



● Pictured with members of the Nantwich Choral Society are the Mayor and Mayoress of Crewe and Nantwich, Councillor Richard and Ann Ellwood. (Photo supplied)

Choral society celebrate 21st anniversary

TWENTY one years of entertaining audiences throughout the area are being celebrated by the Nantwich Choral Society.

And marking their 21st anniversary, the society paid a visit to the Municipal Buildings in Crewe last week.

The following evening the society celebrated their anniversary officially with a buffet in the Mayor's Parlour.

The choir started off as a Workers Education Association project - but proved to be so successful and popular that the class decided to carry on for another four weeks.

The decision was then taken to create the Nantwich Choral Society in 1973 and since then they have gone from strength to strength.

Sheyla Luke from the Society said: "We were invited by the

Mayor of Crewe and Nantwich in recognition of our good work over the past 21 years.

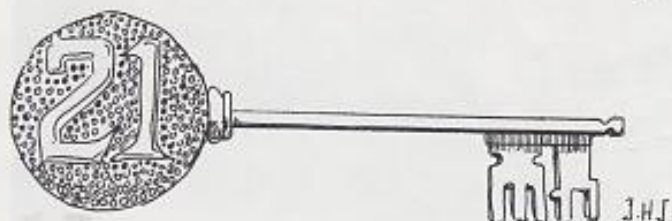
"We have been to Macon and Bischofsheim, with whom we are twinned, as goodwill ambassadors."

The society was also the first English choir to visit Vienna to take part in their Advent carols since the last war.

And the society can now boast its longest serving conductor - Stephen Buckman - who has been wielding the baton for the last 10 years.

The 90-strong society regularly perform the "Messiah" and are currently preparing for their next concert which takes place on March 26 featuring Brahms German Requiem and the Orchestra playing Beethoven's Symphony No 4.

Nantwich Choral Society *Comes of Age*



NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY is preparing to celebrate its 21st birthday with a **Gala Season of major choral works. All the concerts will be performed in St. Mary's.**

The Society originated as a WEA Class of some 25 members under the leadership of Michael Bax. In recent years, under its present conductor, Stephen Buckman, it has grown to a choir of 90 and has explored the choral repertoire from the 17th to the late 20th century.

It was the first British choir to perform in the internationally renowned Advent Celebrations in Vienna. The Choir has also performed in Macon and Bischofsheim.

A strong working relationship and friendship has built up with many professional soloists and instrumentalists. These people value the opportunity of taking part in such a wonderful setting.

The opening concert of the new season, a performance of Haydn's "Creation", will take place on Saturday, 13th November. The ever popular annual performances of "Messiah" and "Carols for Choir and Audience" follow on Saturdays 4th and 18th December respectively.

The soloists for Haydn's "Creation" will be
Catrin Ley ~ Soprano
Robin Green ~ Tenor
Philip Ravenscroft ~ Bass

Stephen Buckman will conduct the Nantwich Sinfonia. Robin Green has been touring with the English National Opera this season. Tickets available in the Church Shop and from members.

Newsfile

Tuning up for anniversary

CHORISTERS are limbering up their vocal chords for a special concert to mark their 21st anniversary.

Nantwich Choral Society will present *Haydn - The Creation* at St. Mary's Parish Church on November 13.

The concert features solo appearances by Catrin Ley, Philip Ravenscroft and Robin Green, a tenor with the English National Opera.

Society spokeswoman Sheila Luke said: "The performance is costing more than £2,000 to stage. It's a big budget but we wanted to make a special effort for the anniversary."

The 90-strong group was the first English choir to perform the *Advent Celebrations* in Vienna. Concerts have also been staged in France, Germany and London.

Tickets for their latest offering cost £6 from the church shop or on the door. OAP's and students £4.

SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS 21ST BIRTHDAY



• The Mayor and Mayoress of Crewe and Nantwich, Richard and Ann Ellwood, greet Nantwich Choral Society conductor Steven Buckman and choir members. Photo: MALCOLM HART

Mayor sings praises of choir

SINGING for their supper ... Nantwich Choral Society members celebrated their 21st birthday with a buffet in the Mayors Parlour.

The 70-strong choir enjoyed the company of the Mayor of Crewe and Nantwich, Richard Ellwood, and were given a guided tour of the civic offices.

The society was thanked for its work in spreading goodwill, in Cheshire and abroad through visits to the borough's twin towns of Macon, France, and Bischofsheim in Germany.

The society also organised an

By Megan Nurse

anniversary dinner and cabaret at Rookery Hall.

The choir was formed after members of a Workers' Education Association class held at Wyche Primary School decided to form a choral society under the baton of Mike Bax.

The choir is now conducted by Steven Buckman who makes a 420-mile round trip from Surrey to take the rehearsals.

Spokeswoman Shella Luke

said: "Steven's car burst into flames on the way up to Nantwich recently. He lost everything except his portable phone, but he still managed to arrive at the rehearsal."

The society has around 20 original members and has been invited to take part in festivals as far away as Vienna.

The choir holds several concerts each year at St Mary's Church, Nantwich, and will perform Brahms' German Requiem on March 26.