

July 2025



Registered Charity  
No. 1148490

The Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of KPMVC

# On the Beat!

## Who Are We?

*The Choir was formed in 1978. It performs around fifteen concerts a year, singing at fund raising charity events around the County of Kent.*

*In its history, the Choir has appeared in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium as well as in the UK, appeared on national television in the UK and Canada and has helped numerous local charities to raise significant amounts of money.*

*The Choir is open to serving and retired police officers, civilian staff, those with links to the service and also members of the community. It is an ambassador for Kent Police and is supported by them, although it is self-financing.*

*The Choir rehearses weekly in Maidstone. Members meet at 7.15 p.m. on Thursday evenings and rehearsals conclude at 9.30 p.m. Please contact us through these pages for information about joining the Choir; you can be assured of a warm welcome.*

## **SERVING THE PEOPLE OF KENT THROUGH SONG ... ...for almost 50 years**

### **Our Chairman, George Rogers, reflects on the changing face of the choir over nearly five decades**

You know how some pop groups seem to alter their line ups so that there are hardly any original members left? Well - the choir is no different. We are, as a matter of fact, forever changing our line ups. And just as when watching some pop groups live on stage you can almost hear the audience thinking aloud 'they look a bit older than I remember'. Well we may be a little like that too. Yet, as soon as the group starts singing you think 'actually they still sound good'. Well, we're like that too. Honestly.

Over the choir's lifetime we have, by my reckoning, put on stage at least 400 plus different members. That's quite natural. The only work involved is commissioning an up to date choir photo. We have been fortunate enough to recruit 11 new members this past year - and so the choir's line up has and will constantly change. The important thing is that we continue helping to raise much needed funds for good causes and charities in Kent.

Incidentally we still have six original members of the choir in our line up - and they sound as good as the day they joined the Kent Police Male Voice Choir in 1978. To all those whose voices have swelled our ranks since 1978 and all those who are yet to join us I thank you for being part of such a great philanthropic organisation and having enormous fun in the process.



The original members still singing in the choir are featured in this photo – can you spot them?  
 [George Rogers, Chris Cole, Mick Pepper, Geoffrey Cornelius, Keith Holness, Roy Waller]

**As we fast approach our 50th anniversary we would like to hear from any of our past members who may be interested in a KPMVC reunion in 2028. While that may seem far ahead it is only two complete singing programmes of concerts away. Email [secretary@kpmvc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@kpmvc.co.uk) to get in contact.**

Finally I wish to acknowledge the huge commitment shown to the choir by our consummate professionals Martin Rendle and Karen Barton-Holman and indeed all those who over the years have been part of our choir whether as Musical Director, Accompanist, President, Patron or Ambassadors and importantly singing choir members. **George Rogers, Chairman**

## **The Changing Face(s) of the Choir over the years**





## And now with the new faces of the choir

*Here's a sneak preview of the contenders for the new Choir photo...hot off the press and soon to appear on the website. With thanks to Jonathan Gardiner photographer.*



# REST IN PEACE CHIEF, GUVNOR, GENT AND FRIEND

**Barry Paine 25.02.1932 – 19.03.2025**  
**Chief Constable of Kent Police**  
**1974-1982**

*Roy Waller from the Baritone section and one of the original members of the choir, shares his memories of Barry Paine.*



**Barry was Chief Constable for Kent Police from 1974 to 1982 and was instrumental in getting KPMVC off the ground.**

Kent Police and the Kent Police Male Voice Choir have lost a great Chief, a hard-working officer, and a friend. Mr Barry Paine, our Chief for some time, passed away after suffering from failing health for a number of years.

Mr Paine got to know the vast majority of his men, this came home to me personally when I bumped into him in Ashford town whilst off duty. My immediate reaction was to salute this very senior officer, but as he got closer I could see a big grin on his face as he said, "Hello Roy". I was stunned, how on earth did he remember my name with so many other officers under his control? But that was the sort of man Barry was.

He supported the KPMVC from day one, nearly 50 years ago, and it was he who gave permission for the choir to be formed. The story goes like this:

Mr Paine came to Kent from the West Midland Force, who had their own Male Voice Choir. Soon after Barry arrived in Kent the WMMVC also paid a visit to sing in "The Garden of England". Barry and our first conductor, Chief Superintendent Gerry Hughes went to a performance and during the evening the conversation went something like:

Gerry "We could do this in Kent, Sir."

Barry "Ok! Over to you Gerry, get it started."

And the rest is history. Yes, readers, that really is how we got going. Choir members, supporters and audiences, we all have that man Barry Paine to thank for the existence of the KPMVC.

**Yes, Sir!** From the bottom of my heart, I say "Thank you". As my old Chief, as the Guvnor, and yes, as a friends, we all thank you. You were due a well-earned rest and I am sure many, many others will say "Barry, Paine, Rest in Peace."

**There will be a Memorial Concert on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2.30 pm  
at Ditton Community Hall.**

**KPMVC and The Kent Police Band will be taking part in the programme.**

# PERFORMANCE INTERRUPTUS

## Patrick Burrows shares some amusing anecdotes from his time singing with the Durban Male Voice Choir

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Most concerts proceed without a hitch but on a few occasions something goes wrong. Here are some that happened during some concerts of my old choir (Durban Male Voice Choir). Every 2 to 3 years we were invited to participate with a few school choirs at the “Veld and Vlei” school in Richards Bay some 200 km up the coast from Durban. This was always on a Friday evening and as our turn was the 2nd half, there was plenty of time to drive up after work. This school had been adopted by a German Shepherd dog which made itself present at most school functions. It was well behaved and had settled down on the floor in front of the stage absorbing the atmosphere of the occasion. That is until John and Carl started their duet. At the first “miaow” of “The Cats’ Duet” his ears pricked up, then he sat up and before long he was yowling his head off. Needless to say he was removed from the room and placed in detention for the rest of the evening.



On another occasion we were singing “Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines” in a Sunday afternoon concert in a Church in Pinetown just outside Durban. The lyrics include a few “ups” and “downs” and each was accompanied by an up or down blow on a Slide Whistle. Barry was the “blower” this time and shortly after his first pair of tweets there came out of nowhere another couple of tweets. Raised eyebrows from the MD as she scanned the ranks to try and find the culprit. No luck and then it happened again and the sound seemed to come from above and we all looked up to see an Indian Mynah bird ( a great mimic) sitting on the only open window of the clerestory light running down the length of the Church.



The same MD and 1st tenor Louis (of “Nessum Dorma” fame) were singing the duet “All I Ask of You” from “Phantom of the Opera” which has the line “say you love me” repeated a few times. Well this request by Louis got too much for one young lady in the front row one evening and when he had sung it for about the 3rd time, she just blurted out aloud “yes I love you”. The audience really loved that.

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## *Return to the Clift Room*

In the last edition of *On the Beat* we reported that the choir had, at long last returned to rehearsals at Police HQ in Maidstone. On Thursday, April 3rd the choir returned to their old rehearsal room in the Clift Room. Some of readers may not be aware that this space is named in honour of Constable 7391 Duncan Watts Clift. PC Clift tragically died in March 1991 when, whilst on holiday in Hexham Northumberland, he was run down by a car having attempted to prevent its theft. He served in the Kent Police Force at Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge from 13<sup>th</sup> April 1982. It’s good to be home!



# CONGRATULATIONS!!

**To Paul Barnes and Joanne who announced their engagement at the beginning of June.**

*The stunning ring was made from their own jewellery*

## CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2025

### catching lives

Catching Lives is an independent charity based in Canterbury, supporting people who are homeless or insecurely housed in East Kent. Their vision is of a society where everyone has a safe place to live and the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life. The charity offers support to people at their Canterbury Day centre, providing essential facilities (food, laundry, showers etc) and individual support to improve housing, health, and social connection. They also offer access to computers at their Day centre and have an on-site Mental Health Specialist and a community Nurse. A truly worthwhile local charity which KPMVC is pleased to support as its Charity of the Year for 2025. You can find out more on their website [www.catchinglives.org](http://www.catchinglives.org)



# The Long Arm of the Law

*Bob Day recounts another tale from his time serving aboard HMS Apollo.*

In April 1972 I was serving aboard HMS Apollo. At this time our base port was Devonport and I would try, where possible, to travel home on a long weekend (Friday to Monday 0745 hrs). This particular weekend I was selected to play in a football match for the Metropolitan Police Cadets. At this time Kennington (later to become a Police Forces).

I was driving along the A28 and entered seconds later a Police officer who was signalled me to stop. He then informed me and I would receive a summons for court! Thinking fast, I thought if I give him my forces address I would get away with it. Wrong! 6 months later we were again alongside in Devonport, when I was summoned to the Master of Arms Office (Naval Policemen), where I saw a Plymouth Policeman. In his broad Cornish accent he said to me, "Are you able seaman Day?" I replied, "Yes". "Here", he replied and served me with a summons for speeding! Result: £8.00 fine and 3 points on my licence!



## FORTHCOMING CONCERTS For 2025

**Saturday 26th July 7.30pm**  
St Nicholas Church, The Street, Pluckley,  
Ashford

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 3.00pm**  
St Nicholas Church, Linton Hill, Maidstone

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm**  
St Mary's Church, Teynham

**Sunday 7th December 2.00pm**  
Christmas Concert  
Ss Peter & Paul Church, Pembury,  
Tunbridge Wells

**Saturday 13th December 7.30pm**  
Christmas Concert  
Ss Peter & Paul Church, Borden

**Saturday 20th December 2.30pm**  
Christmas Concert  
The Great Hall, Kent College,  
Canterbury

*keep checking our website for updates*  
[kpmvc.co.uk](http://kpmvc.co.uk)

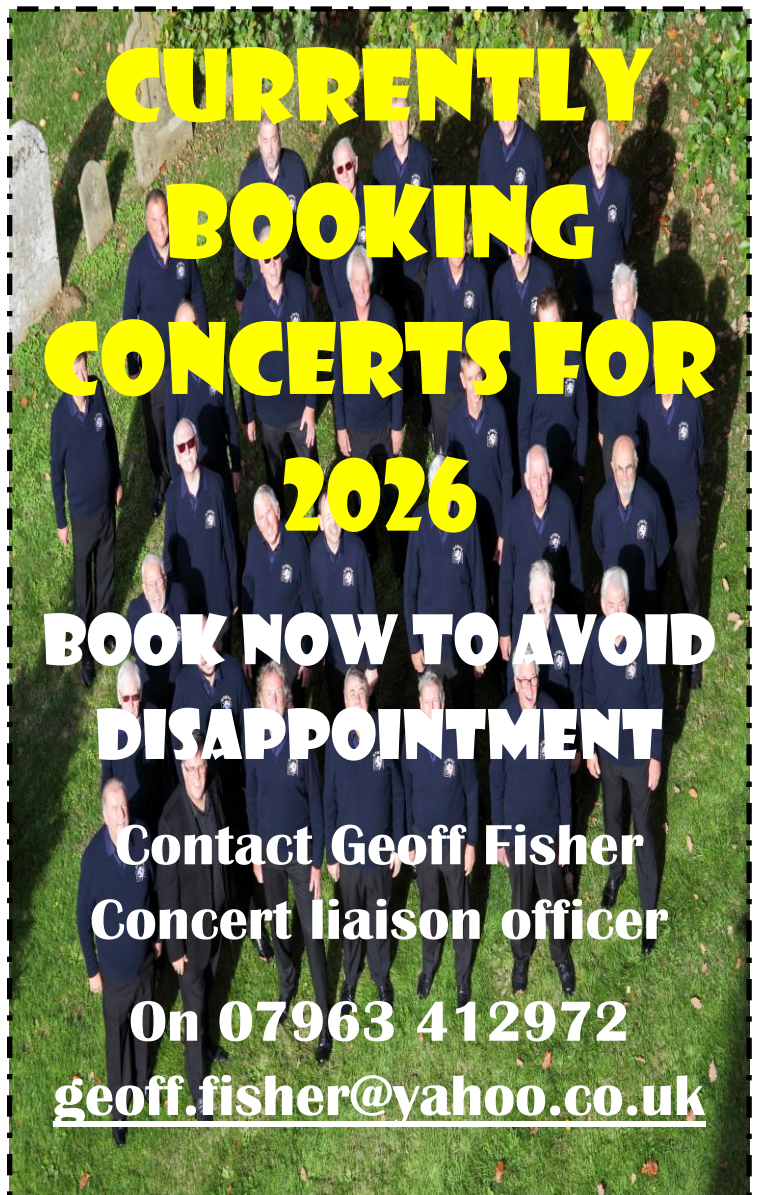
## CURRENTLY BOOKING CONCERTS FOR 2026

**BOOK NOW TO AVOID  
DISAPPOINTMENT**

**Contact Geoff Fisher  
Concert liaison officer**

**On 07963 412972**

**[geoff.fisher@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geoff.fisher@yahoo.co.uk)**



# And finally.... ...from the photo gallery

A firm favourite at recent concerts has been audience participation in "A Policeman's Lot". Here is are a couple of snapshots from concerts this year – good flexibility in those knees chaps!!



**Cornwallis Academy, Maidstone 29<sup>th</sup> March**



**St. Mary's Church, Chilham 26<sup>th</sup> April**



**St Mary's Church,  
Chilham,  
26<sup>th</sup> April**

**St Peter & St  
Paul's Church,  
Saltwood  
28<sup>th</sup> June**

