

In Harmony

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View from the Chair - Alison de Winter

Our Silver Jubilee July concert had a party atmosphere with bubbly and cake in the interval for choir and audience. It was lovely to wel-



come back ex-members and memories were awoken by the display of programmes spanning from the first concert to the most recent. Allan Smith gave a short speech, followed by the ceremonial cake cutting by Marian Callow and Irene Day, founder members from our parent choirs.

An early SHCS programme tells us that we were formed

by the amalgamation of two older choirs, The Camberley Choral Society and France Hill Choral Society and that our aim is to present concerts of sacred and secular choral music. It is good to see that we will be fulfilling this aim during our 26th season which will be very exciting. This term we have The Centenary Chorus with Elijah in October at Guildford Cathedral. To further our involvement with the local community, we are looking forward to performing with local primary schools at our Christmas concerts, singing at the Community Carols in mid-December and visiting local care homes to lead carol singing. We have made so much progress, due to hard work and commitment. Let us prepare carefully for these events by attending rehearsals, acting upon Andy's en-

thusiastic guidance and ensuring full houses.

It was interesting, when compiling the Silver Jubilee display of programmes, to see what has happened over the last 25 years. For example, in May 1989 the choir sang Byrd's Mass for Four Voices at St Michael's church arranged in a semi-circle behind the audience, accompanied by a small string ensemble. In March 1990 the Society sang its first concert in a new church in Camberley, High Cross. According to the Camberley News, the new church provided a splendid setting for the Society's performance of Mozart's Requiem. In April 1992 the Society did Bach's St John Passion with The Chameleon Arts Orchestra. So, history will be repeating itself almost exactly 20 years later to the day!

Memories of Betty Holt - Liz FitzGerald

Betty Holt was a lovely lady; she was the Librarian for both Camberley and then Surrey Heath Choral Societies and gave many years of service to both. I can see her now with boxes of music scores under her arm at the start and end of each term. She was quite independent until a few years ago when she allowed some of us to help her carry music to and from her car!

How well I remember the

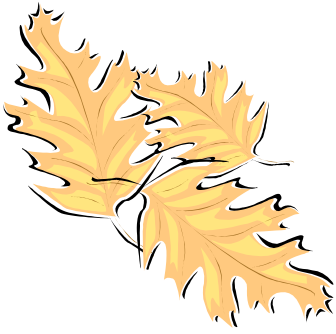
Monday when Betty first became unwell. After some discussion we agreed that she should go home to rest. She left after our half-time break but was adamant she was well enough to drive home and declined my offer to assist her. I visited her in hospital some days later; she was remarkably upbeat about the possibility of a terminal illness. How I admired her then, as I had many years previously when we worked

together in the Maternity Unit at Frimley Park Hospital. In those days Betty was a Health Visitor and the care she provided to her patients was a fine example of her dedication to her work. Betty and I both trained as nurses at The Royal London Hospital; she some years before me.

Some years ago Betty and I found ourselves staying in the lovely old house beside the church in Sucey en Brie.

As usual we were overwhelmed by the warm hospitality of our hosts but Betty and I still found time to remember 'the good old days' together!

I feel so sorry that I am away and will not be able to join my fellow SHCS members to sing at Betty's memorial service - I honour this special lady whose commitment to others I will always remember.



Railway Journeys – Ron Ferris

In August this year my wife and I went on a rail tour of three European cities. We began with Berlin, now very much changed since we went there many years ago when all of “The Wall” was in place and when we waited in fear and trepidation at Checkpoint Charlie for well over an hour in a very hot bus whilst our passports were whisked away for scrutiny. When we got into east Berlin we were only allowed to go to the places the authorities wanted us to see – all very bleak and dreary. On the rail journey from Munich to Berlin, at the east German border our train was halted in a cutting with barbed wire gates at the ends closed whilst border checks were made. Soldiers with machine guns and dogs were at the end of every coach and the Germans with us in the compartment were quite obviously terrified of what was going on.

What a very different tale to tell this time. After the best part of a day’s travelling from London, the last part of which was on a wonderful modern German ICE train, we arrived at a stunning new, all glass, multi-level railway station, Berlin Hbf (*Main Station*), only recently brought into use. We saw a united city and walked through the Brandenburg Gate. We went up the tall radio tower at Alexander Platz to find wonderful views over the city. This area was dead and dirty when we previously visited but is now vibrant and pleasant. The older west Berlin was much as we remembered it, a venue for expensive shops and restaurants. One curiosity is that a splendid tram system runs in the former east Berlin; west Berlin has no trams but public transport is based on buses and an underground system. Short sections of the wall still exist

and are being maintained as a monument to past history. Some of these sections are covered in the most beautiful paintings, not unlike what we would call graffiti but of a superb artistic standard.

Our next move was to Dresden, a much more compact city than Berlin. The older part of the city was razed to the ground in the bombing of the second World War and a great deal of work has been done to reinstate these buildings just as they were. The older city is to the south of the river and the newer city is to the north. Ironically most of the present buildings in the old city are far newer than those in the new city! In the middle of the old city stood the Frauenkirche, a beautiful circular church with the most amazing decoration inside. Although almost completely destroyed in the war (just one pillar remaining) the ruins stayed until reunification in the 1990s before re-building began. Work is now complete. For web links to a multitude of beautiful colour pictures and history please contact me. (ferr108@btinternet.com). An Anglican Choral Even-



ing is held in this Lutheran church once a month; unfortunately not when we were there! We also had a steam train ride up to Moritzburg Castle, saw a railway run by children, (a fairly common thing in east Germany) and visited the infamous Colditz Castle (from which the politician Airey Neave escaped and

was eventually assassinated by the INLA in 1979 at Westminster).

I have been to Prague twice before; once when I was working in ITV to cover some international ice skating and again with Fleet Choral Society on a singing tour. It was and is a beautiful city at the centre of which is the pedestrian Charles Bridge with its artists, musicians and vendors. An “Astronomical Clock” is an attraction in the main old town square and figures move and skeletons dance every hour. A comprehensive tram and underground system means that getting about is relatively simple. High on the hill overlooking the city is a large castle (with changing of the guard every hour during the day) and the Cathedral of St. Vitus. Just outside the front of the castle is the house used as Mozart’s home during the filming of “Amadeus”. There are marvellous views from up here and two other viewing towers are accessible to tourists. To the north is the tall radio tower built during the East German period and to the south west, at the top of a small funicular and surrounded by gardens, is the miniature “Eiffel Tower”. The latter offers stunning photo opportunities in the late afternoon when the sun is on the city as the viewing galleries are open to the air.

An overnight stop in Nürnberg brought back memories of the largest Christmas Fair in Europe held there which we travelled to back in 2006. Several town squares full of hundreds of stalls selling EVERYTHING, but mainly Gluewein, gingerbread and beautifully made wooden toys. A final long day’s journey brought us back to Eurostar St. Pancras and reality.

Amazing Anagrams,
can you work out the
oddly appropriate
answers?

See next page:

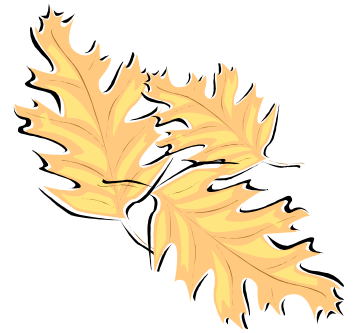
1. PRESBYTERIAN
2. ASTRONOMER
3. THE EYES
4. THE MORSE CODE
5. ELECTION RESULTS
6. A DECIMAL POINT
7. ELEVEN PLUS TWO

Siemens Fun Day – Crispin Kirkman

Dear Diary - 10th September, and everything promises rain. But there's a bigger promise - to turn out for SHCS and sing at the Siemens Fun Day. No one knows what it will involve - a leap into the dark. Well - here's a marquee with a spanking new banner - "Surrey Heath Choral Society" - and lots of people have brought picnic chairs. Some familiar faces, Andy at the keyboard in the middle of a field, and Tim marshalling anything that moves; we all start to feel at home. Come 12.30 we kick-off with our first stint of singing - Sprig of Thyme again and another chance to get those tricky bits right in the Keel Row. And behold, Andy has set up speakers behind us playing the CD, so even if we forget an entry it sounds WONDERFUL. But we want to do well - the PA has announced us as the special attraction - and we are into action remembering all the things to do right from our summer work-

shop. 15 minutes and it is all over. Time to share the many picnics that we have all brought, and a drop of wine goes down nicely! This down-time is fun too - there are more people to like in the choir than I had realised - we just didn't know each other. 1.30 and we are singing again! We have an audience who stay and applaud every song. Even the baby is silent right through. This is great. We finish singing, and the heavens open that instant, and everyone rushes inside the marquee, including our

audience. The Tarte Tatin (see page 4) circulates and the wine - this is what Andy means by engaging with our community. We convert two men to join the choir - can't be bad. Our last gig is at 3.00, and suddenly it is done, finished, past - the anticlimax is like a bereavement. But we have made an impact - people thank us for coming and performing. They didn't have to say anything, but they say we have made a difference to their day. It is a good feeling and maybe we can do this again soon.



Amazing Anagrams, answers:

1. BEST IN PRAYER
2. MOON STARER
3. THEY SEE
4. HERE COME DOTS
5. LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
6. I'M A DOT IN PLACE
7. TWELVE PLUS ONE

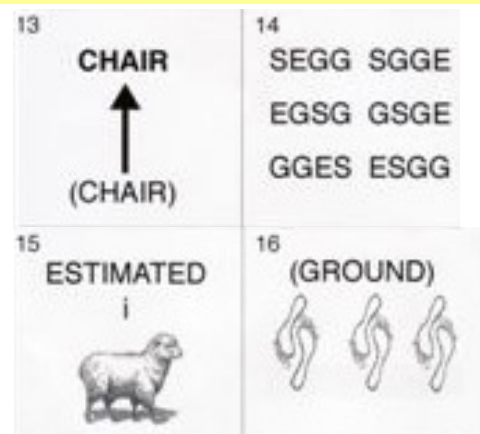
The Criminal Chorister – Anne Doney

I've practised and breathed, taking in the advice
Of Andy, our MD, who's ever so nice,
Except when he shouts if our singing's off key;
I hate to admit this, but, Andy, it's me!

From where, tell me where, did I get the wild notion
That I could sing music with art and devotion?
And what if I'd had to audition? Oh, no!
The judge would have asked "them" to take me "below".

I would have been miffed, but a cell does have bars;
My notes would be famous to walls and to yards.
Slammed in "solitary" I'd sing from afar.
So, come my release, choir, you'd dub me "a star".

Ron's Puzzle Corner



Answers:

13. High Chair. 14. Scrambled Eggs. 15 I Under-estimated You. 16. Six Feet Under Ground



**SURREY HEATH
CHORAL SOCIETY**

Registered Charity No.1112431

Secretary: Madeleine Chowne
6 Dundaff Close,
Camberley,
Surrey GU15 1AF

Term Dates 2011/2012:

Autumn: 5th September 2011 to
19th December 2011

Spring: 9th January 2012 to
2nd April 2012

Summer: 9th April 2012 to
7th July 2012

Rehearsals are on Mondays at
7:30 pm at High Cross

Future Concert Dates:

Saturday 29th October 2011

Centenary Chorus,
Guildford Cathedral
Mendelssohn: Elijah

Saturday 3rd December 2011

Christmas Concerts

Thursday 15th December 2011

Community Carols in
Camberley Precinct

Monday 19th December 2011

Carols at Local Care Homes

Saturday 24th March 2012

Spring Concert
Bach: St John Passion

Saturday 7th July 2012

Summer Concert
'Sacred & Profane' – music
by Bach, Parry and Clucas

Social and Other Dates:

Saturday 1st October 2011

25th Anniversary Silver
Supper

Wednesday 12th & Monday 17th

October 2011

Joint Rehearsal with
Centenary Chorus Choirs,
High Cross

Mondays 5th & 12th December

Rehearsals for Community
and Local Care Homes
Carols

Saturday 21st January 2012

SHCS Annual Dinner

Surrey Heath Choral Society is a
member of Making Music.
www.makingmusic.org.uk



Contacts

President	Liz Edwards	01276 63071
Chairman	Alison de Winter	01276 691702
Secretary	Madeleine Chowne	01276 24394
Treasurer	John Fullwood	01276 684812
Membership	Ann Fenton	01276 471234
Social Events	Charlotte Gardner	01482 641239
	and Andrea Currie	01252 838313
Stage Manager	Tim FitzGerald	01276 29231
Ticket Sales	Marian Callow	01276 472887
Fundraising	Crispin Kirkman	01276 855596
Publicity	Vacant	
Librarian	Sylvia Law	01276 61211
Musical Director	Andrew Phillips	01252 873313

Tarte Tatin – Raymond Blanc (via BBC)

Included at the request of the Siemens Fun Day singers. Based on the BBC Kitchen Secrets website.

Equipment: You will need a 20cm/8in (or larger) Tarte Tatin dish.

Crispin's notes: A shallow cast iron dish is best; curved sides rather than a vertical edge helps to ensure the tarte turns out neatly. If the caramel gets too brown it sticks and won't turn out easily.

Ingredients

2kg/4½lbs dessert apples, about 12, peeled 3 tbsp water 100g/3½oz caster sugar
60g/2½oz cold unsalted butter, diced 30g/1oz unsalted butter, melted, to add richness
300g/11oz all-butter puff pastry, rolled to a thickness of 3mm/¼in, cut very slightly larger than
the diameter of the tarte tin, pricked with a fork and frozen e.g. on a baking sheet

Preparation method: Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. / Cut the apples in half horizontally, remove the cores and slice off the rounded tops and bottoms so they will sit flat in the tin. / Put the water in the bottom of the tin and sprinkle over the sugar. / Let it sit for two minutes to allow the water to absorb the sugar. / On a medium heat, cook the syrup until it turns to a pale blonde caramel (do not let it become too dark or the flavour will overpower the apples), then stir in the diced butter - this will stop the caramel cooking and give extra richness to the dish. / Arrange the apples tightly around the edge of the tin and into the centre, packing them as tightly as possible - press them down with your hands as you go. / Brush the apples with the melted butter and place the tin on a baking tray. / Bake in the oven for 30 minutes. / Remove from the oven and place the disc of frozen pastry on the top. Trim it and tuck the edges of the pastry into the dish and prick a few holes with a sharp knife to let the steam out as the dish cooks. / Return to the oven for a further 40-45 minutes, or until the pastry is crisp and golden-brown. / Allow to cool at room temperature for 1 hour before turning out. (Use a wooden spoon to break free any bits of pastry that seem to be stuck to the pan.) / Serve warm.

Editor's Notes

It doesn't seem a year since I took on the role of pulling together In Harmony; I hope you continue to enjoy it, I enjoy preparing it - but hate it when I fail to spot typos; let's hope this issue escapes the curse. Sorry but I've had to 'cram' in the Tarte Tatin recipe - I hope that it is still clear.

If you have suggestions for future issues please forward them to me via Sylvia.