

BUILTH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Côr Meibion Llanfair-ym-Muallt

Charity No. 1061889

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020



LLAIS GWY / WYE VOICE

Builth Male Voice Choir had another very active year in 2019 with a full programme of events. Luned conducted her last St David's Day concert for us, handing the music baton onto Adrian after 48 years at the helm. Also, husband Bob stood down as Choir Treasurer, handing the financial affairs of the choir to Gareth Jones. The choir is very grateful for Luned and Bob's dedication and hard work over many years. Our President Jim Evans also stood down and again we are all thankful for Jim's dedication in fulfilling this role for many years. Both Bob and Jim remain with us as choristers.

The choir entertained audiences at twenty five concerts and music events plus four weddings during the year. We spent considerable time at the Royal Welsh Showground with TV channels vying for our talents as you will read further on.



BUILTH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Metropole Hotel – 17th February

Choir members promoted Builth Male Voice Choir at the Spring Wedding Fayre at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Sunday 17 February. The Choir performed a set of romantic songs to entertain the visitors conducted by Adrian Morgan with accompaniment by Ann Bufton. A number of prospective brides and grooms made enquiries at the stand taking away information leaflets and expressing an interest to invite the Choir to be part of their wedding plans.



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### ***St David's Day Concert Strand Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> March***

#### ***Thank you Luned for 48 Years of Music!***

On 2nd March, for the second year running, Builth Male Voice Choir held its annual St David's Day concert at the Strand Hall in Builth. This year however was the last concert to be led by their Musical Director Luned Jones. The concert was therefore a special one both for the choir and for Luned. Originally from Llanelli, Luned took on the role of Musical Director in 1985 having been accompanist previously and thereby giving 48 years unstinting service to the choir. Chairman Derek Hope presented Luned with a Welsh Royal Crystal decanter as a token of appreciation for all the music leadership she has given to the choristers. Megan Jones on behalf of the Male Voice Choir Supporters also presented Luned with a bouquet. Luned's husband Bob has also now retired from the role of Treasurer which he has held for 35 years. He later received a canvas photograph of the choir in gratitude. The choir's Assistant MD Adrian Morgan has now taken over the challenging role of Musical Director.

The concert provided a very varied programme. The men's choir was supported by Builth Ladies Choir who gave a sparkling performance with songs such as Calon Lan and Hail Holy Queen. Ysgol Calon Cymru provided a melodious vocal ensemble singing Lawr ar Lan Y Mor plus a cello and vocal solo. In addition South Powys Youth Music played with great virtuosity led by their Musical Director Tim Cronin in songs such as Shenandoah and Fiddlers Day which



certainly went with a swing. One of the young musicians was in fact Luned and Bob's granddaughter. All the proceeds from the concert were being donated to SPYM. The concert provided a very varied programme. The men's choir was supported by Builth Ladies Choir who gave a sparkling performance with songs such as Calon Lan and Hail Holy Queen. Ysgol Calon Cymru provided a melodious vocal ensemble singing Lawr ar Lan Y Mor plus a cello and vocal solo. In addition South Powys Youth Music played with great virtuosity led by their Musical Director Tim Cronin in songs such as Shenandoah and Fiddlers Day which certainly went with a swing. One of the young musicians was in fact Luned and Bob's granddaughter. All the proceeds from the concert were being donated to SPYM.



**Musical Director Luned Jones singing the solo in "Ai Am Fod Haul yn Machlud" at her last concert conducting Builth Male Voice Choir at the St David's Day Concert in the Strand Hall Builth Wells**



**Chairman Derek Hope presenting a Welsh Royal Crystal decanter to Luned Jones as a mark of appreciation for her long service as Musical Director of Builth Male Voice Choir.**

The musical highlight of the evening was the young tenor soloist Robert Lewis, originally from Llanfyllin but now based in London. He delighted the audience with his powerful renditions of songs such as Bugail Aberdyfi and Puccini's Che Gelida Manina from La Boheme. Luned then conducted her final performance with the choir which included singing the solo in Ai Am Fod Haul yn Machlud (Is it Because The Sun is Setting). The concert concluded with a joint performance of O Gymry by Robert and the men's choir followed by a rousing performance of Hafan Gobaith with the combined Builth choirs.



**Adrian Morgan taking a bow after conducting Builth Male Voice Choir and Builth Wells Ladies Choir in a joint performance of Hafan Gobaith.**



**Megan Jones on behalf of the Supporter's Group presenting a bouquet to Luned.**



### ***Presentation to Bob Jones – 5<sup>th</sup> March***

Bob Jones, longstanding Treasurer of Builth Male Voice Choir, was presented with a canvas photograph commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Choir in recognition of his many years service to the Choir.



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Llandrindod Community Charity Shop Sale 27 April – 4 May 2019

Builth Male Voice Choir held a very successful sale at Llandrindod Charity Shop from 27 April – 4 May 2019 to raise funds to support the Choir. Chairman Derek Hope thanked everyone who had generously given goods for the sale and all the choir members and their partners who had helped to man the shop and make the week's activity so successful.



Spring Concert at Holy Trinity, Llandrindod Wells – 26th April

Llandrindod Wells and Area Twinning Association organised a Spring Concert in Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells to raise funds to support a youth group of footballers who will be travelling to Bad Rappenau, Germany in August 2019. Builth Male Voice Choir performed its first concert under the baton of recently appointed new Musical Director, Adrian Morgan and shared the stage with the Dolau Mixtures conducted by Catherine O'Rourke. Keen eyed members of the audience noticed that the Dolau Mixtures included a tenor and bass member from Builth MVC which required quick changes of ties during the concert.



Adrian Morgan conducting in his first concert as Musical Director of Builth MVC.

The large audience of over 100 people were very appreciative of Builth Choir's selection of songs which started with Prysgol and finished with a rousing rendition of We Rise Again. Joyce Hope (Vice-Chair of Llandrindod Twinning and wife of Derek Hope, BMVC Chairman) gave a vote of thanks and presented gifts to Adrian Morgan and accompanist Ann Bufton. The event raised approximately £800 towards the Twinning Association's efforts to support the upcoming youth visit to Germany.

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### ***Bingo Night for Cancer Research UK – 12th May***

On Sunday 12 May the Supporters Group held a highly successful Bingo Night at the Greyhound Hotel attended by over 40 people from both inside and outside the Choir. This large number enabled the Group to give out prizes of £5 for a line, £15 a house and a total of £30 for the flyer. Together with the Bingo, Bonus Ball, Name the dog, Raffle and Treasure Hunt Square we were able to donate £250 to Pink Week which was handed over to the Cancer Committee at the event.

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Bargain Hunt at the Royal Welsh Showground – 4th May

The Choir has been invited by the producers of BBC's Bargain Hunt to take part in a programme being filmed at The International Antiques & Collectors Fair of Wales on the Royal Welsh Showground. The occasion enabled antiques expert Charlie Ross to join the bass section of the Choir in a rousing rendition of O Gymru



Antiques expert Charlie Ross with accompanist Ann Bufton, Musical Director Adrian Morgan and members of Builth Male Voice Choir.



Charlie Ross checking his words before joining the bass section for O Gymru.

Rorke's Drift Rally, Brecon – 18th May

The Choir once again performed at the annual Rorke's Drift Rally in Brecon. Adrian Morgan was the conductor and Ann Bufton was the accompanist for a programme of stirring songs that entertained a noisy and appreciative audience. Prior to the concert a wedding ceremony took place when a couple, who had been engaged at the Rally in 2018, became husband and wife. The wedding party and guests took pride of place in the front rows of the audience and the Choir gave a specially requested performance of Unchained Melody for the newly weds.



The Choir sang two sets of music culminating in a rousing Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. Members of the audience were vociferous in their praise of the Choir including Marcia from Wiltshire who said it was her first experience of listening to a Welsh Male Voice Choir which had been very moving. She was looking forward to hearing Builth Male Voice Choir again. Following the Choir's singing there was a call for Top Tenor Bruce Watkins to once again recite the poem celebrating the Battle of Rorke's Drift which was listened to by a hushed audience and culminated in a standing ovation.

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### ***Brecon Military Show, Dering Lines, Brecon – 8th June***

The Choir performed two sets of songs to entertain visitors at the Brecon Military Show, Dering Lines, Brecon. Singing outside on a cold and windy parade ground proved a challenge which the Choir ably overcame. Adrian Morgan (conductor and musical director) and guest accompanist Bethan Rees held the choir together despite music sheets blowing away in the wind and the small appreciative audience were full of compliments for the performance.

The event started with a very impressive marching parade by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Choir followed with the first set :- *Stout hearted men – Pan fo'r Nos – Yfory – Unchained Melody – The Prayer – Gwahoddiad – Rachie*. The second set was performed later in the afternoon comprising :- *When the saints – Hallelujah – Calon Lan – Hafan Gobaith – We rise again – Amen – American Trilogy*





### ***Dolau Community Hall Concert – 5th July***

A large international audience attended the Summer Concert at Dolau Community Hall. Over 40 visitors from Llandrindod Wells's twin towns of Contrexeville (France) & Bad Rappenau (Germany) were in the packed audience for a concert supported by the Dolau Mixtures Choir and local soprano Nia Thomas. The European visitors thoroughly enjoyed the concert and listening to Welsh Male Voice Choir.



**Builth Male Voice Choir with Dolau Mixtures Choir & soloist Nia Thomas in the finale of the Summer Concert at Dolau Community Hall.**

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Royal Welsh Show – 22nd July

Builth Male Voice Choir was in demand this year on the first day of the 100th Royal Welsh Show. The choir sang “We Rise Again” which was recorded by ITV’s Coast & Country crew for broadcast on 24th July.

Later S4C transmitted the wedding of the lucky couple that had won a competition to be the first to tie the knot at the show. The choir sang “You are So Beautiful” “The Water is wide” “Let it be me” and “Unchained Melody” to Arwel and Bethan Edwards while the ceremony took place in the bandstand.





Musical Director Adrian Morgan, Matt Baker, Angelica Bell, Accompanist Ann Bufton, Michael Sheen and members of Builth Male Voice Choir after transmission of The One Show at the Royal Welsh Show.

Later in the day the choir sang “Still as the Night” live for the BBC One Show as Arwel and Bethan took their first dance together following an interview with actor Michael Sheen and presenters Matt Baker and Angellica Bell.



The choir members were very appreciative of the effort made by Musical Director Adrian Morgan and Accompanist Ann Bufton to overcome the difficulties of singing outdoors.

Acton Scott Concert – 28th July

A marquee in Acton Scott, the Shropshire village made famous by its historic Working Farm Museum, was the venue for a concert organised to raise funds for the local Church of St Margaret. The Choir traveled by coach accompanied by a large number of supporters who swelled the audience. The choir sang – *When the saints – Hafan Gobaith – Bring him home – Hallelujah – O Gymru – The water is wide – Gwahoddiad – With a voice of singing – The Prayer – Amen – Pan fo’r nos yn hir – Speed your journey – Pacem – We Rise Again with the audience demanding two encores – Morte Christe & Rachie*



The Choir was conducted by Adrian Morgan, accompanist Ann Bufton with David Power acting as Master of Ceremonies. On the return home the choir were made very welcome when they stopped for an enjoyable “afterglow” drinking and singing at The Clive Arms, Bromfield.

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### ***Llanhamlach Church Wedding – August 17th***

The Choir was pleased to be part of Laura and Jonny’s summer wedding at Llanhamlach Church on a bright sunny day. The Choir sang for guests prior to the wedding service and during the delightful wedding ceremony.



Photographer: Steve Wheller / Art by Design Photography - <http://www.artbydesignphotography.co.uk>

### ***Metropole Hotel Concert – 22<sup>nd</sup> August***

The Choir once again performed for guests from The Great Rail Tours who were staying at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on their visit to Wales. Adrian Morgan conducted and introduced all the songs with Ann Bufton as accompanist. The audience, thoroughly enjoyed the Choir's performance and many bought CDs as mementos after the concert.



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Choir Walk – 15th September

A number of us took part in a good walk organised by the Supporters Group, and led by Kenny Williams and Dave Bridgeman. It started and ended at the Llanelwedd Arms and took us East along the dismantled railway line and around the old quarry area in Llanelwedd. Then across the main Llandrindod road, along Club Lane, down past Cefn-dyrys, round the Paenmaenau side of the Showground and back to the much needed liquid refreshment at the end.





Builth Wells from Llanelwedd.

Wedding at St Peter's Church, Glasbury – 21st September



The choir sang at Glasbury for Richard & Kate Jones's wedding. We sang at the reception in Foyles as well as in the church itself.



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### ***Concert at Welshpool Methodist Church – 29<sup>th</sup> September***

The Choir was invited to perform a concert at the Methodist Church to conclude the Welshpool 1940's Weekend. The choir travelled by coach to Welshpool and were joined by Holly Richards, talented young soprano soloist from Llandegley, who contributed a lovely contrasting set of songs in the concert. The choir sang We will be singing : With a Voice of Singing – My Lord What a Mornin' – Amen / Hallelujah – Pacem – Still as the Night – Gwahoddiad / Pan fo'r Nos – Hafan Gobaith – O Gymru / Unchained Melody – The Water is Wide – Bring Him Home – We Rise Again Encore : Speed Your Journey. The concert concluded with the audience joining singing in both national anthems.





### ***Concert at Erwood Market Hall – 4th October***

It may have been 7 years since last the choir sang at Erwood Market Hall, but we received a wonderful reception from the audience. Sincere thanks to our guest accompanist, Bethan Rees, who also accompanied the soloist for the evening, Arwyn Morgans. Diolch yn fawr iawn i ti Bethan, am gyfeilio mor gwydch !

Thanks too to David Power, who acted as MC in his own inimitable way. A lovely evening rounded off with great refreshments . Thanks one and all.



### ***Owen Money & The Travelling Wrinklies – Strand Hall – 5th October***

Merthyr's own, Owen Money, came to Strand Hall on 5th October to entertain the choir and supporters. During the first half Owen, dressed head to toe in flamboyant pink, combined sixties hits with jokes and stories of his days in the entertainment business. He was well supported by his four piece band and his daughter Katie whose very powerful voice sang hits by stars such as Cher and Ella Fitzgerald.



For the second half Owen dressed more soberly in grey to tell us more about his days on the road in the early sixties, touring with The Bystanders and performing alongside groups such as The Hollies. The Bystanders signed a recording contract with Pye who would not agree to recording a song that Owen thought would be a hit. Two years later The Hollies recorded this same song as a single which sold 85 million.

Many thanks to the choir's Supporters Group for putting on this highly entertaining evening which was full of laughter and hit songs which brought back memories of the fast growing pop world of fifty years ago.

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Metropole Hotel – The Association of Show & Agricultural Organisations – 4th November

We sang at this large prestigious dinner for the organisation which represents the UK agricultural show industry. Most of the guests represented Welsh regional organisations with a few from across the border.

We noted that the stage was in a different but better position than usual, giving us more space on stage. Well done Metropole.



The excellent harpist Joy Cornock shared the stage with us. She is also an accomplished soprano soloist. It took a few of us to move the harp on to the stage.

Half Century for Glyn Powell – 11th November



To mark 50 years membership of Builth Male Voice Choir top tenor Glyn Powell was presented with a commemorative tie by Choir President Jim Evans accompanied by Chairman Derek Hope at a recent choir practice.

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## ***Concert at Mid-Wales Pavilion – 16<sup>th</sup> November***

Builth Male Voice Choir & Rhayader and District Male Voice Choir joined forces to perform together in a concert at Mid Wales Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells organised by the Friends of Ysgol Calon Cymru and Friends of Cefnlllys School.



There was praise from members of the audience for the sound produced by the joint male voice choirs – “as good as any of the large South Wales Choirs!”. The concert also featured Ysgol Calon Cymru (Llandrindod Campus) choir, soloists Cari Finucane and Lauren Taylor of Ysgol Calon Cymru, Cefnlllys Choir and soprano soloist Sarah Powell accompanied by her sister Laura on Piano.

The Concert was a great success with event raising £2,757.70 to be shared between Ysgol Calon Cymru and Cefnlllys School.

### ***Christmas Fair at Strand Hall – 23<sup>rd</sup> November***

The Choir entertained visitors to the Christmas Fair at the Strand Hall, Builth Wells on Saturday 23 November



### ***Royal Welsh 30th Winter Fair – 25th November***

The Choir sang at the Royal Welsh 30th Winter Fair 2019 in the Welcome Centre. The Choir entertained a large number of visitors with two sets of songs.





### ***Caer Beris Christmas Afternoon Tea – 14th December***

The Choir entertained guests enjoying a Christmas Afternoon Tea at Caer Beris Manor Hotel on Saturday 14 December. The Choir sang two sets of songs interspersed with Christmas Carols in which the guests joined in. Following their performance at Caer Beris the Choir visited Brynhyfryd Care Home to entertain the residents.



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The Choir is always keen to welcome new members who would like to share in the joy of singing and the friendship and comradeship membership brings. Those wishing to make enquiries can find information on the Choir's website www.builthmalechoir.org.uk or by telephoning 01982 552922 / 07938833264 or by email: bmvc.eventsmanager@gmail.com Or you could come along to one of our weekly rehearsals at The Greyhound Hotel in Builth Wells at 8:00 pm on any Monday. You will be very welcome.

The 2019 Committee

The 2020 Committee

President:	Jim Evans	<i>Currently Vacant</i>
Chairman:	Derek Hope	Bryan Morris
Vice Chairman:	Bryan Morris	Ian Coldrick
Treasurer:	Bob Jones / Gareth Jones	Gareth Jones
Secretary:	Roger Parker / Viv Jones	Viv Jones
Events Manager:	John Carruthers	John Carruthers

Choir Officers:

Librarian:	Dave Bridgeman	Dave Bridgeman
Wardrobe Master:	Brian Price	Brian Price
Webmaster:	Rob Shelton	Rob Shelton
Welfare Officer:	John Carruthers	<i>Currently Vacant</i>
Press Officer		Gary Jones

Section Leaders:

Top Tenors:	Rob Shelton	Rob Shelton
Second Tenors:	Viv Jones	Steve Benbow
Baritones:	Donald Bufton	Donald Bufton
Bass:	Trevor Morgan	Trevor Morgan

The Music Committee:

Adrian Morgan and Ann Bufton

Concert Personnel:

Stage Manager	John Carruthers / Viv Jones
Compere	David Power / Viv Jones