

Dates For Your Diary

Please put these dates into your diary:

Choral Workshop
25th September 2010
St. John's Church
Old Coulsdon

Christmas Carol Concert
11th December 2010
United Reformed Church
Caterham

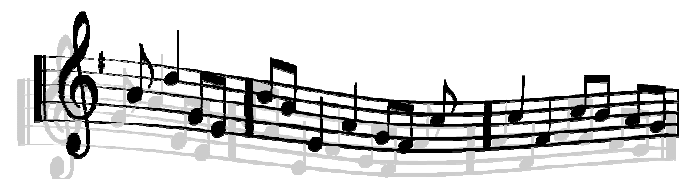
Spring Concert
9th April 2011
St. John's Church
Old Coulsdon

Summer Concert
25th June 2011
Woldingham Village Hall
Woldingham

Please direct any feedback, comments or suggestions to:
George Feichter, email: george@escs.org.uk



East Surrey Choral Society
East Surrey Choral Society



NEWSLETTER

2010



www.escs.org.uk

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attacks than us.

5. The Germans drink a lot of beer, eat a lot of sausages and fats ... and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

CONCLUSION:

... and isn't it nice to know the truth after all those confusing nutritional studies?! ...

EAT AND DRINK WHAT YOU LIKE.

SPEAKING ENGLISH IS APPARENTLY WHAT KILLS YOU!!

Ian Kennedy

Q: *Fried foods are bad for you - right?*

A: YOU NOT LISTEN ME!! Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, are permeated by it. How can getting more vegetable be bad for you?

Q: *Will sit-ups help prevent me getting a little soft or flabby around the middle?*

A: Definitely not! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. Only do sit-ups if you want bigger stomach.

Q: *Is chocolate bad for me?*

A: You crazy??!! HEL-LLO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around.

Q: *Is swimming good for you?*

A: If swimming good for figure...explain whale to me!!

So, I hope that has cleared up a few misconceptions you may have had about food, diets and exercise. Remember, life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body. Far better to skid in sideways, Chardonnay in one hand, chocolate in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "Woo-Hoo, what a ride!!" ...

AND ...

For those of you who do watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat ... and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat ... and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine ... and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine ... and suffer fewer heart

From our chairman:

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF EAST SURREY CHORAL SOCIETY

We are fast approaching the Golden Jubilee of ESCS, 2011. We maintain the original, laudable open policy of the Society, which is that anyone who wishes to sing can become a member without audition. Our Conductor is Professor Ian Kennedy of the Guildhall School of Music, and our accompanist Jeffrey Gray, a music teacher at Rochester and Canterbury King's Schools. We are privileged to have the distinguished Opera Star, Della Jones, as our President, and she occasionally performs with us. We still have among us two former chairmen of the choir Aldwyn Jones and Cathy Pearce. A former distinguished conductor of the Choir, Michael Pilkington, lives nearby, and keeps in touch with us. We express our gratitude to those who have gone before and passed ESCS on to us. Let us resolve to work hard so we can pass ESCS on to those who come after us, to enrich with music future generations of residents in the Caterham/ East Surrey Area, and elsewhere.

There is something uniquely uplifting about singing with others in a choir. Singing with other people is a bonding and inspiring experience. It also involves the whole person: first there is an intellectual challenge in getting to understand the music and the words of choral music: then there is the emotional joy of expressing to an audience, from your heart, the meaning of the words you sing; and finally there is the exertion of one's will to produce the voice, and prepare the performance. All of this makes singing a particularly satisfying activity.

Our Programme for the forthcoming season is a Workshop on 25th September 2010 when we will work on Rutter's Requiem and Handel's Coronation Anthems, At our Christmas Concert on 11th December 2010 we will sing Rutter's 'When Icicles Hang', and a selection of popular Christmas Carols
Our main Jubilee Concert will be on 9th April 2011 when we sing

Handel's Messiah.

We will also have a Summer Concert on 25th June 2011, which will include music performed by the choir in programmes over the past 50 years.

A Workshop on Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana' will follow in September 2011.

I leave you with two quotes from **Sir Thomas Beecham** - which may seem strangely familiar to some: Tapping his score, Sir Thomas once said 'Nobody is playing anything like I've got here.' On another occasion he said "The English may not like music, but they absolutely love the noise it makes." (And so say all of us!)

Richard St L Broadberry

And finally for some healthy advice ...

Some months ago, I told the choir of a marvellous Oriental doctor who dispensed superb advice to one of his patients. I thought readers might like to be reminded of his wisdom. I am sure all will love this doctor!!

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Heart only good for so many beats ... and that's it. Don't waste on exercise. Everything wear out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? ... Take nap!

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiency. What does cow eat? ... Hay and corn. And what are these? ... Vegetables. So steak is nothing more than efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? ... Eat chicken! Beef also good source of field grass ... green leafy vegetable. And pork chop can give you 100% or recommended daily allowance of vegetable product.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine. That mean they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Bottom up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, If you have body and you have fat, your ratio one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio two to one ... and so on.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise programme?

A: Can't think of single one, sorry. My philosophy: no pain ... good!!

From Melanie:

Heard during the coffee break in the summer term of 1990, from one soprano to her friends, "Girls, have you heard the news? One of the tenors is pregnant!" (I had just discovered I was expecting Sarah!)

Best wishes, and hope you had a good holiday.

Melanie Watts-Read

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The rose the choir presented to Sue and Karle Simpson on their 50th wedding anniversary

**From our conductor:**

In over fifteen years as Musical Director of ESCS, I have conducted well over 70 substantial choral works with the choir, as well as countless smaller items. The music has ranged from pre-Baroque to the present day, from oratorio to spirituals, from opera to musical theatre. Membership and audience numbers have inevitably fluctuated, but throughout that whole period ESCS has always enjoyed a strong, loyal core support - which is why East Surrey Choral Society can proudly look forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary season.

Like my predecessors, Arthur Toms and Michael Pilkington, I have been constantly aware that ESCS is a choir for the local community. We have never held auditions or required a degree of musical training to become a member of the choir and yet at the end of each term, rarely on more than a dozen rehearsals, we have (somehow) managed to produce concerts that have (on the whole) been of a good standard and enjoyable for both singers and listeners. This is no mean feat, believe me!!

However, whilst the absence of auditions has possibly been an encouraging influence in attracting certain singers to ESCS, it nevertheless has a downside, inasmuch as some (mainly inexperienced) singers will inevitably gravitate towards the section of the choir that most appeals.... or feels vocally most comfortable....or perhaps is where their friends sit!!! This can inevitably lead to problems. I know of one choir that wrestles with a situation almost diametrically opposed to that in ESCS. There, they have a glut of sopranos (I am reliably informed that the collective noun is a "screech", by the way!), a small representation of altos (sometimes referred to as a "hoot" or a "wobble"!), a couple of tenors (inevitably, a "grip") and a (small) handful of basses (a "woof"). All in all, this is not a practicable balance. At ESCS, we have a similar predicament, though for us, it is our inner voices (altos and tenors) who dominate numerically. In my experience, numerical strength tends to encourage greater confidence and at present I think it fair to say that we would

benefit greatly from an influx of sopranos and basses to add both confidence and sound to their respective sections. Selecting repertoire is proving problematic, as much repertoire depends on a strong melody line - generally in the soprano - and a firm underpinning of the harmony - from the basses.

This is a critical period for ESCS. I should love to think that the choir could realistically look forward to another 50 years.....and it **IS** possible. Choirs and choral societies are finding life tough right now. Choral singing is no longer "cool" (*how I hate that word!*), as it was in the second half of the last century. If we genuinely want our choir to flourish, then we have to be pro-active and recruit new blood, and preferably new young blood....and soon. Please encourage and persuade any potential new recruits to come along to rehearsals and try us out.....and do not forget the workshop on September 25th. The loyalty of many members of ESCS over many years is fully acknowledged and much commended, but our average age continues to rise and that is not ideal in the long-term. I am not in any way suggesting that older members should leave - in fact, quite the reverse; but we do urgently need to recruit younger voices to ensure our future - long-term as well as immediate.

It is not only in amateur choral singing that problems exist. By way of illustration, only two days ago I was talking with an ex-colleague from the BBC Singers who informed me that the retirement age there has been raised to 65.....but, take that to its logical extreme and what image does it conjure up IF it is allowed to happen? Imagine the youthful soprano/treble line of (eg) Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" being sung by a line of zimmer-framed ageing divas, with doddering, frail or wobbly voices.....**ONLY** imagine it, please....and it simply cannot be allowed to happen! Fortunately, the BBC employs audition panels from time to time (sometimes with excellent, though modest, vocal specialists from the Croydon area!!!) to select suitable singers for the future....but even that future is now in considerable doubt, as the BBC axmen are talking seriously of massive cuts and restructuring!

## **REMINISCENCE - OUR "FINEST" CONCERT!**

One summer we were asked by The Friends of Warlingham Park Mental Hospital if we could do a concert there. Michael Pilkington, our Conductor then, agreed and we arranged to sing a week after our summer concert a few songs from our programme, which included a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, (can't remember which).

We arrived on a very hot night. Of course there were no soloists and a lot of the choir had gone on holiday. We did have a soprano soloist in the choir, a young girl who went on to better things later. When Michael sat at the piano it was very out of tune and some of the keys stuck! Our soprano had nerves so was a little shaky. We had an audience of about 6 - Friends I think and a patient wandered in and out. A few others peered in occasionally.

The acoustics were not the best either.

At the end we were mortified and wanted to get away as quickly as possible but a trolley was brought in with orange squash and ham sandwiches so we had to show willing and eat them

Looking back 8 o'clock in the evening in a mental hospital is not the best time to put on a concert. The visitors have gone and the patients are settling in for the night. I will never forget the look on Michael's face when he tried to play the piano. Older members can imagine his "Humph!"

**Cathy Pearce**

## Memorable moments from ESCS's past

Thursday 13th October 1987: Talking on the doorstep around ten in the evening with Robert Cooper, our pianist and piano tuner: "Remarkably mild for October, isn't it?". Welcoming Karle back from a business trip to Congo and Zaire at around 2 a.m. "Getting a bit windy, isn't it?" Lying in bed feeling the house shake as it was hit with the full force of the Great Storm after the trees across the road had come crashing down, and listening to our newly renovated roof being dismantled above our heads.

Friday morning: twelve trees down across our road and a van due at 2 p.m. to transport our grand piano to St.John's Church for the fourth of the ESCS's 12-hour music festivals, "The French Collection". Relief as the men with chain saws arrived: the Council's depot was just across the park and our road had to be cleared before the men could get out onto the main roads.

Saturday morning: leaving gaping holes in our own roof, down to the church armed with buckets and bowls to collect the rain water gushing through the gaps in the church's roof, but ... the show went on! Only two of the hundred plus musicians, aged from 8 to 80, failed to arrive - stranded in Manchester and Paris - and we even got an audience!

A press review said of the event that it was "one of the things that should make Caterham proud to be a little bit different", especially when the audience "had reason enough for staying at home mending windows and roofs or clearing paths through the debris". Amen to that!

## Sue Simpson

The past year at ESCS has not been without its problems, but I remain optimistic for the choir. I am indebted to all who have made contributions to our music-making over the past twelve months and to the committee for their continued endeavors on behalf of ESCS. Della's support as our President is always greatly appreciated. I echo Richard's recent pleas for full commitment from all members to concerts and rehearsals. We cannot function efficiently with infrequent or intermittent attendance from members; the music needs a whole term for it to be securely learned and all too often in the past 2/3 years, we have *survived* concerts rather than being able to enjoy and project the performances. I have always striven to get the best I can from ESCS and am ever grateful for the cooperation and support of choir members, but I admit to recent frustrations after disappointing results, which I am sure could, in some cases at least, have been avoided with greater application.

We have devised a programme for the Jubilee season which should be enjoyable and memorable. The traditional Christmas programme will be followed by a performance of "Messiah" at Easter, when we hope to invite ex-members and friends to join us and bolster the forces. The summer concert will contain some music performed by the choir over the past 50 years. Hopefully, there will also be additional events, musical and other, to help us celebrate a notable landmark in the choir's history. I urge all members to work to encourage new singers to join ESCS, to ensure the choir's future and continue the proud tradition of amateur music-making in the community.

Enjoy the summer break - hopefully with a continuance of the recent warm weather! I look forward to starting the new choir year with our first rehearsal at Essendene Road on September 7th. Let us make the anniversary season a memorable one...and a stepping stone to a long and healthy future for **our choir** - a choir of which I am immensely fond and which, for nearly 50 years, has provided immense pleasure in the community.

**Ian Kennedy**  
Music Director, ESCS

## NOTE BASHING ALERT!

It is not possible for all choir members to be note perfect by the time of the concert, with the number of rehearsals we have. Therefore it is **essential that you are responsible** for your own learning at home.

PLEASE 1) Use the choral rehearsal CDs when available.  
or 2) Use your piano or keyboard  
or 3) Rehearse regularly with friends  
or 4) Use the Choralia website  
and 5) Familiarise yourself with the words.

We are a team - please don't let us down and then we can **enjoy** our concerts!

**Gill English on behalf of E.S.C.S. Committee**

## **From Sue Simpson, Friends' Secretary:**

The number of choir Friends has been dwindling for some time. Some folk have died, alas; some have moved away; some joined to support singing friends who are no longer with the choir; some are in ill health and unable to come to concerts ... We miss them all; their support has been greatly appreciated.

Now ... we need to enrol some new Friends! If you have family members or friends who regularly come to our concerts - or irregularly, for that matter - do please ask if they would like to become a Friend. In return for their £25 annual subscription they will receive a complimentary ticket for the three main concerts in a season, with a reserved seat if required, along with invitations to social events and a copy of the annual Newsletter.

We realise that it can be a problem selling your two tickets at concert time if your normal 'takers' have become Friends, but we will of course understand if you have to hand them back unsold.

As we approach the milestone of our half century, with a programme of special events to mark the occasion, it would be really good to have a lot of new Friends joining us.

**Sue Simpson**



**From Joan Ferrison:**

Thank you all, so much, for the wonderful parting gifts you gave me. It was such a surprise at the time that I was almost speechless - hard to believe I know, but true - so I could not think of the words to thank you properly.

I will do my very best to keep the rose alive, and with the tokens, try to think of something that will remind me of you all. A tastefully clad statue of Diaphenia perhaps, maybe not - but be assured that there will be some 'thing' in my garden soon, that will bring back happy memories of my time with ESCS.

There will still be marmalade next term, and if the system works, I will carry on making it as long as I can. But I will need JARS - normal size ones please - I cannot make it without jars to put it in! I wish you all the best for the coming seasons.

My 15 years with ESCS have flown by - but all good things must come to an end - Goodbye,

**Joan Ferrison**

**Secretary's report:**

Hello everyone!

I do hope that you are all enjoying your summer break and that you are looking forward to next term at our new venue in the Centenary Hall, Essendene Road.

One of the high points of the last choral year was our first Workshop. The programme was well chosen to attract singers of all levels, and we had approximately 80 participants. I am already receiving applications for the next Workshop, which will be on September 25th at St. John's Old Coulsdon. We will be singing Rutter's Requiem and two of Handel's Coronation Anthems which I know most people will enjoy.

It was a shame that we had to drop the Saint-Saëns from our Christmas concert, but the concert of carols and readings was mainly well received. The Mozart concert at Easter was at a disadvantage from the start, due to a rehearsal being cancelled due to heavy snow, various health problems and low numbers in the choir at the concert which in most cases were unavoidable. The excellent soloists helped to make up for some of the choral deficits! We all enjoyed singing Hiawatha and the Victorian songs for our summer concert and this was reflected by positive comments from the audience. It was lovely to see Della and Paul there and they gave us full encouragement. Many thanks go to Ian and Jeffrey for their solos which were of such a high standard and which set a happy and relaxed atmosphere for the concert. They also saved the choir a large sum of money which we normally pay to outside soloists.

We are continuing with our fund raising efforts, and I must thank all of you who support them. The Bring and Buy in February and Wendy's raffle at the summer concert raised healthy sums, as of course did Joan's marmalade. We are so sorry that Joan has had to retire from choir but very grateful that she has decided to carry on making marmalade for us. I shall be meeting her at Wyevale Garden Centre at regular intervals to drop off jars and pick up

marmalade, so the transition should be seamless!! Many thanks to the anonymous choir member who is making annual donations to support the choir and also to another anonymous donor who has bought our piano for our new rehearsal venue. Thanks are also due to those members that I have not mentioned who also raise funds for the choir.

We are also very sorry to be losing our vice chairman Alun Jenkins as he is moving to Storrington in West Sussex. He has been a great asset to the choir not only by his stalwart participation in the bass section, but in his development of an efficient ticketing system which easily makes our sales accountable. We sincerely hope to be seeing him and Pat at future concerts and maybe even at the workshop?

We have had some really excellent parties and they would not be possible if it were not for Jane Tiernan and her helpers. She is fantastic at organising the food and also refreshments at concerts and is able to do this without any fuss. I am amazed at how she fits it all in to her already busy life. We had a lovely venue for our summer party - Joan Mallett kindly let us take over her home and we were able to sit out in her garden until dusk, as the weather was so beautiful. Thank you Joan! I hope we weren't too much trouble!

Ian has done extremely well in managing to direct the choir throughout all his visual problems. Tony Southern has been very helpful in taking Ian to and from choir and Jeffrey has taken rehearsals excellently in his absence. We are so grateful for this support. I am also indebted to Ceinwen, Penny and Angela Smith who ferried me to and fro from choir - no mean distance- when I was unable to drive for 10 weeks. Other members also offered to help out. To be part of an organisation that is so friendly and supportive is a wonderful thing. I have sung in many choirs during my lifetime and never encountered such camaraderie before.

Please put these dates in your diary:  
September 7th - Start of autumn term.

I was reminded of all this only a few weeks ago when I had the good fortune to attend a lavish production of 'Manon' at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The two principal roles were sung by Anna Netrebko- a Russian soprano - and Vittorio Grigolo - an Italian tenor - two of the rising stars of the world opera stage; but what particularly interested and pleased me was the performance of the other major character (the wealthy aristocrat, Bretigny) by William Shimpell, who, as a Guildhall student, had been one of our soloists. He has been a regular performer at Covent Garden for several years.

More recently still, at a performance of Rigoletto by the Welsh National Opera at the new Opera House (the Millennium Centre) in the redeveloped Cardiff area, the programme notes showed that the role of Marullo, one of the courtiers, was sung by a baritone, whose "tutors included Ian Kennedy". It does us good to be reminded how fortunate we are that such high profile musicians are prepared to take us on!

But what about the other talented young singers we've heard over the years? Where are they now? We sincerely hope that they are enjoying successful careers and that in some small way we helped them along.

**Aldwyn Jones**

## **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

A Jubilee memoir by Aldwyn Jones

Making an insurance claim can sometimes have unexpected consequences. A little over 50 years ago I made what I thought was an insignificant claim and was surprised to receive a visit from one of the company agents. He was a very friendly middle-aged man and we found we had a common interest in a love of singing. Having not long arrived in the London area, I was singing with the London Welsh Choir: he was a member of the Wallington choral Society but had a burning ambition to conduct his own choir. A year or two later he called on me again and having achieved his ambition was now eager to recruit more members for his choir. That was how I met Arthur Toms and joined the East Surrey Choral Society!

He had a wide circle of friends, many of whom were amateur musicians, so he was able to muster an amateur orchestra to accompany our performances, and to engage soloists who probably received only incidental expenses. The repertoire consisted mainly of the standard works like Messiah, Elijah, Hiawatha, Merrie England, etc., though I remember on one occasion attempting Vaughan-Williams 'Serenade to Music'! Members were reasonably familiar with most of the works performed and sang enthusiastically if not always with great accuracy.

Our President was the internationally acclaimed bass/baritone soloist, Richard Standen, who was at this time on the staff of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. It was he who secured the services of Michel Pilkington (also of the Guildhall) to take over the conducting when Arthur Toms became ill. Having a professional conductor set the choir on a different footing and, soon, more ambitious works were attempted. This was also when we began to include talented young singers from the Guildhall as soloists. We are very fortunate to have been able to continue this Guildhall connection.

September 25th - Workshop day.

October 6th Skittles at Limpsfield British Legion. This is now part of our calendar and a great social event!

Please remember that 2011 is our Golden Jubilee Year and plans are well advanced. Let's make it our best year ever!

**Gill English**

## **A NOTE FROM YOUR EX-CHAIRMAN**

After 11 years as Chairman I decided that it was time to retire and I was very glad that Richard Broadberry agreed to take over. Like Richard, I was Concert Manager for two years before becoming Chairman and remained for a further 6 years. Being Chairman was not as onerous as Concert Manager though.

I became Chairman after the sudden death of Joan Pate-Pateman who was in the post such a short time after being Treasurer for some years. We have seen many changes in the last 11 years. The choir numbers grew to nearly 100 singers and then shrank again, and the Committee has grown too. There is a Vice-Chairman, the Secretary has an Assistant, and the Voice Reps attended Committee meetings in turn. Now two of the Voice Reps are on the Committee and we have our meetings in Tree's house so she is there as well.

During my time we spent a lot of time re-writing the constitution (which was out of date) with the help of a choir member who is a solicitor. And George put us in touch with a firm who could provide us with a uniform making us look slightly less amateur. George also does the printing on his computer saving us money and giving us a recognisable style. The most important thing was persuading Della Jones to be our President after the death of Arthur Toms, our President and Founder. Della is such a great support to us and her enthusiasm gives us such encouragement, coming to our concerts whenever possible and always great fun at our parties.

The Committee work very hard. The various changes of venues and rehearsal halls are not done by sitting in occasional meetings but by visiting 4 or 5 sites each time. Gill has her work cut out looking after contacts and arrangements, Melanie battles with bookings of halls for rehearsals, concerts and parties, Ceinwen gets all of our music from all sorts of odd places, quite often at the last minute, Michael Pearce (no relation ) manages our finances, taking over after Jackie died and sorting out what was done (by

the Magna Carta.

16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manger.
17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 Disciples.
22. The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
23. One of the opossums was Matthew who was also a taximan.
24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached Holy Acrimony which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called Monotony.

## **Sue Simpson**

**“Let the little children come to me, ...”**

Children in an American Catholic Elementary School were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements were written by the children and have **not** been retouched or corrected:

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
9. The first commandments was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple,.
- 10.The seventh commandment is thou shall not admit adultery.
- 11.Moses died before he ever reached Canada then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
- 12.The greated miricle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- 13.David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- 14.Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- 15.When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus she sang

me ) when she was ill. Andrew contacts all sorts of places to advertise the Choir.

Finding people willing to do things from a choir that is working or ageing is a problem. We certainly appreciate the relatives that sell tickets and pour wine at concerts. We also appreciate Karle getting the wine for us - such a chore for him researching and tasting, but always an excellent choice.

I wish Richard all the best as Chairman, he is so organised. Being able to produce lists and charts on the computer must be a help.

**Cathy Pearce**

**From our treasurer:**

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS for the year ending 31st AUGUST, 2010**

Background

Accounts are not now required to be filed with the Charities Commission as the annual income limit for filing has been raised from £10,000 to £25,000. We no longer need an independent examiner but accounts still need to be kept which is done by keeping a cash book with analysis columns cross referenced to invoices which are numbered sequentially and filed. Regular reconciliations of balances in the cash book are made with bank statements.

Key numbers

The year end has not yet arrived but there are no outstanding invoices for payment and all amounts due to ESCS have been received. It is unlikely there will be any further transactions and the figures below are as at 19th July 2010.

|                              | £000's<br>Y/e 31/08/2009 | £000's<br>Y/e 31/08/2010 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| TOTAL INCOME before Interest | 11.94                    | 13.97                    |
| INTEREST                     | 0.46                     | 0.06                     |
|                              | -----                    | -----                    |
|                              | 12.40                    | 14.03                    |
| Less: EXPENSES               | 14.97                    | 14.62                    |
|                              | -----                    | -----                    |
| DEFICIT                      | 2.57                     | 0.59                     |
|                              | -----                    | -----                    |

Compared with last year the deficit has been reduced by nearly £2,000. During the year we had to contend with a proposed increase of 55% by de Stafford in hiring fees. We will move to the Centenary Hall by Sacred Heart Church from September, 2010

but this has meant we have had to acquire a piano for ESCS. This has cost £400 plus £100 for transportation and £48 for tuning.

Fortunately these costs were covered by a generous donation by a choir member of £500 which with gift aid tax relief became worth £641.03. The cost of the piano, transportation and tuning have been included in expenses as the piano is to be owned by Sacred Heart Church whilst it is in the Centenary Hall – should it be damaged through fire or theft any insurance recovery will be paid to ESCS. Whilst on their premises Sacred Heart Church will pay for the insurance of the piano. Should the hiring of the Centenary Hall be terminated by either party then the ownership of the piano will return to ESCS.

Whilst our deposit interest has reduced by £400, our members' subscriptions by £127 and ticket sales by £121 we have had some gains. A second generous donation of £200 -£256.42 with gift aid tax relief was received, marmalade sales increased by £76 and gift aid for 2009/2010 was £1,039.66 compared with £762.67 in 2008/2009, an increase of £276.99.

Help

If you have not considered paying your subscriptions under gift aid please do so as it helps ESCS.

If you are involved in any charitable work for ESCS please advise the Hon. Treasurer: our collection for Leukaemia relief at Jackie Richmond's funeral helps to support our claims to charitable status and we need to record such work.

**Michael Pearce**