



# The Kentonian

THE BROMLEY BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB MAGAZINE

## Farewell But Not Goodbye



**Peter Kennedy being interviewed by Bryony Mackenzie  
from Radio Kent after 2015 Top Choir of Kent.**

Inside - Peter's reminiscences of the last three years as Chorus Director

Plus -

**Your Man In Havana**

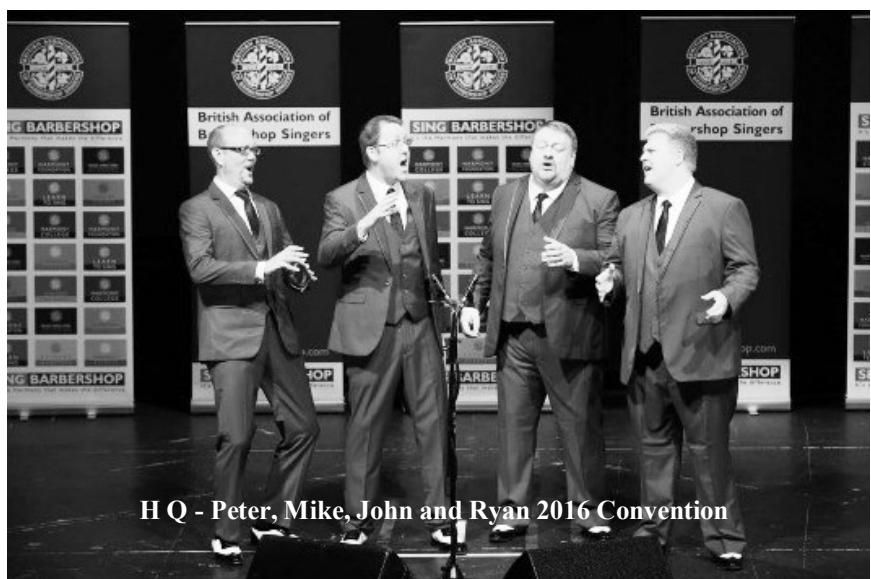
# Looking Back - The Last Three Years

In September 2014, I visited the **Kentones**, with the view of applying for the then vacant MD role. On my second visit, and after something of a grilling from the Committee, I was offered and gladly accepted the position. I had known and followed the **Kentones** for many years, and had long admired them for their good spirits and well established history. I was also aware of the fragile position the Club was in at that particular point in its history, and so with a true sense of responsibility, I set to task. I had previously directed **Thames Valley Chorus** and **Green Street Blues**; two different choruses with very different challenges and opportunities, and so it was important that I drew from those experiences.

Running my own business, having three kids and generally being a busy guy, I knew that I would need to find someone who would be by my side and there to assist in whatever ways were needed. And boy, did I find that someone! Tim Priddin is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever met, and he was the perfect Music Secretary. Without his endless patience, tireless efforts and good humour (amongst an embarrassing array of other qualities) I literally couldn't have done half of what we set out to achieve. I hope that, over the years, I have made my appreciation felt, both privately and publicly, but this is the perfect opportunity to thank Tim one last time for everything that he has been and done.

Amongst one of my first tasks was to put together a 3 and 5 year plan/vision statement. It was important that together we shared a vision, and part of that vision was the question of attending Convention in 2015. With an amendment to the constitution, a re-vote was taken and the previously made decision not to compete was reversed. So, in January, we set out the *Rat Pack* package. The following six months saw us establish a raft of changes; from section leader roles, rehearsal schedules, repertoire overhaul, teach track review, changes to the website, and more besides. I recall a real sense of desire and optimism returning to the chorus, and I would like to thank David Southgate for the incredible job he did for me and the whole chorus over this period. I don't intend to recall my entire period in such detail, but in writing this, I felt it was important to go right back to the beginning, because it was from there that we set the foundations for what was to come.

In February 2015 we saw the arrival of some guy from Reno, Nevada; and the beginning of a friendship and mutual obsession for our hobby that we have enjoyed from the very moment we met and, I am glad to say, is as strong as ever today. Ryan took his time to settle in to his new life in England, along with his gorgeous wife Julie and two equally adorable daughters; but within a year, we became familiar with his energy, his passion and ridiculous talent. Since then, he has become very much my



H Q - Peter, Mike, John and Ryan 2016 Convention

"better half", and we have worked closely to try and create a path of individual improvement for all, as well as create a better understanding of our craft and change the working ethic of our rehearsal time. We have carried out PVI's (and are about to carry out a second phase through the early part of 2018), and shared lots of moments, not least of which came from creating **Headquarters**.

I look back on the three years with great affection. Among the many highlights, I have to include the joint show with our Dutch counterparts, the recording of our CD and the mixing thereof with Brian and Ryan, the Leeds Castle singout, our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Show, our several visits to Top Choir of Kent (not to mentioning winning it!), the Big Sing concert at Canterbury, Children in Need concerts, several great sings at The Glades, the **Reckless** weekends, and my three visits to Convention with the chorus. My many memories include pulling shorts down, pouring water over several unsuspecting victims, and generally having a lot of fun with a bunch of very special guys. Sir Jack, Tim Sowter, Colin Couves, Frank Taylor and John Williams were all great members of the Music Team, and I would like to thank them for their support. Special mention must also be made of the skill and passion with which John Sollitt has conducted himself as our Chairman, and I was privileged to be under his leadership for the last two and a bit years; thank you sir, and I hope I didn't let you down too many times?!



2017 Top Choir Of Kent

There remain many challenges ahead for the **Kentones**. The last three years have acted as a period of stabilizing, restructuring and creating an environment that promotes good singing. We have had some great times along the way, but it's time for change, and for the next chapter of the **Kentones** to be written. As for me, well, the future holds some exciting possibilities, amongst which will hopefully include singing in the exciting new **Meantime** chorus in London, starting a new mixed voice group called **Vox**, continuing to develop as a quartet singer with **Headquarters**, and more coaching. But I hope to remain closely connected to the **Kentones**, and look forward to seeing the chorus grow and develop under its new directorship.

The legacy and history of the **Kentones** is something that I greatly respected when I arrived in September 2014. As I hand over the Directorship, I hope that the history books will look kindly on my tenure. I would like to thank you all for your kindness and your friendship. I have enjoyed pretty much every minute, and there will always be a part of me that remains a **Kentone**.

But my final words have to be on the future. The responsibility for the future of the **Kentones** lies with every single one of us. There is little doubt that we have great leadership within the committee, MD and music team, and this will certainly help, but as my passing plea, I would ask each and every one of you to play a role in the future of the chorus and the running of the Club.

In harmony  
*Peter*

# The Glades Restored 2017. intu is no longer.

Where would Christmas be without our traditional joyous burst of song in the **Glades**? Shall we pay tribute to our embattled S O S(ec)? History in the making, Al the luck has secured changing rooms on our last two visits. The latest one rather intimate, so much so that our retiring (Oh My! So shy and retiring) MD and his hairy apparent (sorry Ryan, this is posh English stuff) were forced into a broom cupboard to change. Together ???? Having achieved all this, we stepped outside the intimate room into one of the many entrances to commence our warm-up, in my case much needed with those automatic doors doing their thing, cold winter air flowing in. I have to say that Peter really did push us into doing this very well, and I think it shows when we are properly prepared. It is a necessity to gently stretch our voices upwards, particularly to hold pitch.

I am not prone to serious observations, so I have to say it was a compliment to see a chap, obviously visually impaired, listening to us warming up for a long time and enjoying it. We can make a good sound when we try, and to this end we should - *all the time*. Soap-box away.



Into the fray stepped the Red Waistcoats, prepared to assault the eardrums of the shopping masses. As usual it was *our* lugholes that were assaulted. My, how we look forward to the annual contest of Us against the Shopping th(r)ongs and battling against the joyful sound of the ding dong of the "Tannoy" (other brands available). I think it has to be said that we held our own, so much so that songs in which we have never held pitch shook us all by maintaining pitch. As a Bari, I have to thank Denis for a tight grip on this occasion.

It is always a treat to perform in front of a live audience, and when you get a big bunch gathered round enjoying the moment, it is rewarding. I think most of us are gasping when we get to the break, voices feeling the strain. This year a cup (cardboard plastic thingy)

of Earl Grey did the business, and I was pleasantly surprised how much it restored the vocal equipment. The varied content of carols and barbershop displays our many talents; actually it must make a change from mainly just Christmas music. Quite a few LTS flyers were handed out; let's see if there are any takers.

*Amarillo*, not Frank's favourite we may have gathered, is a perpetual crowd pleaser, the cheers and clapping testament to its continued popularity. My grandchildren, well two of them, requested it for our final number and the video evidence plus vocal backing has been circulated, your honour. If any of you noticed a little boy in a grey tracksuit, he asked his mother "Why aren't they singing more?" Linda said he was fully entranced by it all.

The maxim then has to be "leave them wanting more."

*De dusted off Poisson*

## A Message from the Kitchen!

Once again the **Kentones** turned out in force to entertain shoppers in **The Glades** Bromley on Sunday 17th December, with the aim of raising funds for this year's charity, **Young Carers Bromley**.

The **Kentones** were under the direction of Peter Kennedy, making his last appearance after a nearly three year stint and now standing down to pursue a change in his musical career. During his time with the Club he has had a dramatic effect on presentation and the quality of the singing. It is with great sadness that we see him go.

Although Peter leaves as MD, the chorus will continue in the safe hands of Ryan Jensen, and into 2018 it is hoped that Peter will be seen from time to time on the risers at rehearsals evenings.

**Barrie Newman**



Ryan conducting Chorus

# D.C.F. and B.B.H.C.

The **Disabled Christians Fellowship (D.C.F.)** Sidcup Branch was formed by a lovely couple, Bert and Rose Powell, who were members of Sidcup Baptist Church. Bert knew what it was to suffer, and I never saw him out of his wheelchair. Like a lot of people who suffer, Bert and Rose had a way of reaching out to others who were needy in one way or another, and hence **D.C.F.** and us came together.

A lovely man named Robert Smith lived very near our church. He was married to a very sweet lady named Jessie. He told us that he sang in a group and wondered if we would like them to come and entertain **D.C.F.** The rest is history, as they say!!

The **Kentones** arrived on the second Saturday in November, 1993 and the impact they had on our group was electric. There were so many of them!! They were very professional-looking, handsome and smart, and their smiles just had to be given back to them. They brought such joy to our folk for many of whom our monthly get togethers were the only times they left their homes. Everyone fell in love with them, and we didn't want to let them go. Little did we know then that this talented group with fantastic voices were going to become our friends: they are still coming and haven't missed one November meeting in all that time. WOW!!

For those of you who are mathematicians, it won't take long to work out what we will be celebrating on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2018?

At one of the first meetings we learned that it was a singer's birthday that day. All we had left in the kitchen was a wee fairy cake, so we quickly stuck a candle in it and asked someone to start singing *Happy Birthday* to ..... Peter Aylett. It was a bit of fun, with laughs all round. Now we had the date, we weren't going to forget it, but the size of the cake has gradually increased so all the boys can have a slice.

I have also been told that it was one of you guys who encouraged us to splash out and buy some musical instruments so that our group could join in with their own accompaniment when you and others come to sing for us. I don't have to tell you how much they enjoy themselves. They just love it, young and old alike!!

We have been fortunate to have a lot of good entertainers at **D.C.F.**, but none stand out like the **Kentones**. At the end of the concert we go into our halls for refreshments, and the **Kentones** are among the few visitors who come and share this time with us. The "clients" really enjoy visitors, especially those who make them feel special. You guys are great at that. I remember Chris Garrard asking a young man, David Hearle, if he would like to join the **Kentones**, and he offered to pick David up each week and take him to your rehearsal night, then drive him home to Sidcup, where he lived with his carer. Chris could see that David loved to sing and perform. It didn't happen, but Chris offered and I remember being impressed!

We were sorry to hear, a couple of months ago, that Peter had retired from the **Kentones** due to his partner's illness.

But,

hey presto, last November he turned up, and I know, if it's possible, he will be with us this coming November too. Peter has been so kind. He has an incredible gift for carving wood and making beautiful works of art. He has made us some

wonderful gifts, which we treasure:

Tom Baker, Teresa Willmot and I (Elle) were invited to a **Kentones** weekly rehearsal a few years, ago and what a welcome they gave us. If you think we are fans, you'd be right! They are very special men, kind, caring, loving, hilariously funny, with a great sense of humour, generous and I could go on, but what I observed was their care for each other. They really are like a family: when one's going through hard times, they share the load. The bond between them is wonderful, and what's more, they include others like us, and you don't feel like an outsider but like one of the family when you are with them. On this particular night we thought we were just going to hear them sing, but Peter Aylett presented one of his beautiful gifts for our group, and went on to say many lovely things about **D.C.F.** It certainly was an evening to remember.

I have to give my special friend David Tindall a mention here, as we've shared a lot over the years. One lovely summer's day David and his wife Pamela, who was then very ill, came to lunch in our garden with my Dave and me. It was such a special day, and I was thrilled when David told me that Pamela had enjoyed her food more that day than she had for a long time. It wasn't long before Pamela died, but Dave and I were so happy to have spent some time with her. She was a remarkable lady with an adventurous spirit, and David is a very special man: I'm proud to say that he is our friend.

As I sit here and reminisce, I think of Robert Smith, and I think he will be smiling as he looks down and sees all that has happened in the last 25 years. If Robert hadn't been so thoughtful and kind, we would probably never have met the **Kentones** and would have missed out on the riches we have experienced through knowing them.



This Years Cake  
Peter and Elle

I will end with a thought my husband gave me, with a very thankful heart. He said "November would not be the same without them." (**The Kentones**). And we all say Amen and Amen.

Sadly, Robert Smith died shortly after the **Kentones** came to **D.C.F.** Crossing the Main Road by our church, he was hit by a bus, and died instantly.

Elle Cole D.C.F.

# The Chartwell Cancer Trust



The Kentones

06 December 2017

Dear 'Kentones'

Thank you for a 'Fantastic' performance singing on Saturday 03 December 2017, at The Glades, Bromley. In total £784 was raised in aid of The Chartwell Cancer Trust. I trust you all enjoyed yourselves as much as the spectators!

The Chartwell Cancer Trust supports the Chartwell Cancer and Leukaemia Unit, The Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough. It provides funding for additional staff, capital projects, equipment and training. Support also extends to the children's oncology "Frog" room in Croydon University Hospital and the activities of local childhood cancer support groups.

Our sister charity, the CCT Tiger Ward supports the children's cancer and leukaemia Tiger Ward in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich. The Tiger Ward is a Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Unit where children diagnosed with cancer in South London and the surrounding areas can receive care closer to home. It is our aim to supply sufficient financial support to enable the staff to provide a 'home from home' environment for our children.

The funds we raise are used where the staff decide where it is needed most, so not a penny is wasted. Our charities are growing year by year and we are continually increasing the level of support we provide. Our trustees are volunteers and we raise all our funds through fundraising events, via our supporters, our patrons and from our 'FUNdraising' Magazine.

If you would like to find out more about us and our activities, please visit [www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk](http://www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk)

Thank you once again for your support.

With 'Seasonal' regards,

*Michelle*

Michelle Simpson

The Chartwell Cancer Trust



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# So What Do You Do?

It is often said by retirees that they wondered how they ever had time to go to work, such are the hobbies and interests that now take up their time. I know some of the **Kentones** and Supporters sing with other groups/choirs. Some of you play golf, bowls or do Scottish dancing, belong to a camera club, are musicians, or are into amateur dramatics. It would be good to hear about some of your activities. This might give you an opportunity to advertise any



events that you are involved with, planned for the months ahead, which would welcome some support. Would you be prepared to write a brief article about what you get up to in your spare time - providing it's legal and printable?!

To start the ball rolling here are a few lines about the **Befrienders' Choir** group, to which Sue Couves and I belong. This is a weekly social befriending group for people over 60, in partnership with **Ageing Well in Lewisham** and the **Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance**. We regularly perform



publicly, and last year undertook an opera project with students from Deptford Green High School, entertained at Lewisham People's Day onstage at the Broadway Theatre, recorded a small CD and worked with vocal and music students from **Trinity Laban**, which resulted in a performance at King Charles Court in Greenwich. We are led by Natasha Lohan, who is a professional musician and vocal coach. All levels of ability are welcome and no previous experience is required.

We are currently working towards our annual Spring Forth concert at King Charles Court, working on harmonies woven around the *Humming Chorus* from **Madam Butterfly**, writing lyrics and harmonies based on *Inch Worm*, sung originally by Danny



Natasha Lohan

Kaye, the **Beach Boys'** *God Only Knows* and songs written by two of our members. None of us have particularly good voices and we learn as we go - no music, only the words. Sue has taught and now conducts us in *Bella Mama*, to which we have added our version of choreography! We start with tea and chat, have a physical warm up, vocal and breathing exercises and then the fun starts. So this is what Sue and I do on Tuesday morning: how about you?

Avril Sydee

# YOUR MAN IN HAVANA

## THIS IS NOT HOW IT WAS MEANT TO BE



Hazel and I had long harboured a hankering to attend the Havana International Jazz Festival which, for 33 years, was held in early December. To ensure that we could actually get there, we booked our budget airline flights early but, shortly afterwards, discovered that the 34<sup>th</sup> Festival would be held in January. To our dismay, we realised that the tickets were non-exchangeable and non-refundable. What to do? We could go for a fortnight and forget the Festival, or we could spend a few more weeks during the English winter on a sunny Caribbean island. A hard decision to make, but we bought new return tickets and extended our stay to almost 7 weeks!!! – Definitely the right choice.

Having the time now to enable us a proper look around the country (the largest island in the Caribbean) we enlisted the help of specialist tour company **Cuba Direct**, conveniently located in Crystal Palace, who helped us put together a fascinating tour. Because neither of us has a word of Spanish we felt we needed some help in our travels, so for some of the time we had an English-speaking guide/driver.

After spending a couple of nights in Havana old town, we anticipated needing time to recover from the journey and the initial impact of this vibrant city so, in a violent tropical storm, we set off for Soroa, a quiet rural town about a 1½ hour car journey west of the capital. There we stayed for 4 nights in a *casa particulare* (the term given to regulated private premises, which have governmental approval to offer accommodation to tourists - rather like a B+B, although the owner does not necessarily live on site). Mostly we had chosen to stay in *casas*, which varied a great deal in the facilities they could offer, but are a relaxed option and the best way to mingle with local people. During our stay in Soroa we went for several fairly challenging hikes, including one to a local beauty spot, a pretty waterfall. There were very few tourists at this delightful location, but an enterprising local had set up a stall to offer liquid refreshment. After the rugged walk, we were ready for it. Wielding a huge machete, he chopped the top off a coconut for Hazel to drink the sweet water through a reed, and I had a beautifully prepared pineapple laced with rum. A musician started to strum his guitar and sing a Cuban song, making this a magical encounter: the entire audience comprised Hazel and myself...unforgettable!

We returned to spend a very short night in Havana, rising at 2 a.m. in order to get an internal flight to the eastern end of the



island to spend 4 nights in Baracoa, where we were welcomed by the *casa* manager Elvis (would I lie to you?). Baracoa is considered to be the most under-developed and poorest-funded area in Cuba; there are few cars, horse-drawn and bicycle taxis vastly outnumbering motor vehicles, so it felt a little like being in an Amish community or a **Merchant Ivory** film set - this really is "*The Land Time Forgot*". We really enjoyed our breakfasts on the balcony with the sound of horses clip-clopping past in the narrow street below; and much enjoyed the town with its laid-back ambience, lovely friendly people and lush countryside.

With some reluctance, we said goodbye to Elvis and Baracoa, leaving with our wonderful English-speaking guide Frank, a charismatic young man who had studied English at university. (He professed a love of Chaucer). We had a separate guide because our driver, called Junior, had no English, but they worked together a lot and evidently were great friends, providing an entertaining double act.



During the next 4 weeks we made our way back to Havana, stopping off at various towns on the way. From the start it was a magnificent drive, through mountains and then beside sun-kissed Caribbean beaches, pausing at Guantanamo, Frank's home town. Frank

was booked to spend 6 nights away with us, and after leaving us he was due immediately to head off for other commitments, so we were happy to stop off at his home to enable him to spend a snatched hour with his pregnant wife and young son. All the neighbours and his extended family greeted us. They made us a fresh juice drink from a tropical fruit we were unable to recognise, but it was delicious and we left after lots of kisses and handshakes from a multitude. There is a viewing platform on the outskirts of the town where you can look across the bay towards America's illegal base and its disgraceful prison, but of course you can't get anywhere near it.

As I said, we mostly stayed in *casas* but to spoil ourselves a little and chill out we spent 5 nights in an all-inclusive beach hotel, which had its attractions (24-hour access to bars and cafes, as well as a dedicated ice-cream counter) but it could have been anywhere with sea, sun, sand and mojito. Hazel said that it must be like life on a cruise ship, but going nowhere.

We eventually arrived back in Havana to spend our last 10 days independently, by which time we had hoped to have learned a little Spanish (failed in this, although of necessity, Hazel did learn the word *blumers*, because she had forgotten to pack any), become accustomed to Cuban ways of doing things (not completely) and discovered how to obtain tickets to the Festival concerts (ever hopeful). This time we stayed in the *Convento De Santa Brigida*, where the sweet young nuns were enchanting, our suite sumptuous and blissfully quiet and comfortable, although I had reservations in case the stone walls fell down when a heathen like me entered.

So, what about the bleedin' music, I hear you scream??? Well, in answer to your question, in Cuba there is music just about

everywhere, often at ear-splitting volume, on street corners, in restaurants, cafes, bars, town squares, parks, and as I mentioned, waterfalls. Incidentally, stilt performance is very popular in Cuba and we were fortunate to stumble (no pun intended) upon a group rehearsing in a town square, not just stamping around but full-on salsa dancing: it was joyous.



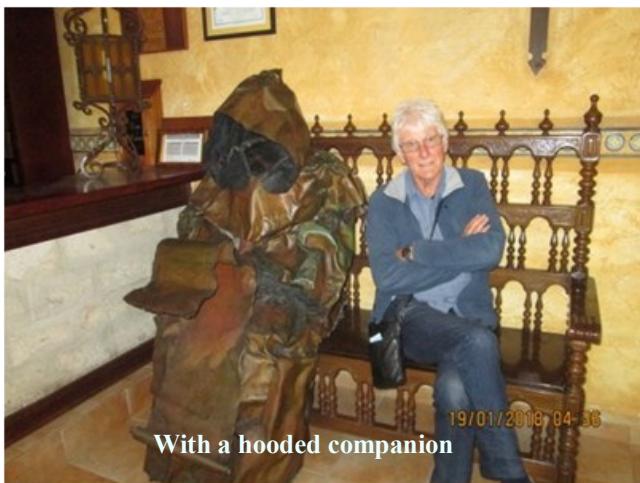
Stilt dancers

One memorable musical experience occurred whilst we were in Varadero, a popular coastal resort. Imilla, our wonder-woman **Cuba Direct** rep. for the area, arranged for us to attend a performance by the world famous **Buena Vista Social Club** whose lead singer, and this will give heart to many **Kentones**, is 91 years old. We didn't understand a single word of his songs, but in a powerful foghorn of a voice he told us *I LOVE YOU!* – repeatedly – which was nice. Imilla also arranged for us to travel to and from the concert in a 1908 vintage model "T" Ford, an experience I hope never to repeat as, clinging on for dear life, we felt as though we were taking part in a re-creation of **The Keystone Cops**.

Although much of the music is exuberant and conducive to dance, there is also a more reflective side. One day, as we left the Convent, we heard some unusual notes from a nearby hotel foyer, so were enticed inside. A wonderful trio comprising two clarinets and a bass clarinet was playing a haunting take on *Ave Maria*. It was spell-binding!

In all, we attended three concerts at the excellent *Theatro Nacional* as part of the jazz festival. The musician I was most keen to see was virtuoso pianist Chucho Valdes, who I first saw many years ago at Ronnie Scott's in London. I was fearful that the years would have taken their toll, but I need not have worried as he was sensational, a wonderful treat.

Cuba is a delight, its people friendly, cities vibrant, and landscapes varied and beautiful.



With a hooded companion

But we had been warned that dealing with officials, bureaucracy, and even some ordinary day-to-day encounters such as shops and banks could be extremely time-wasting and inefficient. We had been told *You just have to remember – this is Cuba*.

Our long stay in Cuba was largely wonderful, and with few exceptions we found the Cuban people to be friendly and helpful. We also met some delightful fellow travellers, mostly from Germany, France and Canada. Unlike America, Canada is on friendly terms with Cuba, and in the winter, with Toronto blanketed in snow but only just over 3 hours airtime from sunny Havana, it's a very popular destination. I was chatting to a charming German lady who informed me that all in the party of German tourists with whom she and her husband had been travelling had become ill in one way or another along the way, but that he and she had had no problems. When I asked her to explain the



Street-corner jazz



secret, she replied "RUM", because the couple had consumed a fair quantity of the nectar and remained free of flu, food-poisoning and all the other nasties. She recommended a dose to be taken at least three times daily, so I appointed her as my doctor and carefully followed her instructions, indulging in a plentiful supply of mojitos (for purely medicinal reasons) you understand. It worked.

So, should you ask, mine's a mojito.

**Brian Showell**

# Acafellas

## Red Waistcoats and Glossy Brochures

Early in December twelve strong men and true braved the wet and windy weather to find shelter and a warm welcome at **Travel Solutions** in Hayes High Street. Greeted by manageress Jan and her team, they were ushered to the far end of the shop, away from the glossy posters and travel brochures, to ready themselves. A smaller crowd of clients and staff than last year did not lessen the welcome they received as they launched into their repertoire. They possibly did not hear the three backing singers reclining on the leopard skin chaise longue positioned in the window (Amsterdam might flash through your minds at this point) as I and two blonde fans warbled away, fuelled in part by generous glasses of Pinot Grigio. One lady, between sips, waxed lyrical about **Acafellas'** previous performance, when her heart was won by the 'silver fox' gyrating in the front row. She showed me photos of said gentleman still logged in her phone who, I told her, was at that moment unfortunately winging his way to Cuba with his wife.

Her sigh was long and heartfelt. I also had a long conversation with Jan's delightful daughter, who queried the average age of the singers and why younger men do not get involved.

However, she was heartened when seeing your esteemed Singout Secretary making his exit, and remarked 'well at least you've got one youngster!' Nearing the end of **Acafellas'** performance, we three were in really good voice and, with Phil Spector in mind, had named ourselves the **Avrilettes**.

*Amarillo*, as per usual, was the final song and the **Avrilettes** joined in with gusto. A jolly time was enjoyed by all; well I know I did!

*Avril Sydee*

Lead singer, **Avrilettes**.

[Had someone spiked the Pinot.....? Sub ed.]



Jack directing a depleted

## Masonic Dinner, Gravesend,

27th November

David Tindall and I were fortunate enough to get a lift to Gravesend with Colin and Sue for a journey which turned out to take rather longer than expected!

Luckily, Colin had a meeting to attend before dinner, so we arrived in plenty of time for the meal, unlike many other unfortunate people.

Gradually, they started arriving in dribs and drabs whilst we were having a drink in the bar area. It's always nice to meet up with everyone for a chat; I do feel that I have been adopted into a lovely big family - thank you!

When we were called into dinner, there were still a number who hadn't arrived; some turned up at the dessert stage, but soon managed to catch up! The meal was really excellent, and very efficiently served by the waiting staff.

Unfortunately, a few never did make it through the awful traffic and had to turn back - thanks, M25.

After dinner it was time for the men to go and change, some missing out on their tea and coffee.

While we were waiting, the raffle was drawn, and then Colin led **Acafellas** out to sing, looking very smart in their blue jackets. Their performance went down very well, receiving warm applause from the appreciative audience.

David gave a short speech outlining the work done by **Young Carers Bromley**, the Club's nominated charity for the next year. (Apparently, this so moved someone to tears that they made an extra donation.)

All in all, apart from the stress of the journey for everyone, this was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Great company, great food and great entertainment: what more could you ask for?

*Diane Beckett*

## ‘THE BEST LAID SCHEMES O’ MICE AN’ MEN (AND ACAFELLAS).....

..... gang aft agley’, and so it proved to be for **Acafellas**’ singout to the freemasons of Gravesend, on 27 November 2017.

This was the plan. Meet at 7pm. Enjoy a three-course meal, with wine. Don the full bib and tucker - blue jacket, trousers with stripe and shiny shoes, no less! Wow them with a few well sung ditties and deliver the knock-out blow with *Amarillo*. Job done, thank-you and goodnight.

Unfortunately, the M25 is no respecter of plans.

Dinner was served promptly at 7.15. Although, inwardly, our hearts were bleeding for our absent brethren, those of us who had arrived managed to put on a brave face and tucked in with gusto, even managing to force down a glass of wine or two, for form’s sake. As the meal progressed, a few hardy souls made their appearance, wild of eye and slack of jaw, but others gave up, turned around and headed for home, the fleshpots of Gravesend having, understandably, lost their appeal.

So it was that a somewhat depleted band of **Acafellas** lined up in front of Colin to entertain the assembled freemasons and their ladies. Never mind; **Acafellas** are a stout-hearted bunch and they were, at least, well fed and well refreshed. Under Colin’s assured direction they gave it their all, as they always do. Not perhaps the best acoustics in the world, nor the most outwardly responsive of audiences, but two sets of songs old and not quite so old were well received, and good old *Amarillo* (there must be another sure-fire crowd-pleaser out there, for the sake of our sanity!) worked its usual magic and brought the proceedings to a cheerful close.

In addition to his customary erudite introductions, David Tindall had spoken in some detail about this year’s charity - **Bromley Carers** (young carers specifically). The freemasons were interested and supportive, and although they had already been very generous with their fee for the evening, they followed this up at a later date with a further contribution to the charity - a thoughtful and kind gesture that more than made up for the trials and tribulations of the evening.

So there you have it. Overcoming adversity, entertaining their audience and above all, raising much-needed funds for a worthy cause - Colin and **Acafellas** triumph yet again.

*Judith Priddin*

## **Acafellas Travel To Hayes**

Wednesday 6th December saw a rather diminished **Acafellas** performing at **Travel Solutions** in Hayes. This seems to have become yet another annual event in our calendar. Due to various other engagements and sickness, the group was reduced to 12 singers but, under the safe leadership of Jack Willoughby, we performed two sets, and the quartet **Sound Alliance** complemented the occasion with two songs. The performance was well received by the audience while they browsed the travel brochures and sampled the very generous finger food and wine provided. *Ed*

## Downe With Acafellas

Tuesday 12th December found a somewhat depleted **Aca's** ensemble in the still-charming village of Downe (home to Charles Darwin for 40 years.) We gathered in the Village Hall, where we were to entertain the ladies of the local Women's Institute (founded in 1919) at their Christmas Party.

It was a very chilly day outside, with icy roads and pavements - almost as cold as the unheated changing room at the back of the Hall! (David Southgate probably wished he'd donned a third jumper.)

For three of us (the Johns Vaughan and Rayfield plus myself), being back at this venue was a reminder of previous occasions when, as members of **Cordon Bleu**, we had sung for the "Downe Dames" (so named as a result of their Calendar Girls charity venture some years ago - all in the best possible taste, of course.

Personally, I found it a rather poignant experience, as my late wife Pam had been a very keen and active member, and had always been there in the audience, applauding enthusiastically.

Colin being unavailable, the illustrious President Taylor was directing. After Frank had made a final decision on the programme and given us a vocal warm-up, we didn't have too long to wait before being called in to strut our stuff, which was just as well, since some of us were turning a delicate shade of blue, and clearly close to hypothermia.

After our performance, we were treated to typical W.I. hospitality - cups of tea and a delectable selection of home-made cakes and sandwiches. There were (briefly) also some truly delicious sausage rolls, one of which I just managed to obtain before the rest were purloined by one of our number who, sadly, must remain nameless here (but just ask me!) on the feeble pretext that they were needed for that evening's committee meeting....

It was a pleasant occasion, although I felt this was not one of our better performances - perhaps due, in part, to reduced numbers. Was the applause polite, rather than enthusiastic, and did we really deserve all those cakes...?!

P.S. I have since learned that we have already been invited back for this year's party, so perhaps the singing was better than I thought!

*David Tindall*

### Quote from Carers Bromley

Lynne Powrie, CEO of Carers Bromley said 'We are so grateful to The Kentones for choosing Carers Bromley to be their charity of the year. They raised £426.30 in the Glades on the 17<sup>th</sup> December - an amazing amount!! It will enable us to offer more support to young carers in 2018.'

**Total raised including Ye Olde Whyte Lion £650.00**



Tracey Parry being presented with cheque

## Sherry, Tea and Cakes

Chislehurst Rotary Club gave a Christmas/New Year Tea Party for elderly residents on January 6th at St Nicholas Church Hall , Chislehurst. To boost our numbers a little we had two extra leads from the Chorus with us; Terry Cooke and John Everson. The hall was colourfully decorated for the occasion with tablecloths crackers and balloons.

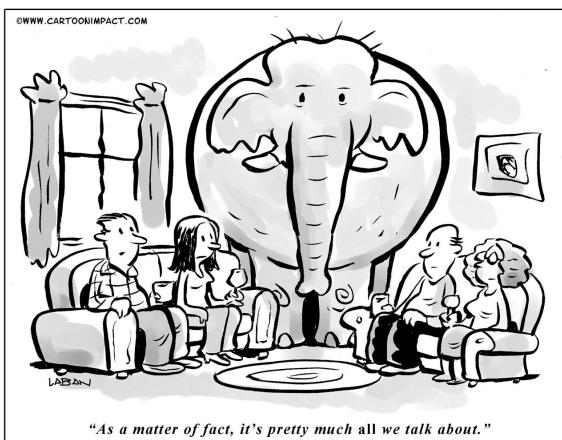


David Southgate doing a sterling job selling CDs



The noisiest table in the room.

Why is the noisiest table always closest to the performance? *Ed*



## Supporters' Club

**The Supporters** are hoping to hold a quiz as soon as Geoff feels completely well again and we will also hold our annual Strawberry Tea in the summer. Dates to be advised.

If any wives/ partners of the **Kentones** have time to spare on a Thursday evening, Sue Couves would be grateful to have more help with the tea making rota. Everything needed is provided, no need to go shopping for milk, tea etc., so please give her a call if you can help. Quite a few singers and Supporters are unwell at the moment, so we should like to send them all our very best wishes.

*Pam Taylor*



*Ron Morgan*

"They'll get better in time, but right now I call them the 'Okay Chorale'."

# BROMLEY BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

## History - Events of the Year 2016-17

**Membership** 54 (max during year)

**Joiners** Graeme Monk; John Young

**Leavers** Bill Holyday; Alan Lamprell; John Williams; Peter Aylett; Frank Jans; Roger Chick

### Competitions

**Convention** 27 May 2017 Bournemouth 15<sup>th</sup> Place with 65 %; singing

Song 1 Where is Love 65.1%

Song 2 Consider Yourself 64.9%

**Quartet contest BABS Nov 15– (HQ) 4<sup>th</sup>, 75.2%**

**Music Festivals**.- none entered

### Singouts

Kentones 2 (3 in 2014-5) - raising £250

Acafellas 9(12 in 2014-5) raising £1,343 £1,593

Donated Collections and Fees £ 998

**New Songs** -: I Dreamed a Dream (A); Java Jive (A);

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot;

**Other Events** -.Show “ Music at the Park” Oct 2016. Audience 500; Profit £4,000

Leeds Castle concert, 10,000 audience

**Trophies** - **Most Improved Singer** - Alan Phipps

**Most Improved Stage Presence** - Roy Simpson

**Barbershopper of the Year** - Ryan Jensen

**Quartet** - HQ

### Financial Results

**Deficit for the Year ended 31 July 2017 £2,322**

**Charity of the Year 2016-17 - PSPA £1,342**

[Chartwell Cancer Trust £150, NSPCC £50}

**Chorus Director** -Peter Kennedy

**Asst Director** Ryan Jensen, Colin Couves (Acafellas);

**Chairman** John Sollitt, Dpty Chairmen –No Appointment

**Committee** John Vaughan (Sec), Terry Cooke -(Mem Sec), Les Moore-(Treas)

(until Sept 2017) Alan Lucking- ( Performance Sec).

Brian Showell –(PRO )

# Chairman's Corner 2018

A Happy New Year to you albeit belatedly.

Since I last "cornered" you, there has been much activity within the Club.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

The big change since the last edition is that Peter Kennedy has decided to step down as Music Director. He wants to expand his range of barbershop involvement, and feels this is the time to do so. Peter will be available from time to time to assist in coaching. He has been our MD for just over three years and has brought to us his unique style of direction and humour. On behalf of the membership, I wish him every success in the future. So once again we were faced with a different type of recruitment, that of a new MD. As you know, we already have an excellent Assistant MD in Ryan Jensen: So I immediately offered him the job, subject to the approval of the members: I am pleased to report that Ryan did not hesitate in accepting the role, which he assumed on 4<sup>th</sup> January: already we have a good idea of his forward planning, and look forward to his style of directing and coaching, as well as leading us to Convention at Harrogate in May.

So watch this space as they say! There will be changes, as expected, and we hope to see those ideas put into the weekly schedule fairly soon. Welcome aboard, Ryan.

Ryan also attended Directors' College in Nottingham on 27/28<sup>th</sup> January and obtained much useful guidance, from which we will benefit.

With assistance from Peter, we recently held the first of our 2018 PVI courses (personal voice improvement) and another is being planned.

This is the second **Kentonian** edition produced by Chris Sydee, with the continuing assistance of David Tindall.

Colin Barnes has settled into his new role of Club Secretary, and has also offered to carry out similar duties for the Music Team, thus allowing Tim Priddin to relinquish that task. We are all aware of the huge support Tim has provided to Peter Kennedy and to the membership. He will continue to support us when able. Thank you, Tim.

**WEBSITE** Since the last edition, considerable progress has already been made to upgrade and update our website. Alan Lucking and Simon Bird have carried out extensive work on it, which was overdue and not an easy task, but it has been attacked with vigour. On your behalf, thanks to Alan and Simon for taking on this project.

An announcement will be made about its further development and options for contacts

## SIMON BIRD

Simon has been appointed Assistant Part Leader to Jack Willoughby for the Lead section of the chorus. Congratulations and well done.



## RECRUITMENT

A massive recruitment drive has been put in place by Steve Cooper. The distribution of advertising flyers for the **Learn To Sing** course commencing on 15<sup>th</sup> February is now in place. BABS are using a marketing company to dispatch some 20,000: we have 5,000 of our own flyers and posters being hand-delivered by willing members of the Club. Carlo Azzopardi agreed to oversee the local distribution with the assistance of some members. Two magazines with a total circulation of 10,000 have kindly donated a free page in their current editions as a thank you for our support. We also have had publicity in the **News Shopper**, **Chartwell Cancer Trust** magazine and **Dartford Living**.

*Recruitment* is our main focus, and we hope to get a great response. Colin Couves is our co-ordinator and is standing by!

When you receive this edition, I will have attended the BABS Club Chairmen's meeting.

**GENERAL** There will be other projects this year, and it essential that more volunteers come forward to ensure their progress. I have already made this point at Club, but we cannot rely on the same members helping out when others do not "step up," just rely on others and assume that it will all happen anyway. In which category do you find yourself?

On a personal note, I wish to thank all those who have sent me "get well" cards and messages, following my total hip replacement on 30<sup>th</sup> January. I will be unable to drive for a while, but intend to get to the first night of the Course for a short while to "meet and greet" the candidates. I must thank your previous Chairman, David Southgate, for holding the fort during my absence.

**John Sollitt - Chairman**

## 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

### Main Committee:

Chairman  
Deputy Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Membership Sec.  
Public Relations Officer  
Performance Sec.  
Co-opted Member  
Almoner

-  
- John Sollitt  
- vacant  
- Colin Barnes  
- Les Moore  
- Terry Cooke  
- David Havers  
- Alan Lucking  
- Steve Cooper  
Colin Couves

### Music Committee:

-  
Music Director  
Asst. Music Director  
Acafellas Music Director  
Music Team Secretary  
Co-opted Member  
Part Leaders Lead  
Asst. Lead  
Bass  
Tenor  
Baritone  
- Ryan Jensen  
- Vacant  
- Colin Couves  
- Colin Barnes  
- John Rayfield  
- Jack Willoughby  
- Simon Bird  
- Ryan Jensen  
- Tim Sowter  
- Colin Couves

### The Kentonian Magazine:- published QUARTERLY

Editor: Chris Sydee  
Consultant / Sub Editor: David Tindall  
Editorial Assistant Vacant

All Club material intended for publication: Proof reading - David Tindall - Graphic information - Al Horton

### Kentones Diary Dates

Date	Time	Function	Venue
Sat 28 Apr 2018	t.b.a.	Coaching weekend	University of Kent, Canterbury
Sun 29 Apr 2018	t.b.a.	Coaching weekend	University of Kent, Canterbury
Sat 10 Nov 2018	1.30pm	D.C.F.	Sidcup Baptist Church

## 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
Sun 18 Mar 2018	10.00	Church Service	Chelsfield Methodist Church BR6 6EZ

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)