

Choir's triumph against the odds

[Mar 13 2008](#) by [PontyCopy](#), [Rhondda Leader](#)

The screenshot shows a news article on the WalesOnline website. The article is titled "Choir's triumph against the odds" and is dated "Mar 13 2008" by "PontyCopy, Rhondda Leader". The text describes how two coaches of the Cambrian Choir and their supporters traveled to Torquay for the Torquay Majestic Male Voice Choir festival. It mentions that tenor chorister Em Gowen was hospitalized and a chorister's wife fell. The choir performed against 11 other choirs and won second place. A central image shows a rugby match poster for "JUDGEMENT DAY 30.03.13 MILLENNIUM STADIUM DRAGONS v SCARLETS BLUES v OSPREYS GET YOUR TICKETS NOW". The article is signed by "JOHN BENBOW" and "Glen View Street, Tonypandy".

TWO coaches of the Cambrian Choir and supporters drove to Torquay to compete at the Torquay Majestic Male Voice Choir festival.

Sadly, however, tenor chorister Em Gowen was taken seriously ill and rushed to hospital.

And then a chorister's wife was taken to the local hospital after a fall. This had quite an adverse effect on the choir.

On the afternoon of the competition they rallied together and competed against 11 outstanding choirs, and every choir sung to perfection.

It was a very difficult task for the adjudicators.

But with the patience, drive and musical ability of musical director Frederick Nicholas, the 30-strong

Cambrian choir achieved second place, only to be defeated by the 72-strong South Wales Choir.

What a wonderful achievement to have done so well against all odds.

JOHN BENBOW
Glen View Street
Tonypandy

Choir raise voices for diamond couple

[Apr 10 2008](#) by Our Correspondent, [Rhondda Leader](#)



A SURPRISE appearance by Cambrian Male Voice Choir was the beginning of a 60th wedding anniversary celebration for Luther and Iris Lodwig who now live in Church Village.

Luther said: "Although I wasn't a member of this choir I spent many a happy hour with these boys and seeing them perform here tonight has made this evening even more special than it is."

Iris and Luther were married in Llanfair Church, Penygraig, in 1948.

Iris, aged 85, is originally from Dinas and Luther from Clydach Vale. The couple moved from the Rhondda in 1966 when the Cambrian colliery closed and Luther found work in Cwm colliery.

Iris said: "I have waited all my life for our family to get together on a happy occasion like this and this party has exceeded all my expectations."

Over 150 former colleagues, friends and relatives travelled from all over the UK to congratulate the happy couple on their special evening.

Luther, aged 84, is a retired former chairman of Mid Glamorgan County Council before it merged into the one unitary authority of Rhondda Cynon Taff.

He was a county councillor for his area for many years and also chairman of the South Wales Fire Service.

In keeping with his previous career, Luther gave a heartwarming speech and said: "In the words of Frank Sinatra, Iris, we did it our way! You have been a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother."

Great choral success

by David Edwards, [Rhondda Leader Nov 22 2007](#)

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Great choral success

By David Edwards, Rhondda Leader | Nov 22 2007

A RECENT concert given by the Cambrian Male Choir in Bethany Chapel, Tonypandy, was a great success.

The evening opened with choir President Roger Willey, addressing the packed audience.

Late in the nineteenth century a choir was formed in Clydach Vale and it adopted the name of the colliery - The Cambrian.

It was soon to become highly successful in local and national Eisteddfodau throughout Wales.

It was so successful that in one period, it won its section of the National Eisteddfod three years in succession - a feat no other choir can boast about.

The choir was disbanded prior to, and because of World War II.

After the war the choir was restarted and although it was again a large choir, it was decided to make it more manageable and reduced number of choristers to enter the Gleemen section of eisteddfodau.

Sixty years on the present choir has continued the musical successes of the original.

It has performed on TV, radio, eisteddfodau (winning Welsh Choir of the Year twice) and also travelled to Germany, Canada (twice) and the USA as well as participating in the series of 1,000 voice concerts in the Albert Hall, London, plus many charitable concerts and weddings.

Choir chairman, Linden Evans made a presentation to first bass Arthur Hayward, who joined the choir 60 years ago when it reformed and is still singing strongly.

Other presentations were made to Keith Humphreys and Arthur Gowing for 40 years service.

One of the stalwarts who was accompanist (and conductor at one time) Muriel Rees was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The choir was on magnificent form and led by Fred Nicholas gave a resounding concert.

At the end of the concert Rhondda MP Chris Bryant complimented the choir.

Also present was Rhondda Cynon Taf mayor Jane Ward.

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Choir's concert success

Staff Reporter, Rhondda Leader [Jan 18 2007](#)

The screenshot shows a news article on the WalesOnline website. The article title is "Choir's concert success" and it is dated "Jan 18 2007". The text of the article describes a successful concert by the Cambrian Male Choir in Soar Community Centre, Penygraig, conducted by Mr Fred Nicholas with accompanist Mr Brian James. It mentions the presence of the Tonyrefail Ladies Choir and highlights a performance of the 23rd Psalm by Finnan Haddie with soloist Mr Brian Downes. The article also notes that this was a new venue for the choirs and that the chairman of Cambrian, Mr Linden Evans, complimented the management committee of the centre. An advertisement for Citroën DS3 is visible in the middle of the article, featuring the text "INNOVATIVE... Citroën DS3" and "BASSETTS MOTOR GROUP".

Cambrian Male Choir held a successful concert in Soar Community Centre, Penygraig. The conductor, Mr Fred Nicholas, and accompanist Mr Brian James had worked hard to bring the choir up to their normal high standard.

On this occasion, the guests were Tonyrefail Ladies Choir.

Each choir sang a fine selection from their repertoire.

Notably, from the Ladies Choir came the 23rd Psalm.

Among Cambrian's contribution came Finnan Haddie with soloist Mr Brian Downes.

This was a new venue for the choirs, and the chairman of Cambrian, Mr Linden Evans complimented the management committee of the centre on the arrangements and the acoustics of the hall.

It was a successful evening, and the choir look forward to singing there on another occasion.

Next Saturday, January 20, the choir will be joining with Cor Meibion Morlais and the Treherbert Band for a concert in the Parc and Dare in aid of the charity for Testicular Cancer.