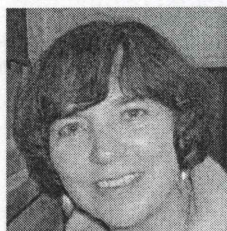


Guildford Philharmonic Choir

NEWSLETTER

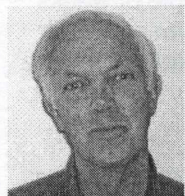
Editor: Margaret Dentskevich



ISSUE 3 – NOVEMBER 1999

Communications

The Freiburg link – Norman Carpenter



The purpose of this article is to give new members a flavour of this wonderful link and to let me wander down memory lane (*thank you -- Ed.*). The choir link was originally started by Kathy Atkins (then manager of the GPO) and Cornelea Grisebach (who was already involved with school exchanges).

When you go to Freiburg you can understand why the 'good burghers of Guildford' selected it for twinning and exchange visits. It's a stunning medieval town, albeit that much was rebuilt after the last war. The proximity of the Black Mountains just adds to its attraction. The warmth and hospitality of the families you stay with is outstanding -- you won't starve!

Our trip to Freiburg always includes an excursion to a place of interest in the locality and a superb 'Black Forest' meal. Many of us have made friendships stretching far beyond the formal link, with later visits being made both ways.

Since 1990, GPC and the Freiburg Bachchor have combined to give special concerts as follows:

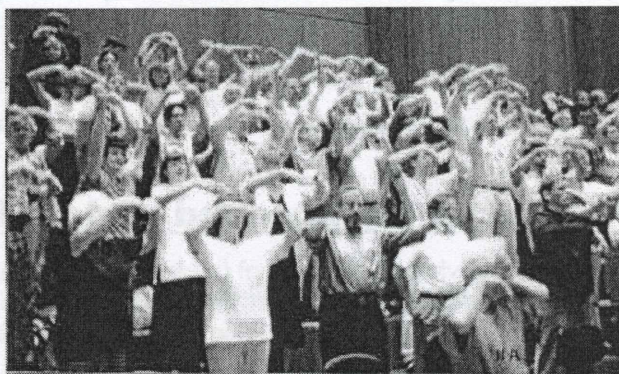
- 1990: Guildford Cathedral, *Missa Solemnis* by Beethoven, conducted by Sir Charles Groves
- 1990: Munster, Handel's *Messiah*, conducted by Hans Beuerle (Freiburg Director)

- 1992: Civic Hall, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, conducted by Hans Beuerle
- 1994: Stadt, *War Requiem* by Benjamin Britten, conducted by Neville Creed
- 1996: Guildford Cathedral, *Stabat Mater* by Dvorak, conducted by Hans Beuerle
- 1998: Konzerthaus, *Israel in Egypt* by Handel, conducted by Jeremy Backhouse

In Freiburg the first 'obstacle' newcomers meet is the half-hour warm-up before rehearsals and concerts -- Jeremy's few snatches of Sibelius V has nothing on this torture!



Jeremy and Cornelia



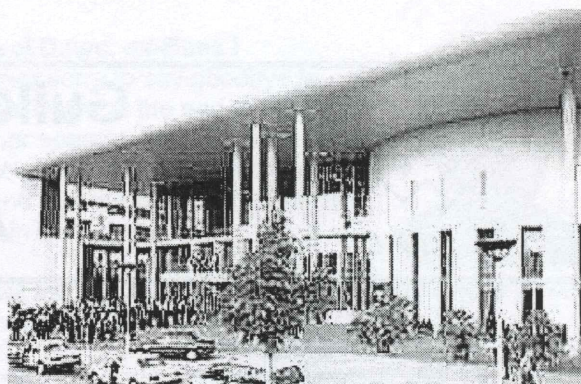
The 1990 visit was outstanding for the bus breaking down in deepest Belgium, but it bonded the choir together like no event before. We also had to build our staging (not ready-made), put out 1000 chairs before the concert and reverse the process afterwards.

The 1994 concert was particularly poignant in that it coincided with Germany's Remembrance Day. The tenor soloist, Ian Bostridge, had completely enraptured the Guildford audience the previous week. In rehearsal in Freiburg he had the whole choir in tears with his singing of the *Agnus Dei*. (We certainly cannot afford him now, since he's become recognised as the 'new Peter Pears'.) John Britten also emphasised how proud his uncle would have been to hear his *War Requiem*

performed by combined English and German choirs in Germany.

Last year's visit saw us singing in the Bachchor's superb rehearsal hall and Freiburg's new Konzerthaus (see *opposite*). The event was partly sponsored by EEC funds -- for which we attended a talk on the EEC by their MEP (**Who was our MEP?**). We wondered whether the 'flies and lice' etc of *Israel in Egypt* might be strange to our German friends, but they sang it with gusto.

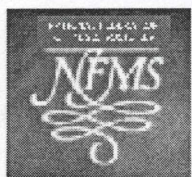
These trips do not just happen. Their success is very much down to the hard work done by Max New (in the early days), John Trigg, Stephen Jepson and Cornelea Grisebach.



The Freiburg Konzerthaus

I'm sure that new and old members will enjoy singing the *St Matthew Passion* with the Freiburg Bachchor on 11th March, 2000, and eagerly anticipate future visits to Freiburg with Guildford Philharmonic Choir.

NFMS - The National Federation of Music Societies – Laurie James



The NFMS is Britain's largest single concert promoter. Its 1,400 member societies promote some 6,500 concerts each year and spend £6.5 million on the engagement of professional musicians.

Founded in 1935, its three main aims are:

- to represent amateur music-makers to government, sponsors and the arts industry generally;
- to provide artistic, legal, financial and information services to members;
- to develop skills necessary to help amateur societies to survive in the increasingly competitive arts scene.

It also encourages local initiatives, particularly involving projects within the community, and sponsors young artists.

The NFMS disseminates a huge amount of information to member societies through their 'Contacts', whose job is to receive material (which thuds on to my doormat at regular intervals) and make it available to the appropriate officers, or to choir members.

There are some lighter moments: a couple of weeks after the Mahler concert last season, I was asked to pass on an invitation to our chorus-master to attend a course -- on basic conducting!!

Notices of general interest giving details of concerts or music courses are usually displayed on or near the GPC notice-board at rehearsals. I'll be very happy to answer any further questions about the scope of the NFMS.



Concerts: background and reviews

Summer Concert '99 – Hilary Trigg



You'll be pleased to hear that John was able to present CHASE with a cheque for **£7,000** towards building the Children's Hospice at Losely. They hope to start building next summer.

£3,000 was from Moore Stephens, who sponsored the concert and who also purchased lots of tickets, and £4,000 came from profit on the ticket sales. This was possible only because the Surrey Mozart Players gave their services free and because we had such a large audience. We've received a letter from CHASE thanking you all for a wonderfully successful concert.

The Freiburgers are coming ...



On Friday 10th March, 2000, the Guildford Philharmonic Choir welcomes the arrival of members of the Freiburg Bachchor. They will join forces with us to sing *Matthaus Passion* by J.S. Bach in Guildford Cathedral the following day. So here's a pen-portrait of JSB to set the scene ...

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685 at Eisenbach in Germany, into a family of notable musicians that went back many generations. After his parents died when he was 10 years old, he went to live with his organist brother and began his musical education. At 15 he became a choirboy at Luneburg, studying the theory and technique of composition. On at least one occasion he is known to have walked 30 miles to Hamburg to hear the famous organist Reinken play.

In 1707, aged 22, he married his cousin Maria Barbara, and secured the post of organist at Muhlhausen. An inadequate salary and religious differences caused him to move swiftly to Weimar as court organist and violinist to Duke William Ernst, where he remained for nine years.

When he was refused promotion to Kapellmeister in 1716, he was able to take up a similar position at the court of Prince Leopold in Cothen. He got on well with the Prince, but had neither an expert choir nor a really good organ, so during his six years at the court he turned his attention to secular instrumental music

(including the orchestral suites and the six Brandenburg Concertos).

In 1720 his wife died, leaving him with four children. 18 months later he married again, his new wife being an intelligent and musically cultured 20-year-old soprano, Anna Magdalena Wilcken. In all, Bach had



20 children, but many did not survive infancy.

About this time, the Prince married a Princess who was not interested in the arts, and in 1723 Bach moved to Leipzig, where he remained for the rest of his life,

despite many difficulties. He wrote the *St Matthew Passion* there, in 1727-28.

In later years his sight began to fail, and in 1750 he had a stroke from which he died.

And then in the summer ...

Although the visit of our Freiburg friends, and our joint performance of the *St Matthew Passion*, will probably form the highlight of our year, it's by no means the end of our singing this season. On Saturday June 10th Jeremy conducts us again in William Walton's magnificent *Belshazzar's Feast* in Guildford Civic, accompanied by the Forest Philharmonic Orchestra, who helped make our Bruckner/Mahler concert such a memorable occasion last season.



Fund-raising – co-ordinated by Jackie Alderton

Plant Sale – Hilary Trigg

Here's a reminder for all keen gardeners!! Please remember to plan (and plant) for the sale in early June next year (probably 12th June, after *Belshazzar*). Not only is it a good fund-raiser, but we get good, reasonably priced plants for our gardens, too. Last June we made **more than £100** on the GPC plant sale.

Car-boot sales at Slyfield Market, Guildford

6th June

We took a vast quantity of items, all donated by choir members, to sell at the Saturday car-boot sale, raising a grand total of **£150** for choir funds. And then on ...

6th November

Jackie, Chris & Charlotte Alderton, Mary Clayton & I had to get up early to be at Slyfield shortly after 7 am. We had a good pile of items to sell, loaded into two cars. On arrival we were immediately besieged by

about a dozen dealers, desperate to see what goodies we had to offer. However, we'd learned from the previous time not to open the car-boot until the sale tables were in place. In June they'd been practically unloading the car for us in their rush to get at the boxes -- very disconcerting.

Sales were steady throughout the morning and by 11.45 am we started to pack up. Even when we were

almost completely packed, the odd customer would appear, wanting to buy. Jackie even managed to sell the box of stuff that we thought unsellable.

Jackie, Charlotte and Mary on the job →

Total income for the morning was **£212.65**. Many thanks to choir members and others who donated items for sale.

Nobble your notelets now

Don't forget that we have our own excellent, specially designed notelets on sale every week. See **Laurie James** to purchase them and support choir funds.

Quiz Nights are Fun! – Jackie Alderton



Those of you who couldn't come to the Quiz Night on 13th November missed a good evening.

It was held at St Nicholas Church Hall, an ideal venue for the occasion. The questions were varied in topic and degree of difficulty, as some found out to their cost (remember that a question is only difficult if you don't know the answer). They were delivered with geniality by Geoff Bourne.

Many people commented favourably on the spread of food, which was as tasty as it was colourful.

The instant 'heads and tails' event earned us an extra £60, making a total of **£312** raised for Choir funds.

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped us on the night.

100 Club – Noreen Ayton

Here are the winners and their ticket numbers for 1999 so far:

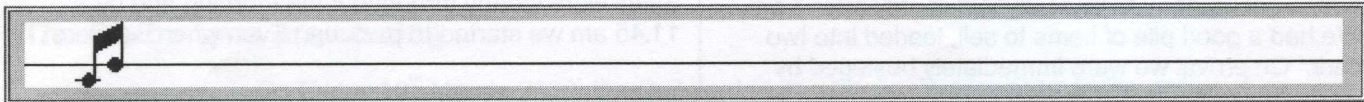


JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

£20		£15		£10	
87	Joy Hunter	24	Stephen Jepson	28	Graham Barwick
2	Jean Munro	54	Margaret Dentskevich	22	Chris Robinson
100	Andrea Dombrowe	79	Margaret Parry	96	Jeremy Backhouse
10	Rosalind Plowright	44	Peter Herbert	66	Christine Wilks
57	Lesley Scordellis	8	Norman Carpenter	78	Susan Hinton
*** £100 prize: ticket 87 – Joy Hunter ***					
71	Valerie Edwards	62	Rachel Edmondson	33	Geoffrey Forster
77	Christine Wilks	74	Noreen Ayton	40	Stephen Jepson
9	Margaret Tingley	47	Tony Macklow-Smith	41	Judy Smith
58	Rachel Edmondson	99	Bob Bromham	46	Gillian Rix
12	Iris Ball	51	Jackie Alderton	70	Joanna Andrews
*** £100 prize ***					

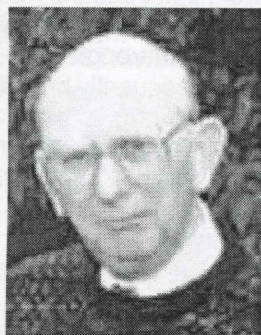
The 100 Club is open to all past and present members of the Guildford Philharmonic Choir and the Philharmonic Society. Numbers are renewed annually for £12, payable on 1st April, and profits go to Choir funds. New shareholders are welcome, as we'd like to sell all 100 numbers for the whole season. A draw is made at the

first rehearsal of each month. June and December each year are special, as you can see! Please talk to me at a rehearsal, or phone 01932-221918 if you're interested. You've a far higher chance of winning a prize in this Club than in the National Lottery!



Members and personalities

Mike Bradbeer – Roger Penny



It was with great sadness that we learned in mid-September of Mike Bradbeer's death from a brain tumour. We knew he been in ill health for a while, but the news was still unexpected.

Mike had been a stalwart member of the Second Bass section since 1984, and was well liked by all who knew him. Although his main interest outside the family was photography, music played a large and important part in a busy life.

His widow Anne maintains links with the choir through several of Mike's friends, and it was a pleasure to see her and their daughter Jane at the recent performance of *The Creation*.

Our regular accompanist, Jeremy Filsell

On Monday evenings we all come to rehearsals and marvel at Jeremy's prowess on the keyboard. But he's not just a pretty piano player! There's a bit more to him than that.

Jeremy was educated at the Bluecoat CE School, Coventry, where he won prizes for Music and RE. He was also captain of the School Hockey and Cricket 1st XIs. At 13 he made his pianistic debut, appearing in the Finals of the BBC TV 'Major Minor' Competition.. After leaving school he read Music as Organ Scholar at Keble College, Oxford. His interest in sport continued, and he was in the 1st Hockey XI and 2nd Rowing VIII.

After Keble, Jeremy studied Piano Performance as a postgraduate at the Royal School of Music for three years. Then he taught Music at Cranleigh School while singing as a Lay Clerk at Guildford Cathedral. In 1989 he was appointed Assistant Organist at Ely Cathedral. Since 1991 he's been a freelance pianist and organist with several appointments, including Director of Music at St. Luke's, Chelsea, and since 1996 has been organist of St. Peter's, Eaton Square, SW1.



An established piano recitalist, Jeremy has appeared at many festivals and major UK concert venues, including the Wigmore Hall & St John's, Smith Square, and has worked regularly with the BBC Singers, City of London Sinfonia and many others.

As a concert organist, Jeremy won 2nd prize in the 1993 St Albans International Competition. He has recorded recitals and concertos for BBC Radio 3 and toured overseas in the USA and Europe. His most recent recording was the complete organ works of Marcel Dupré on 12 CDs, issued in June this year to critical acclaim.

Despite a busy professional career, Jeremy still finds time for sport: playing cricket for Blackheath CC, rowing for Tideway Scullers, Chiswick, skiing and squash. He and our esteemed conductor share a passion for Italian sports cars (Bertone X1/9 Owners Club).

This year Jeremy was married to Jenny. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to them and to their children: Miranda (11), Christopher(8) and Charles (7) .

Solo CDs, released on the Guild label:

- Complete Piano Music of Eugene Goossens (1997)
- Piano & Organ Sonatas of Julius Reubke (1997)
- Virtuoso Works for Organ (1998)

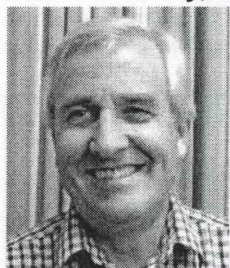
... plus others!

On the
next
page ...

Welcome

to new & returning members!

Alan Batterbury, Bass II



Alan has lived in the Guildford area for 25 years, singing with the Epworth Choir and Guildford Choral Society. Norman Carpenter and Marion Arbuckle both recommended him to join GPC.

Alan has retired from the computer industry. He is a member of Rotary and enjoys a bit of painting and drawing, and walking. His catholic taste in music includes both early and modern styles.

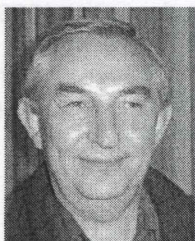
Alan's been a member of GPC since early summer and very much enjoyed the concert in May. He's now looking forward to singing the *St Matthew Passion* in March with the Freiburg Bachchor.

Elizabeth Blake, Soprano I

Elizabeth has rejoined the GPC after a two-year break, because the prospect of singing in the *St Matthew Passion* appealed to her very much. She previously enjoyed singing the *St John Passion* with the choir some years ago.

Elizabeth says it's lovely to be back, and she was touched by the warm welcome when she returned.

Tony Cousins, Tenor II



Tony has been living in the Guildford area since 1975. He sings with the Guildford Occasional Singers at the Cathedral and with Guildford Opera, and previously sang with the Guildford Singers and Chorale. He joined GPC because he particularly wants to sing in the *St Matthew Passion* in March, having last sung it in 1965.

It's one of his favourite choral pieces, along with Mozart's *Requiem*.

Although Tony is now retired, he does voluntary work with the Citizens Advice Bureau and is interested in archaeology.

Tony thinks GPC is great, and is impressed by the efficient organisation of the choir and the prompt availability of music.

Isabel Hyde, Alto I



Isabel has been a member of GPC since January 1999, but somehow was missed out in Newsletter No. 2 – sorry, Isabel! Before joining us she was a member of the Waverley Singers, but after 30 years with them decided to have a change. So she auditioned for the Guildford Chorale and GPC, and obviously chose the latter!

Isabel "likes all sorts of music, Mahler in particular". She feels GPC is "nice, friendly, relaxed with a happy atmosphere".

Isabel is a part-time State Registered General nurse, interested in gardening and the Arts. This year she re-married, so we extend our best wishes and congratulations to her and her husband.

Carol Jones, Alto I



When Carol recently moved into the Sandhurst area, she used the Internet to search for a choir to join. She contacted Rod Cuff through our Web site and consequently joined us. Previously she sang with the English Arts Chorale in Reigate and with a cathedral group in summer.

Carol works in the sales support department of an IT company. She enjoys playing the piano and doing up her new house and garden. Her preference in music includes "anything with a tune". She finds the GPC "nice and friendly".

Gayle Mayson, Soprano II



Gayle came from Anchorage in Alaska 2½ years ago with her English husband. They have three children: two are at university in the US, and their 15-year-old daughter attends the American School. Previously she sang with the Anchorage Concert Chorus, which

is visiting the UK next year. Her interest in music is wide-ranging, from classical to rock. Hobbies include walking, reading and sewing. At home in the US Gayle works as a physiotherapist, but she isn't working at present.

Gayle took a while to find the GPC, but eventually came on the recommendation of her voice-teacher, Rosalind Rolands. She says "It's great, just what I was looking for - and just like my US choir!".

Lisa McCully, Alto II

Lisa lives in Frimley and is studying Primary Education at Kingston University, with music as her main subject.



She plays the clarinet and flute, and is starting to learn to play piano. Music is the love of her life and she likes all sorts of music for all sorts of reasons, from classical to jazz.

Previously Lisa sang with the Surrey Youth Choir. Sue O'Connell (who works with the SYC) suggested that she join the GPC. She's enjoying singing with us, but feels "a bit young"!

Ros Milton, Alto I

Ros is a very busy lady. For most of her life she's lived in the Farnham area. Now she helps to run the family farm, where there are lots of sheep and horses. She's a part-time PE teacher with two children aged 10 and 7.

She plays the flute and is broadminded in her choice of music.



the confidence that Jeremy B gives to the choir.

Alison Rawlinson, Soprano II



standard is very high'.

For the past 20 years Alison has lived in Godalming. Until recently she sang with Godalming Choral Society, but found that rehearsal night clashed with family activities; so she's joined GPC at the suggestion of friends who are already members. She says she's finding GPC "terrific, great fun, with a nice bunch of people -- and the standard is very high".

Alison is married with three children aged 10, 15 and 16. She's now working as a part-time psychiatric nurse, as well as running her own 10-year-old desktop publishing business. Her interests include handicrafts (such as candlemaking) and being a Scout leader. Her musical tastes are eclectic, but her favourite music comes from the 16th century, in particular Orlando Gibbons.

Caroline Starck, Soprano II



Originally from Sweden, Caroline moved to Guildford in August. Before that she was in Somerset for a year and travelling abroad. In the past she has sung with church choirs in Sweden and Spain and with her university choir in Sweden. Now settled in Guildford, Caroline discovered GPC when her boyfriend, Jerome, picked up a leaflet in town. Caroline and Jerome are engaged and plan to marry

assistant. Hobbies and interests include playing piano, walking, mountain biking and volleyball. She likes a variety of music, "a bit of everything -- from gospel to jazz".

When asked about how she felt about joining the GPC, Caroline said she was very pleased to find such a good choir, and "When you're new it's nice to find people so friendly, and it's a good way to get to know others'.

Tessa Wilkinson, Soprano II



Tessa has rejoined GPC after an absence of several years. A housewife and very part-time violin teacher, Tessa enjoys travel in France, visits to the theatre, opera and art exhibitions and playing chamber music, her favourite.

She previously sang with the Guildford Singers. Since coming back to GPC she's found us very friendly and hard-working.

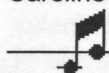
Pamela Woodroffe, Alto I



Pamela has lived in the Farnham area since 1964 and until recently was the Chairman & Artistic Director of the Farnham Maltings. She previously sang with the Waverley Singers, but felt like a change, and friends recommended GPC to her.

Since joining us she says she finds the choir "lovely, very friendly and relaxed", and she appreciates the punctuality of rehearsals.

Pamela likes 20th Century music best, in particular Tippett, Britten and Arvo Pärt (a contemporary Estonian composer).



News of ex-members

Rod Cuff, ex-Bass II

When I left GPC at the end of last season, John Trigg said I was 'emigrating', which he took to be a practical synonym for the more accurate 'moving to the north-east'. People warned me that that the temperature rarely rose above freezing, and that culture was limited to whippet-breeding and tast-ing Newcastle Brown.



Well, for three months after I moved in mid-July, the sun shone, the temperature stayed high (not as muggy as in Surrey, mind), I kept finding yet more glories around every corner of Cleveland and North Yorkshire, I couldn't find a whippet for love nor money, and I drank

twice as much good wine as I'd done down south. And a stylish haircut costs me £3. (On the other hand, my car was stolen from my drive ...)

My partner Brenda and I live in Guisborough, on the edge of the North York Moors, not far from Middlesbrough, Stockton and Darlington, and an hour or less from Leeds, York, Durham, Whitby, Scarborough and Newcastle -- in combination providing lots of good music, theatre and other entertainments.

I've joined the University of Durham Consort of Singers, a chamber choir about 28-strong singing (mostly unaccompanied) 19th- and 20th-century music, particularly British. We're currently rehearsing the VW *Mass in G-minor*, Moeran's *Songs of Springtime*, Brahms' *Warum ist das Licht gegeben*, Howells' *Spotless Rose*, bits of Cornelius, Rachmaninov,

Tchaikowsky ... There's another second bass a few months older than me, but we can give 30 years to everyone else, I think!

Do I miss GPC, its music and its comradeship? Of course I do. Working on the Web site and this Newsletter keeps me in touch, and we plan to be at the *St Matthew Passion*. Old mind-sets are hard to break: the conductor of the Consort is Dr Jeremy Dibble – I just can't seem to kick that Jeremy habit ...

Good wishes and seasonal greetings to everyone – see you in March.

Rod (rod@rodcliff.demon.co.uk)

Michael Dawe, ex-Bass I

We were sorry to say goodbye to Michael Dawe at the end of the summer season. Michael has moved to Saxmundham in Suffolk to live, and we send him our best wishes for the future in his new home.



Michael asks us to pass the following message to choir members:--

HELP..... Lost, stolen or strayed.....!!!

If you have in your possession any tapes, CDs or music scores that I may have lent out at any time, please return them via Margaret Dentskevich or another committee member. I'm particularly anxious to trace the Corydon Singers' cassette recording of the Bruckner E Minor Mass.



General items

Recordings – June Windle

I can obtain CDs of music we are practising from Record Corner at a discounted rate. Tom, the very helpful proprietor, will order any CD and usually have it for you within a week. He offers a discount to choir members on all full-price CDs. I'm happy to make enquiries for you, or do call in yourself: the shop is off Godalming High Street in Pound Lane (just up from Lloyds Bank), telephone 01483-422006. Park in one of the town car parks and walk from there.

From now on I would ask for cheques (payable to June Windle) or cash with any CD orders. Another choir member has passed me details of Music Dynamics' ChoraLine Rehearsal Cassettes. These can

be bought or hired and are produced with a separate instrumental sound for each part so that all parts can be clearly distinguished. The 'target voice' part is on one loudspeaker and the remaining parts on the other. You can therefore alter the relative volume of your part against the others simply by adjusting the stereo balance control. Please speak to me if you want more information.

(Note from Rod Cluff: The "links" page of our Web site includes a link to ChoraLine's site, which has full information about their products.)

I hope you've enjoyed reading this third edition of the GPC Newsletter. If you'd like to make a comment or a suggestion for an item to be included in a future edition, please don't hesitate to contact me, either during rehearsal or on 01483- 768789. -- **Margaret Dentskevich (Editor)**

You will find a colour version of this newsletter on the Choir's Internet Web site, <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rodcliff/gpc.htm>. In that version, many topics in the text are treated as "clickable" links that will take you to other sites that may be of interest.

Unsigned articles are by **Margaret Dentskevich**, with newsletter design and layout by **Rod Cluff**. Printing is by courtesy of **Alison Rawlinson's** company ARCS.