

Come All Ye-Not, Rescheduled!

One of my favourite Christmas songs, is Dean Martin's recording of "Let It Snow". Ever since it was featured over the end credits of 'Die Hard' it has had a special place in my music collection. On Saturday 18th December, 2010, however, it was the last song on earth that I wanted to hear. The evening of that day was to be the annual Christmas Come All Ye, in the Parish Room. That was before the weather intervened, and mother nature showed us how ruthless she could be..

To be fair it wasn't as if we hadn't been warned. The weather people had been telling us all week that "you ain't seen nothing yet". Having already had the first bout of snow with freezing conditions at night, we would now have to endure blizzards; much, much more snow, and treacherous conditions under foot. As a lifetime believer in that old entertainment maxim that no matter what, "the show has to go on.", it never entered my head that we just might have to cancel the event altogether. That was until the morning of the 18th December, and the weather that followed..

On the Friday night Jacky and I were joined by Peter Scully, and together we put out all the chairs, and made ready for the sound rig and lighting and all the other little jobs that need to be done on the last minute.. Then on the Saturday morning Paul Bannister, kindly offered to drive Jacky and I to the church and there we met up with Peter plus Andy Pedley and his son Richard and moved the piano into the Parish Room. All seemed to be ok, although the pavements and side roads around Greenford were pretty lethal the main roads at this stage were not too bad. Whilst all this activity was going on, however, we had failed to notice just how much snow had been falling. It was not until we opened the side door to leave the building that we saw just how deep the snow had settled! Walking incredibly slowly we managed to locate Paul's car whilst Andy, Richard and Peter made their own way along Ferrymead Gardens.

Driving back to our house in Bennetts Avenue we became more and more aware that the Concert was now looking very unlikely. At a speed of no more than 5 mph, cars on the main road were now sliding all over the place. By the time we eventually reached home it was agreed by all that we would have to cancel the Concert. Even if the people made it to the church it would still be folly to attempt driving or walking late at night with freezing temperatures forecast. So began the task of telling as many people as we could. Andy Pedley sent out an e.mail with the now legendary title of "Come All Ye-Not" and Jacky and I phoned as many people as we could and learnt in the process that many were stuck in huge traffic jams trying to get home. By 6 o'clock that evening, however, we had reached a good 95% of our audience and thanks once again to Peter Scully and Co, they had managed to de-rig all the equipment and to restore the church back to its normal state.

Looking out onto our garden today with the sun shining, it is hard to believe that so much snow had fallen on that Saturday. The good news now is that a new date has been arranged for the Concert namely Saturday, 26th February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Parish Room. It may not have the usual Christmas theme but hopefully our audience will still be in the mood to sing along and capture that Christmas feel good factor that we always have at this event. Seats are still available if you haven't bought a ticket and proceeds are in aid of the Access Project. We look forward to seeing you there.

Alan and Jacky Kingshott