

Amici News

Issue no.43 June 2011

The newsletter of The Amici Singers
The Amici Singers is a Registered Charity No.277766



Chairman Beverly Goater pictured with husband Rick – taken on the USA Tour April 2011

Chairman's Report for the AGM 19 May 2011

As I was reflecting on the past Amici year and all we that had done together, a simple thought came to me; what fun we have had!

The summer concert saw us at Dunton Church again with the winners of the senior section of the 2010 BBC school choirs competition, Maria Fidelis School. I'm not sure that Dunton knew what had hit it! A beautiful, hot summers day, and no end of energy being delivered through music. A high note for me was being so proud of you all entering and exiting the stage so well, especially as it was so complicated.

Sadly we lost our prime 'snorer' for *Never marry an old man* as Mary Burke died in the summer. I'm sure many of us will remember her with fondness when we hear that section.

The autumn saw us return to Trinity Methodist Church, a place we now consider our home. Once again we welcomed new members to the choir, and section leaders supported their induction. In October we had a wonderful day recording a new CD with Douglas. The final result was very pleasing and gave us ideal Christmas gifts for friends and relatives. An added bonus was the fantastic photographs Tova Gillespie's husband Rob took of us all on the day – short break for advertisement now to please purchase these! I do apologise for the red shoes, apparently they can be airbrushed out; never thought I'd be airbrushed.

As the year came to an end, Douglas provided yet another treat for us all, a trip to see the Christmas lights in London. This was topped off by a wonderful opportunity to sing at St John Smiths Square at the Barnardo's concert with Gamlingay Village College and Norwich High School. These two schools had won their



sections of the Barnardo's school choirs competition. It was a real pleasure to be part of the evening, and what a wonderful dress Carole wore as she conducted us – Douglas unfortunately couldn't attend the evening

We ended the year with our Christmas concert at Gamlingay Village College singing with the college choir again and their senior section Harmony. It was humbling to sing Psalm 98 with them, knowing they knew the words off by heart!

The winter weather stopped us performing our usual concert at Simply Oak as Potton was snow bound. Such a shame, as we were all really looking forward to perfecting 'The twelve days of Christmas' this year.

As we moved into 2011 we had so many things planned for fundraising and fun, it was surprising we managed rehearsals. In January we held an antiques road show style evening that had been arranged by Carole. It was a great success, we had items valued and had some history of the articles explained. A general knowledge quiz was given with prizes for the winners. An auction was then held for people attending to bid for the 'promises' that Amici members had donated to raise funds for the choir. This was extremely successful, raised a good sum of money, and hopefully also helped Amici members to get to know one another better while cooking, ironing or gardening for one another!

As winter was drawing to an end, February saw us celebrating together with our Amici dinner at The John O'Gaunt golf club. We had a lovely meal and were entertained by a speech from our President, Pam Rhodes, detailing some of the amusing events in her career. It was good to be together and enjoying one another's company.

Douglas provided another treat for us as many of us took to the Saffords coach for Sheffield for the 2011 BBC *Songs of Praise school choir competition*. It was encouraging to see such enthusiasm by the children and schools for the making of their music and really gave such a lift to the spirit.

As spring approached we were making final touches for the 10th Amici trip to the USA. We had many first time travellers with the choir, and many who had been several times. I think it is fair to say that each trip for me has been different from the other, but all have been a wonderful experience, we are so fortunate to have two very special people who work so hard to enable these to happen, Douglas and Carole. Some words from the Gershwin collection we were singing on the tour came to mind quite early on, 'the bumpy road to love ...' as we approached to land in Washington, Douglas would have been surprised



for your **DIARY**

Amici Dates

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

Friday/Saturday 1/2 July

St Mary's Singers Summer Concert
at 7.45pm St. Mary's Church Potton.
Music from Musicals

Wednesday 13 July

St Swithun's Singers Summer Concert at St Swithun's Church, Sandy at 7.30. Concert will include *Raise High the Song* – a cycle of songs about birds by Douglas Coombes, composed for the Singers. It was given its first performance last year.

Chairman's report continued ...

as we became quiet and wondered if we would be 'Chattering with Angels' slightly earlier than planned. Once again we had wonderful hosts who made us feel very welcome. The trips arranged were all so interesting and enjoyable. We sang just about every day from the formal concerts to singing in caverns, state houses and boats, in fact most places we were asked to. On this trip, my husband Rick came along too. He wondered if he may tire of hearing the songs so frequently, but was surprised and delighted to hear them so often and found the songs going around pleasantly in his head for a long time. He felt honoured to be part of the group when he saw the audiences' appreciation of our singing, looking at one another with pleasure when they recognised pieces such as the Gershwin and 'Shenandoah'. We also realised how privileged we were to have such a talented accompanist in Trevor as he played at Allen Organs, many of us were brought to tears. Tears also came to our eyes at the shrine of Padre Pio with his playing but for a different reason! Now we are planning the coming Amici year, so much to look forward to together. In April next year we have agreed to perform at a fund raising event in Leamington Spa that Christine Denny gave us details of, a visit by the Senlis choir and orchestra is scheduled for the beginning of May, and we have been invited to go to Germany at the beginning of June!

So much for us to enjoy together, most of this is only possible with the ideas, work and support of the committee and choir working together as a team. They do it so well. But of course none of us would be able to have our lives enriched by these experiences without 'he who must not be named' - but I will like Harry Potter - Dr Douglas, and of course Carole.

Beverly Goater

Please put these dates in your diaries NOW to avoid double bookings

2011

Saturday 25 June

Summer Concert at Dunton Church
Rehearsal 2.00-5.00pm
Concert 7.00pm

Thursdays: 8 September – 1 December

Rehearsals at Trinity Methodist

Friday 14 October

1.30 – 4.00pm Conducting course at
Cromwell Ramada, Stevenage

This is to be the choir for conductors on the course to try their skills. I know that this is a Friday afternoon but would be grateful if as many as possible could attend

Saturday 3 December

Christmas concert Venue tba.

Sunday 18 December

Carols at Simply Oak: afternoon – times tba.

2012

Thursday 5 January – 30 March

Rehearsals at Trinity Methodist

Thursday 12 April – 28 June

Rehearsals at Trinity Methodist

Saturday 21 April

Concert in Leamington Spa

Weekend of 5/6 May

Hosting Senlis Collegium
– exact details to follow

Thursday 17 May

AGM - N.B. 7.30pm start

Saturday 2 June – Wednesday 6 June

Visit/Concerts in Quedlinburg, Germany,
plus visit to Leipzig. Travel by coach

Thursday 6 September – 29 November

Rehearsals at Trinity Methodist

Musical Director's Report for the AGM

Dear Amicis,

With the 10th USA tour still very fresh in the mind, I want to start by publicly thanking Carole. Without her input, expertise and a nose for what to do, as well as getting a good bargain, this 10th tour would not have got off the ground. And if it had I cannot see how it would have achieved the success it did unless Carole had been at the helm. So thank you Carole for all you do and for the personal support – and Amicis, you can take that any way you wish – and you would be right every time.

The tour was such a happy and successful one. Was it the best ever? I can't really say, but I can assure you that I did enjoy it immensely. I stress the assurance bit as I was aware that many kept asking if I was enjoying it or words to that effect. Perhaps I was failing to show it, but I was delighted with everything. When you had returned and Carole and I went to stay with Glenn at Shannondell for a few days, we met so many who had been to our concert and they all spoke so highly of your performance. You know that we had a number of compliments every time we sang including the two school concerts. And I am absolutely certain that your hosts were also congratulatory. The only dissent I can remember came from the young guide at the Capitol building in Annapolis, who just moments after we started singing in that glorious acoustic came up to me and asked for the singing to be quieter. Still the Governor was obviously impressed as he sent someone to find out who we were and where we came from. At least I think he was impressed as so far I have not received any writ for disturbing the peace. I must thank Bill White for being such a good tour manager as well as, as he says, helping his pupil by turning the pages over for him. I am referring to Trevor who did an outstanding job. I never have nor never will take him for granted and I hope we never will.

Directing a choir, or any organisation, for 33 years is, to coin a phrase, a heck of a time. In the programme for the Amici Singers 25th Anniversary Concert on July 5th 2003, Nigel Shipway, one of the UK's leading percussionist, who was then our President, wrote:-

'25 years is a great achievement; and many professional musicians would also say that being under the same conductor is a miracle! But they must be doing something right!' I trust we still are. The only time span in my life that exceeds those 33 years in my marriage.

There are quite a few unique features of the choir and I would like to mention one of them. At a recent Council meeting of the Association of British Choral Directors there was quite a discussion about choirs and the repertoire. It is something I have heard many times and it is that choirs are generally not adventurous, that many members are very picky about the music they sing and that they stay away if new or unknown music is given out. I suspect that it is the fault of the conductors. In my time I have met quite a few choir directors who have rejected new works especially if there is not a recording, seemingly that they can use to learn the work. They also say that their choir would not like anything they do not know. Think about that statement. It's really a case of "We know what we like and we like what we know" which leads to stagnation and often a reduction in membership. Now with you, the Amicis, you take on board anything I throw at you. Having said that I choose and arrange music with which I think you have a chance – even the



Benedictus! The new piece, the *Cries of London*, I had wondered about for some time and last week we looked at it and I was delighted with your response. A major part of the success of a choir is the varied repertoire it tackles and that is one of your strengths. Another vital ingredient of the choir is the way that you welcome new members into the fold. And we always need new members. I know that I bang on about it but I always have with every organisation I have been or am involved with. So keep on mentioning the choir to others. Don't do nothing or give up. New blood sustains and enlivens the old as it were.

I would like to pay a tribute and thanks to all the committee for their support and response. The greeting system appears to work well under Margaret Prosser who with husband George does a great job on the publicity front. I'm not going to mention everyone on the committee led so well by Beverly as it would take such a long time and I could offend by missing someone out. But I know, and I know the members all know all who work to make the Amicis.

The success of a choir is that though made up of characters and individuals, the choir is a team, working and singing together as one, with no prima donnas. And the Amicis have been fairly lucky in that respect.

I usually end with a short poem and here's one I read recently in a marvellous book, humorously titled *A Guest at Cambridge* as it's by George Guest who for many years was the Director of Music at St. John's Cambridge.

The Choirmaster stood at the pearly gates
His face was worn and old,
He stood before the man of fate
For admission to the fold.
"What have you done," Saint Peter said "To gain
admission here?"
"I've been a choirmaster, sir," he said,
"For many and many a year."
The pearly gates flew open wide
Saint Peter touched the bell.
"Come in," he said, "and choose your harp
You've had your share of hell."

I never thought in 1978 I would still be with you 33 years later. It has not been hell. Like all families there have been moments, but always worth it. It has been a remarkable journey. I think, with your permission, I would like it to continue

Douglas Coombes

A short biography of Orlando Gibbons

composer of *The Cries of London*

Orlando Gibbons (baptised 25 December 1583 – 5 June 1625) was an English composer, virginalist and organist of the late Tudor and early Jacobean periods. He was a leading composer in the England of his day. Gibbons wrote a quantity of keyboard works, around thirty fantasias for viols, a number of madrigals (the best-known being *The Silver Swan*), and many popular verse anthems. His choral music is distinguished by his complete mastery of counterpoint, combined with his wonderful gift for melody. Perhaps his most well known verse anthem is *This is the record of John*, which sets an Advent text for solo countertenor or tenor, alternating with full chorus. The soloist is required to demonstrate considerable technical facility at points, and the work at once expresses the rhetorical force of the text, whilst never being demonstrative or bombastic. He also produced two major settings of *Evensong*, the *Short Service* and the *Second Service*. The former includes a beautifully expressive *Nunc dimittis*, while the latter is an extended composition, combining verse and full sections. Gibbons's full anthems include the expressive *O Lord, in thy wrath*, and the Ascension Day anthem *O clap your hands together* for eight voices. He contributed six pieces to the first printed collection of keyboard music in England, *Parthenia* (to which he was by far the youngest of the three contributors), published in about 1611.

Gibbons's surviving keyboard output comprises some 45 pieces. The polyphonic fantasia and dance forms are the best represented genres. Gibbons's writing exhibits full mastery of three- and four-part counterpoint. Most of the fantasias are complex, multisectional pieces, treating multiple subjects imitatively. Gibbons's approach to melody in both fantasias and dances features a capability for almost limitless development of simple musical



Orlando Gibbons

ideas, on display in works such as *Pavane in D minor* and *Lord Salisbury's Pavan and Galliard*.

The Cries of London

Documenting the street language of vendors selling their wares in the squares and markets of 17th-century London is one thing; setting these utterances to music is another. There's no doubt that these words and expressions are quite colourful--"*New mussels, new lilywhite mussels; Perfum'd waistcoats; Hard garlic, hard; Ripe walnuts, ripe; Will you buy any ink? Have you any rats or mice to kill?*"--and thus tempting for a clever composer to render with melodic and instrumental accompaniment. And not only did many composers do just that, but it became a kind of game, an entertainment, and even a teaching tool, where several different tunes and many different rhythmic devices were incorporated into the piece. The practice wasn't limited to England either, for examples of similar compositions exist in other countries and in earlier and later centuries.



The Amici Singers – 10th USA Tour

21 April 2011-2 May 2011

Thursday 21 April Pick-ups from Great Grandsen to Baldock Services went smoothly as the party gradually assembled. Even the M25 behaved itself. Slight delay on arrival at airport as Saffords driver had never been to T5 before, but that was quickly sorted and we collected Jen, Rita and Marion, who joined us at Heathrow. Baggage checked in, we endured security and, once air side, separated for breakfast etc before assembling at gate for flight. I sent Carole a text to say we were doing well and was very surprised to get an immediate reply – later learning that the ping of the iPhone had acted as an effective alarm to them at 5 am! Flight was excellent until the final approach into Dulles, Washington, when our captain coolly announced over intercom that strong winds near the ground would cause some turbulence as we came in to land. He was right; plane lurched, bounced and, at one heart-stopping moment, dropped like a stone, most uncomfortably. It was a great relief when the Boeing eventually thumped heavily onto the runway and we could shakily retrieve our belongings and stagger into Immigration. The ESTA system helped smooth our path, everyone's luggage arrived and we were through, to be greeted by Carole, Douglas, Trevor and Gillian. The fresh air as we waited for Bob Harmer to bring the Hagey coach revived us greatly too. So good to see Bob again; an old friend from previous two trips, who knew we'd enjoy the Safely Video and appreciate the new wifi facility onboard. At Damascus United Methodist Church we were given chilled water and cake, which restored our blood sugar level, then Bonnie Custer allocated us to hosts. Most of us then stayed at the church for the Seder meal, a Jewish custom, we found absolutely fascinating. Walt Edmonds led us through a series of toasts and tastes representing the Passover. We also had a delicious supper prepared by Mickey, the Damascus church chef. Off to our hosts for a much-needed sleep.

Good Friday 22 April Sight-seeing in Washington. Bob dropped us at the Air & Space museum and we were free to do our own thing until 16.15. Shame the weather was poor – wet and cold and holiday traffic very heavy, but we all enjoyed a good day in a wonderful city, either riding the tour buses or visiting the museums and galleries. We had an excellent lunch at Grand Union Station too. A hour's drive in Hagey coach got us to Christian Community Presbyterian Church, Bowie (as in Bowie knife!) a modern building with an Allen organ. First time we've ever sung on Day 1 of tour, but the hour-long recital went surprisingly well – and Trevor's virtuoso performance of a piece by Liszt, was stunning. Such a shame a couple of the choir had gone down with sore throats and nasty colds and had to sit out. After the performance we were given light nibbles – including the most enormous strawberries we've ever seen (genetically modified?!) Back to Damascus.

Saturday 23 April A relaxed morning with our hosts Bonny and Dave Custer, so less pressure to get up, which was greatly appreciated. Party reassembled around lunch at the Francis Scott Key shopping mall for a sing by the fountain (as per 3 years ago.) This time, however, we were competing with the Easter Bunny, who was available for photographic opportunities with a long queue (line!) of over-excited small children in their Easter best. Things did improve when the fountain was turned off (although it did make a nice accompaniment to *Water of Tyne*) and our second sing went pretty well – even sold a few CDs. In the evening, we went to an "Eat all you can for \$10" diner. Wow – some people can pack an impressive amount away!!!

Easter Sunday 24 April Two services at Damascus United Methodist Church. *Psalm 98* went very well. We also got to hear the Cherub Choir (minute angels who processed with their hands pressed in prayer, wearing tiny surplices.) Beverly presented the official gift to Walt, shame the bottom had become unstuck in the heat! Invited to join in the *Hallelujah Chorus*, which was sung with considerable gusto at both services. Extremely warm again. Back to hosts for the remainder of Easter Day. At Bonnie and Dave Custer's we had a lengthy, most delicious, lunch, ending at about 8 pm. The warmth had given the 'stink bugs' encouragement to emerge in numbers – Julie and I had an impressive cull before packing.

Monday 25 April Sad leaving Damascus after a really lovely visit, but Amici tours are always full of interesting things to do. A drive through the lovely countryside, passing Harper's Ferry, took us to the 'American Celebration on Parade' exhibition, where we saw all the huge floats that appear in the Presidential Parades. Also got to taste 8 different local wines; interesting! Back for a packed lunch, served in a Happy Meal box, which was rather good before a great visit down to the Shenandoah Caverns – extraordinary stalactites and stalagmites, beautifully lit to enhance their colours. We sang *Shenandoah*, which surprised our guide, who said she'd never had a group burst into song underground before. After that, we were taken to see the site of the Confederate victory at the 'Field of the Lost Shoes', where we watched a good docu-drama of how the young boys from the Military Academy were called up to fight an extremely bloody battle. Very moving. On to be welcomed by our new hosts at the New Covenant Church, Abingdon, Maryland.

Tuesday 26 April Today started with a tour of the Maryland State House in Annapolis, where our guide, Frederick, impressed us with his extraordinary historical knowledge – he had a nice touch of drama too. We were allowed to sing beneath the beautiful double Dome, wonderful acoustics, but had to keep the volume down as the Governor was working. Scattered to find

lunch before our Watermark Tours cruise around the harbour. The captain of the boat insisted we sang, so we *Chattered with the Angels* on the top deck. Evening free to get to know our Abingdon hosts better.

Wednesday 26 April. For those in the party who'd never seen how Douglas and Carole do their music workshops with children, the morning was quite a revelation. We visited the Elementary School and the High School and it was such fun to see how the students reacted to music games and our singing. After that, it was off to Baltimore, to have lunch and enjoy the Inner Harbour. Several of us went to the superb Phillips Fish Restaurant, to sample their renowned Crab Cakes. First formal concert of the tour in the evening, preceded by a delicious meal (tough to have to sing afterwards!) Trevor's *I Got Rhythm* was an absolute joy.

Thursday 28 April We'd all bonded with our Abingdon hosts, so again, very sad to say goodbye – but the farewells were not protracted as Bob was keen to get us away – due to a Tornado Warning. The winds were rising and the sky was ominously dark. Further South they'd already had some horrendous storms, with dreadful loss of life. Bob assured us that Hagey HQ was monitoring the warnings and that we would not be called upon to throw ourselves into a ditch if caught in a storm à la Wizard of Oz...A visit to Downingtown would not be the same if we didn't call in at the amazing Shannondell Community and sing a concert for the residents in the 500-seater theatre. We were made very welcome and given lunch. A new experience was a visit afterwards to the Shrine of Padre Pio. On arrival, we were shown a film depicting two of the miraculous healings associated with this modern saint, then, rather to our surprise, as we'd only been led to believe we'd sing informally in the museum, were shown into the Spirituality Centre, where a large audience was patiently waiting to hear us! Douglas rapidly devised a 30 minute programme. The moment Trevor laid fingers to the piano, he knew this was going to be an interesting challenge – but with some nifty transposing and omitting of certain notes he got round the worst of the problems. We ended with the *Irish Blessing* – which several of the audience knew the words for, really moving. Leaving the pilgrims to a viewing of Padre Pio's glove (he carried the Stigmata for most of his life) we set off for the Exton Shopping Mall to get something to eat before arriving at Downingtown. This really is like a visit to family, so there were many hugs and kisses as we greeted old friends and introduced them to Amicis on their first trip.

Friday 29 April – Royal Wedding Day. All through the tour, as soon as Americans heard our accents, they'd gone into exclamations about how we could bear not to be in London for the wedding etc. Julie and I got up at 5 am to join Judy Bullock and watch how Fox TV covered the ceremony. Apart from wincing when Her Majesty was referred to as 'Queenie' and a couple of other howlers, we really enjoyed watching the wedding and felt thoroughly proud to be British. Another full day of sight-seeing planned, so it was back to the coach by 8.30 am and off to visit the Allan Organ factory. In the Octave Hall Trevor got to play their newest organ, which was fantastic. In honour of the Wedding he started with Walton's Crown Imperial – from memory! Another group joined the tour and so we sang the items we could do from memory – *Shenandoah*, *Chatter with the Angels*, *Feel Good* and *Irish Blessing*, with Trevor improvising on the organ – emotional stuff, there were tears. Our lunch was taken at the 'America on Wheels Museum' then a tour from a guide who somehow failed to inspire us – but, you can't always

hit on a Frederick! Trevor and Bill loved the Mack Trucks etc. Final visit, to the Martin Guitar Museum, which was great – and another impromptu sing! Spent evening with dear friends at Downingtown.

Saturday 30 April Opportunity to do whatever we wanted until 4 pm, so I suggested to Judy that we showed Julie the Amish folk in Lancaster County. This was a lovely trip and we encountered several other Amicis, doing the same thing, at the Copper Kettle Village in the wonderfully named town of Intercourse. Last concert of the tour, so Douglas did a 'top and tail' rehearsal before a quick meal. Very appreciative audience as ever, bless them. Everyone mingled afterwards over masses of desserts – then it was home to pack again.

Sunday 1 May After a warm-up in the choir room, where we were pleased to see all the mementos from previous trips displayed in a glass cabinet in the corridor, we took our places in church, sang *Psalm 98* (which we really got on top of through the tour) and ended with the short *Amen* – less successful, but there were reasons for that! We'd said our goodbyes to Bob on Friday, so it was Bruce who drove us to the airport after tearful farewells to our lovely friends at Downingtown and also to Douglas and Carole, who were staying on at Shannondell, with Glenn Landis until Wednesday. No problems leaving Dulles and a mercifully much smoother flight home.

Monday 2 May Slight wait for Saffords coach at T5, but much joy when we realised it was driven by our old friend Brian (Brain!) A quiet journey home, but lots of very happy memories of a really good Amici trip.

Elizabeth Gammell

SOME LETTERS FROM THOSE WHO WENT TO THE USA

Hi Carole and Douglas,
Just a few words to say thanks for organising such a great tour this time. I don't think we voiced our praise of you, Carole, for the planned itinerary which all seemed to go pretty much as you expected. It must be so difficult to time it with all those unexpected happenings! Well done!
Thank you Douglas for your enthusiasm, without which we could not have performed, whilst enjoying every minute so much. I think we won people over because of our obvious enjoyment, even if we didn't sing the music as you wrote it! I had a great time - best of three for me.
Enjoy some wind down time and see you both on Thursday
God Bless
Christine (Denny)

Trust you are both safely back and not too jet lagged. Thank you both for a really special tour. Your hard work and planning is really appreciated and I thought the selection of music the TOPS. All so vibrant and varied and great to sing even when having to mime!. Thought the visit to Allen Organs a great highlight and to hear Trevor on the digital organ. Thank you both again for such for a wonderful trip. love to both PAT (Stark)

Dear Douglas and Carole,
 A huge thanks to the both of you for the tremendously hard work that you both put in to the USA tour! I can imagine the work involved and I anticipate if I double or even quadruple that I may be close. I truly admire your stamina!!!!
 The trip was truly memorable and provided me with opportunities and countless experiences I would never have anticipated and will never forget. The music and the friendliness of our American hosts were wonderful!
 I know you are a great communicator, Douglas, and use this to share your musical talent. Watching you and Carole with the school children was really inspiring. I am delighted that I had the opportunity to see you in action! I also consider myself privileged to have witnessed Trevor's musical talent from his brilliance on the organ to his transposition on the Padre Pio "joanna"!
 Once again, many thanks!
 Kind Regards,
 Sue (Chandler)
 PS. My sons are incredibly jealous that you will have had the opportunity to play with the Shannondell train set!

Dear Douglas and Carole
 By the time you read this I hope you will have had a less bumpy journey back than we did - very back row of a 747 is not the best place in strong winds!!
 Thank you, once again, for a superb tour - Michael thought it was the best one yet that we'd been on. Have attached a couple of photos that Bob didn't get. Will probably be more when Michael gets the ones downloaded that he took. However, is now on his way back from Turkey - we got home around 10.30 a.m. Monday (last ones off at Saffords' depot!) and at 2.30 a.m. on Tuesday he left home to drive to Gatwick for a 6.30 flight to Turkey!
 Best wishes
 Jen (Wilkinson)



New Songs !!

On the USA tour, a number of new songs were invented. The leader of this artistic endeavour was Rosemary and a small group, though I am led to believe that Rosemary was the main culprit in spite of Bud! If you do not understand, ask Rosemary. Here are these new words for you to enjoy.

Bob's Song: to the tune of 'The Way You Wear Your Hat' sung by the BBC – Bob's Bus Choir

The way you drive the bus
 The way you ride your bike
 The way you picture us
 (The way you picture us)
 Yes, yes, you've always been the Bob we like

We may never, never sit again on the brand new Hagey bus
 You have always, always been on time for us

And so we say adieu
 So long and au revoir
 We're saying nothing new
 (We're saying nothing new)
 We hope Amicis are your favourite choir
 Yes, Amicis are your favourite choir
 Yes, Amicis are your favourite choir

Mandy's Song: to the tune of 'High Germany'
Oh Mandy love, Oh Mandy, your shift has
just begun
But you must keep a-smiling, even though you
have a sore tum
Just keep on climbing the greasy pole and
very soon you'll see
You'll be an important manager at J
Sainsbury

Ronnie's Song: to the tune of 'O Waly Waly'
We'll soon be home from the USA
By Hagey coach, and air and car
By then we'll need a G and T
There's only one place - Ronnie's Bar

Anne's Song: to the tune of 'Searching for Lambs'
I'm going to wash my husband's socks
And then I'll cook some ham
These are the ways I've spent my days
Since I grew out of my pram

Elizabeth's Song: to the tune of 'Wraggle Taggle
Gypsies'
Oh go and fetch my wedding hat
My shoes and bag and confetti-oh
Will someone say who is marrying today?
Because I can't remember-oh

Carole's Song: to the tune of 'Green Broom'
Now Carole went out to do shopping one day
And the engine it started - vroom-vroom,
vroom-vroom
She turned to the left and the movement was
deft
And soon she was buying a broom, broom,
broom,
And soon she was buying a brooooooom

Rosemary's song: to the tune of 'Blow Away the
Morning Dew'
O there's a lady in the choir
Who's been on every tour
She always sits with the BBC
She's really not obscure
O sing, Sing along with Rosemary
Sing Girls Sing
Sing along with Rosemary, And Bud, her furry
King

Jennifer's Song: to the tune of 'Never Marry an Old
Man'
When they got home again (pause - snore,
snore, snore)
'Stop that' said Mike to Jen
When they got home again, Hey diddle dee
- ee

When they got home again (pause - snore,
snore)
'You can sleep in the Den
And I'll go down and make a nice cup of tea'

Trevor's Song: to the tune of 'It's Very Clear'
It's very clear, Trevor is here to stay
Not for a year, but ever and a day
In time the organ may rumble, Amicis may
grumble
They're never far away
But our Trevor's here to stay

Douglas' song: to the tune of 'Dance to your Daddy'
Sing, Sing, Sing, Sing, Sing
Sing for our Douglas, all you Amicis
Sing for our Douglas, Ladies of the choir
Please don't sing a quaver when he wants a
crotchet
You had better watch it when he bring us in
Sing for our Douglas

HELP FOR OUR MEMBERS

At the recent Committee meeting of the Amici Singers, we discussed the possibility, that from time to time, some members may find themselves in financial hardship, and unable to afford the subscription to remain in the choir. It was decided that it may be possible for those members of long-standing, who have demonstrated loyalty to the choir over a considerable period of time, to be eligible for assistance ranging from a waiving of subscriptions whilst in difficulty, purchase of uniform or help with travelling costs when the choir performs away from the immediate area. In the first instance, a member would approach their section leader in confidence about such a matter, and then each case would be decided upon in consultation with the Section Leader, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Musical Director, in a properly minuted meeting.