

# Sue bows out after nine years

By **Bethany Abbit**

bethany.abbit@kendal.newsquest.co.uk

**A** VILLAGE choral society's conductor is to bow out after nine years following her 'swan song' concert next week.

Sue Osmaston, who has wielded the baton for Staveley Choral Society since 2001, will step down after its final *Spring Sings* performance of the season on Saturday, May 9.

She will be going out in fine fashion, with a programme of light and classical pieces featuring songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber's show *Cats* alongside short works by Mendelssohn, Saint-Saens, Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and Jonathan Willcocks.

Ms Osmaston moved to Cumbria following retirement from her position as Head of Music at the William de Ferrers comprehensive

school in Essex.

The Royal Academy of Music graduate explained that her celebrated tenure nearly never came to pass.

"I was secretary of the society at the time. We advertised for a new conductor but neither of the two we interviewed was suitable. Then one of the choir said 'we know who could do it.'"

---

**I will miss the people most of all. They are lovely**

**Sue Osmaston**

---

That started an eight-year stint, during which she introduced the choir to music including French, Italian and Latin pieces by a range of composers.

The 47-strong choir has performed in churches throughout the region as well as being involved in the Mary Wakefield Festival.

"I will miss the people

most of all. They are lovely and I've really enjoyed working with them," said Ms Osmaston, who credited her work balancing out the many and varied tones of the choir as her greatest achievement with Staveley Choral Society.

For her swansong, Ms Osmaston has picked out some of her favourite pieces.

She said she would use her retirement to spend time with her family and concentrate on other pursuits, including her work with the Lakeland Singers.

Tickets are £7.50 for adults and £2.50 for children. The price includes a buffet supper and glass of wine. They are available from Staveley pharmacy or by phoning 01539-822301.

■ In September Philip Burton will take over as conductor. Mr Burton, of Windermere, is director of music at St Martin's Parish Church. He studied at Liverpool University and Royal College of Music, Manchester.



FINAL CONCERT: Sue Osmaston.

(D9D098VM1)