

JULY 2019

# Summer Newsletter

## Colinton & Merchiston Choir



It's about 15 years since we last performed a concert jointly with the School's Choral Society in the McEwan Hall, and the acoustics and facilities there have both improved! As for our singing, our combined number, Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass* was much enhanced by an excellent jazz trio accompaniment, and our own numbers, Wesley's *Ascribe unto the Lord* and Parry's *I was Glad* sounded good despite the odd mishap! I hope you all enjoyed the change of scenery.

David Turner

### Chairman's Report

It is my task in this edition of our Newsletter to announce that David Turner, after 13 years in charge, has decided to move on. Philip Rossiter, well known to many of you and newly-retired as housemaster at the School, will once again pick up the choir baton.

We are extremely grateful to David for leading us with such skill, good humour and unfailing patience. His choice of music has been varied and appealing and we've clearly enjoyed singing with him, as have our audiences! His versatility has known no bounds: he has even supervised military from Redford Barracks carrying a cimbalom into the Memorial Hall - all for our performance of Swann's *Requiem for the Living*.

David will be an invitee at our next **Choir Social on 4 November**, which will give us all the opportunity to thank him personally and wish him well.

On behalf of the Choir I express my gratitude to the School for giving us access to its buildings and facilities for our practises and concerts.



Rehearsals resume  
Monday 9 Sept.,  
7.00 for 7.30 pm.

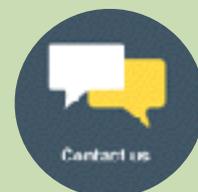
Break, if to be held,  
Monday 14 Oct.

Christmas Concert  
Sunday 15 Dec.

AGM on 30 Sept.



Annual Subscription  
- still just £35.



Robertson Building,  
Merchiston Castle  
School

tel: 0131 312 2273  
(during normal school  
working hours)

[colintonchoir.org](http://colintonchoir.org)

## Music Programmes

December concert (Sunday 15th)

- Cantata no.140 (Wachet Auf), JS Bach
- Fantasia on Christmas Carols,  
R Vaughan Williams
- A selection of Carols

March concert (Saturday 21st)

- The Passion of Christ, Arthur Somervell

## Treasurer's Report

Choir numbers have fallen slightly over the last two or three years, with subscription income totalling £2500 for this year, compared with £2700 in 2018. Retiring collection income has been halved for the year ending 31 July 2019, because the spring concert collection was passed to the School to help to defray the considerable cost of using the McEwan Hall. Total receipts for the year were £3100, as compared with £3800 last year.

The cost of music hire and soloists fees rose this year, and a donation of £500 was made to Merchiston to further help offset some of the cost of the McEwan Hall hire and in recognition of our use of school buildings for rehearsals and concerts. It is some time since the choir made such a donation. Total outgoings for the year amounted to £4000.

We are fortunate to have amassed reserves over the years and the £900 payments excess has been set off against General Funds brought forward, resulting in General Funds at 31 July 2019 standing at £3800.

## Membership

Would you help build the choir's membership, particularly its male voices, by publicising the Choir to your family, friends and business contacts, together with any community organisation with which you are involved.

There is no better way to entice people to come along than an enthusiastic personal recommendation!

For all details, please direct your contacts to [www.colintonchoir.org](http://www.colintonchoir.org). Thank you.

## Thank You, Audrey

Our Librarian of 23 years, Audrey Dobson, has resigned her post, though she would like to remain a Committee member.

We are much indebted to Audrey and her late husband, Alan, for their commitment to the Choir and all they accomplished for us over the years.

This term Philip will source the music, Rhian and Liz will distribute the scores and Allan, as always, will do the heavy lifting.

**We now seek a new Librarian for appointment at the Choir AGM on 30 September.** Might this be a job for you? Please get in touch.

## Getting to Know... Philip!



Having founded the Colinton and Merchiston Choir, conducted it for the first ten years of its history, and attended most of its concerts subsequently, I am very much looking forward to returning to conducting the choir in September.

In the intervening period, leaving the choir in the very capable hands of David Turner, I have focused my energies at Merchiston on my duties as a housemaster. Retirement comes at the end of June, providing an opportunity to "return to my roots" in music-making.

Determined to remain busy, alongside working with the Colinton and Merchiston Choir, I am taking on the conductorship of Dunbar Choral in August, and the post of organist of St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church in Colinton.

I very much look forward to greeting choir members at our first rehearsal on Monday 9 September.