



RUNNER-UP: Children from Coloma Convent Girls' School

Young school choir impresses BBC

A CHOIR finished runner-up in a competition featured on the BBC1 music show Songs of Praise on Sunday.

The 44-strong choir from Coloma Convent Girls' School, in Upper Shirley Road, Shirley, just missed out of the top prize.

The girls have only been singing together for a matter of months in the choir, which is made up of Year 7 pupils.

Practice is still s-miles better after 40 years

Orthodontist remains jewel in the crown

By Ian Austen

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A GROUNDBREAKING dental service which made history when it first opened is celebrating a major milestone.

Forty years ago, Pat McDonogh took a step into the unknown when he established what was to be the UK's first specialist orthodontic practices from premises in Selsdon Road, South Croydon.

But since then the business has never looked back and today, Pat's son Tim is heading-up a practice which has around 70 staff and bases in Blunt Road, South Croydon and Redhill, as well as a private centre in Purley.

Mr McDonogh, now 73, qualified as a dentist in Cork, in Ireland, 50 years ago before moving here and deciding to enter a field which at the time was largely confined to hospital treatment.

He said: "It was totally virgin territory. The demand, however, turned out to be tremendous."

Initially while working with children to fit braces and realign teeth, Mr McDonogh encountered resistance from some parents, but as he became established attitudes



CELEBRATION: Tim McDonogh

changed, until it reached a point where parents were asking for treatment for their children.

Mr McDonogh said at the start dentists had neither the time nor the expertise to carry out orthodontic work and the practice benefited from referrals for treatment.

After undergoing major heart surgery some years ago Mr McDonogh decided it was time to slow down, selling the business to Tim around two years ago.

But retirement has opened new doors and he now works with his other son, Kieron, restoring and converting property, a dramatic change from a job which, he said, he enjoyed every minute of.

In the meantime, Tim has

turned his attention to dealing with rapidly changing demand.

The NHS side of the practice is still tied up with the treatment of children but there is a growing demand from adults and overall the surgeries are now dealing with around 3,000 people a year.

Technological advances, that have seen the production of braces which are almost invisible or can be hidden behind teeth, has led to more adults looking to improve their teeth without having to suffer heavy metal braces.

Smile

Tim said: "I see our job as aligning teeth to produce the best looking and healthiest smile we can."

The 40th anniversary of the practice was celebrated with a party held at the Blunt Road surgery on Friday.

The event also gave Tim the chance to present a cheque for £10,000 for research into Hodgkins Disease, raised largely from completing the London Marathon, running on behalf a friend with the disease.

Tim said: "Our clients were absolutely superb in the support they gave."

Writers awarded top prizes

TWO Croydon writers have triumphed in a prestigious writing contest.

Anita Reeves, of Park Hill, beat more than 400 worldwide entries to come first in the Society of Women Writers and Journalists (SWWJ) Morris Duo Open International Life Writing Competition.

Fellow Croydonian Rachel Wagstaff, from Shirley, placed fifth in the two-year-old contest, which aims to 'promote the international good use of English'.

Teaching assistant Mrs Reeves, 42, impressed the judges with her

autobiographical story 'Black, White and Shades of Grey', about her upbringing in strife-torn Zimbabwe.

She said: "In writing they say, 'Write what you know' and this is what I know.

"It is wonderful to be able to take traumatic events and give them a purpose."

Playwright Mrs Wagstaff, 32, won praise for her also-autobiographical story 'A Bag of Sweets', about the sudden death of her younger brother, seen through the eyes of her nine-year-old self.

She said: "Many people have

lost someone they love and I tried to write something that captured that grief.

"As a playwright I am used to writing different voices, so it was interesting to imagine the voice of a child."

The awards ceremony was held at the University of Notre Dame, in Westminster, on April 23.

Val Dunmore, vice-president of the SWWJ, founded in 1894, said: "The standard of the writing was extremely high and the reading panel had a mammoth task deciding upon the final five prize winners."



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AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 369411

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BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 382503

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 386225

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 387743

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 390496

Male Singles

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 383787

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Male Singles

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VICKY attractive young 37yr old fun female looking for dog loving male for romantic hopefully intimate talking and walking plenty of outdoor fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3953 Box No: 389745

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for Openminded male for sexy fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3953 Box No: 389757

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine, sexy male for mutual spoiling. Tel No: 0906 500 3953 Box No: 389755

AMANDA honest pretty busty lady 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male for lots of bedroom fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3953 Box No: 389737

Gay Singles

FRENCH researcher 65, seeks older gent 75 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 1694 Box No: 390828

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