



A message from Catherine & Annie

Welcome to the latest issue of the 'Cantata Newsletter'

The term is now drawing to a close and we're looking forward to our Christmas concert season. Lots of people say 'Why do you start Christmas rehearsals in September? You must be mad!' But with only 11 or 12 practices before a concert, that's the only way to do it! The hard work of the last few weeks is about to pay off.

Happy Christmas everyone!



Happy Birthday Theo!

We are blessed with a good number of hale and hearty octogenarians in Cantata Choirs, but we think Theo Eaves might be our first nonagenarian! Theo celebrated his big birthday in style on October 29th—which just happened to be a Monday, so it was perfectly timed to allow members of *MAPSingers* to give him a surprise party at the end of the rehearsal!

Theo is an active member of Poynton Methodist Church and has led—indeed, is still leading - a fascinating life.

He joined the RAF in 1944, aged 19, and flew as aircrew with Bomber Command. They flew some of the most dangerous missions of the war and their chances of survival were amongst the lowest of all combatants. Over 55,000 never came home. Sixty-seven years after the end of the war, Theo was privileged to be amongst a group of around 1000 veterans who were present at the unveiling of the long-awaited memorial to Bomber

Command in London's Green Park. During the war, Theo was based in southern Italy and served as a wireless operator in Wellingtons, raiding with 142 Squadron in an arc stretching from France (in support of the D-Day landings) to Yugoslavia. His abiding memories are of 'probing searchlights, anti-aircraft fire and prowling night-fighters, but above all of the flaming crosses hurtling earthwards, lighting up the night sky'.

After the war, Theo trained (very quickly!) as a teacher and ended his career as Head of a Salford secondary school. And he's still up for a challenge—after losing his lovely wife, Marianne, 4 years ago, Theo decided to learn to play the piano. Living proof that you're never too old to try something new!

We respect and treasure all our elderly choir members and it's always humbling to hear of the unsung heroics which have taken place over the years. Thank you for joining our ranks, Theo. Here's to many more happy years of singing together!

If you are also in the 90+ age group (and have managed to keep it quiet!!) please let us know. It's always a tremendous inspiration to others when they see people of 'more advanced' years getting on with life in all its fullness.



Merchandise



Here is the now famous photo of the Cantata Collective at Chester in March. As you will see, many of them are wearing CANTATA CHOIRS clothing! This is becoming increasingly popular as we are now much in demand for performances in all sorts of places—many of which seem to be quite chilly or wet!

It's lovely to see a 'sea of purple' at these events. The clothing is not compulsory, but we've got lots of happy customers who proudly wear their Cantata Choir gear on a day-to-day basis and who will testify to how warm/dry they feel in their purple garments.

A polite request! We don't keep stocks of clothing—everything is made to order. So if you order an item and then change your mind, we're left out of pocket. Please make sure you order the correct size or item. We can supply fleece-lined waterproof jackets at £36 (for the wet days), zip-up hoodies at £24 (for the dry days) and polo shirts at £18 (for the hot days!) Everyone we've spoken to agrees that compared with similar garments, these are all very competitively priced for the high quality of the goods. And don't forget that we also have Cantata Choir bags (£10) for carrying the all-important purple folder and bottle of water!



Linden, Jacky & Cath from M.A.C.C. model the zip-up hoodies...

...and Jean from MAPS models the jacket.



Poynton Jubilee

THE JUBILEE CONCERT is now available on DVD and blu-ray. The Moviemakers did an excellent job of putting together two lovely DVDs capturing many highlights of the Jubilee weekend in Poynton and a full film of our Friday night concert. Copies available at £5 (DVD) and £7.50 (blu-ray). Let us know if you'd like one—see contact details at the foot of the page.

Tatton Home Farm rehearsal at St Martin's



The WOW Cowgirls of Styal!

FORTHCOMING DATES:

Choirs resume in the New Year in the week beginning **Monday 7th January.**

Half term week: Mon 11th — Fri 15th Feb

Saturday 12th January— new term begins for Poynton Community Orchestra. Several Cantata Choir members play with the Orchestra—if you haven't played for years or have taken up a second instrument & fancy having a go, give us a call. For adults up to Grade 5 standard. Great fun!!

Saturday 16th March *Afternoon Tea Concert* at Chelford Village Hall. WWSingers, WAKS Lyrical & M.A.C.C. Time to be confirmed.

Sunday 24th March 6.30pm at St George's Church, Poynton. *Easter Concert* including a full performance of SonRise. With MAPSingers, CounterPoynt, St George's Church Choir & Poynton Community Orchestra.

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