

Monobites

The Newsletter of Monmouth Male Voice Choir/Côr Meibion Mynwy
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Special Edition:

Monmouth Male Voice Choir sing for the American Ambassador

On Thursday 2nd March the choir performed for the **United States Ambassador, Jane Hartley** and invited guests at her London residence, Winfield House in Regent's Park. The choir were flabbergasted when they received the invitation to entertain the Ambassador and her guests at a reception held as part of **Wales Week London 2023** and are indebted to **Secretary of State David TC Davies** for his assistance in securing this prestigious invitation.

What a marvelous, memorable occasion it was for all the Monmouth contingent. On arrival at the North Gate of Winfield House, the first surprise for choristers was that they cleared security without a hitch! The next was the sheer opulence of the venue. Set in 12 acres of



Regent's Park, Winfield House has the second largest private garden in London after that of Buckingham Palace and, though originally built for American heiress Barbara Woolworth Hutton in 1936, it has been the Ambassador's residence since 1955.

At 5.00 pm, Ambassador Jane Hartley and Secretary of State David TC Davies welcomed the many dignitaries and invited guests including UK and Welsh Government representatives, MP's, Peers and business leaders. Former choir chairman, Huw Edwards, then expressed the choir's thanks for their invitation before Musical Director Lewis Hutton conducted the first number, a rousing rendition of *Calon Lan*. This was followed by two more Welsh favourites, *Anfonaf Angel* and *O Gymru*. Then, for those non Welsh speakers in the audience and to provide a link with the hosts, the choir sang the incredibly moving *Tell My Father*, a song about a dying soldier during the American Civil

War. To conclude, **MMVC** then sang one of their favourite pieces *Gwahoddiad*, a song which was actually written by an American Methodist minister, Lewis Hartsough, before being joined by the guests for an emotional conclusion with *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.



Musical Director Lewis Hutton conducts the choir at the Ambassador's reception.



Huw Edwards presents Ambassador Jane Hartley with a choir memento

To be invited to perform at such a distinguished event shows how far Monmouth Male Voice Choir have come in the 10 years since their formation. The choir is now at ease in these surroundings and sing with assurance. They received wonderful plaudits from the Ambassador and many of the distinguished guests including Tim Rhys-Evans founder of **Only Men Aloud**.

Peter Fox MS (Monmouth) said "Monmouth Male Voice Choir gave a first-class performance". [Abergavenny Chronicle]

Monmouth Male Voice Choir/Côr Meibion Mynwy wish to thank all those that made this fabulous occasion possible, *diolch yn fawr pawb*.

We hope we will see many of our supporters again at our **next concert: Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth on 24th March**: details www.monmvc.org.uk