



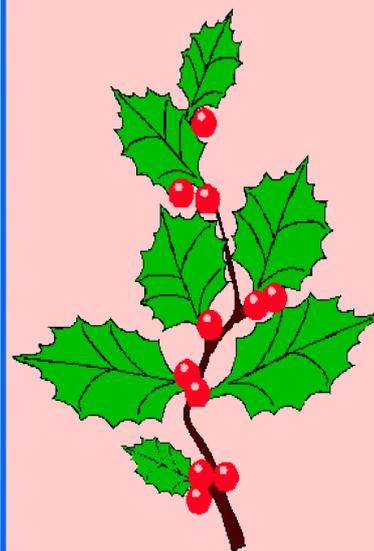
The Kentones

# The Kentonian

THE BROMLEY BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB MAGAZINE



Acafellas



Introducing Rita Monori



*Merry Christmas*



## Hello From Rita

Long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... I was asked by a choir to direct them, and although I had solid musical training, it was not in conducting. I promised to help them, but I didn't conduct the choir until I had actually had training in that field too. What I mean by that is that I so much appreciated their enthusiasm for music and their efforts to sing well that it made me go the extra mile and invest in learning a new set of skills, so that I could support them better. This is how I became a conductor for several choirs and have been giving and receiving inspiration from those lovely people over the past 'few' years.

Nowadays, I'm a full-time freelancer, teaching music every single day. It's great to see the progress made by the young ones - and those young at heart.

Music has always been part of my life because I simply cannot imagine life without it. I enjoy music in many forms. I like listening to a good performance and making music myself. The most exciting part of a musical adventure is when I study a song or a piece of music. After a bit of experimentation, the notes and harmonies start to unfold, reveal themselves, so the phrases are beginning to 'talk'. It's not as if it communicates in the way that we do, through words, but it speaks at a different level, through which it can directly touch the mind and soul.

Because I value music so greatly, I'm passionate about helping others to reach their personal best. I want people to experience how highly rewarding it can be, after a bit of struggle, to get those notes to fall into the right place, with such detail that it has the power to create an enchanting moment. As I've mentioned above, obviously the magic of music doesn't fall into one's lap without making an effort. I'd like to encourage everyone to set specific, attainable targets for personal development, find out how you can become a more efficient singer, both individually and as part of the group. The ultimate goal is to experience what it's like to breathe life into a piece of music together. It's teamwork, therefore the effect can be very powerful and energising.

I look forward to being part of your musical adventures!

*Rita*



I was compelled to ask the **Kentones** to support **LATCH** after my friend recently volunteered for the charity as their treasurer. I had never heard of this charity and surprisingly many friends who attend various churches throughout the borough weren't aware of it either.

**LATCH** was formed in 1989 by **Bromley Churches Housing Association** to house single homeless persons of 18+.

The charity matches young people with local homeowners who have spare rooms available. The young people are assessed thoroughly for eight weeks prior to being matched and accommodated with a host. They are mostly sixth form or college students. **LATCH** is a true local charity and has only one part-time paid member of staff, the rest being volunteers.

Their aim is not only to find accommodation but also to help with further education, find work, write CV's and give counselling. **LATCH** is in constant touch with both the hosts and users.

It is one of the Mayor of Bromley's charities for this year; the other sponsor being **Careplus**.

Hosts are paid housing benefit for accommodating the young people, and the youngsters in return pay some of their support benefit to the host.

These young people are homeless. They are either on the streets or "sofa surfing", making them very vulnerable. Unbelievably, in a wealthy borough like Bromley, there are no shelters or hostels.

I personally thank the **Kentones** for voting for **LATCH** as their charity for 2019/20.

Our young people deserve care and a bright future - they are our future too!

*Brenda Newman*

## Learn to Sing – Class of 2009 Anniversary Lunch

**The Chelsfield** put on a lovely lunch for a memorable event. It was wonderful to meet the class again, and Colin and I were honoured to have been invited to share it. Thanks a million to John S for impeccable organisation and for pulling the lunch together. Thanks a million to all the guys for words of gratitude. It was you who made the course so worthwhile. For almost 30 of the course to apply to join the Club is amazing and for so many to have stayed in the Club for 5, 7 and 10 years is just brilliant. It was great to get anecdotes and memories of the course, and John's lovely commendations to long-suffering wives were a great recognition, even though they may not have known just what their partners were getting involved with.

Designing a course that would suit the Club developed over a couple of years and benefited from advice from the late but wonderful barbershopper, Neil Watkins. BABS had a series of Directors' workshops, but they actually added little, as we were already ahead of what they were suggesting. On-line research into the work of Jim Henry, and speaking with Joe Cerutti, refined the content and the course was written. And it seemed to work.



I'm so happy that you guys enjoyed the course, 'cos I certainly enjoyed the teaching of it and I'm sure Colin did too. The fruit of all this was a group of barbershop virgins who were soon to lose their cherries. (*Thanks for that sweet turn of phrase, Mr Showell*). This new bunch became our friends, took the hobby to heart and became the new power of the **Kentones**. And the Chorus is so much a better group for having you.

I must say that the post-prandial rendition of *Hello Mary Lou* was pretty damn good, too.

Here's to the next ten years!

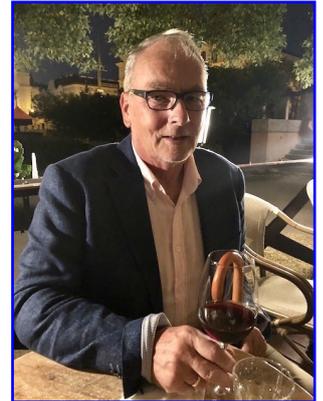
Yours, in four parts, **Mike Corr**

## And Now Back Home

I meant to cover a couple of points but somehow, well, you know....

I live in Christchurch NZ. We are hosting the NZ [BHNZ] next weekend. I shall miss it but you should check it (and us) out. Our web is [www.plainsmen.co.nz](http://www.plainsmen.co.nz).....our Face Book pages ,<Canterbury plainsmen>. We are very similar to the **Kentones** but I reckon you are better organised.

I have been impressed with the way your evenings go and also that there seem to be systems for everything.....and they work. I liked also the effort the wives and partners put in.....very inclusive - plus the attitude of the members, your *Kentonian* mag. etc....topped off as always by the inimitable British humour: you can't beat it. I hope you will allow me to come along next year also. I found singing interesting insofar as I knew most of what was practised but with different arrangements and different interpretations.....even *Heart of my Heart*.... I kept wanting to add 'only you' in that last post !!



Christchurch they say [or did say] is the most English of cities outside England....there is something in that.....even though it has mostly been rebuilt after our 2010 earthquake [I can assure you the earth really does move]. I come here each UK Summer because it is Winter back home. It occurred to me that some of you might do the same [in reverse]. February is probably our best time. I would just like to invite any members of the chorus to come down and check us out. I can also promise a warm welcome by **The**



**Plainsmen**, where you will be welcomed as you did me. NZ truly is GodZone.....basically because we have so very few people to mess it up and are blessed with the most outrageously beautiful scenery. I would be honoured, if anyone should come down, to help out and provide accommodation when they visit Christchurch. We have a big house, now sadly quiet after the noise of children, but as a result with lots of bedroom space. I mean that offer quite genuinely. I would love you guys to come down. It is a longish flight, but what isn't nowadays, and an experience awaits that has no parallel. I am always there between October and May.....Xmas is the best.

So once again I shall be picking up the songs that I have missed, along with all my other 'stuff' including my quartet if they haven't put someone else in my spot. You made my stay here great: I find singing therapeutic. Thursdays and Fridays became a high spot.

Kia-ora, Kia Kaha.

**John Dunford**



Left :- John with his Classic 1950 TD. 0-60mph in 17sec. Stunning!

Right:- John and his wife Maureen on a night out.



# 11e Barbershop Ontmoetingsfestival 2019 's-Hertogenbosch Holland.

Another trip to this wonderful city and the welcoming Dutch people of 's-Hertogenbosch. I have so many memories of when **The Kentones** first came here in 2005 and the subsequent years after that; my family connection with the city, and the many new friends made during this time. Of course, the added incentive is to come and be part of the rich culture and barbershop singing that is given to the city every two years with their brilliant festival. This year was no exception!

We set the alarm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September for an early rise. A brisk walk into Maidstone to be ready as soon as the office door opened at Europcar to pick up our hired 7 seat Citroen Spacetourer. Once back home, everybody was waiting for me – John Rayfield, my two sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law from Hailsham. Everything loaded, coffee and breakfast for the journey, sweets, (not forgetting John Rayfield's pork pies!) everybody positioned and seated and we were off. Our Eurotunnel train from Folkestone was booked for 10.20 a.m. so we had plenty of time to get there – or so we thought. However, due to an incident on the M20, the motorway was closed.

I won't bore you with the subsequent details. Suffice to say that many sweets and cups of coffee later we eventually boarded our train (had to take the roof aerial off due to a slight miscalculation in the overall vehicle height) which finally pulled out of Folkestone at 11.40 a.m. Thirty five minutes later (now 13.20 hrs French time) we were on the road at Calais heading for the A16 towards Belgium and beyond.

A good journey was had with the occasional spatter of rain, stopping once just the other side of Antwerp (the ring road was busy as always) for the usual comfort stop, and then it was the final leg of our destination. We arrived at the Golden Tulip Hotel in 's-Hertogenbosch at about 17.45 hrs. Greetings all round with the staff, room allocation, and then I had to go and park our car in the hotel underground car park. The vehicle only just fitted under the height barrier – even with the aerial removed, and there were a couple of heart stopping moments as I thought the roof was going scrape on the low concrete ceiling.

After a good meal with a couple of well earned beers in the hotel it was time for an early bed.

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

The day started fine and dry and the outlook seemed good too. A good hearty breakfast – again hugs and kisses all round with the staff, who Vicky and I know well from our previous trips. More hugs and handshakes with other members of staff at reception saying hello and handing over gifts we had brought with us (the Dutch just love our shortbread biscuits), then back to the car park to get the car – another couple of heart stopping moments as it was, to say the least, tight parking. Anyway, I picked up our group at the hotel entrance. I say “entrance” although I always feel that the ‘front’ of the hotel is around the back and the back of the hotel should be the front! I'll let you decide on this as and when you come to Den Bosch.

We made our way to a lovely place called Heusden in the region of Brabant, just 40 minutes away. It's a real gem of a place. Typically Dutch in every respect. Set on an island surrounded by the main river Maas and its small canal systems. Typical Dutch terraced houses and of course the regulation windmills, boats etc. It took us a little while to get there as “Bitching Betty” on my Garmin Sat Nav. system decided to send me the pretty route – well that's my excuse!

A lovely walk around Heusden, still in the sunshine. A visit to a restored and working windmill, where we spoke with a man who looks after it as a hobby. He spoke wonderful English and gave us an insight into the history of Heusden. The restored windmill was beautiful in every respect. A feat of engineering as to its construction. An excellent lunch then followed with beer and, of course, sampling the lovely Dutch “*Poffertjes*”- mini pancakes with icing sugar and maple syrup.



We eventually headed back to Den Bosch as we needed to get ready fairly early for the “Concert Der Kampioenen” taking place that evening. We had an early meal; John R and I were dressed in Club blue blazers, and then off to the local Grote Kerk (Church) for the evening concert – always a precursor to the main festival and always featuring some great singing. Again this year was no exception. We met up with many old friends from **Duke Town Chorus**; Frank and Jacomijn etc.-great to see them again. All the ‘acts’ were from champions from **Holland Harmony**, mixed choruses, male and female quartets, male and female choruses. The highlight for me was a 16 strong male chorus –**Momentum**, from Holland, gold medallists at this year’s DABS Convention. What a sound they made, and they sang my all time favourite “*Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go*”. A real ‘goose bump’ sound and a deserved standing ovation at the end –brilliant! Then back to the hotel for a nightcap, and several brandies later we turned in.

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

After a hearty breakfast, wearing our Den Bosch orange T-shirts, we were out into the sunshine – albeit a bit breezy. We wandered around the main Saturday market right outside our hotel in the main square, the girls venturing into the C & A store (yes it is still there), finally heading off to the Jeroen Bosch Art Centre for the official opening of the festival. All 27 choruses and quartets taking part were assembled, while coffee and small “Bolsbollen” cakes were eagerly snapped up.

Speeches followed a warm-up session, after which a couple of choruses took to the stage, including the **Duke Town Chorus**. After another speech, everyone departed for the main festival. Suddenly, the whole of Den Bosch vibrated to the sound of barbershop as all the choruses at various locations in the city had a good sing before moving off to another location. John R and I were in the background of a Dutch male chorus, **Lake District Sound**, and after a few numbers, their director invited us to join in. So a few polecats later we had managed to get a good crowd of people stopping to listen, applaud, cheer and probably wonder why two guys were dressed in orange T-shirts and the others not.

After a little shopping, stopping and listening again to more choruses,

it was back to the hotel for the afterglow. Everybody gathered in the hotel for the regulation drinks and nibbles and, of course, some more singing. John and I were again invited to join a fairly large group of Dutch singers, both male and female, and a few songs were belted out. Some we knew, some we didn’t, but thought they would be good for **The Kentones** repertoire. A great session was had by all.

We ended the day by going out for a meal at one of the many ‘tucked away’ restaurants in the always crowded side streets and of course - the regulation nightcap back at the hotel.



### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Sadly, it was now home time. There was no rush, so a leisurely departure saying our goodbyes to everyone at the hotel. After breakfast, everything packed, loaded and we were on the road. We had a stop, eventually arriving at the Eurotunnel terminal at Calais, where we did some final shopping at the wine store, then boarding the train back to Folkestone.

So, another great adventure to Den Bosch. I think it goes without saying that on behalf of **The Kentones**, John Rayfield and myself, I would like to give a hearty thanks to Jacques De Rijck and his amazing organising team; also the committee members and members of the **Duke Town Chorus** for again putting on another successful festival. If you want to experience how well they do it and be part of that feeling, camaraderie and atmosphere next time, then put the date in your diary of 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> September 2021, ‘cos I will certainly be going..

**Bob Gilbert**

## Goudhurst Lost Property

Disclaimer - I wish it to be known that the following contribution has not been subjected to the usual attentions of my trusty Blue Pencil, for fear of adulterating its unique literary style. What follows, therefore, is unexpurgated, unfileted Fish. (As to the hanger, I still say I was framed.) *David Tindall*, Sub-Ed.

*Brethren it behoves me to once again pick up the sharpened goose quill and dip it into the depths of the bottomless inkwell of inspiration.*

*Twas a delightful early evening of the last day of summer of the year 2019 AD, when a happy band of minstrels made their way to the charming village of Goudhurst to entertain the wise and good members of the U ethra, with merry ballads not accompanied by lutes. The ancient scribe directed his horseless carriage along Back Lane as advised, ignoring the comment by your Hon Sec about a sign on the gatepost and continued along said lane turning left into to a narrow entrance. Part way along, the hedge thinned exposing a view into a field where several other carriages were sheltering, thus a rewind took place and eventually his own carriage was safely stabled.*

*On entering this delightful place of worship we found our way into this ornately designed glass enclave inside the church where stripping off was later to occur. Practice ensued under the Guidance of our wise and venerable Master of Music the Honourable CC.*

*After the practice was complete we retired once again to the glass enclave to slake our thirsts and commence stripping. This could have been disconcerting for the viewing public but fortunately the bar was open and the concentration was directed to, red or white darling, the only likely viewer to be the 'arpist, charming lady. It had been hard to concentrate on Colin's directing when this little lady was wheeling in a rather large 'arp on 6 wheels.*

*The business of the night complete and we retired again to the ornate fish tank for a further striptease session.*

*There were instructions, not from the ancient scribe, but from another wise minstrel, to leave the place clean and tidy.*

*As is my normal practice I wait to have a final look round, when a voice boomed out, WHO's left this plastic coat hanger with a label marked DAVID TINDALL?. The helpful chap duly took charge of said item, Thank You.*

*Finally I made to leave but, yes, another unclaimed plastic bottle for my collection, plus a rather fetching pink one.*

*I made my way to leave the church but my concerned lady wife thought the special pink one more likely to be the property of a child from the crèche. I made my way back to the glass enclave to replace it.*

*MMM, I encountered the 'arpist removing several layers of clothing. Neither of us batted an eyelid, commented on the success of the concert and took our leave of each other.*

*Thus completeth another entry into the Archive of lost property.*

*De poisson.....minstrelised.*



A Changing Scene



*Adrian and Liz Emes send Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all the **Kentones** and our **Supporters**.*

\Xmas Greetings from Hayling Island. Sharon & Colin P. Browne would like to wish everybody a happy and prosperous Xmas and New Year. In this ever evolving world hoping that 2020 is an even better one for the **Kentones**.

Merry Christmas everyone and a happy healthy New Year from  
Don and Joan Bodker.



Happy Christmas and a happy New Year to all the Kentones and their families. Love from the Chicks.

We wish all the **Kentones** and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Terry and June Cooke

Colin and Sue wish to send Christmas Greetings to all members and Supporters of the **Kentones**.



Denis & Pat wish you 2020 vision to see a happy and prosperous New Year ahead!

A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.  
A Merry Christmas to you and your families, may you all find Peace and Love at this time and for the future. Let's pray that we all keep safe and well in 2020.  
With our love  
Annie and Steve (Your Cooperwoman and Cooperman!!)

Barrie and Brenda send Christmas greetings to all **Kentones**, Supporters and their families.  
We wish you all a peaceful, healthy and harmonious 2020.



Very best wishes to all Kentones and Supporters. Looking forward to another great year.  
John and Sheila Everson

Wishing all my fellow Barbershoppers and families a very Happy, Healthy Christmas and New Year. It's been a great year of camaraderie and fun. Looking forward to the next year!  
Regards to all  
Dave and Elaine Elliott



Christmas greetings to all members from one of the new members. Thanks to everyone for making me so welcome.  
Martin Parsons

**Best Wishes to Everyone - We send you all Season's Greetings and a Very Happy New Year.**  
Geoff and Stella Mountney





Elsa and Alan wish you and your family a very harmonious Christmas and New Year.

Alan particularly thanks members for going cheque and cashless.

Wishing all our **Kentones** friends, old and new, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and harmonious New Year.

Kevin and Bernie.

A very Merry Christmas to everyone from Tim and Judith, sorry not to be with you so often these days - life's a beach!

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all my **Kentones** colleagues and their families.  
Martin Saunders

*The Ancient Scribe and his nowhere near ancient wife, dips his sharpened goose quill into the inkwell of **Joy, Merriment, and Hope** to wish his Brethren and Sisters, All the Blessings and Glad Tidings for this festive season with all Good Wishes for the Year ahead.  
Madame et Monsewer de poisson,  
or  
Linda & Brian t'fish*

**Oh, the weather outside is frightful  
But the songs are quite delightful,  
And since we've no place to go  
Let us sing ho-ho-ho, ho-ho-ho!**

Best wishes, from Brian and Hazel

Seasonal greetings to all **Kentones** and Supporters  
Roy and Marion Simpson

Wishing all members, old and newbies, and our Supporters a Happy Christmas. Best wishes.

John and Jenny Sollitt

Sincere Christmas good wishes to all you lovely Kentones and Supporters and other halves who make this Club the resounding success it is.  
David & Norma Southgate.

Colin and Margaret wish all The Kentones and The Supporters' Club and families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2020.

**To the 'Merry Gentlemen' of the Kentones and your families (and Rita, of course!), Have a fantastic Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!  
Regards Tom Graves**



With Love and Best Wishes for a very Merry  
Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New  
Year

From Gill and Carlo Azzopardi xx

Happy Xmas and a peaceful healthy  
New Year.

Joan & Alan Phipps.

Greetings at Christmas - May you have  
friends at your fire, blessings in your  
home and joy in your heart.

Avril and Chris Sydee

To all the Kentones, their families and  
friends. A merry Christmas and a  
prosperous New Year.

Julio and Isabel

Frank and Pam Taylor wish all Club  
members and their families together with  
our Supporters a Very Happy Christmas  
and successful New Year

Best wishes for Christmas and the New  
Year to all Kentones and Supporters,  
especially the "oldies," from Ann, John  
and Gillian Vaughan. Keep Singing!

May your Christmas be happy.  
with blessings a-plenty,  
and more of the same in the year  
Twenty-twenty.

David Tindall and Diane Beckett

Joyce and I would like to extend our  
sincerest best wishes for the coming  
festive season to all members and  
families of the chorus, both past and  
present and that BREXIT will be just a  
bad memory in the coming New Year.

John Weeks.

Season's greetings to all members,  
Supporters and their families for  
Christmas, wishing you also a healthy  
and happy New Year. Vicky & Bob  
Gilbert.

Wishing all the Kentones, Supporters and  
their families a special Christmas and all  
the best for 2020.

Simon

A very merry and joyous Christmas  
and a happy and healthy New Year  
to all members of the **Kentones**,  
their families, and all members of the  
Supporters' Club.

John Rayfield

To all my fellow singers.  
We wish you all a very Happy  
Christmas  
and a prosperous happy New Year  
2020

Alan & Gill Lynch

## Acafellas at Goudhurst

The Goudhurst & District U3A became five this year and the committee felt it would be good to celebrate the occasion with an event of some sort.

The U3A stands for The University of the Third Age and is a nationwide organisation with over 1000 groups all over the country. Every month we have a meeting with a speaker or entertainer, and within the group we have many interest groups that are run by the members themselves, from walking to history, poetry to wine appreciation, art, bridge, garden visits and much more. It is open to semi and fully retired people, and Goudhurst, being a small village, currently has about 160 members. Bigger towns can boast 1000 members upwards. I have been chair of our local branch for nearly two years now, and so we set up a small sub committee to arrange a concert to celebrate our anniversary.

Being friends of Brian Showell and his wife for many years, I was aware that he was part of the **Kentones** and that they had a smaller group, **Acafellas**, so during a nice lunch together a few months ago, the idea was born that the U3A and **Acafellas** could get together.

Goudhurst is a beautiful old village in West Kent, only a couple of miles from the Sussex border, and there were various venues we could have chosen for the event, but it seemed fitting that our beautiful church be used, as the acoustics are so much better there than in the Village Hall or Social clubs in the area.

It was decided, in order to make the evening even more special, that we would bring in another performer as well, and we chose Margaret Watson, a renowned harpist, who we had seen before, when she came to play at one of our monthly meetings. She was very popular then, and our members had requested we get her back again, so this seemed the perfect opportunity.



Margaret Watson performing.

The evening went really well and everyone enjoyed the music very much indeed. **Acafellas** were so wonderfully entertaining and the audience participation session went down very well. Better still, **Acafellas** wrote to say how much they had enjoyed the evening as well, so for **Acafellas**, our community, our members and our church, a great evening was had by all. Our 5th anniversary was well and truly celebrated, making it a win, win situation for all concerned.

**Jenny Dalleywater**

### *Thanks From Goudhurst*

*A huge thank you to Acafellas for the wonderful entertainment you gave us last night. Please pass on my and the committee's thanks to the whole group.*

*I've had many lovely comments about the evening and admit I'm hugely relieved it all came together and, more importantly, that we had a decent sized and enthusiastic audience.*

*I wish you well on your harmonising path and hope to hear you again in the not too-distant future.*

*Very best wishes*

*Jenny*

## KENTONES QUIZ NIGHT – OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup> 2019

### IMPRESSIONS OF THE EVENING BY A PAIR OF FIRST TIME QUIZZERS

Although both seniors, this was the first time that my wife and I had ever participated in an actual quiz night. We both enjoy quiz shows on TV, such as *The Chase*, and had both been in pubs on quiz nights and listened to some of the questions, but now we were going to be participants. The week before, we began to wonder if we needed to brush up our knowledge, such as learning all the characters in *The Only Way Is Essex*, *East Enders* etc., who had won *Big Brother*, who were the “celebs” on *Love Island*, or what was No. 1 on the hit parade last week? Would we let the team down, as we were definitely not of the millennial generation?

In the end we had nothing to worry about, as the subject categories and questions were varied, with only a few so difficult they could have been more at home on *University Challenge*. This was especially true of the first round, a medical round, where, as our team had three members with medical backgrounds, we decided to play our Joker. Not a smart move, as most of these questions were probably the most obscure of the whole quiz, but some that gave us the most laughs. (Where on earth did our quiz master find them!!!)? From then on it got easier, and as we were on a fun team that worked well and laughed a lot as a group, there weren't many subjects of which we had no knowledge. Alas, our team did not win any prizes.

The food and company were excellent, there were plenty of raffle prizes and most importantly the evening raised a healthy sum for the charity **LATCH**, which helps Bromley Borough teenagers adjust from living in Care or in Foster Homes to the Adult World.

This was our first **Kentones** Quiz Night: it will not be our last. Well done to everyone who helped organise the event.

*Richard Pike*



## The Kentones at Sidcup Baptist Church

9<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Once again, we welcomed the **Kentones** to the **Disabled Christian Fellowship** (DCF) at Sidcup Baptist Church. Introducing the programme, David told us that the **Kentones** had been formed in 1975, and had enjoyed singing for DCF every November for over 30 years. He paid tribute to the Chorus Director, Frank Taylor, one of the **Kentones'** original founders and still a very active mainstay of the Chorus.

The afternoon started with *Almost Like Being In Love*, the **Kentones** looking resplendent in their scarlet waistcoats and bow ties. Frank led them through a joyful afternoon of favourite tunes including *Over the Rainbow* and *When She Loved Me* from *Toy Story 2*.

Christmas arrived early with a medley of three lovely carols, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Silent Night* and *O Holy Night*. This was followed by the eagerly anticipated *Under the Boardwalk*, accompanied by the audience on percussion instruments. The afternoon concluded with one of DCF's favourites,

*Is This The Way To Amarillo?*, bringing the performance to a joyous end.

Thank you **Kentones** for another wonderful afternoon.

*Diane Norton*  
DCF Trustee

## CHORAL COCKTAIL (Knees Up at Sam's Church Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November)

The fund raising event was billed as a **Choral Cocktail** in which the **Kentones** had been invited to participate. Having sung there on several previous occasions, the venue is now referred to as Sam's Church, as it is where former Chorusman Sam Newlove-Agbonlahor is a member. Set in the midst of the busy one-way system in Westow Hill, the Upper Norwood Methodist Church has a long history. Rebuilt in 1964, it is a bright, welcoming place with colourful modern stained glass windows and comfortable pews. Now time has taken its toll, and it needs some repairs and redecoration.

**A Choral Cocktail!** Well, it certainly was an eclectic mix of prayer and praise, solo singing, choirs, dance, lively audience participation, evangelizing and drama. One could not fault the enthusiasm of all who performed, despite the loud feedback from the amplifiers and a sound system that seemed to have a mind of its own.

After the introductions **The Kentones** opened the proceedings with *Can't Buy Me Love* and *When She Loved Me*, with Colin trying to avoid the wandering photographer armed with his video camera. Next to perform was singer Paddy Booth, who sang two spirituals :- *Peter Go Ring Them Bells* and *Every time I Feel The Spirit*, and after the break finished his set with *O Holy Night*. In contrast, **The Messenger Choir** comprising eight singers of African descent from Angola and Uganda sang songs in their native language Ngangela as well as in Portuguese. We enjoyed their harmonies, especially their rendition of *Nkosi sikelel' Afrika*, which was full of feeling.

I think the group which impressed us most was the **Redwood Choir**. Comprising young folk, mainly from South Korea, they performed an impressive dance routine to the Hannah Montana song *You'll Always Find Your Way Back Home*. We loved their slick moves and obvious enjoyment. Later this track was reprised by the MC as, after handing out envelopes, he asked for donations for the fund and invited/insisted that the audience danced around the church to put their offering in his bowl. This we did, and even some of the **Kentones** were seen to move! After a welcome break for tea, coffee and a selection of cakes and biscuits we took our seats again. The **Kentones** kicked off with the *Swing Down Chariot Medley*, *In My Room* and finally got everyone clapping along to *Amarillo*.

Previously, when I had read the proposed programme and read that the Rev. Nana Banyin Thomford was going to perform, I had assumed she would be female. Wrong! Up stepped a very charismatic male minister who picked up a mike and launched, with great gusto, into a selection of hymns and choruses. He invited everyone to join in, and our rendition of *Kumbaya My Lord* went on for a considerable time while those of us who could, stood, danced and waved our arms about!

As the evening progressed, it was obvious that the event would not end by the scheduled time of 7pm. So reluctantly several of the **Kentones** slipped away, concerned about the time limit in the car park. We exited as the **Messenger Choir** were about to start their second set, so I imagine the singing and dancing continued for some time. It was good to meet up with Sam again, and we all hope he might return to the Chorus. Well, it certainly was quite a Cocktail, an enjoyable one as the welcome and appreciation was heartfelt. A little chaotic at times, but we all came away smiling, if not feeling a little shaken and considerably stirred!

*Avril Sydee*

## The D C F Concert

This was my first occasion to sing for the DCF in Sidcup. I had heard a lot of good things from fellow **Kentones**, and was looking forward to it.

It did not start too well for me though, as I went to the wrong Church in Main Road, and as I live in Sidcup there really is no excuse.

Frank marshalled us all together, and we went through some of the repertoire. As I had just come back off holiday, I had one day to learn *Under The Boardwalk*.

But it was fantastic to see how enthusiastic the audience were, especially assisting us by playing their instruments during *Under the Boardwalk*.

They really enjoyed the performance, and when we finished they chanted for more.

It was a delightful experience, and tea and cakes finished off a lovely afternoon



Kentones on Stage

## Surprise, Surprise

Club night 5th September turned out to be rather more than routine.

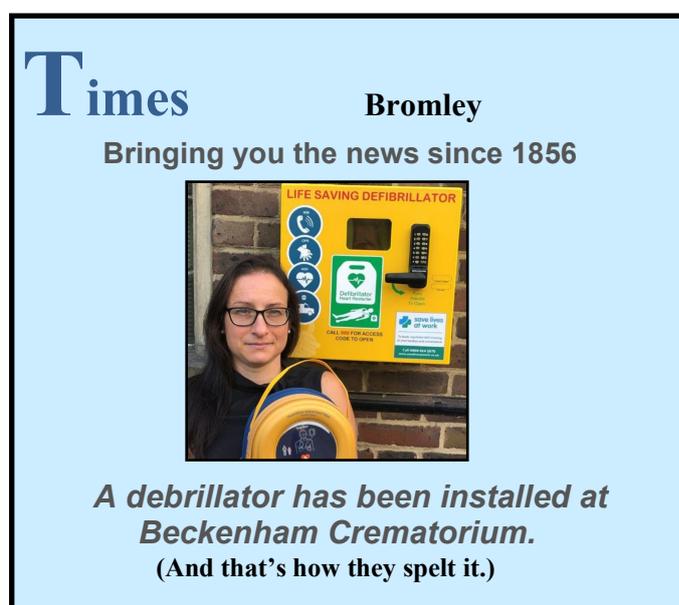
For a start, we were delighted by the reappearance of "Mr. Awesome", though sadly not for keeps. Ryan had come mainly to update us on his work/domicile situation, and told us that he had received three job offers - two in the UK and one in Las Vegas: no prizes for guessing which one he'd accepted. However, he will be Pond Hopping on a regular basis in order to attend rehearsals with **Fifth Element**, especially as they have their sights set on International in Los Angeles next year, and will try to visit us as and when time permits. Needless to say, he'll always be *As Welcome as the Flowers in May!*

He was presented with two mementoes of his tenure as our MD - one in the form of a BABS poster, surreptitiously "liberated" from the BIC at this year's Convention and signed by every Club member; the other being a photo of the full Chorus with some faces (mine included) having been carefully obscured, presumably for fear of frightening his kids...!

More excitement was to follow after we heard that our tame Kiwi, John Dunford, was leaving us to return to the Land of the Long White Cloud, where he is a member of a Christchurch barbershop chorus. He had been here for the summer (i.e. NZ's winter) visiting family, and had taken advantage of the opportunity to join us for the *Come and Sing* course. He was invited to address the chorus, and said he had thoroughly enjoyed his brief time with the **Kentones**. He thought the Club had great "heart" and a strong sense of camaraderie (as well as a certain degree of what he described as "naughtiness"! - assets not always apparent in other choruses - and encouraged us to keep it all going, despite the current hiatus with regard to the MD situation. Impressively, he ended by treating us to an impromptu solo rendition of the Maori song *Pokorekare Ana* (Stormy are the Waters). Whilst the tune was familiar to most of us, perhaps from Hayley Westenra's recording, nobody offered to accompany him with the Maori lyrics! It was a splendid performance: what an asset he would have been to the chorus.

All in all, this was a very lively and enjoyable evening with a tangibly convivial atmosphere, largely due to the sterling efforts of Frank and Jack who shared the directing honours. We owe them and especially Colin our sincere thanks for keeping the ship afloat so successfully pending the appointment of a new MD.

**David Tindall**



## Chairman's Chat

It has been a busy time over the last few months. We started with looking for a new MD and, having agreed an advert, we published it on the BABS website and in the *Making Music* magazine. By the closing date we had seven applicants, and started the process of selecting who we would interview.

This was followed by our AGM at which the nominations for the existing Club officers were accepted, with John Sollitt moving to the reinstated PRO position and Kevin Phillips coming in as the new Vice Chairman. I am so very grateful to all the Club officers who give us their precious time, without which the Club would not function. Of particular note was the confirmation of Colin Couves as Assistant MD. Our grateful thanks go to him and the music team, for not just stepping into the breach while we found a new MD, but doing so with such an enjoyable programme.

Prior to the AGM we had an extensive Club debate about finance and the level at which the subscription should be set, so this hurdle, I am glad to say, was cleared fairly speedily. We then moved on to nominations for the Club charity of the year in which the local charity LATCH was nominated by Brenda Newman and narrowly voted in. I had not heard of LATCH before, but the work they do with local homeless young people certainly appealed. Subsequently we have been visited by Lolly Bell, the CEO for this small charity, who explained that their aim was to work with youths to ensure they had somewhere to live whilst finishing their education or finding work, so that they did not end up living on the streets. I feel that this is a small investment that pays big dividends in the future and we look forward to working with them.

I would also mention the Quiz Night organised by Stella and Quiz Master Geoff Mountney with the Supporters' club. What a splendid night, with the Baritone team demonstrating their superb cerebral skills, leaving the opposition in the dust! Many thanks to Stella and Geoff and the Supporters' club!

Finally, we have offered the position of MD to Rita Monori, who has accepted and has now had her first rehearsal with us. All our MD's have brought a different aspect to our singing and I am sure Rita will do the same. From the rehearsal I was struck by the emphasis, beyond words and notes, on the dynamic of the song. Something to look forward to!

*Denis*

## Orpington Christmas Lights Switch-On

The **Kentones** were invited to perform at the annual Christmas lights switch-on in Orpington on Thursday 14 November. It was a cold, wet and miserable afternoon and I was not looking forward to this particular Singout as we were told we would be wearing our stage uniform, which meant shirt sleeves and no coat. It was decided that we would meet inside the Odeon cinema at 16.30 where we were allocated Screen 4 for our warm-up.

We were collected for the first performance by an event steward who took us to a stage in the main entrance of the Walnuts Shopping Centre. We were pleasantly surprised at the volume of sound generated, due in part to the low concrete ceiling. Our routine was well received, especially our closing rendition of *Amarillo* (with audience participation!)

After a break of about an hour, which provided time for a welcome coffee or a hamburger for some, we gathered on the main sound stage on the side of the traffic-free High Street. The second presentation, of about half an hour, comprised repertoire songs and carols, accompanied by fake snow for *Let it Snow*. As before, it went well, and *Amarillo*, along with the audience, was again a hit.

Several other acts performed on both stages. A Ferris wheel in the High Street was a popular ride. There were wandering clowns, stilt walkers, various food and gift stalls, the switch-on, and a firework display to finish.

Altogether a well organised event. The weather stayed dry and it wasn't as cold as I had expected, so my misgivings were unfounded.

*Chris Sydee, Ed.*



## The Kentones

**Honorary Life President** – Frank Taylor

**Club Night** - Thursday 7.30 pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 8JE

<b>Main Committee:</b>	-	<b>Music Committee:</b>	-
Chairman	- Denis Delaroute	Music Director	- Rita Monori
Deputy Chairman	- Kevin Phillips	Asst. Music Director	- Colin Couves
Secretary	- Colin Barnes	Acafellas Music Director	- Colin Couves
Treasurer	- Alan Lucking	Music Team Secretary	- Colin Barnes
Membership Sec.	- Terry Cooke	Music Team Support	- Simon Bird
Public Relations Officer	- John Sollitt	Part Leaders      Lead	- Jack Willoughby
Performance Sec.	- Carlo Azzopardi	Asst. Lead	- Simon Bird
Co-opted Member	- Steve Cooper	Bass	- Frank Taylor
Almoner	Colin Couves	Tenor	- Vacant
		Baritone	- Adrian Emes

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### **Kentones Diary Dates**

Date	Time	Function	Venue
Sat 6 Dec 2019	6.45 PM	Fund Raising Concert	St. John's 251 Eden Park Ave. BR3 3JN
Sat 7 Dec 2019	12.30 PM	Pot Luck Lunch	Pratts Bottom Village Hall BR6 7NQ
Sun 8 Dec 2019	10.30 AM	Chartwell Cancer Trust	The Glades, Bromley BR1 1DN
Sun 22 Dec 2019	11.15 AM	Christmas Fund Raiser (LATCH)	The Glades, Bromley BR1 1DN

### Acafellas

Chorus Director – Colin Couves

**Meetings:-** alternate Tuesdays, 10.00am to 12.00 noon at Chelsfield Methodist Church, BR6 6HD

### **Acafellas Diary Dates**

Date	Time	Function	Venue
Wed 4 Dec 2019	13.30 PM	Cancer Research Fund Raiser	The Warren, Croydon Road BR2 7AL
Mon 9 Dec 2019	13.00 PM	Demelza Hospice Fund Raiser	Passey Place, Eltham SE9 5AB
Sun 15 Dec 2019	10.30 AM	Church Service	Chelsfield Methodist Church, BR6 6HD
Sat 4 Jan 2020	14.00 PM	Rotary Club of Chislehurst	St Nicholas Church Hall BR7 5PE

INTERESTED IN **MEMBERSHIP** OF THE **KENTONES** OR SUPPORTERS?

NEED ENTERTAINMENT FOR AN EVENT OR FUNCTION?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.thekentones.co.uk](http://www.thekentones.co.uk)