

Maurice Bradley (1928-2020)

Maurice served the Canoldir Male Choir for over forty years before he felt he needed to retire. Before Canoldir, he was a member of Solihull Male Choir. Although he was deaf in one ear, which may have accounted for his quietly spoken voice, and his singing was not powerful, he was perfect in his pitch and knowledge of what he was singing; so standing next to him in concerts was a great advantage. He was also in a mixed choir, the Quinborne Choir, "singing an imaginative range of choral music with two concerts each year". Lately, he sang with Walsall Choral Society.

Playing the organ was also amongst his accomplishments and he thoroughly enjoyed playing the piano. Maurice had a great interest in, and love for, classical music in many forms that included opera – attending performances complete with the appropriate full score. He was interested in unusual operas performed in the Mold Theatre in Wales and a location in Ireland. His amazing memory found him able to describe in detail operas and plays including Shakespeare's. He was a really great asset to his team on quiz nights.

Maurice's wide range of other interests included membership of a painting group and also CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), but he always said that he never drank alone at home. He also enjoyed playing Bridge.

Amongst his outdoor pursuits he belonged to the Enterprise Club, involving long walks & climbing, amongst which was the Scottish Munro peaks of over 3000 feet. He was also in the BAI (Birmingham Athletic Institute) walking group and the Bromsgrove walking club called 'The Countrysiders', who were rather more amblers than rambles. Among his longstanding friends was a group that went away annually to walk in the Lakes, Scotland or the Peak District. When walking became beyond Maurice, he was happy to go and stay with them and sketch or paint while they walked.

Holidays abroad featured his interest in art and ancient buildings famous for their architecture as he travelled through such countries as Sicily – which he loved – Turkey, Libya, etc. His main interest was the Byzantium Empire. With these interests he gained a degree with the Open University and went on to complete virtually all their Arts courses.

By profession Maurice was a Chartered Accountant with Herbert Smith Russell, the Birmingham Chartered Accountants, who became part of Ernst and Young, an international accounting practice. His auditing skills carried him to significant areas of the UK where his ability was appreciated and he made lasting friendships.

His period of post war National Service was spent in the RAF where he was, of course, an accountant!

Maurice may seem to have been very quiet and unassuming, but his achievements over his 92 years – he was born on 12th October 1928 – show him to be an absolutely amazing person.