

Cambrian Male Voice Choir. – The Offwell Trip. – 7th May 2011



Our choir made the annual journey over the bridge to Offwell, a small village near Honiton in Devon. This traditional concert was in aid of The British Heart Foundation. Arriving mid-afternoon we were warmly greeted by the event organizers who had laid on a welcome buffet. A long skittle alley was too inviting to be missed and soon a pre-concert tournament was organized. The choir split between bass and tenor section with our accompanying ladies

also getting in on the act by forming their own team. A very competitive game was held, with the tenor section fortuitously outright winners, followed by the ladies team and the bass section in last position. Outstanding scores for the tenor section came from Keith Humphries and Alan Jones. For the ladies Lynne Rees scored the maximum nine pins much to the surprise of husband Kelvin. The bass section was littered with experienced skittlers though you would not have recognized it from some of them. Lyndon Norris, a regular skittler for the Top Club, brought his consistently poor form to bowl a disappointing score. He was not alone, and was joined by Sam Hewitt and David Bryant in scoring low. Many believe it was these three culprits who were responsible for the poor showing from the Bass team. After much gloating from members of the tenor and ladies team it was time for the concert.

A full hall welcomed the choir. With every seat taken we commenced with our time-honored opening number "Let all Men sing". Rapturously received, the first half of the concert continued with traditional Welsh hymns and classic hits from Broadway musicals. Interspersed between numbers were anecdotes from our Musical Director Fred Nicholas, which were warmly applauded. After a short break, the second half programme included a new song. "Sick of the song of the seas" is a shanty number which involved us performing a number of physical actions during the song. One part has the choir pretending to sway heave-ho to an imaginary rope. I am pleased to report that no one was heaving when they should have been hoing. All too soon, the finale saw us perform "Anthem" from the musical Chess. The audience marked the end with a wonderful ovation which was greatly appreciated by the choir.

After a quick change into casual clothes the choir was again treated to a hearty feast. We all then departed into the bar where thirsts were quenched and songs were sung. The brave ones amongst us succumbed to the temptations of Rosie, though they were probably sorry the following morning. With the bus leaving at 11.15pm we trundled back up the M5, happily singing our way home in the knowledge that another successful concert had been achieved.