

Kildwick School's Prize-winning Choir – 1957

The photograph below shows the winners of the Langhorne Cup at the 1957 Skipton Music Festival: the choir of Kildwick School. If you look very closely, you might even be able to spot the – let's admit it – rather small trophy.



We've been able to put names to all but one of the singers:

Top row (L-R): John Lofthouse, Bill Pollard, Jean Bartlett, Susan Wragg, Christopher Law, Ian Sugden

2nd row: Alison Hagar, John Hill, Penelope Ward, Enga Brown, Gerald Thompson, Susan Flesher, Roderick Parker, Susan Ellis, Michael Sharpe, Ann Dickinson, David Horner, Pauline Dennison, David Bottomley, *unknown*, Paul Hawkins

3rd row: Susan Hutchinson, Kathleen Walmsley, Roger Pink, Mr. George Bottomley (headmaster and conductor), Jerry Hagar, Julia Bottomley, Susan Watson

Front: Marjorie Green, Christine Sugden, Ann Barrett, Sheila Dickinson

Here's another one, presumably taken on the same day.



Back row (L-R): John Lofthouse, Susan Wragg, Christopher Law

Middle: David Bottomley, Marjorie Green, Gerald Thompson, John Hill, Michael Sharpe, Ian Sugden, Paul Hawkins, Enga Brown, Bill Pollard, Jean Bartlett, Ann Dickinson, *unknown*, Alison Hagar, Penelope Ward, David Horner

Front row: Roger Pink, Kathleen Walmsley, ??Jacqueline Throup??, Roderick Parker, Mr. George Bottomley (headmaster and conductor), Jerry Hagar, Christine Sugden, *unknown*

This, from an unidentified newspaper report, is what the judge thought of the Kildwick school choir:

The choir of the Kildwick C. of E. (Controlled) school won chief honours on the first day, and Dr. Cooper accorded them almost unstinted praise. "It is a long time since I heard a choir as good as this," he said. "It has remarkable warmth of tone and perfect diction. I don't know how the conductor has done it." The conductor was the head master of the school, Mr. Gordon Bottomley, and the choir was awarded top marks of the day, 91.

Dr. Cooper said that he was extremely impressed by the singing of the young people's choirs, and the standard reached by the pianoforte competitors

Very impressive.

We've also got a photograph of the Kildwick school choir in rehearsal. This is of a similar vintage as the one shown on the previous page, although not all of the personnel are the same.



Top row (L-R): John Hill, Roderick Parker, Billy Webb, Bill Pollard, ? Hill, Derek Kitson, Michael Sharpe

Middle row: Ian Sugden, John Lofthouse, Stephen Windle, Delys Holmes, Christine Smith,
Susan Shuttleworth, Peter Haworth, Jack Holmes, Christopher Hill, Miss Mitchell (pianist)

Front row: Enga Brown, Jean Bartlett, Susan Wragg, Irene Rishworth, Penelope Ward, Alison Hagar,
Janet Waterhouse

Can you can help us with the remaining missing names, or perhaps you were a member of the choir and would like to help us build-up the story ? If so, please email history@farnhill.co.uk