



Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir

WHO ARE THE EASTWOOD COLLIERIES' MALE VOICE CHOIR?

The choir was formed in 1920 by a group of enthusiastic colliery officials, originally called the Eastwood Collieries' Officials Male Voice Choir this was quickly changed within the first year to the choir's current name.

We are an established Male Voice Choir comprising of about sixty members covering a wide age profile with our youngest member being 17 and our oldest member over 90. We meet on a Tuesday evening (7pm – 9pm) at St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.

The choir sings from an extensive and varied repertoire in order to develop our knowledge, skills and techniques both for audiences and the choir alike. In addition to our singing we try to meet socially once a year for an annual dinner or social evening to foster relations between ourselves and our families.

During the early years the membership was made up solely from the mining community, but as the local industry reduced its size so members from outside the industry were welcomed into the ranks of the choir. The present membership of over sixty voices is now made up of representatives of many trades and professions, and now only a few retired members of the coal industry remain within the choir. When the last of the Eastwood Collieries' at Moorgreen (Nottinghamshire) closed in 1985 the committee briefly considered changing the choir's name but the membership felt proud of their roots from which the choir had developed and they wished to continue as the 'Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir'.

Each year we participate in a number of concerts (usually between 10 – 20 per year) at various venues throughout the local district and beyond. These include small select concerts as well as large prestigious events such as the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham. Since 2006 the Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir helped local and national charities and organisations raise the combined total of nearly **£900,000.00**

This dynamic, forward-thinking Male Voice Choir is now in its 90th Year and is proud to boast that we are one of the oldest surviving Colliery Male Voice Choirs in the country, proud of our heritage and passionate about our future.

The choir is an active member of the National Association of Choirs both at local group level and at National Level and have hosted many group concerts and part of the National Conference Weekend Concert.

The choir is a friendly bunch of men with a love of choral music and its traditions and a very warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to join us. We hope to build on our vibrant past with a view to making this year as successful as our previous.