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The Kentones

The Kentonian



Acafellas

THE BROMLEY BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB MAGAZINE

Our John Looks Back



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www.thekentones.co.uk

Bromley Barbershop Harmony Club

Formed in 1975, **Bromley Barbershop Harmony Club** is an umbrella organisation comprising a number of male groups specialising in four part unaccompanied close harmony singing. The Club has approximately 50 members, who form the main chorus, the **Kentones**. A smaller chorus, **Acafellas**, exists primarily to fulfil singing engagements at smaller venues. We also have a quartet, **Sound Alliance**.

In 2016, the **Kentones** were winners of the **Top Choir Kent** competition.

Whilst we take our singing seriously, we also believe making music should be a joyous pastime! We like to have fun and laughter along the way, and the Club is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. At the same time we have also raised thousands of pounds over the years for various charities.

Interested in joining us or hiring us for an event or function?

We are always glad to welcome new recruits. No previous choral experience is necessary, nor is it essential to be a music reader, as you will be given expert professional tuition backed up by learning aids. For full details of our activities and how to join, please visit www.thekentones.co.uk or just Google the **Kentones**.

From the Chairman

As I come to the end of my second year as your Chairman, I believe we recently saw a glimpse of the future of barbershop singing in the UK.

BABS announced that next year's Convention would be an 'open competition', with male, female and mixed choruses in the same competition. Any **BABS** registered chorus could sign up, and then it would be topped up to a maximum of 50, from choruses outside **BABS**.

This was met with huge opposition from almost every quarter, for a number of reasons:

This major decision was made without any consultation with members. **LABBS** members were furious, as they were being used as 'top up' rather than as equals with **BABS**. As the competition was to be held on both Saturday and Sunday to accommodate the extra numbers, you would not know until the end of January on which day you would be singing, making the booking of accommodation a nightmare.

Thankfully, **BABS** quickly changed its mind, and next year's Convention will now be run as in previous years. However, negotiations to merge **BABS** and **LABBS** have been going on for some time now, and I'm sure this will happen sooner rather than later. How this will affect us and future Conventions, we will have to wait and see. But here are my thoughts:

With **BABS** and **LABBS** uniting, there will have to be open Conventions, meaning one competition for all types of chorus. I imagine this will mean more than the 50 as proposed for next year.

In my opinion, and it's just my opinion, this could lead to some form of grading of choruses, having prelims, or both. So we need to work really hard this year, and do as well as we can at Convention next year.

How we as a chorus respond to any changes, we can decide at a later date, but the **Kentones** will continue to grow, improve and entertain audiences.

Kevin

MD'S Corner

Dear all,

A busy October ... phew, it's been all go!

It started in Dublin, and we (**Powerhouse**) had been invited by **Hallmark of Harmony** to be a special guest at their show on the 4th, and we had a blast. Great acoustics in the church, and we were well received, but I think Mary had loaded the place with relatives! From there a 4 hour drive to Killarney for

The International Chorus- Luminosity



IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers), which is so well run, and such a perfect venue, that I hope we can compete there one year.

We were using the quartet competition to try out 2 new competition songs later in October at the UK finals of

LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers). At **LABBS** there will be two rounds, and if we get through the first round we would get at least a bronze, so finding our best two songs for the first round is important.

Unfortunately, we found the 2 new songs not quite ready, and scored a disappointing 69%, but it served its purpose, and hopefully puts us in a better position.

On the Saturday (the day after the quartets) we took part in the international chorus competition with **Luminosity**.

All of **Powerhouse** and 79 others sing with them, and there were 83 on stage. Being an international chorus, rehearsals had to be organised over Zoom along with videoed regional rehearsals, with recordings being sent in for evaluation, so we didn't get to sing together as a complete chorus until we were getting ready to go on stage.

Imagine our surprise when we scored 81.8% and 2nd place. We were beaten by one of the ladies' top choruses, **Amersham**.

Before we go to the **LABBS** quartet finals I am auditioning as a tenor for my new national men's quartet, and one Peter Kennedy has also applied, which will be so much fun!

Rae, John, Simon and Mary
AKA Powerhouse



For the **Kentones**, we are arranging one weekend rehearsal every month from January 2024 until Convention, and we also have a **Come and Sing** course starting in January.

Bob Gilbert and his team are working hard on the choreography/performance of our Convention songs, which will put us ahead of the game come the New Year, and a new song, **Hushabye**, will also be rolled out, so we'll not just be concentrating on the Convention songs.

After Convention I will introduce a new song, **Got To Get You Into My Life**, which is a step up in level but a fantastic song to sing. I'm sure it will become a big favourite with you and our audiences. Lastly...

There has been much talk and unrest regarding the **BABS** board and the recent changes that they put in place, and then removed. Many issues have been spoken about, but I wanted to say that whatever happens, the **Kentones** will continue to grow. There are many new and exciting opportunities coming our way, and more will be revealed after Harrogate.

Our future is bright, and I would say, "Put any concerns over the future of **BABS** to one side, and enjoy the 50th anniversary celebrations in Harrogate".

John

Quick Quiz

Questions and answers provided by Joe Seet. If any members or readers have 10 quiz questions, please send them with answers, to the editor.

1. In the Neil Sedaka song "Oh Carol", who is Carol?
2. What is the name of the business which became Argos in 1973?
3. "Choppy" and "tippy" are associated with the grading of which drink?
4. What is the meaning of precentor from the Latin word 'praecinere'?
5. In the sentence, "The smombie tripped on the pavement", what is a smombie?
6. When a Cornish person calls you a 'grockle', what does it mean?
7. What is the title of the last *completed* novel written by Charles Dickens?
8. Where on a horse is the 'gaskin'?
9. What do the first two letters on a UK number plate signify?
10. At the end of his final BBC Radio 2 show Ken Bruce played a medley of three songs. Can you name them and the artist?

Answers on page 15. (No cheating!)

All Roads Lead To Home

HOW many people these days can claim to have lived their whole lives in one single street?

But **Kentones** member John Rayfield, celebrating his milestone 90th birthday this year, has spent almost every morning for nine decades waking up in Gravel Road, a pleasant residential street opposite Bromley Bus Garage at Bromley Common.

One-time chorus chairman John tells the *Kentonian*:

“I was born on June 27, 1933, in Lewisham Hospital.

“My parents moved to this road soon afterwards, because my dad was a bus night foreman working from the bus garage down the road. He raised us on his own after our mum died from asthma when I was

only seven years old. Growing up as one of four brothers, us kids had our own little gang. The Rayfield boys were the scourge of the neighbourhood, climbing trees, playing football in the street and sometimes doing Knock Down Ginger on the neighbours’ front doors before running away! But we were good boys really - on a Saturday we all pitched in with chores to help Dad with the housework.”

In those days, Gravel Road was quite rural, and there was even a little dairy farm where John used to be sent to buy fresh milk straight from the cow, every morning. He continues: “When I grew up, and married my wife, Diana, we lived for a short time in a rented flat in Petts Wood. But when the house next door to my parents’ home came up for sale, we bought it, and moved back to good old Gravel Road, where I’ve lived ever since. I know an awful lot of people in the area and just love it round here.

John with Jigsaw



John (1st Left) During National Service



For me, there are happy memories everywhere.”

John left school at 15 to become a messenger boy in the City, before doing his National Service with the RAF Regiment in Germany. “It was interesting for me to travel and see another part of the world, but in those days Germany was quite a beaten-down, depressing place. Many of the cities had been levelled by World War II bombing, and there were bomb sites and debris

everywhere. I was quite glad to get back to my Gravel Road home again.”

Apart from his ideal place to live, he also found his soulmate in Bromley Common - meeting his wife-to-be when they were both pupils at what's now **Princes Plain Primary School** (although they didn't become a couple until much later). They wed at Bromley Register Office in 1956 and went on to have children, Julie and Michael; grandkids, Chloe, James, Joe and Josh; and great grandkids, Aston and Amelia.

After National Service, John spent much of his working life as a department manager with a building society. But for decades this hard-working fellow also held down a second job - as a drummer and singer with various local bands, notably **The Warrenaires**.

He says: “I've always loved music of all kinds - can't imagine life without it. In childhood, I was head chorister at **Holy Trinity Church**, Bromley Common; and as a young man working in the City, I got into trad jazz. I also loved the big band sound. In my early twenties, I started thinking that I'd like to play an instrument. So I went to the **Len Styles** music shop in Lewisham, and bought myself a drum kit. I used to play to my jazz records and drum along. Just experimented and taught myself how to do it.

“**The Warrenaires** were looking for a spare drummer to help out on weekday gigs - their regular bloke was a baker who had to get up early in the week, so could only play weekends! I joined them, and eventually became the full-time drummer and singer, gigging at **The Warren Police Club** and other venues for the next 50 years.”

John and Diana On Their Wedding Day



John Playing The Drums



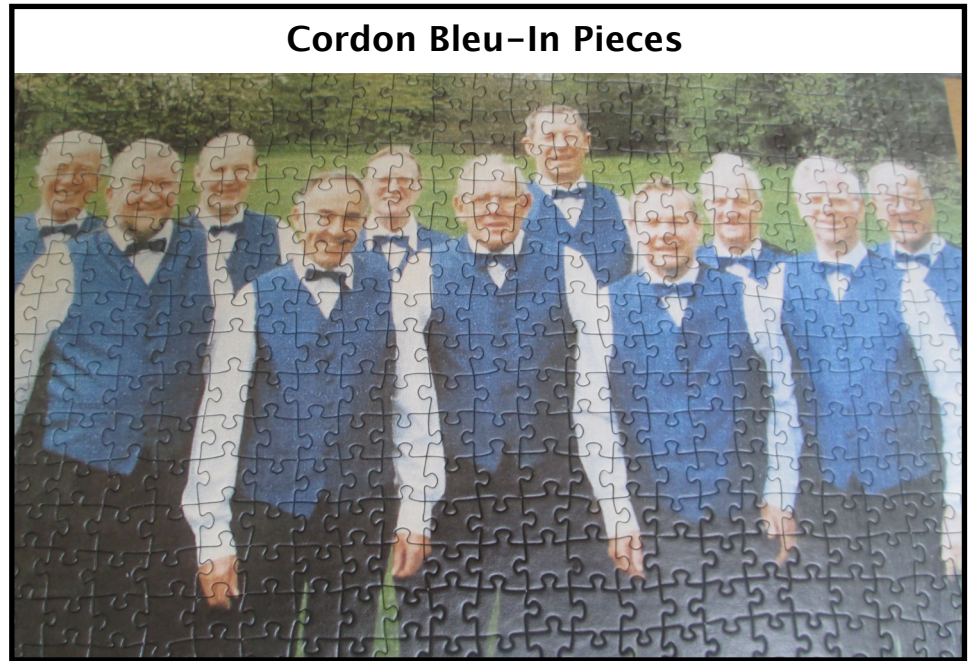
John recalls that in the early days the band had an unusual set up - two accordions, a piano and drums - but it seemed to work, and the public loved them.

“It meant I was out almost every Saturday night playing with the band, but Diana didn't mind, because I was bringing in extra money for the family. I loved being in the **Warrenaires**, we were all good

friends and had some wonderful times.”

He remembers: “I also played occasionally with other bands, including one that provided the music for Scottish country dances, and a trad jazz combo that started its own club in Forest Hill. But the club was only open for one night, because some yobbos turned up, there was a huge fight and the police ordered us to shut down!”

Meanwhile, in the 1980s, Diana became an early member of **Velvet Harmony**, the Bromley ladies’ barbershop chorus. One year, John accompanied her to a Convention, where he got



chatting to Ron Measure - founder member of the **Kentones**. As a result, he joined the chorus in 1994, and has been a keen member ever since.

John explains: “I love the sound of the harmonies, and the camaraderie of making music with like-minded people. The **Kentones** have always been a lovely bunch of guys. I’ve had many memorable times with them, and although these days my voice is perhaps not as good as it used to be, I still love singing, and feel I can contribute something useful.”

Other interests over the years have included DIY, playing football and cricket, and playing bowls with **Bromley Town Bowls Club**, which he has enjoyed for the last 48 years. He’s also addicted to jigsaw puzzles - one area of his living room is known in his family as Puzzle Corner, because there’s always a jigsaw on the table. His **Kentones** mate, John Weeks, even gave him a 90th birthday present of a jigsaw featuring a former acapella group from the chorus, known as **Cordon Bleu**.

Sadly, his beloved Diana died in 2018, after a short illness. Despite the loss of the lady who was at his side for 62 years, John has the air of a man who has been very content during his long life in Gravel Road. Perhaps that’s why - in his tenth decade - people often comment that he seems like someone much younger. Six feet two inches tall, he still has great posture (putting it down to his time in the RAF) and a healthy head of hair that’s the envy of men half his age.

Today he has just one wish on his bucket list: to play one final gig as a drummer. “I quit the band and stopped drumming, around the time I lost my wife. But I do miss it terribly. I’d love to get out my drumsticks just once more - maybe it will happen,” he smiles.

Tracy Gayton

A Harmonious Weekend at BABS Harmony College

As I stepped into the renowned grounds of the **British Association of Barbershop Singers** (BABS) Harmony College, I felt an electric mix of anticipation and excitement. This was a moment I had eagerly awaited for years — a weekend filled with learning, networking, and most importantly, singing.

The Saturday night show was the epitome of barbershop talent. The crescendo of performances, from the newly-coached quartets to the incredible **Trailblazers** and the Harmony College choruses, was a testament to the sheer dedication and passion present in the room.



Participants at Harmony College 2023

This weekend provided me with a deeper connection to the BABS community and insights into aspects of our hobby of which I had only previously scratched the surface. Notably, the masterclasses with James Gower-Smith, now a professional actor in musical theatre, and Anthony Colosimo, offered a

profound look into storytelling and audience connection. They taught me to delve deeper into song lyrics, to dissect each phrase and craft richer interpretations, and most crucially, how to plan performances that evoke specific emotions from our audience.

Throughout the weekend the atmosphere was one of camaraderie and unity. It was truly a gathering of diverse yet like-minded individuals, ranging from young enthusiasts to seasoned singers, all brought together by their shared love of barbershop harmony. And the flawless organization? It ran like a well-oiled machine, no doubt benefiting from its longstanding partnership with Nottingham University.



2023 Quartet Champions Trailblazer

However, every journey has its bumps, and mine was no exception. I recall the uncertainty and challenges I faced during the Extreme Quarteting (EQ) session on Thursday night. But with every high and low, I took away invaluable lessons. The afterglow singing sessions on Saturday night were especially memorable, offering a shared platform of songs and a chance for harmonious connection.

The impact of BABS Harmony College extends far beyond the weekend. Its unparalleled educational content and opportunities for networking set a high bar for all BABS members. I can confidently say that it has not only elevated the standards of barbershop singing but also enriched the musical tapestry of the UK.

With memories to cherish and lessons to implement, I am already looking forward to next year's Harmony College. And to anyone who shares this passion: I wholeheartedly recommend experiencing it for yourself.

Roger Chick

Welcome Nick Aziz

I came across the **Kentones** whilst searching online for something completely different in volunteering work! This was such good fortune, having now sung for a few weeks and found the Club and its members to be so welcoming.

My previous musical journey has consisted of dabbling in some instrument playing in my youth, though my singing began within a community choir in more recent years. It was created in 2015, initially when I was a Governor for a school where we were focused on increasing singing provision for children, and then it mushroomed and the **Highfield Community Choir** was born. It's mainly sopranos and altos, so the seven men are out-numbered and out-voiced (some would say not just in rehearsals!).

Much of my life is taken up with supporting my four children (pictured below at a choral day at the Royal Opera House, though it's a few years old as my son, the youngest, now towers above me!). My career has been based on law and human resources, and I've been fortunate to have travelled/lived and worked abroad for some of this, including the West Indies and Japan (the latter being where my eldest daughter was born). These days, I mainly work as a member of the judiciary, sitting in London.

I never knew my grandfather, but my parents hailed from South America and I'm told he was a well-known Indian Tabla drummer, so I thought I might have inherited his sense of rhythm. However, having tried the club warm-up, where we "clap on three and stamp on five", (and I'm waiting for the pat your head and rub your tummy session), I realise it's skipped a couple of generations!

Which brings me back to where I started - it has been such a pleasure to have found the **Kentones**; a club where everyone has been so supportive in guiding me through what's going on at rehearsals, and are clearly a great bunch with warm camaraderie. I'm still learning the terminology, and I'll never forget my first rehearsal, where I joined the basses on the risers and was told to 'hang ten', so I raised both my hands and was surprised when nobody high-fived me twice - apparently, it meant stand on the front of the platform. As we went through the first number, we kept being told to sing 'from the edge', so I thought I'd learned my lesson and shuffled forward each time, till I was nearly toppling off the riser!...Clearly I have a lot to learn and I'm sure it's going to be great fun.

Nick Aziz





In Praise of the Tea Break



Of course, we all come on a Thursday evening to get our next fix of those ringing barbershop harmonies - where would we be without them these days? But hard on the heels of this delight, and often overlooked and taken for granted, is the equal delectation of the Tea Break – a true oasis in the bustle of the evening, and an essential element for the devoted tea addicts among us.

One fictional German General of WWII was very observant when he summed up the British feeling for tea. “I’m a great believer in understanding one’s enemy. Did you know that when the British introduced a tea-break at their armament factories, production actually went up, despite the loss of time?

The British have an extraordinary faith in the healing powers of tea. Faced with any kind of disaster - fire, flood, mass unemployment, foot-and-mouth disease, unwanted pregnancy, Dunkirk, you name it - the British call for tea.

They drink it, they rub it on their joints to cure rheumatism, they read their fortunes in the bottom of their cups, and sometimes they even dry the tea leaves and smoke them. By then the disaster has receded and a fresh catastrophe is upon them, so they call for more tea. I tell you, it’s quite extraordinary.”



Extraordinary it may be to the uninitiated, but to the true, red-blooded British subject it is part of the essence of being British. After all, were we not weaned on tea? It is no accident that we have a built-in tea break as an essential part of our Club evenings.

We come on a Thursday evening, we warm up and start our singing and we get down to some hard work, but never far from our minds is the upcoming tea break. It has even been known for some



members to start suggesting it 5 or 10 minutes into the evening! We sing away, the minutes tick by, the clock approaches 8.30, our minds begin to wonder – will he, will he? It can’t be long now. Anticipation simmers, like the water in the urn, as the MD gives a five-minute call to the lovely ladies who spoil us with tea and charm each evening.

And finally, at last, the moment arrives, the break is announced. We make our way to the back of the hall (some quicker than others), expectation mounting as we join the queue. We eventually reach the hatch, sensing imminent pleasure, and there, before our eyes, an angel dispensing the amber-coloured, barley-twisted liquor. A true manna from heaven. Just the right colour and just the right amount of milk. Perfection itself. But greater joy awaits, for all this build-up fades into a mist in the ecstasy of the first sip. Aaah! The tongue tingles, the mouth throbs, the throat absorbs the delicacy, the stomach glows with warmth and satisfaction. Yes, no doubt about it, here is a celestial nectar indeed. A pint’s all right, but it’s not a cup of tea.



David Southgate

I thought it might be of some interest (if only as an example of the Arranger's art) to see my original version of the parody, for comparison with the resultant arrangement by Liz Garnett. She's eminent in her field, and deservedly so, and has done a remarkable job - although I can't say I endorse all of her alterations ...!

David Tindall

David's Original Version

WHY DO YOU THINK WE COME HERE TO
CONVENTION
WHEN WE'VE NEVER EVER WON?
WE ARE THE BOYS WHO KEEP COMING BACK FOR
MORE
ALWAYS EXPECTING TO GET A HIGHER SCORE
SO WE'LL KEEP ON COMING BACK FOR EACH
CONVENTION
TILL WE GET TO NUMBER ONE

OUR MD'S A DYNAMO - HE KEEPS US ON THE RUN
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE O.A.P.'S AND OUR TIME'S
NEARLY DONE
SO HE MAKES US KEEP ON COMING TO
CONVENTION
AND WE MUST ADMIT IT'S FUN

IN THE PAST, SOME YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WERE
STILL QUITE YOUNG
UP AND DOWN THIS LAND WE'D GO, AND MANY A
SONG WE'VE SUNG
NOW WE'RE MUCH SLOWER GETTING TO
CONVENTION
BUT WE'RE DARNED WELL GOING TO COME

WE DON'T CARE HOW FAR WE GO - IT'S HARROGATE
THIS YEAR
BUT EVEN IF 'TWERE TIMBUKTU YOU'D STILL FIND
US THERE
YES, WE'LL KEEP ON COMING BACK TO EACH
CONVENTION
WHETHER IT BE FAR OR NEAR

OUR LEADS ARE GERIATRIC, OUR BARI'S ARE THE
SAME
THE TENOR SECTION'S GONE TO POT, OUR BASSES
ALL ARE LAME
BUT WE'LL KEEP ON HOBBLING BACK TO EACH
CONVENTION
AND STILL BE BLOODY (or "mighty" if not allowed!)
GLAD WE CAME

NOW DODGY KNEES AND WALKING FRAMES MEAN
CHOREO'S NO FUN
'COS AT OUR AGE WE MUST ADMIT OUR DANCING
DAYS ARE DONE
BUT STILL WE'LL KEEP STAGG'RING BACK TO EACH
CONVENTION
TILL OUR FINAL CHORD'S BEEN RUNG

Liz's Arranged Version

SO WHY ARE WE EVEN HERE
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT WE COME HERE TO
CONVENTION
WHEN WE'VE NEVER EVER WON? (NO WE NEVER HAVE
WON)
WE ARE THE BOYS WHO KEEP COMING BACK FOR
MORE
HOPING EXPECTING TO GET A HIGHER SCORE
SO WE'LL KEEP ON COMING RIGHT BACK TO EACH
CONVENTION TILL WE GET TO NUMBER ONE (TILL WE
ARE NUMBER ONE)

OUR MD'S A DYNAMO HE KEEPS US ON THE RUN (WE'RE
RUNNING)
EVEN THOUGH WE ARE O.A.P.'S AND OUR TIME'S
NEARLY DONE
OUR LEADS ARE GERIATRIC AND OUR BARIS ARE THE
SAME
THE TENOR SECTION'S GONE TO POT, OUR BASSES ARE
ALL LAME
BUT WE'LL KEEP ON HOBBLING BACK TO EACH
CONVENTION AND STILL BE BLOODY GLAD WE'VE COME

BACK IN THE DAY WHEN OUR CHORUS WAS MUCH
YOUNGER
UP AND DOWN THE LAND WE'D GO SINGING ON EV'RY
SHOW
THRIVING ON DRIVING TO PLACES FURTHER FLUNG
MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND ALWAYS HAVING FUN

WE DON'T CARE HOW FAR WE GO, IT'S HARROGATE
THIS YEAR
BUT EVEN IF T'WERE TIMBUKTU, WE'D ALWAYS STILL
BE THERE
WE'LL ALWAYS STILL BE HERE

NOW WE ARE SLOWER AT GETTING TO CONVENTION
BUT WE'RE DARN WELL GONNA COME
DODGY KNEES AND WALKING FRAMES MEAN CHOREO'S
NO FUN
AND AT OUR AGE WE MUST ADMIT OUR DANCING DAYS
ARE DONE
BUT STILL WE'LL KEEP COMING BACK TO EACH
CONVENTION
TILL OUR FINAL CHORD'S BEEN RUNG
TILL OUR FINAL CHORD'S BEEN RUNG ...AND RUNG

AGM Awards 2023

**Barbershopper of the Year
Martin Gayton**



**Stage Presence
Kevin Gray**



**Most Improved Singer
Kevin Phillips**



The Kentones Annual Awards for Achievement

At the recent AGM you will have seen a number of trophies presented to members of the chorus for their achievements during the past year. As your “Trophies Manager” (I know, but someone has to do it!), I have a complete list of all the winners from when the trophies were first presented. The lists were originally compiled by John Vaughan, and thanks to him, I’m able to share with you the names of current members who have been appropriately honoured by the Club.

Barbershopper of the Year Award

Presented by Club President Ron Measure in 1985, to the member who had made a significant contribution to the Club’s activities during the year. Following the death of Ron in 2003, the award has been made by secret ballot of Club members at the AGM. From 2005, it has been decided by a committee of three Past Chairmen.

1989	Frank Taylor	2005	Colin Couves	2015	Tim Priddin
1997	John Vaughan	2006	Mike Corr - past MD	2016	Brian Showell
1999	David Tindall	2008	David Southgate	2017	Ryan Jensen - past MD
2002	John Rayfield	2009	Chris Sydee	2018	Colin Barnes
2003	Bob Gilbert	2011	Brian Scothern	2022	Alan Lucking
2004	Geoff Mountney (non singing member)	2012	John Sollitt	2023	Martin Gayton
		2014	Roger Chick		

The Stage Presence Award

Presented in 1986 by Dee Crouch, choreographer to the Club from 1984 to 1987, to the member of the chorus who had shown the greatest improvement in stage presence during the year. Awarded by the current MD.

1994	Brian Scothern	2002	Jack Willoughby	2012	Adrian Emes
1995	Chris Sydee	2003	Mike Corr - past MD	2017	Roy Simpson
1996	David Tindall	2004	John Vaughan	2019	Kevin Gray
1997	Geoff Mountney	2005	Brian Scothern	2023	Kevin Gray
1999	Bob Gilbert	2010	Brian Showell		

The Most Improved Singer Award

Presented by Andrew Clarke when MD in 1986, to the member who had made the greatest improvement in singing during the year. Awarded by the current MD after consultation with the Music Team.

1988	Colin Couves	2007	John Weeks	2015	Colin Barnes
1989	Don Bodker	2010	John Williams	2018	Adrian Emes
1999	John Rayfield	2011	John Williams	2019	Tom Graves
2006	David Southgate	2014	Roy Simpson	2023	Kevin Phillips

Oliver Andrews Cup (The Bromley Quartet Cup)

Presented in the 1980s by Club member Oliver Andrews, to the Club Quartet that had performed best in competition in the year. More recently it has been presented to a Club Quartet that has been active during the year, even though they haven’t competed. It is not necessarily presented every year. The current holders are **Sound Alliance**, with Denis Delaroute (bari), Jack Willoughby (lead), Roy Simpson (tenor) and Alan Lucking (bass).

One more thing

When I joined the **Kentones** in 2009 I was delighted to hear that there was an annual golf competition. I was even more delighted when I won the competition the following year, and was presented with the **John Ray Trophy**. I still have it, sadly gathering dust at the back of a bookshelf.

Adrian Emes

Welcome Paul Williamson

Having recently joined the **Kentones** I was asked to put together an article on how I came to join, and to introduce myself. So here goes.

Back in June 2023 I attended a concert at my church, Christ Church Chislehurst, featuring the **Rock Choir** and the **Kentones** to raise funds for Bromley Borough Food Bank. Just prior to the start I was asked to alter the lighting in the church, not something I am that familiar with. The controller has 80 settings and I had to quickly run through these to find the right one. Apologies to anyone there affected by my switching through these before the start. the **Kentones** session included two of my personal favourites, *Shenandoah* and *Do You Hear The People Sing*. At the end there was an invite to anyone wanting to join, and attention was drawn to a flyer. I got hold of one and had a quick word with Colin who encouraged me to come along to a rehearsal night.



As a youngster I was in church and school choirs, and most years since I have joined a Christmas choir. I have often considered joining a musical group but never got around to it.

I have to say that I came along the first night with some trepidation, but was impressed with the warm welcome from everyone, and of course enjoyed the music. The audition came a bit sooner than I expected, and singing in a quartet that night was a challenge. I failed the first audition but got some useful feedback, leading to a re-run a few weeks later when I got through. I recognise I've still got a lot to learn, but now I can enjoy it more. Thank you all for making me welcome - particularly Colin Couves and John Williams for their encouragement from the front.

As you may have guessed from my accent I am not from these parts. I was born and raised in Manchester, and moved to Essex thirty years ago with my job, and then thirteen years ago moved to Bickley. Shortly thereafter I took early retirement. I am married to Ann and we have two children and four grandchildren.

My professional background is as an accountant in industry. I was with my last company for 25 years, working in Finance, Operations and Sales. I'll leave you to guess the company, but you were all our customers!

Since retiring, my main interests are bowling, genealogy, church activities, running round after the grandchildren and watching my football team (as we are on the telly most weeks). In that time I have also completed a History Degree (I dropped out when I was 18) and helped as a volunteer at the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics (that's another article in itself). I do enjoy holidays: this year I've been to France twice with my grandson, on a cruise to Norway with my wife, and late in September I will be going with my son to Chicago where we have NFL tickets for the Bears v Cowboys and Baseball tickets.

Oh, and now I have the **Kentones**.

Paul Williamson

Caption Corner

Winner of Caption Corner is **David Tindall** with the following caption:

Don Bodker The 3-armed Bandit



Other notable entries:

1. Don Bodker demonstrates his unique three handed hug (David Southgate)
2. I said "Can I have a cup of tea? Not.....can you sit on my knee!" (Martin Saunders)
3. The Artful Bodker (David Tindall)

Answers to Quiz

1. Carol King
2. Green Shield Stamps
3. Tea
4. The person who leads/directs the choir or congregation in singing
5. A person walking and using their mobile phone, oblivious to the world around them.
6. Someone holidaying in Cornwall
7. His last *completed* book was "Our Mutual Friend". The Mystery of Edwin Drood was his final novel but was unfinished at the time of his death
8. The gaskin is the horse's hind leg muscle
9. The DVLA code identifying the area where the vehicle was first registered
10. It was a medley of Golden Slumbers, Carry That Weight and The End, by the Beatles

We have received the following letter from Julio Trebilcock:

A big thank you to Alan Lucking and **Acafellas**, who answered the call and came to sing at the funeral for my son-in-law Gary on 15th August at the Bluebell cemetery, and later at the Chelsfield Pub. I have received some lovely comments from people who came for the wake.

Well done everyone and a big thank you.

Julio

The Kentones

Club Night:

Thursday 7.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 8JE

Life President — Frank Taylor

Chairman — Kevin Phillips



Secretary — Colin Barnes

Music Director — John Williams



Acafellas

Meetings:

Alternate Tuesdays, 10am to 12 noon at Chelsfield Methodist Church BR6 6HD

Chorus Director — Alan Lucking



**Interested in joining us? Need entertainment for an event or function?
Please visit www.thekentones.co.uk**

The Kentonian is edited by Martin Gayton and sub edited by David Tindall

To contact The Kentonian please email: Editor@thekentones.co.uk