



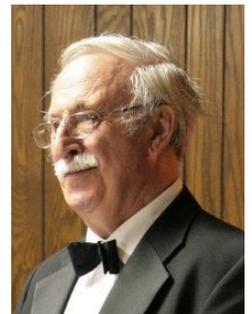
FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY **NEWSLETTER NUMBER 14 ... 6th November 2012**

Dear Friend

Although I gave a trailer for the next four concerts, in the previous Newsletter, I've decided to write again, if only to comment briefly on last Saturday's outstanding performance. There was an excellent attendance and thanks are due to the Friends who came or encouraged others to do so. For those who took part, or attended, it was an unforgettable experience, full of emotion, with fine singing, playing and conducting, all the way through. I can't recall ever feeling greater excitement or sense of achievement.

I think, for most of us at least, the highlight was the Te Deum of Patrick Hawes (born in Lincolnshire, not America as I wrongly stated last time). It was only its second performance, the first in the UK, and we were delighted to have the composer to rehearse with us and conduct the performance. He was a real inspiration and, afterwards, expressed such delight that you'd have thought the privilege had been his, rather than ours! He already has a fine repertoire and I hope we will hear more of his choral works in the future. How splendid it is that music of such sheer beauty is being created in the 21st century!

It is very kind when Friends make themselves known to me at concerts and I do apologise to any who didn't recognise me on Saturday. At the risk of boring those who do, here's a mug shot of yours truly in concert dress, warts and all. I would still like to find ways for Friends to get together at concerts. My earlier attempts to facilitate this didn't come off and I can understand us preferring just to blend with the choir and audience. But if you've any new ideas on the subject, please let me know.



The Leader of Medway Council wants to encourage choral music in Medway, an ambition which the RCS supports, as we Friends do, I'm sure. Two concerts have been scheduled with that particular aim in mind, for which the Council is contributing the venue.

The first is the Christmas concert, on 1st December, and is part of the Dickens bicentenary celebrations. It's in the Corn Exchange, starting at 7.30 pm and costs the princely sum of £5 (accompanying children free). Please do your best to support this concert and encourage others to come as well, including young people. There will be well-known carols for all to sing with the RCS doing the more tricky ones.

And there will be two works of local origin: *A Virgin Most Pure* by Rodney Wilhelm (Gavin Williams' *nom de crotchet*) and (hardly mentionable in the same breath) a new Christmas "pome" about the RCS, called *History Repeats Itself*. The Corn Exchange is directly opposite the former Cathedral Garage car park and it's also handy to park at the Market, just across Corporation Street.

The following two Saturday concerts, starting at 7 pm, will comprise, on 13th April, in the Cathedral, the Berlioz *Te Deum* and Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger's 2nd Organ Concerto, Op 177 and, on 6th July, in the St George's Centre, the Verdi Requiem. This will have opportunities for guest singers, as part of the Medway Council initiative. Do please mark these dates in your next year's diary.

I cannot conclude without a reminder that Subscriptions for 2012/2013 became due on 1st October. The ideal method is by Standing Order or by sending a cheque to The RCS Treasurer, Chris Clemence (or to me if you prefer). If you've already done this but haven't yet received your membership card please let me know and I will mail it post-haste. Annual subs are £30 (solo) or £50 (duet).

Thank you very much for your support during 2012. I hope you will derive much pleasure from the forthcoming concerts.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm