



Autumn Newsletter 2004

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Advent Reunion - Saturday 27 November 2004

For those of you who did not make the reunion last year, a reminder that the format has changed; The Procession now starts at **6.00pm**. As in past years, we will have seats in the Quire. We reunion takes place afterward the service at about **7.15pm** in the Bell Rooms. A raffle will be held during the evening - £1 for 5 tickets, any prizes will be gratefully received.

Menu

- Sausages in Onion Gravy, with mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and vegetables
OR
- Vegetable Goulash with mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and vegetables
- Passion Fruit Mousse with Cream
- Mince Pies and Coffee

Cost: £12 per person

Please complete the order form enclosed and return it by 19 November.
Please send your order with a SAE, this will allow me to return your ticket to enable you to be seated in the Quire for the Advent Procession.

The Summer Reunion

Nearly 60 members of the Association came together on the last day of the SCF at Chichester for the Summer Reunion; it was good to see a strong contingent of current Chorister Parents as well as a very impressive turn out of past Choristers from the 50s largely organised through the good offices of Tom Suttcliffe.

As usual, we started the day at 2 St. Richard's Walk. Our thanks go to Alan and Tina for their customary hospitality. The Chairman presented the Probationer Prize to Henry Kimber; see below.



This year your Committee voted to recognise the service done to the choir by Hugh Curtis by making him an Honorary Member to CCCA and by presenting him with an Old Choristers tie. Hugh has given tireless hours, not only through his role as Chairman of the FOCM but through comprehensive photographic archive of the choir over many years and support for the CCCA.



Lunch and tea were held in the Bells Rooms, our thanks go to Glenys and her team for the catering. Below you will see your past Chairman, Chris Hamel-Cooke in attendance with his new wife Lara



and below are the motley crew from the 50s, together with Anne and Bishop Maddocks!



Above, The Chairman with the CCA's latest baby, Charlie Villiers, son of Alex (1959 – 1964) and Annie Villiers. This is unless you know better! If you do please contact David Ruffer, via e mail, DvdRuffer@aol.com or phone on 01202 427485 or mail at 40 Beaufort Road, Bournemouth BH6 5AN

During tea the AGM was held, in what was many years ago, Year 3 Form Room in 1 St Richards Walk but what is now part of the Bell Rooms. The Committee was returned unopposed but we are looking to co-opt a few extra members especially from those who were in the choir during the 70s or 80s. Andrew Porter, our long standing Treasurer reported that in spite of exceptional expenses this year which included a donation to the Scholarship Fund and sponsorship of the Organ Recital of the SCF, the Association remained in a healthy state financially, with a steady income stream from members and events that made a small profit each time. Things could always be better of course and the recent mailing to the whole membership had brought one or two members back into the fold. It would be always good to improve the membership of those who were in the choir during the 70s and 80s many of whom have lost contact with us. So if you were in that group it would be great to see you back at a reunion soon.

Fund raising for the Choir Trip to South Africa

Alan talked to the Association about the forthcoming trip to South Africa after Easter in 2005. The plan is to raise enough money to cover the tour costs for the Choir, which would enable all the money raised at concerts in South Africa to be given directly to local charities.

Patricia Routledge CBE, has agreed to be the Patron and intends to travel with the choir and perform some poetry readings at the concerts in South Africa where she is nearly as well known as over here.

So far the choir have done an **At Home** in the Cathedral, which was most enjoyable. It was a varied evening's music making, the highlight of which was, for me, Giles White and Mark Wardell's jazz set. Mark also organised an organ marathon for 12 hours, the **Organothon**, as the flight to South Africa will be 12 hours. It was very atmospheric to hear subtle organ music wafting around the Lady Chapel during said Evensong. Thanks to the past Choristers who performed on the day. To date, over half the £45,000 has been raised. Money given to this venture can be Gift Aided.

An information pack detailing future fund raising events and how you can donate to the tour, is enclosed.

Post Office Saga

Sincere apologies to those who were asked to pay an extra 1p for their **Once A Chorister** Magazine earlier this year or, even worse, had to pay an extra £1 to collect it. I am afraid our local Post Office miscalculated the postage. If you were affected by this and have not told me already, please can you let me know as I will refund what you were charged and add your name to the growing list of those who were charged in our claim to Postwatch.

Ray Dobson (1930 - 1935)

I started to attend CCCA Reunions back in the late 1970s. Ray was one of the people who always made me feel welcome at gatherings where I often did not know many people. He did question my judgment when I made an appeal for an original Old Prebendal tie, as mine had been shredded in the wash, but happily gave me his in all its awful garishness! (Chairman)

Brenda, his widow, has kindly written us something about his life, which includes reference to a period in the choir's history when the boys were educated away from the Prebendal School at a time when it school itself was in some difficulty. Brenda writes:

There were so many sides to Ray's life. He was always so positive and enthusiastic, in spite of his leg problems and many operations. He gave willingly of his time to many charitable causes and so enjoyed meeting and talking to people. Through Rotary he went with a group of ten to India in association with the *Royal Society for the Blind* to visit Eye Camps and see the incredible turnover of patients in large tents having cataract operations. Then on returning home, visiting schools and clubs to give illustrated talks on the work (I had to change the slides). He held charity book sales and that was always backbreaking job, moving boxes of books to the venue! He was on the Boys Club Committee and Abbeyfield Committee. Ray also enjoyed amateur dramatic and took part in many plays and pantomimes. After Ray retired he became a Macmillan volunteer based at King Edwards VII Hospital in Midhurst.

When Ray first joined the cathedral choir, the school rooms were at Northgate, near where Metropolitan House now stands. Ray and his elder brother, Tony who was at the school at the same time, lived with the Clarke family on the south side of East Street, approximately where the Clarke shoe shop is now. Met Clarke, a son of the family, became a teacher at the Prebendal school. His sister, Irene, married Russell Purchase, the wine merchant in North Street. Ray said he and Tony used to read comics in bed after they were told to go to sleep, by the light of candles hidden behind chairs – what a fire hazard!

The Prebendal was then re-opened and they were housed and educated in the same building. Next door to the school was a garage run by Mr Reed, who had two or three sons and I believe, a daughter. Ray said that when any of the Prebendal boys' pets died they put them over the wall into Mr Reed's garden. Apparently the Reed boys used to have fights with the Prebendal boys. Interestingly, old Mr Reed, one of his sons and his grandson were all clients of Ray later on; in fact his grandson still services our car!

The Venerable Archdeacon, Lancelot Mason, was then the Bishop's Chaplain and would often take two or three of the boys for a spin in his sports car to Southsea, where he bought them ice creams. There was a lady, Miss Whalley, and her brother who lived in North Pallant and they used to have two boys in for Sunday lunch, in rotation. Ray said the boys were always pleased when it was their turn as a lovely homely meal was provided for them. The

Dean, The Very Reverend Duncan Jones taught the boys to play Newmarket, but with no money involved!

Whilst Ray was in the choir, Ghandi and his entourage came to Chichester and sat in the quire during a service. Also, Gustav Holst's ashes were interred in the Cathedral in the North Transept near the organ and the choir took part in the service, which was attended by several celebrated musicians.

Ray was at the Prebendal School for two years with his elder brother, then one year on his own before his younger brother joined him for a further two years. When Ray left in 1935 he went to Ardingly College.

During the war, Ray was living in Putney studying as a lawyer. A grazed knee during cross-country run at Ardingly had left him with osteomyelitis in both femurs which made him unfit for the services. This was a great disappointment to him as all four of his brothers saw active service. The nearest he got was the Territorial Army and fire fighting!

In 1949, Ray started his job as a solicitor in Southsea and in 1951, soon after we were married, he had to have major surgery to both his femurs. He gave in his notice and decided that when he recovered he would start his own practice and what better place than Chichester, which had so many happy memories for him. He opened his office in January 1952 and never looked back. Ray soon became involved in local activities and in 1953 he was the business manager for the production of "The Acts of St Richards", a pageant performed outside the Bishop's Palace to celebrate the seventh centenary of the death of St Richard of Chichester.

Mr Will Wroe and Mr Harry Whitehouse were both Lay Vicars in the choir when Ray was there. They both became clients of Ray, in fact Mr Wroe worked part-time in the office after he retired before he went to Canada.

Soon after we settled in Chichester, Ray got in touch with several Old Prebendalians locally and further afield and started an annual reunion which was held at the Dolphin and Anchor Hotel (*now converted into Weatherspoons, Waterstones Bookshop plus a few other little shops*). They also held an annual cricket match with the boys. Ray was secretary of the association and I have copies of his letter and letters from Old Prebendalians. I think we only missed a handful of the Old Prebendalians Reunions over fifty years. Ray was always pleased to meet up with old friends. His years in the choir had a great effect on his life and faith and his training in the choir formed the foundation for his enjoyment of singing with local choirs throughout his life.

Ray had a great sense of humour and we had 53 years of a very happy marriage and have three loving children who have been a great source of strength and help.

Money Notes

This is an interim report on our finances so far this year.

Annual subscriptions appear to be better than last year with 71 members paying by bankers order compared to 65 last year. This has produced an income of £788 plus the £70 received from cash payments. The Summer Reunion made an excess of £198 and £96 was received towards the organ recital sponsorship. We paid £600 in sponsorship to the Southern Cathedrals Festival, mostly from our reserves. Income to date amounts to £1316 and expenses total £1478. Our liquid assets currently consist of £1192 in the bank account and £1027 in the savings account. We are now considering a transfer of some funds to the Scholarship Trust Fund.

The Scholarship Fund has just paid out its first bursary of £1942. The Fund reserves amount to £118,577. Donated income so far this year totals £700 and £286 has been received back from the Inland Revenue from Gift Aided donations.

We continue to steer a healthy financial course but are never complacent regarding our status, especially with regard to the Scholarship Fund, which must still increase its capital base in order to be certain of attracting enough interest to maintain bursary payments.

Andrew Porter
Hon. Treasurer.
September 2004.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Andrew Porter (1962-1965)

Congratulations to Andrew on passing his MSc with Distinction from Imperial College

Benjamin Ruffer (1993-1998)

Benjamin joined the Band of The Life Guards in August 2004 and is now stationed at Windsor. He is now preparing for five months of horse training starting in October.

Ben Woodgates (1995-2000)

Congratulations to Ben on winning the *Music at Beaulieu Award 2004* against stiff opposition. This was the second annual award given by *Music at Beaulieu* to help a local musician, resident in the New Forest District, with his or her musical studies or career. Ben is now in his final year at Winchester College.

Marriages

Chris Hamel-Cooke (1955-1960)

Congratulations to Chris on his marriage to Lara held in Norfolk in October 2003.

ORDER FORM FOR THE ADVENT REUNION

Saturday 27 November 2004

(please return by 19 November 2004)

Name: _____ Years: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Number for

A) Sausages _____

B) Vegetarian Goulash _____

Total amount enclosed @ £12 per person £ _____

*Cheques to be made payable to **CCCA** please*

Please return this form to: Dily Ruffer (CCCA)
40 Beaufort Road
Bournemouth
BH6 5AN

Check list!

Have you enclosed SAE?

Payment?

Made an option choice on the menu?

Deadline for this form to be returned is Friday 19 November, but please
DO NOT wait until then, you could forget, put it in your diary now and return it
TODAY!