to sing with the Corby choir at the splendid Stamford venue, and with the Northampton choir at their equally impressive Christchurch, Northampton venue.

We had large and appreciative audiences on both occasions, and all the trip arrangements and timings worked well – with no mishaps!

Well done to all who helped with the organisation, especially John Hassall, who unfortunately was not well enough to make the trip.

As far as travel is concerned, particular thanks are due to Martin Langford and to Richard Venn.

Our thanks also go to our Blakes' driver, Simon, who did a brilliant job of ferrying us around.

Brian

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
TAUNTON DEANE MALE VOICE CHOIR



7pm Saturday 23 March 2024

Singing shoulder to shoulder

The award winning Northampton Male Voice Choir (NMVC), well known for its commitment to performing varied and uplifting songs, will be singing shoulder to shoulder with Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir (TDMVC) in a joint concert at Christchurch, Northampton NN1 5LL on Saturday 23rd March starting at 7pm.

A Note from Nick Thomas

Hi all.

What a great weekend. We all did well and although Mike and I direct the final show/product, a lot of work, as always, goes on behind the scenes to make such a weekend work successfully, so well done and thanks to everyone involved.

We sang well in both concerts with only one minor blip. Everything was in sync and the pitching was good in all songs. The acoustics in the first venue were great, we could hear everything, and our programme and performance were really enjoyed by a very appreciative audience.

Programming is so important when we perform, and I always set out to not only sing well but engage and entertain our audiences. The Northampton venue looked promising, but the acoustics were somewhat unforgiving, almost too vast.

We sang very well there, and I was particularly pleased that we were able to easily perform the joint songs confidently. Again, our programme entertained the audience.

The Northampton and their elite choir are very good, and this was pointed out several times. It was interesting for me to work with a different MD who had a very different style in concert presentation.

I am extremely grateful that we have people we can call upon to so competently do the introductions to the songs. This time it was Phil, who I am sure you will agree, did a great job.

Northamptonshire
Telegraph article

A note from The Secretary of Corby MVC, David Read

It was a pleasure to host your choir.

The concert was very successful and much enjoyed by everyone.

I know that our choir members really enjoyed the occasion judging from the messages I have seen.

One fairly long standing choir member has told me that it was the best experience he has ever had in the choir.

A note from The Concert Secretary of Northampton MVC, Vince Collins

We really enjoyed singing with Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir, both at Christ Church and in the memorable afterglow at Old Northamptonians. Memories were created that will last for a long time! Our choir member who was taken ill, John Nash, is still in Northampton General Hospital unfortunately. He's undergoing various tests. We are hoping that he will be discharged in the next few days, and we look forward to his return to the choir. He's in good hands.

*Presentation of a Footwear **Last** by members of Corby Male Voice Choir*



*The Footwear **Last** Presentation*



The Happy Hour

It goes without saying that more choir members for our Taunton Choir wouldn't go amiss.

So it was that on April 20th, Taunton Minster hosted the choir to sing and show itself to the Taunton public.

On this occasion, it was not in aid of a charity, although the choir was privileged to enjoy the company of the Taunton Mayor and the council chair, both of whom are becoming regulars to performances, but it was in aid of recruitment of prospective choristers.

Under the excellent coordination of Tony Slavin, things all worked out to give an effortless concert, free to the public and enabled the singers to show their stuff with all the numbers that they know so well.

Unfortunately, the advertising banner

Have you ever wanted to

Sing?



All welcome. No Auditions

Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir is looking to recruit new members who love to sing. With mixed ability and experience, we aim to positively impact our community and raise funds for charities and events.

Come and join us

We meet every Wednesday
7.30pm - 9.30pm at
Temple Methodist Church
Upper High St, Taunton TA1 3PY

tauntondeanemvc.com
01460 249119
07767 694352
garlandjeffrey90@gmail.com

Join an amazing Community Choir

Singing can improve your health and happiness!

for the concert was ripped off the church railings during the previous night's high wind and storm.

A Note from Nick Thomas

Hi all. Well done the many of you that performed in the "not concert" last Saturday. Our performance was much appreciated by the audience and in general we sang well. It was a good rehearsal for the various concerts we shall be in performing in Cornwall.

Choir's upcoming Cornwall Trip

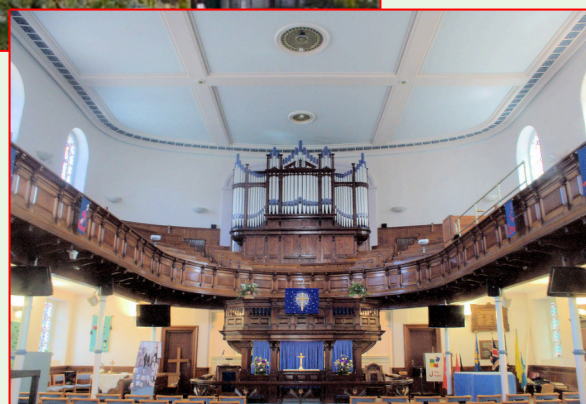
Sat 4th May

Healeys Cyder Farm



Sun 5th May

Truro Methodist Church



St Johns Church St Austell



Mon 6th May

Newquay Killacourt Bandstand



Sun 5th May

Princess Pavilion Falmouth

