



Chorister Profile – Arthur Vernon Gowing



Arthur was born on 21st September 1946 in 35 Glen View Clydach Vale. He attended CwmClydach Primary School before completing his state education at BlaenClydach Secondary Modern School. Having left school, his first employment was "Rate Fixing" with South Wales Switchgear based in Treforest. His current employment is with our local Asda Store as a front of store janitor. Arthur has one son and one daughter, as well as three grandchildren. The ages of his grandchildren are 18years, 4 years, and one month. When asked for his hobbies, Arthur named the Cambrian Male Voice Choir, and it has been that way for the last 47 years.

Arthur joined the choir in 1964 after his father "dragged me down the NUM ". He has many memorable moments but when pressed he remembers one incident during the Germany tour in 1974. While staying with Bill Davies, some members, including Arthur, were shown around the village by Bill. Arthur recalls calling at the home of Bills wife's uncle. The uncle was busy chopping wood. When asked for any volunteers to help Arthur sprang to the front. Taking an almighty swing, Arthur caught the wood block at the wrong angle causing the block to shoot off and hit the uncle in the shin. With the uncle hopping around with a pained expression, Arthur offered his apologies and undeterred had a second attempt. This time after taking careful aim and connecting, the hatchet snapped into two pieces. Arthur looked around for support from the other choristers, but no-one was to be seen; only distant laughing could be heard. The hatchet had been a prized possession for the uncle. Arthur handed the hatchet back to the uncle with a typical Rhondda expression "Sorry butty". Arthur recalls the uncle mumbling some German words in his direction as he made a sharp exit.

His favourite venue is Canada which the choir toured in 2001. Arthur regards his membership with the choir as "his social life for 47 years." When asked to describe Cambrian Male Voice Choir he states "A great bunch of lads who can sing and know how to enjoy themselves afterwards".

Our thanks to Arthur for providing the above information and allowing us to use it on this website.
