

Grass Roots

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Pure magic as dynamic divas share spotlight with male voice choir



● **Family affair:** It was a special night for Tideswell choir conductor David Kay (above) with granddaughter Megan Kelly (inset) singing a solo

Angelic voices enthralled nearly 900 spectators in a heavenly combination of singing and stagecraft.

The world-renowned Cantamus Girls Choir, who have sung with luminaries such as Celine Dion, Sir John Mills and Bob Hope, were special guests of Tideswell Male Voice Choir in a glittering showpiece concert on Sunday night.

Buxton Opera House was packed to the rafters for this rare chance to experience the Mansfield-based girls' choir which is in such great demand around the globe that it took the Tideswell contingent two years to secure the booking.

But all good things come to those that wait – and the night was one of pure magic for diehard followers of choral singing and newcomers like myself.

The songs included classical and contemporary in a variety show that appealed to all tastes and ages.

Tideswell's singers got the concert off to an upbeat start with an imaginative interpretation of *Rhythm of Life*, taken from the musical *Sweet Charity*, which was followed by the exquisite anthem-like *Let It Be Me*. The choir showed its light-hearted side in the drinking song *Vive l'Amour*, led by bass soloist Terry Lomas, while *De Ole Banjo* saw conductor Dennis Kay dancing with one of the singers and another member rip up pianist Christopher Ellis's sheet music when he segued into a hornpipe!

The Tideswell choir brought their first spot to a dramatic close with *African Trilogy* in which tenor soloist's John Riches haunting voice sounded the rallying call for the choir to take up the song.

Cantamus made a stunning entrance onto the stage, holding hands and forming arches for fellow choir members to weave in and out of as they opened with *Good Neighbours All* and *Spring Comes* Laughing from J.S. Bach's *Peasant Cantata*.

Purity and maturity shone through every offering from Cantamus, whose quality of



● **Nicholas Bennett**



● **Megan Kelly**



● **Maurice Hargreaves**

singing and range of pitch belied the tender years of this teenage choir.

Under the baton of their doyenne Pamela Cook, the dynamic divas dazzled in a range of classical pieces which included Handel's *See The Conquering Hero Comes* with a duet from Lucy Allen and Helen Brackenbury and Mendelssohn's *You Spotted Snakes* from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which featured soloists Abigail Broughton, Lucy Allen and Jennifer Adams. My favourite song in this first spot was Budai's *Les Sirenes* in which the awesome singing was interspersed with whistling and whispering to depict sea nymphs luring sailors to their doom.

Cantamus rang the changes in the second half with three folk songs, two from

of the French flag draped over the piano. Veteran choir member, tenor Maurice Hargreaves, sang *Bring Him Home* and held his own against strong competition on the solo front.

The first of the soloists in the *Les Miserables* selection was Megan Kelly, youngest granddaughter of the choir's musical director Dennis Kay. Not long into double digits on the age front, she gave a confident and impressive performance of *There Is A Castle On A Cloud* which augurs well for a repeat performance.

Emma Hopkins lit up the stage with a beautifully judged and exquisitely performed *On My Own* which reflected the vulnerability and aspirations of the poverty-stricken youngster Eponine in *Les Miserables*.

And guest baritone Nicholas Bennett's wonderful rendition of *Stars* made him every inch a star in a performance which wouldn't have been out of place on the West End stage.

The choirs combined for a stunning finale *Do You Hear The People Sing?* resulting in a standing ovation from several members of the audience.

Needing little prompting from master of ceremonies, Charles Foster, the performers sang the song again with the French flag waving high above their heads signalling the end of a truly memorable evening.

● Tideswell Male Voice Choir and Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills Band will be performing at the Winding Wheel, Chesterfield, on Sunday, December 20, at 7pm. Proceeds are in aid of the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. Tickets cost £12.50 or £35 for family tickets for two adults and two children under 16; to book, call (01298) 77947 or (01246) 345334 or visit www.tideswellmvc.co.uk

Review

by Gay Bolton

Hungary and the latter from Japan in which Jennifer Adams, Charlotte Watts and Samantha Vernon brought a sense of drama to the occasion with their fan dance.

The most surprising choice of this set was an imaginative interpretation of Coldplay's *Fix You* which found favour with the younger members of the audience.

Cantamus ended their spot with three lively and coquettish numbers from *West Side Story* in which Lucy Allen epitomised the role of the leading lady Maria with mesmerising voice, bewitching beauty and flashing dark eyes.

Tideswell Male Voice Choir returned to the stage for the last selection of songs, all taken from the popular musical *Les Miserables*. The 40-strong choir were dressed in black, with tricolor sashes slung across their chests which echoed the theme

Pilsley

Grass Roots, *Derbyshire Times*,
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☎ 01246 504500.

PARISH COUNCIL: At the monthly meeting of Pilsley Parish Council Cllr G. Ullathorne gave a report on the successful sponsored cricket day organised by Pilsley Cricket Club and the latest financial position regarding the pavilion scheme.

The clerk reported on the situation with regard to providing storage space at the village hall but the cost of £15,000-£20,000 was considered too high for the council to justify.

The clerk also told the meeting an estimate of £2,000 had been received to provide extra fencing at Sampson Fields to prevent balls going into neighbouring gardens but councillors agreed this was too

expensive and the cost could not be justified.

The police report for the month was noted. Following a discussion on nuisance teenagers it was agreed to provide a litter bin near the youth shelter on Sampson Fields to try to contain the litter situation.

It was reported that both the cricket and bowls clubs had been involved in successful events at the Welfare sports ground and it was agreed to include information regarding the cricket and bowls clubs on the council website.

Grants were approved as follows: St Mary's nosh and natter - £100; Pilsley Miners Welfare FC - £100; Pilsley Bowls Club - £100.

Discussions took place on a planning application for the construction of five office/industrial buildings at Coney Green Road. No objections were raised.

The clerk reported that the bus shelter outside Parkhouse School had been destroyed by vehicles for the third time.

Councillors expressed their concern with regard to parking outside the school and asked the clerk to

write again to Derbyshire County Council about this situation.

The clerk had received communication from the Post Office concerning the relocation of the village post office.

Cllr T. Moon and Cllr A. Cooper declared that they were now also parish councillors for Stretton and Morton respectively.

South Normanton

Mrs M. Upton, 111 Corn Close,
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FOOTBALL: Broadmeadows FC drew 0-0 with Wollaton FC.

COLTS: South Normanton Colts gained a 1-0 win over Manor 4ths. The all-important goal came from man of the match Zak Melrose after Colts had hit the woodwork three times.

South Normanton Colts U15s romped to a 10-0 win at home to Coal Aston Cougars in the first round of the Benevolent Cup.

Leading the way were Danny Howitt (4) and Ross Hopkinson (3). The other goals were shared by Keiran Harvey, Aidan Hill and Tommy Sharples.

Man of the match was Jack Bird

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SLIMMING: Diane Copley led both sessions of Slimming World on Wednesday at the Zion school-room and welcomed seven new members.

Slimmer of the week at the 5pm session was Louise Meredith and at 6.30pm the award went jointly to Roy Whaley and Keeley Jackson. During the evening two 1-stone awards were presented and the total weight loss was 2st 3lbs.