

**Côr Meibion Gwalia**  
**50 Years 1967-2017A History**  
**CHAPTER 5: 1988-1992**

**1988**

President: His Honour Judge David Griffiths  
Chairman: Dr Ifor James  
Secretary: Wynne Davies  
Musical Director: Wendy Halden  
Accompanist: Tom Jackman

**31?May 1988** - Concert Tour. Gouda and Veenendaal, Netherlands

(press cutting/photo in archive)

*I think we had coach problems - I remember we did 4 ports in one weekend - Sheerness, Vlissingen, Ostend, Dover.*

**18 June 1988** - 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Law Society Hall, Chancery Lane

(see scanned menu) *(photographs in the archive)*

**Sat 16 July 1988** - Concert. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church Arts Festival.

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman

Glyn Thomas (bass). Ted Sellick (tenor). *(programme in archive)*

**Sat 24 September 1988** - Concert. Northleach Parish Church, Cotswolds

Guest Conductor: Kenneth Bowen. Accompanist: Tom Jackman

Glyn Thomas (bass). Ted Sellick (tenor). James Coles (violin). Gordon Webb (organ)

*(see scanned programme)*

**Sun 23 October 1988** - Concert. Heydon Church, Norfolk Broads

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman

Glyn Thomas (bass). Ted Sellick (tenor).

*(see scanned programme)*

*This was the first of 3 visits to Heydon (see '90 and '92)*

**Sat 5 November 1988** - Gwalia's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Concert. London Welsh Centre

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman

Eifion Thomas (tenor). Glenys Roberts (soprano) *(see scanned programme)*

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**1989**

President: His Honour Judge David Griffiths  
Chairman: Dr Ifor James  
Secretary: Wynne Davies  
Musical Director: Wendy Halden  
Accompanist: Tom Jackman

**Fri 24 March ('89?)**- Concert in The Secombe Centre, Cheam Rd, Sutton.

It's not clear which year this is.

**Sat 4 April 1989** - Grand Charity Concert, Christ Church United Reformed Church, Solihull (£4)

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman

Ann Taylor (mezzo soprano). Glyn Thomas (bass). Ted Sellick (tenor) *(see scanned programme)*

**Fri 5 May 1989** - Concert St Anne's Church, Kew Green

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman. Christopher Hyde-Smith (flute) and Jane Dodd. *(the programme is in the archive)*

**5(?) October 1989** - Labour Party Conference (Brighton?) *(see press cutting in archive of Neil Kinnock singing between Russ and Tony)*

*We were to sing at the Brighton conference 2 years later when Gwalia baritone Huw Edwards had been elected as MP for Monmouth in the May '91 by-election.*

**Wed 22 November 1989** - Concert St Marks Barnet Vale

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman Dewi Thomas (bass) Glyn Thomas (bass) Ted Sellick (tenor) (the programme is in the archive)

**December 1989** - Concert in St James's Palace for Save The Children sponsored by the speaker George Thomas. The Queen was not well and her place was taken by Sarah Ferguson the Duchess of York.

A Photo of the Choir taken about this time, and a list of most of the members, is under the '90 Holland report - see 1990.

We sang in the Guildhall for a dinner where George Thomas was present. Not sure of the year.

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## 1990

President: His Honour Judge David Griffiths

Chairman: Dr Ifor James

Secretary: Wynne Davies

Musical Director: Wendy Halden

Accompanist: Tom Jackman

**Sat 3 February 1990** - Concert. Bletchingley Adult Education Centre, Stychens Lane, Bletchingley Surrey.

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman. Ted Sellick (tenor). Glyn Thomas (bass)

**Wed 14 February** - Back by popular demand - Balham Old People's Assoc.

**Fri 16 February** - Eve of England v Wales Smokers Concert at Old Deer Park, Richmond.

*Promises of 'some field tickets for Twickenham will be available for distribution'.*

**Sat 24 February 1990** Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone, Kent. Welsh evening with various artistes. Coach provided to take the choir.

**28 February 1990** - London Welsh Centre re-opened after 12 months of improvement works. *During this time the Gwalia's rehearsals were held in Kings Cross Welsh Chapel.*

**Friday 23 March 1990** - Grosvenor House

**7 April 1990** - Concert. The Dutch programme. Afon Lido, Port Talbot [*the Programme for the concert can be viewed in the Gwalia archive*]

**Sat 28 April 1990** - Concert for Medway Welsh Society in Medway Arts Centre, Chatham, Kent

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman.

*[the Programme for the concert can be viewed in the Gwalia archive]*

**11 and 12 May 1990** - 1,000 Welsh and 1,000 Dutch Voices concerts at Statenhof, The Hague and Americahal, Apeldorn. [*the Programmes for the concerts can be viewed in the Gwalia archive*]

*Steve Davies says: This was a massive undertaking organised by John Evans and Wynne Davies of the Gwalia.*

*There were 19 choirs from Wales\* and 9 from Holland. Several coaches came up from Wales (some were double-deckers that found they couldn't get under the low bridges on some of the local roads). There had been rehearsals in Wales taken by Wendy and then there was a concert for the Welsh choirs in Aberavon on 7 April. The concerts in Holland were in enormous exhibition halls and the stage was incredibly wide. It was an experience, but singing amongst 500 baritones meant I couldn't hear the other parts!*

*The Albert Hall had been booked for the return concert the following year, but the Dutch partner (allegedly) disappeared with the money and it had to be cancelled.*

\* The Welsh Choirs were: Talgarth; Cardiff; Caerphilly; Pontypridd; Burry Port; Tredegar; Whitchurch; Whitland; Caernarfon; Rhos; Newport; Swansea; Bridgend; Caron; Gwalia; Aberystwyth; Carmarthen; Cwmann; Caldicot.

One of the Soloists was Vicki Brown, wife of Joe Brown (and his Bruvvers). She was very popular in Holland.

*A copy of the Western Mail 'Weekender Leisure Magazine' is available to view in the archive. The front page is devoted to a review of the Dutch Tour and the up-coming concert in Afon Lido, Port Talbot.*

*Interestingly, on the back page of the same issue there is a 'London Welsh Centre special report' which reviewed the recently re-opened Centre which had been closed for 12 months for major improvement works.*

FESTIVAL OF MALE CHOIRS, 1990-1991



1 0 0 0 D U T C H V O I C E S 1 0 0 0 W A L E S V O I C E S

Nan van Groeningen  
Ueterpvalact 3  
9202 DC DRACHTEN  
Tel. 05120-25444  
Telefax 05120-25445

Wynne Davies/John Evans  
22 Norwood Park Road  
West Norwood  
LONDON SE27 9UA  
Tel. 01670 0707

**I T I N E R A R Y**

Thursday May 10th. Leave Sheerness on Olau Line for Vlissingen. Sailing 21.30 pm or Harwich on Sealink for Hook of Holland. Sailing 22.30 pm  
Places for choristers and supporters are reserved.

Friday May 11th. 7.45 am Leave Vlissingen for Hague - arrive 9.45 am  
8.00 am Leave Hook for Hague - arrive 8.45 am  
Breakfast in Hotel.  
3.00 pm Rehearsal of 2000 choir in Congress Centre.  
Return to Hotel for dinner  
8.00 pm Concert in Congress Centre.

Saturday May 12th 9.30 am Leave hotels for Apeldoorn. 2 hour journey.  
11.30am Welcome by mayor of Apeldoorn.  
1.30 pm Concert in Royal Church of Apeldoorn.  
3.00 pm Meal at Cantharel restaurant.  
5.00 pm Leave Apeldoorn for Amsterdam or Hague.

Sunday 13th May Morning :- Visit Scheveningen -seaside resort near Hague. If a choir wished to give a concert in a church in West Holland on Sunday morning this could be arranged.  
Afternoon : Possible boat trip on lake Braasem or an alternative excursion.  
Evening : Farewell party with 1000 Dutch voices.

Monday 14th May 9.30 approx. Leave hotels for boat. Arrive Britain early evening in time for return trip to Wales.

**C O N C E R T S**

Conductors : Nan van Groeningen and Wendy Halden.

Combined numbers with Dutch Choirs :- Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau; Dutch National Anthem; Morte Christs; Huntsmans Chorus (Der Freischutz)(in German); Jacobs Ladder; Thanks be to God (English); Speed Your Journey (Italian); Isis und Osiris (in German).

Welsh Choir only ; From - Llef; Gwahoddiad; Myfanwy; Laudamus ; (in Welsh).  
Close Thine Eyes; Comrades in Arms; Calm is the Sea, (in English).

There is not likely to be any significant variation from this programme and any minor modifications will take place within the next three weeks.

*This was circulated in '89 before the choir list was finalised*

FESTIVAL OF MALE CHOIRS, 1990-1991



1 0 0 0 D U T C H V O I C E S 1 0 0 0 W E L S H V O I C E S

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Planning has been underway for six months for the Festival which will be the biggest of its kind to involve British choirs. Meetings have been held with representatives of sixteen Welsh and seven Dutch choirs; discussions have taken place at the Dutch Embassy in London and the British Embassy in the Hague; with shipping and coach companies and with commercial organisations. Sixteen hundred beds have been booked in the Netherlands for 1990 and a similar number in London in 1991. The Olau ferry from Sheerness and the Sealink ferry from Harwich have been reserved for our choirs and supporters.

Interest in the Festival is already high in Wales and in Holland. Sixteen Welsh choirs are already involved, some having almost all their members signed up for the visit to the Netherlands. Although we have not yet formally publicised the venture a number of other choirs are seeking to be included. Those already accepted are :-

Swansea; Bridgend; Whitechurch; Cardiff; Caldicot; Barry Port; Aberystwyth; Onllwyn; Tredegar; Fort Talbot; Rhos Cwmataw; Talgarth; Caerphilly; Pontypridd; Carmarthen and Gwelis. Four others including the County of Cornwall are to respond shortly. The Dutch 1000 voices will be drawn from seven choirs.

The itinerary for 1990 is attached together with the concert programme. The first of the concerts will be at the Netherlands Congress Centre at the Hague. It holds 7000 together with a choir of 2000. The second which will be given by the Welsh choirs only will be in Apeldoorn to an audience of 2000 which will include representatives of the Dutch Royal family.

Wendy will rehearse the Welsh choirs in regional rehearsals during the winter and a final pre-Festival rehearsal and public concert will be held in Wales. This will probably be on April 7th so please note this in your diary as every chorister will be required to attend. This concert will be recorded.

The cost to choristers will be £130. This to include :-

All coach travel;  
Sea crossings with cabin accommodation outward;  
Hotel accommodation in twin-bedded rooms;  
Four breakfasts and three dinners;  
Excursions in Holland.

The cost to supporters is £140. Personal insurance is not included in this price. Each chorister may bring one supporter to share a twin room.

**Itinerary for 1991. Visit of Dutch Choirs to London.**

Friday 24th May. Morning. Arrive at hotels in the Heathrow area of West London.  
Afternoon - Free for shopping.  
Evening - Reception.

Saturday 25th Lunch; afternoon rehearsal; concert in Royal Albert Hall.

Sunday 26th Church concerts for Dutch choirs.  
Afternoon visits to places of interest.  
Evening 'Noon Laven' Gwelis to sing, and arrange for artists.

overleaf.

Sponsorship is being sought and the initial response is encouraging. Any revenue remaining after costs have been defrayed will be distributed between choirs on a per capita basis. We have a number of engagements already arranged for the Gwelis over the next few months including three cabaret bookings which will be good for choir funds. If you give support to these and others which we could obtain, this could reduce the cost to Gwelis members quite considerably.

Some further information which may be of interest at this stage :-

Dutch Commercial Television is to produce a programme on the Festival. Discussions are to take place shortly with Harlech Television.

A commemorative tie will be available for purchase by choristers and supporters before we leave for Holland.

Members of the Dutch choirs will be on hand over the period of our visit to act as hosts, but in addition we have arranged for a trained travel courier to be assigned to each of our choirs when in Holland. She will travel with the choir and be based at the choir hotel.

The task of organising a venture which involves over 2000 people in total, sixty or so coaches, many hotels and lengthy negotiations over a range of other aspects, is quite considerable. The events in 1990 and 1991 are likely to receive extensive coverage, and the Gwelis is in the forefront of the venture.

There is enthusiasm amongst Welsh and Dutch choirs with many choristers in both countries going to great lengths to ensure that holiday arrangements are made to enable them to be with us for the Festival. This is the biggest venture with which we have been associated in our 21 years and we hope that, given our prime position, you will all show the same level of commitment and be sure to give the choir your support by being with us in Holland. When the Festival is in London we shall be the hosts and that will be an occasion when we hope that all members will make themselves available to join working parties in the preparations for the visit by the Dutch choristers and their supporters, and by making yourselves available over the weekend to help us entertain them. With one full year to arrange for the visit to Holland and two years before they visit us, it should not be too difficult to give this venture high priority in your planning.

Given the scale of this unique venture there has to be firm commitment from every chorister so a deposit of £25 per member (and supporter) will be required by June 28th. Please give you names to the Hon. Secretary on the enclosed slip and make cheques payable to 'Gwelis Male Choir'. We have to confirm bookings of hotel rooms and sea crossing shortly and cannot delay acceptance of deposits. We will not be able to guarantee places for any member who wishes to delay payment.

We look forward to your participation and your help in ensuring that this Festival is the success that it promises to be.

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This is the photo used in the programme for the Holland visit, so it must have been taken in late '89 or early '90.

**Back row:** Price Davies; ?; Idwal Jones; Vernon Hill; ?; Dai 'Sticks'; Ian MacDonald; Steve Davies; Barrie Jones; Paul Gray; Erfyl Evans; ?. (12)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Row:** Elwyn?; ?; Huw Herbert?; ?; Peter Donovan; Eddie Parry; Lionel Griffiths; Stephen Thomas; Dewi Thomas; Rob Horseman; Richard Mitchley; Owen Jenkins; Graham Stanley; Lynn Thomas; Ron Dodge. (15)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Row:** ?; Elliston ?; Tony Rees; Emrys Davies; Gomer Morris; Dave Sweet; Tommy James; Bryan Howells; Ron 'Tidy' Williams; Dave Hurlbut; John Harrow; Ceri Evans; ?; ?. (14)

**Front Row:** Bryn Morgan; Ted Sellick; Gareth Lewis; Russ Jones; John Evans; Ellis Jones (Treasurer); Tom Jackman (Accompanist); Ifor James (Chairman); Wynne Davies (Secretary); Glyn Thomas; Dai 'Carpets' Griffiths; Huw 'MP' Edwards; Bob Trevor; Denzil; Monty Crocker. (15)

**Total: 56**

**Sunday 1 July 1990** - Concert. St Peter & St Paul, Heydon, Oulton Broad, Norfolk

Conductor Wendy Halden. Accompanist Tom Jackman. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass)

*(see scanned programme)*

*The choir performed in Heydon 3 times altogether (see 1988 and '92).*

**Thurs 19 July 1990** - Concert with the Welsh Guards Regimental Band at Harrow School.

Conductor Wendy Halden. Accompanist Tom Jackman. (programme is in the archive)

**Sat 10 November 1990** - Concert. Reigate Park Church.

Conductor Wendy Halden. Accompanist Tom Jackman. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass). Dilys Morgan (soprano). *(see scanned programme)*

**Tues 18 December 1990** - Concert, Hammersmith Hospital

Conductor Wendy Halden. Accompanist Tom Jackman.

Joint concert with the Dylan Singers (conductor Meinir Williams; accompanist Jenny Trew)

*(programme is in the archive)*

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## 1991

President: His Honour Judge David Griffiths

Chairman: Dr Ifor James

Secretary: Wynne Davies

Musical Director: Wendy Halden

Accompanist: Tom Jackman (from Oct: Jenny Trew)

**Friday 15 March 1991** - Concert in Maidenhead Town Hall run by Rotary.

The concert was introduced by Nesta Gough, wife of Frank Bough (soon to be disgraced BBC presenter).

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Tom Jackman. Glenys Roberts (soprano). Jonathan Herbert (tenor).

*The programme and press review can be viewed in the archive.*

**Sat 9 May 1991(?)** - Moulsoe Church, Newport Pagnell.

We sang at this venue on two occasions with Wendy Halden and Tom Jackman. Both programmes are in the archive but neither say what year it was.

**Sat 13 July 1991** - Concert. Chilham, Nr Canterbury, Kent

Conductor: Wendy Halden Guest Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Carol Foulkes (soprano). Ted Sellick (tenor). *(see scanned programme)*

**Sun 22 September 1991** - Concert. Horton Kirby & South Darenth Village Hall

Conductor: Wendy Halden Guest Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Carol Foulkes (soprano). Ted Sellick (tenor). *(see scanned programme)*

**29 September 1991** - Westminster Abbey.

*One of our 2<sup>nd</sup> tenors and future Chairman, Tony Rees worked at the Abbey. A photo and Order of Service are in the archive.*

**Wed 2 October 1991** - Nosen Lawen Labour Party Conference, Corn Exchange, Brighton.

*Gwalia baritone Huw Edwards had won the Monmouth By-election on 16 May 1991. The programme is available to view in the archive, along with the Evening Standard for 3.10.91 which ran a photo of Tony Rees and Huw standing on either side of Neil Kinnock in full voice.*

**Sat 9 October 1991** - Concert. St Lawrence Church, Effingham, Surrey. For Princess Alice Hospice.

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dilys Morgan (soprano). Dewi Thomas (bass) *(see scanned programme)*

**Sat 26 October 1991** - Concert. Leo Club Boom, Church, Antwerp

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Chantal Krekels (mezzo-soprano and violin). *(see scanned programme)*

*The choir was to visit Antwerp several times (see 1993, 1999 and 2009). The contact was through a friend/relative(?) of Bill Rees, one of the Gwalia's big supporters. Winnie Desair and her husband organised the concerts.*

**Sun 27 October 1991** - Antwerp Cathedral

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## 1992

President: His Honour Judge David Griffiths

Chairman: Dr Ifor James

Secretary: Wynne Davies

Musical Director: Wendy Halden

Accompanist: Jenny Trew

**Sat 14 March 1992** - Holy Trinity Church, Wallington

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Jillian Arthur (soprano). Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass). *(programme in archive)*

**Easter 1992** - Tour to Brittany and Normandy

**Wed 20 May 1992** - Concert. Union Chapel, Highbury Corner, Islington N1

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass). *(programme in archive)*

**Sat 6 June 1992** - Concert. St Peter's Park Lane Methodist Church, Norwich.

Norwich Welsh Society. *(see scanned programme)*

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Siân Meinir (soprano). Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass). Rev Melville Jones (poetry reading)

**Sun 7 June 1992** - Concert. Heydon Parish Church, Nr Oulton Broad, Norfolk

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Siân Meinir (soprano). Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass). *(see scanned programme)*

*This was the Choir's third visit to Heydon.*

**Wed 24 June 1992** [did we do it again in '94 and '98??] - Kempton Park Gala evening, singing with Band of the Welsh Guards and Royal Horse Artillery on the course in front of the grandstand at one of the evening race meetings.

**Sun 28 June 1992** - Victoria & Albert Museum. Cabaret for Ladies Wimbledon Tennis players and officials.

**Thurs 16 July 1992** - Concert. De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea.

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Scilla Stewart (mezzo soprano). Ted Sellick (tenor). Edward Wade (baritone) *(programme in archive)*

**Sat 8 August 1992** - National Eisteddfod, Aberystwyth

**Sat 19 September 1992** - Northleach Parish Church, Glos

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass).

Dylan Singers: Conductor Meinir Williams; Accomp: Jenny Trew. Dilys Morgan (soprano) *(programme in archive)*

**Sun 4 October 1992** - Central Hall Westminster

**Sat 10 October 1992** - Wimbledon Welsh Society

**26 October 1992** - Celebration of the Queen's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Earls Court - a cast of thousands.

Broadcast on BBC TV. Joint with LWMVC. *(see scanned programme)*

**14 November 1992** Gorleston Music Festival near Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk. (we also took part in this Festival in 1985, and 1998)

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Elaine North (soprano). Elizabeth Skinner (violin) *(programme in archive)*

**Wed 25 November 1992** - Concert for Music Aid - Save The Children. St Giles in the Fields, WC2

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass).

Dilys Morgan (soprano) *(programme in archive)*

**Sat 5 December 1992** - Concert. Wimbledon Welsh Society. Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Rd, Wimbledon

Conductor: Wendy Halden Accompanist: Jenny Trew. Ted Sellick (tenor). Dewi Thomas (bass).

Wendy & Jenny (piano duet) *(programme in archive)*

**Sat 12 December 1992** - Gwalia Annual Dinner Dance, Mount Royal hotel, Marble Arch