



Accompanist – Brian James



Brian was born on the 29th December 19?? in Cwmaman in the Cynon Valley. He attended Glynhafod Nursery School and afterwards Abertaf Secondary Modern School. On leaving school his first job was with WH Smith at Aberdare. He then had a further five jobs before becoming “settled with the Civil Service”. Brian is currently a free lance musician. He is married to Hefina. Brian has been a carer for over fifteen years looking after his Mum and two aunts. Unfortunately only one of his aunts is alive now, and she is 93 years old. His mother lived to 96 years old and his other aunt to 102 years old. Longevity is obviously prevalent in his family. He is also related to a very famous Welshman as he explains “My great grandmother was Lloyd George’s first cousin, their respective fathers being brothers”. Brian lists his hobbies as music, watching movies/DVD’s, mountain walking, playing the church pipe organ, acting, reading and being a chocoholic.

Brian joined Cambrian Male Voice Choir in 2005. He remembers being asked “to help out for two weeks as their accompanist!!!!”. He is unable to pick just one favourite song. As for a memorable moment with the choir he recalls, “Going to the Royal Albert Hall, but I do find going to Care Homes at Christmas to sing carols gives me great joy. Seeing the faces of the residents when they join in the singing is so rewarding”. He also relates other times when for a formal concert “I was dressed in a dinner suit, black tie, I looked good. After a while I realised I had my trouser flies open. The choir thought it was funny and I had a big round of applause from the audience when they found out”.

What has being a member of the Choir meant to Brian? “It is creative atmosphere, hearing music developing from rough rehearsals to beautiful sounds”. He was asked to describe Cambrian Male Voice Choir in just five words, a difficult challenge for Brian to comply with, but he writes “hard work and great company”.

Our thanks to Brian for providing the above information and allowing us to use it on this website.