


# Tiptree Choral Society Newsletter No. 16

Making music together since 1945

**2011 sounds funny to me. It's nowhere near as easy to say as 2010 or 2012 – must be something to do with the odd number, though 1919 trips off the tongue very readily, so maybe it's the mix of even and odd that I find strange. But it's here notwithstanding, so let's hope it is a happy and healthy year for all of us.**

## **The sounds of concerts past!**

The Christmas concert has come and gone and it was lovely to hear from various people that it was so well received by the rather 'last enjoyed if the help of Dad, has will soon be



audience. It may be year', but it can still be you wish, as Nick, with his brother and his recorded it for us and it available on CD. Nick has actually recorded the Brahms concert, the French concerts AND the Christmas concert! Thanks Nick, that's absolutely brilliant! It would be helpful for him to know how many copies to run off, so if you would like one or all of the above, would you please email me or tell Nick at rehearsal so he can estimate numbers. Thankyou!

## **Bob Taylor MBE**

We were all so sorry to hear at the start of this term that Bob Taylor had died shortly after Christmas. He was one of the Society's Trustees and an honorary lifetime member and will be missed by us all. Although I never really got to know Bob, I did have a few written exchanges with him in my role as Chairman; he was punctilious in his responses and I always enjoyed his letters. I have learnt a little about his life from talking with those who knew him well, which I would like to share with all of you as a way of celebrating his life.

Bob was a local lad, born in 1920 in Great Totham, where his father was the Postmaster. Singing started early as he sang in the local church choir from boyhood, first as a treble, then as a tenor. On leaving school, he first followed his father's footsteps into the Post office, then joined H.M. Customs and Excise.

After the outbreak of WWII, Bob joined the RAFVR in 1940 and was subsequently posted to the Far East. (The Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve was originally intended as a reserve or back up force, but in fact, it ended up comprising over half of Bomber Command. The 'VR' bit was dropped in 1943.) Bob was captured by

the Japanese at the Battle of Java in March 1942 and spent the next 3½ years as a prisoner of war on Java and the islands of Haruku and Ambon. In common with the many who suffered a similar fate, he spoke little over the years of that experience, but he did once remark that he believed he owed his life to the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Back home, Bob returned to his work for H.M. Customs and Excise. He continued to serve as a civil servant, working his way up to Higher Executive Officer and being awarded the MBE for his diligent and meticulous work, until his retirement in 1982.

Having lived and worked in various parts of England, both north and south, Bob and his wife Eileen, whom he had met at a dance during his post-war convalescence in Staines, moved to live in Tiptree in 1972. Their daughter, Angela, now lives in Wales with her husband. Two years after they moved in, Bob joined Tiptree Choral Society and sang with us, first as tenor then as bass, for 30 years. He was also a founder member of the Essex Police Choir and sang in the choir of St Luke's Church in Tiptree. A Freemason and a member of the British Legion, it was Bob who used to read out the names of the fallen on Remembrance Sunday. He died on December 28<sup>th</sup> aged 90 years, and was buried in a private service in the village where he was born. As was stated in the eulogy given at his Lodge, Bob's life was one of service: to his country, both in war and in peace, to his community and to his church. He will be greatly missed and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

## **Birthdays**

Belated birthday wishes to Emily and her Auntie Marion, to Mary R, Mary T and Pauline, and to Bob, whose birthday is actually today! And looking ahead to the rest of January, happy birthday to Kim and Helen J. A popular month January – spring fever do you think?! Many happy returns too, to Irene, Miriam and Samuel who all have birthdays in February.

*January brings the snow;  
Makes our feet and fingers glow.*

*February brings the rain;  
Thaws the frozen pond again...*

... something to look forward to!



## **Music to be returned**

This is just a reminder that some people have yet to hand back their concert music. There are still some copies of the Lloyd Webber collection and 'The Armed Man' to come back from the French trip, and copies of 'City of Light' and 'Promise of Christmas' to be returned from the Christmas concert. Please would you hand these to Jenny as soon as possible as she would like to be able to pack these sets away. It is important that the sets remain complete – they are our biggest assets remember, and Jenny has been very patient, so can we have everything in by the end of January please.

One other thing about music: when Jenny hands out music there is a number on each score. This number may not be the same as the number on your folder, but please don't change it!! Poor Jenny has been driven distracted by our good intentions – changing the number simply means Jenny cannot track the music, so please can we all leave it alone!!

### **Find a Friend!**

Wouldn't this be a great thing to do? We'd like to make it a focus for this year – that each of us 'Finds a Friend' for Tiptree Choral. We do need a bigger group of people committed to supporting us with a small financial contribution and a large presence at our concerts! Do your best everyone please!

### **Dates for your Diary**

- Easter concert: Handel's Coronation Anthems and Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011– rehearsals already underway.
- Summer concert: Proms in the Barn 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011
- Christmas concert: Bach Christmas Oratorio 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011

### **Programme for 2012-2013**

Malcolm and the committee have been busy planning ahead and although there are not firm dates as yet, this is currently what the 2012-2013 programmes looks like:

Easter 2012: Extracts from the Messiah plus spirituals and/or gospel music  
July 2012: Carmina Burana

December 2012: a Karl Jenkins work

December 2013: carols

2013 could also provide a 'Tiptree-on-tour' opportunity!

### **Charity**

Thank you to the one or two who have put forward suggestions about the Society's charitable giving. They will be discussed at the next committee meeting (which will be soon!). If anyone else has ideas about how we could do this or a favourite charity they would like to nominate, please share it with anyone on the committee or email me if that's more convenient.

And on a positive note... the days are getting longer!

Liz

19<sup>th</sup> January 2011