

NEWS & VIEWS

209

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SPRING 2016

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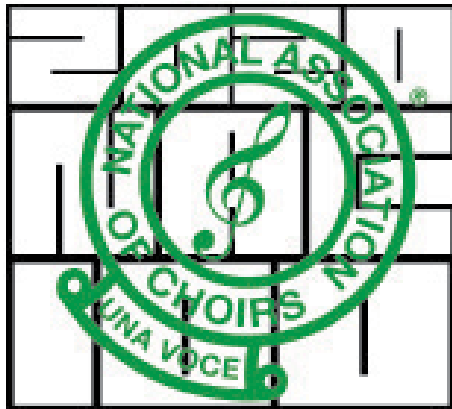
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Last date for submissions for Issue 210

SUMMER 2016 - 30 APRIL

On your doorstep by 1 June

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Crawford's Corner



I don't know why it is but I seem to get a cold the day after all the concerts and carol services and other Christmas activities have finished and this year was no different. Somewhere among my Christmas presents it lay in waiting. I wouldn't mind but the cough that comes with it seems to be the longest lasting of all my Christmas gifts. I have no doubt it will still be with me around the time this publication reaches you. Oh well, nothing to be done about it.

I hope you received everything you were hoping for and that you are looking forward to another year of song. Tim Knight, our Music and Festivals Officer has written what he calls his last article for us and that is a great disappointment but there might be some song he has reviewed that would make a great addition to your repertoire. In the event that Tim does stand down at our AGM (I can always hope) I would take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts. He has never failed to let me have some really valuable material to fill the Music & Festivals spot. I will certainly miss his contributions.

As I write this I am juggling the 'suitcase' that is News & Views to try to make everything fit neatly into place. I don't know if you have ever noticed but the magazine always comes with pages in multiples of four. The smallest is generally 24 pages and I have had the odd one with 36 but generally it is 28 or 32 pages. Sometimes there is just enough material for the space available and that is wonderful. More often than not there is just too much for 28 pages but not enough for 32 and that is when the fun starts. I know that I am the editor but I hate the very idea of wielding the pencil and cutting out anything you send so I shift and switch then squeeze or spread to make it fit. When a word search appears you know that I have sorted a page space with one fell swoop, 'Hurrah'.

I had this idea that I would create a new type of puzzle this time and made a code puzzle. That's the one where each letter of the alphabet has a number and the grid is filled with numbers 1-26 and you have to work out which number matches which letter to solve the grid. You are given one or two to start

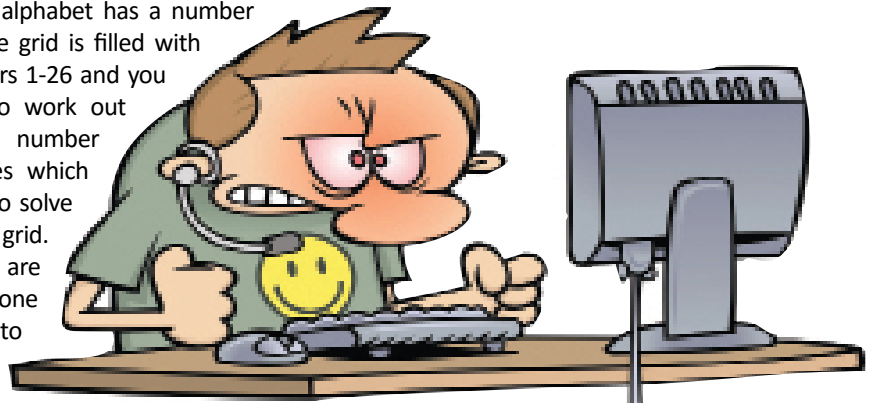
you off and it is a test of your knowledge of patterns in English.

Well I was just saving what I thought would make a good puzzle when this little box appeared telling me it was saving some files. I tried to cancel it but it wouldn't stop until it was finished.

When it finished all the files in the News & Views folder had vanished. Not just the ones for this issue but the ones from half a dozen earlier issues as well. You may imagine my reaction. The dog came to see what I was shouting about, she doesn't like it when people shout.

I found them, eventually. My computer had decided to move the whole lot into another folder. Panic over.

Crawford



Chairman's Chat



This being the first publication of 2016, may I begin by wishing everyone and very happy and peaceful new year. This is the time for both remembering and looking forward and the contributions of the choirs in this issue are doing just that, especially the gentlemen from Dumfries MVC who received the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur which is France's highest award, although I think the memories must be very sad to say the least.

On the theme of memories, we are only half way through the biggest memory period, which is the centenary of WWI and I'm sure 2018 will be a chorally challenging time because of the celebration of the end of hostilities. While all this is going on, there are also references to the 70 years of peace we have had since WWII.

As for looking forward, it is heartening to hear of a choir's plans and I hope that their experiences and hopes inspire the less adventurous of you. In my Membership Officer role I am informed when choirs disband, and there are many and varied reasons for this, but it would appear that choirs seem to think this is inevitable. I find out when it is too late, but this does not have to happen. In the past I have preached about choirs moving forward with the times, and my friends in Derbyshire Constabulary MVC have grasped this and included it in their article. Sometimes all a choir has to do is change their repertoire and they will get attention which will lead onto and into a more positive period in their lives.

On a lighter note, although we are only just feeling the temperature drop and realising it IS winter, there is a bonus that you could save money on your dreams of a summer holiday. Fred Olsen is offering a discount on holidays, aimed specifically at choristers, but is including their families.

This is a first, but if you do take advantage of the offer, we would like to hear of your experiences – and I can now visualise pictures of sites around the world instead of concert platforms studded with choir uniforms!

Brenda Wilkinson
NAC Chairman





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Music and Festivals Officer



As I write this, it will be exactly three years ago that I was considering putting myself forward for the NAC Music and Festivals Officer post, and now I am writing it as my last report because, due to a increase in my workload, I fear I cannot stand for re-election this coming conference.

I have reviewed several new works proving that the choral music publishing world is alive and reasonably well, several of those works have been by composers new to me, whilst others are maintaining a steady flow of writing but it has proved difficult to elicit sample copies from many publishers. It has been interesting, also, to receive lots of emails about copyright. This is good news inasmuch as choirs are certainly taking the whole business of arranging, photocopying and licencing more seriously.

So for my final post bag it's to that bastion of choral publishing that we turn, and several new pieces from Banks Music Publications.

Too late for this year but ECS572 – *Sing Noel* by John Bertalot (Unison and Piano) livened and brightened up my day when I ran through it (it's also available for SATB). A cheery and lively piece that would be a hit with audiences. An SS arrangement of Faure's *Ave Maria* (ECS 581) would prove useful with choirs on tour.

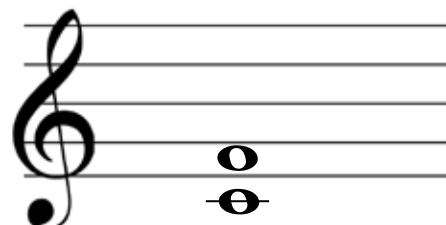
The very popular medley of songs from the First World War by Alwyn Humphreys which Leeds Male Voice Choir audiences loved is now issued in Unison or two part (PCS38) and in the same vein there is a TTBB version (PCS40) of *Oh! It's A Lovely War* again arranged by Alwyn Humphreys.

A couple of pieces by the Manchester based David Jepson caught my eye, *Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep*, ECS575 is worth a look and his Three Choral Poems of Edward Thomas also contain some lovely writing (ECS586).

So that's it, with an ever increasing set of overseas conducting engagements and

many commissions in progress, something had to give. I wish my successor and the NAC well for the future and, as my involvement with choirs continues, to increase, I will watch with interest the developments in the NAC.

Tim Knight



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Entries will be welcome from choruses and choirs with between 10 and 20 singers, mixed men and women, with no more than 20% of the group being of the same gender. Performers are encouraged to sing in four part barbershop harmony for all justifications by an elite national judges.

Closing Date for Entries: 15th April 2016.

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For full details of this exciting new competition and to discuss any queries, please email: mixedchoralcontest@ba-barbershop.org.uk

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Forthcoming Events

Events between this issue of News & Views and the next are in greater detail. The rest give only concert title, date, venue and contact. As the event date comes nearer they will be shown in more detail. Let us know when your events are happening so that we can let everyone know.

Send your event to

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

May 2016

Côr World Choir

Saturday 21 May 2016

Venue: Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

Time: 7.30

We are delighted to invite you to join Côr World Choir - the largest voice choir ever assembled. The major event is scheduled to take place at Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on Saturday, 21 May 2016. The concert, combining male, female and

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All registered choirs will receive the Côr World Choir Music Pack with music, lyrics and recordings for your rehearsals. Our website worldchoir.com will provide all the necessary details and press releases which we wish to pass onto your local media. If you have registered you will be able to connect with the participating choirs.

If you have any queries please e-mail info@corworldchoir.com. We wish you and your choir the very best and hoping you will join us in Wales next year.

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Alfreton Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Alfreton Male Voice Choir had a good year in 2015 so we thought we would share a few of our thoughts and some photographs.

Much of the first half of the year was spent in rehearsal for the Albert Hall but we did do a local concert arranged by our member Stan Green (this has become standard now) and is much enjoyed both by ourselves and the audience. We also did a few smaller jobs such as funerals etc. We seem to get more invites to funerals these days as it has become a current trend to have live performances at funerals.



On 14 November 2015 Alfreton Male Voice Choir along with many others both male voice and female choirs descended on the Albert Hall in London to take part in the Festival of Brass & Voices 2015. This concert was in aid of Cancer Research. In the morning we attended for a mass rehearsal, this was the first time that all the choirs. The Cory Brass Band and the Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band and all other participants had met together. This rehearsal went very well and we finished at about 2.00. We then made our way back to the hotel for a bite to eat and to get changed into our uniforms.

At about 5.30 we left the hotel for the Albert Hall in rain and darkness but inside all was bright and colourful with the many different uniforms, especially those of the women. Once the hall was full we started the concert. What a fabulous experience this was. 1200 plus choristers



the two top brass bands in the country and a Scottish fiddle band. The singing and the brass bands were all magnificent; add the mighty Albert Hall organ and the superb acoustics and this becomes an unbelievable spectacular performance. Our only regret was that as participants we were unable to hear the results as the audience would have experienced it. We sang great pieces such as *The Hallelujah Chorus*, *Aida* and many others but the most well received song was the typical Welsh Male Voice favourite *Gwahoddiad*; this received a standing ovation. All participants really enjoyed taking part and the fact that it was for a really good cause made it a wonderful day that we as a choir hope to do again one day. As we all had to pay all our expenses, buying music, travel, hotel for two days, food etc, it was very expensive so not something to repeat every year.



On the 15 November we were hoping to sing in the Scoop on the South Bank which would also have been in aid of Cancer Research but unfortunately it rained heavily and so we headed back to Alfreton.

We still had a busy time leading up to Christmas. On the 8 December we gave a short concert at Palmer Morewood which is our base from 7.30. On Saturday 12 December we sang at the Co-op Store in Ripley from 10.00 until noon singing

Christmas carols etc. Wednesday 16 December found us at South Wingfield Community Hall from 7.00 singing Christmas songs and carols. On the 17 December we joined the staff and young people at Grange School for a Christmas concert and finally for this year we sang Christmas Carols at Tesco from 6.30 until about 8.00. After this we stood down until the New Year.



This year we already have plenty to look forward to; The Derbyshire Constabulary Choir Concert in the Cathedral in Derby on the 16 April 2016. We are then organising the Midlands East Choral Concert comprising of several Male Voice Choirs on the 21 May. We have a concert, probably at Grange School on Friday 17 June and a concert for Heanor Town Council sometime in June.

We shall be appearing at the Ripley Music Festival in All Saints Church on Thursday 14 July starting at 7.30 and finally our annual concert which will be on Saturday 15 October, plus of course various other appearances as requested through the year.

As always we are looking for new choristers so if anyone local to Alfreton would love to sing then please come and join us. Ring 07773399913 and speak to Les or leave a message.

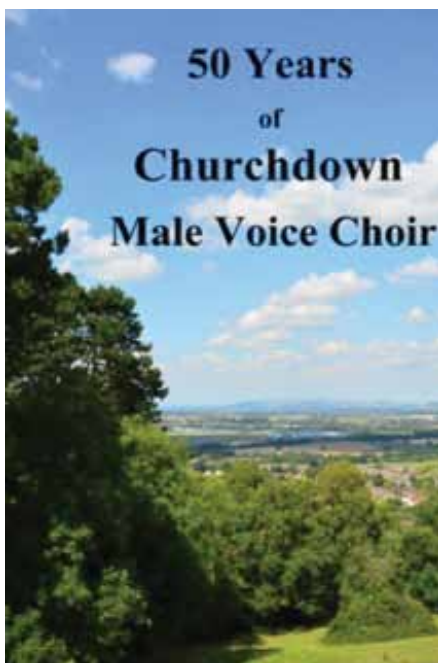
Les Dorey

Churchdown Male Voice Choir South West

50 Years of Churchdown Male Voice Choir

A Gloucestershire choir celebrated its 50th anniversary in a pub in which it spent almost 13 years as a rehearsal venue.

Churchdown Male Voice Choir held its first rehearsal on 8 December 1965 in the house of one of the founder members. After some years rehearsing in Churchdown Primary School and other places, the choir moved to the Bat and Ball, Churchdown in 1970. Colin Acton who joined in 1967 recalled the early days, 'We used to meet in the upper room at the pub, have a good rehearsal for two hours and then go downstairs to the bar for another good sing and a few pints. There were about 30 of us but we still managed to stage some great concerts around the county. By 1983 the choir had outgrown the room and we had to move to a larger venue but many of us had a great affection for the pub and we would often return after rehearsals to have a song and a drink'.



The Bat and Ball is now under new management and has reverted to its name in the 40s, The Old Elm Inn. Said the new landlord Mark Wark, 'the pub has always had a strong connection to the choir so it seemed a good idea to invite the lads back on the exact day of its 50th to celebrate with us. And I imagined that they may sing as well.' And how they did sing. The MD, Ralph Barnes, and accompanist were unable to be there but Colin Acton led the singing with the former choir accompanist,

Pam Taverner, giving an excellent lead at the keyboard. Following the entertainment everyone polished off the excellent spread that Mark had provided.

Choir chairman Adrian Law said, 'The choir is now very well-established and we are currently raising over £10,000 every year for local and national charities'. A further celebration is a book that was launched at the pub on 8 December. Compiled by three members of the choir, Derrick O'Brien, Andrew Chalmers and Pete Wilson, the illustrated book tells the story of the choir's first 50 years. Included are the date and venue of every concert that the choir has performed over that time, together with anecdotes of many members recalling both the happy and the sad times in the choir's history. The book also describes the many tours around the UK and abroad and also names all of the 340 members, MDs and accompanists who have been associated with the choir during the last 50 years.

To finish the year, the choir performed its three traditional Christmas concerts in Churchdown Community Centre on successive nights. This has been a tradition for some years now to satisfy the demand for tickets. This year the choir's favourite soprano, Sue Black, appeared in all three concerts and was celebrating 30 years of appearing with the choir.

Barry Woods

Dumfries Male Voice Choir Scotland West

John Greig – Ian to us – is a well respected and enthusiastic member of DMVC and at 91 is one of our longest serving members.

Ian is quite a private person who kept his experiences of the horrors of WWII to himself, but what none of us was aware of was the extent to which these exploits would be recognised.

Ian had been awarded a number of honours since being called up, in 1942 at 18, to serve in the Royal Navy, but the greatest honour was to come on 16 October 2015 for the part he played in the D Day Landings.

On the 5 June 1944 Ian landed on Sword Beach amidst the carnage to carry out his duties as a Royal Navy Telegraphist, however a German sniper decided to take Ian out of the war by inflicting serious wounds to his arm and lower back. His



radio back-pack, however took the worst of the impact, saving his life. Ian was taken from the beach to sick bay on the Polish Destroyer 'Slaska', and once the ship had finished bombarding the coast line he was on his way back to Portsmouth to begin several months of treatment for his wounds.

As a mark of gratitude Ian, along with eight other Scottish Veterans, was invited by the French Government to attend an award ceremony on the 16 October 2015, on board the French Navy destroyer 'Aquitaine' docked at Leith.

They were given France's highest award - the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. Their medals were presented by Emmanuel Cocher, Consul General of France in Scotland and Rear Admiral Patrick Chevallereau, the French Embassy's Defence Attaché.

We have, as a choir, let Ian know how proud we are of his achievement.

**Tom Millar
Web Secretary**



The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

One morning in late September saw Glasgow Phoenix Choir set off on tour to Thurso and the Orkney Islands. It was our first trip so far north in eight years and was much anticipated by both choir and audiences. It had been a long and tiring journey to Thurso and the only mishap was the arrival of one of our sopranos in the wrong hotel. Two things contributed to rousing us and providing an enjoyable and lively performance. The first of these was the indefatigable Marilyn Smith. Quite where she gets her energy from is a mystery to all, but she, somehow, galvanised the choir and soon we were singing with gusto. The second factor was the warmth of the welcome from our audience. The house was packed and included members of a local youth choir, who sang along with many items in the programme.

Day two of our tour allowed us some time to look round Thurso before setting off to the ferry terminal to travel onwards. We had a pleasant and uneventful journey and headed straight to the Italian Chapel, where we had planned to record a Postcard CD to help raise funds for the restoration of the chapel. For those who have not been there, the Italian Chapel was constructed from two Nissen huts, provided for Italian prisoners of war who were interned on the Orkney Islands during World War Two. The building is a category A-listed building and is a testament to the relationship between the prisoners and islanders. Well worth a visit.

The chapel is not the easiest place in which to undertake a recording, being a small,

curved structure. However, under the guidance of our great crew all went well until darkness descended. With no lighting available, and a narrow time schedule, we continued in the semi-dark. We are a choir who, in the main, sing without using music during a performance. I suspect that few of us had realised until this point how much we rely on seeing the face of our conductor, not so much for the words, which she always promises to mouth, but for her facial expression, which aids us in expressing the sentiment of what we are singing. It was a great relief to all to find that our recordings had worked out well and only needed small tweaks.

After an enjoyable social event that evening, we prepared for our second concert of the weekend in the magnificent St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall. The concert was also being recorded and it had been decided to try to update our official photograph outside the cathedral, prior to the performance. Our choir business manager, the shy and retiring John Blue, ended up halting traffic in the middle of Kirkwall so that this could go ahead. The resulting photographs are excellent and we're very grateful to the always patient Les Hill for his work on them. Once again, we had a very enjoyable experience and a hearty reception from our audience. The sound quality in the cathedral is amazing and I, a first alto, was most impressed by the quality of our soprano sections. Logan MacDonald also excelled in his performance as baritone solo in sections of the Fauré Requiem.

The end of our tour started at sunrise the following morning; and what a beautiful sunrise it was... almost worth being

awake quite so early. Sadly, our journey home was eventful; one of the coaches developed a radiator problem, so had to stop regularly to take on water, until Stuart, our driver met up with a kindly van driver who had just the right equipment to sort our problem. The onward journey was hampered by roadworks. Lots of roadworks. Stuart and Diane, our drivers for the weekend, remained patient, good-humoured and entertaining throughout. As a result, we were late enough back in Lanarkshire to see a beautiful sunset; a great end to the day and the tour.

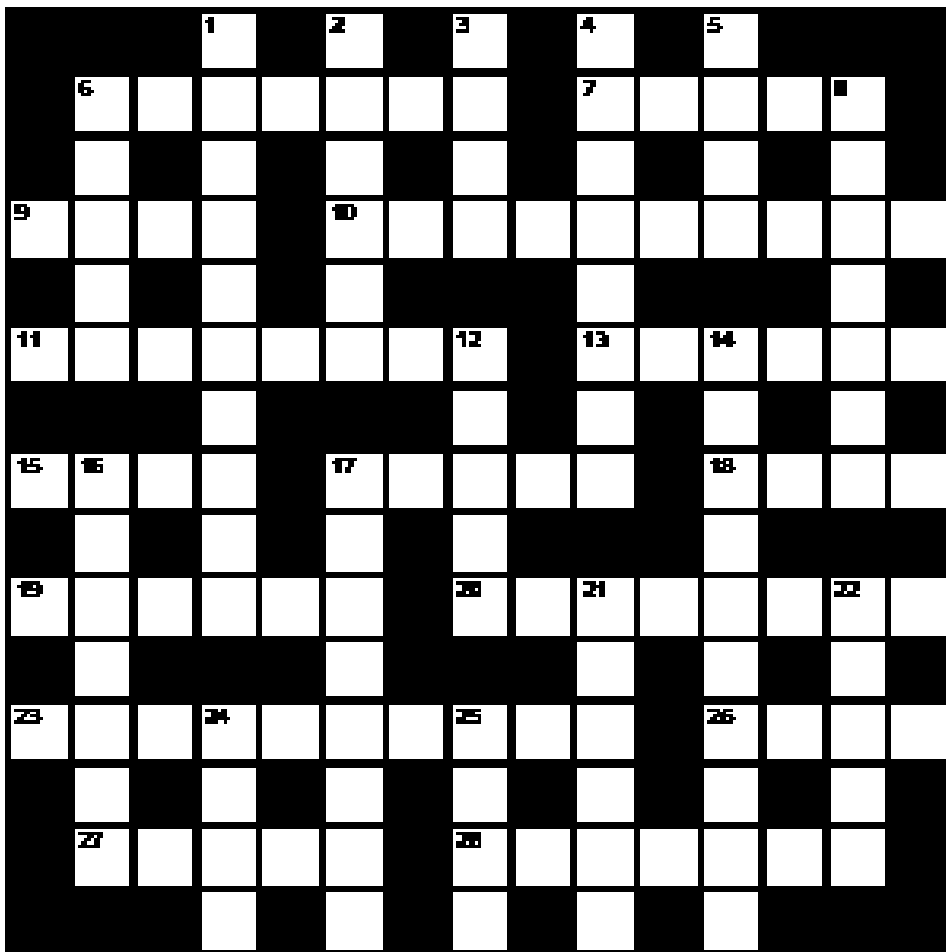
On return from the North, we began preparations for the Christmas season. In the midst of our preparations we were greeted with two pieces of unhappy news. The first very sad news was that Frank Marsh, a former second bass who had retired from the choir because of poor health, died while on holiday with his wife Clare. The two had been on a cruise and though Frank's death was very sudden, we took some comfort from the fact that he had been taking part in an on-board choir just beforehand. A second piece of bad news was that our accompanist and deputy conductor, Cameron Murdoch, required surgery to his left hand, serious enough for anyone, but particularly alarming for a skilled, professional musician. The surgery has now taken place and the good news is that Cameron is doing very well. He was sadly missed at two of our Christmas concerts but we were ably assisted by Kieran Young and are very grateful to him for stepping into the breach.

Our three Christmas concerts all took place within a week of one another in the Freemasons' Hall in Edinburgh, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Moncrieff Parish Church in East Kilbride. All went very well and our concert in Glasgow marked a series of special anniversaries. It was Marilyn Smith's 25th Christmas concert in the Royal Concert Hall with the choir. In addition, three young sopranos celebrated a total of 170 years of singing with the Phoenix. Maureen Moore and Mary McKay have been members of the choir for 60 years each and Fiona Miller has been with us for 50 years. These achievements were celebrated by presentations of gifts and flowers. Sadly, Mary has decided that she will retire as a singer, but will continue as an associate member of the choir.

Anne Kay
Publicity Officer



PUZZLE PAGES



Across

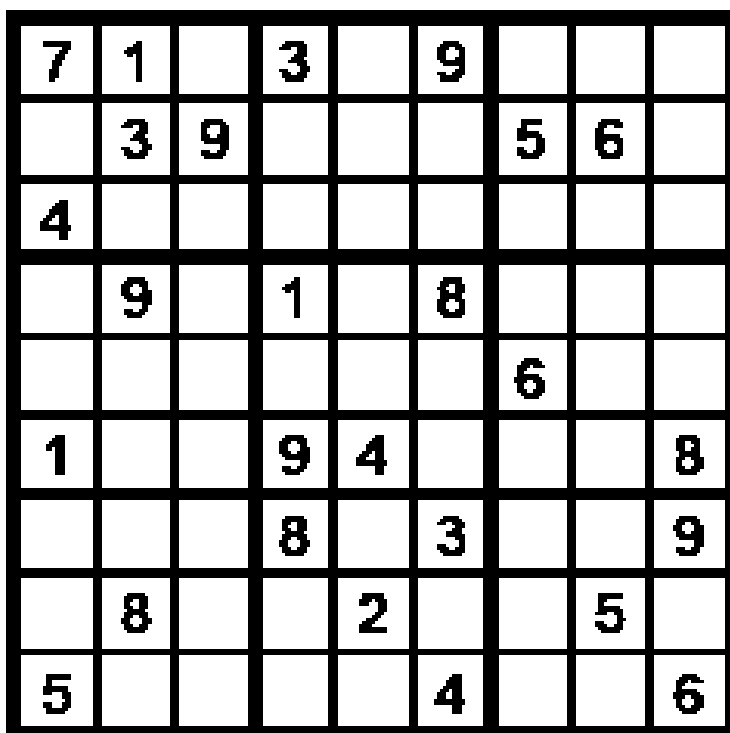
- 6 My very posh stamping ground (7)
- 7 Contained an excuse for the meal I binned (5)
- 9 Ill-formed leaf may cause an itch (4)
- 10 The lads from the prehistoric tomb? (6-4)
- 11 Ethnic extremists come together in Russian mountains (8)
- 13 I add a smile as a figure of speech (6)
- 15 'Ello 'ello (4)
- 17 A slight change in fashion becomes uncertain (5)
- 18 Perversely Nottingham clay has pretty holes in it (4)
- 19 The cousin of Barnabas is hesitant about the felt pen (6)
- 20 Concealingly gave lace to cover her breasts (8)
- 23 Needed chorally for best effect (4-6)
- 26 Eloping without pie isn't short when altered (4)
- 27 So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen ... (5)
- 28 Allied without the fruit-flavoured soft drink (7)

Down

- 1 Fortification of the chest with toil (10)
- 2 Remove the broken braids legally (6)
- 3 Feline happy talk (4)
- 4 Absurdly jealous I admire your new louvers (8)
- 5 Initially look in my body parts (4)
- 6 For Paul I cooked the rice in a well seasoned broth (5)
- 8 Excellent and delightful if you compose periodically and remove the opera (7)
- 12 makes sense (5)
- 14 To lousily lament love makes an evil wish (10)
- 16 The high born Russian widow is transported in a Nazi Car (7)
- 17 Be good to drive the virus out perhaps (8)
- 21 fourscore (6)
- 22 Does the Quranic spirit have light brown hair? (5)
- 24 Not good for Levi to live a vile life (4)
- 25 Cold dice thrown (4)

To have your own copy of this page to work on go to www.nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk and look for the latest copy of News & Views then print the page. Easy!

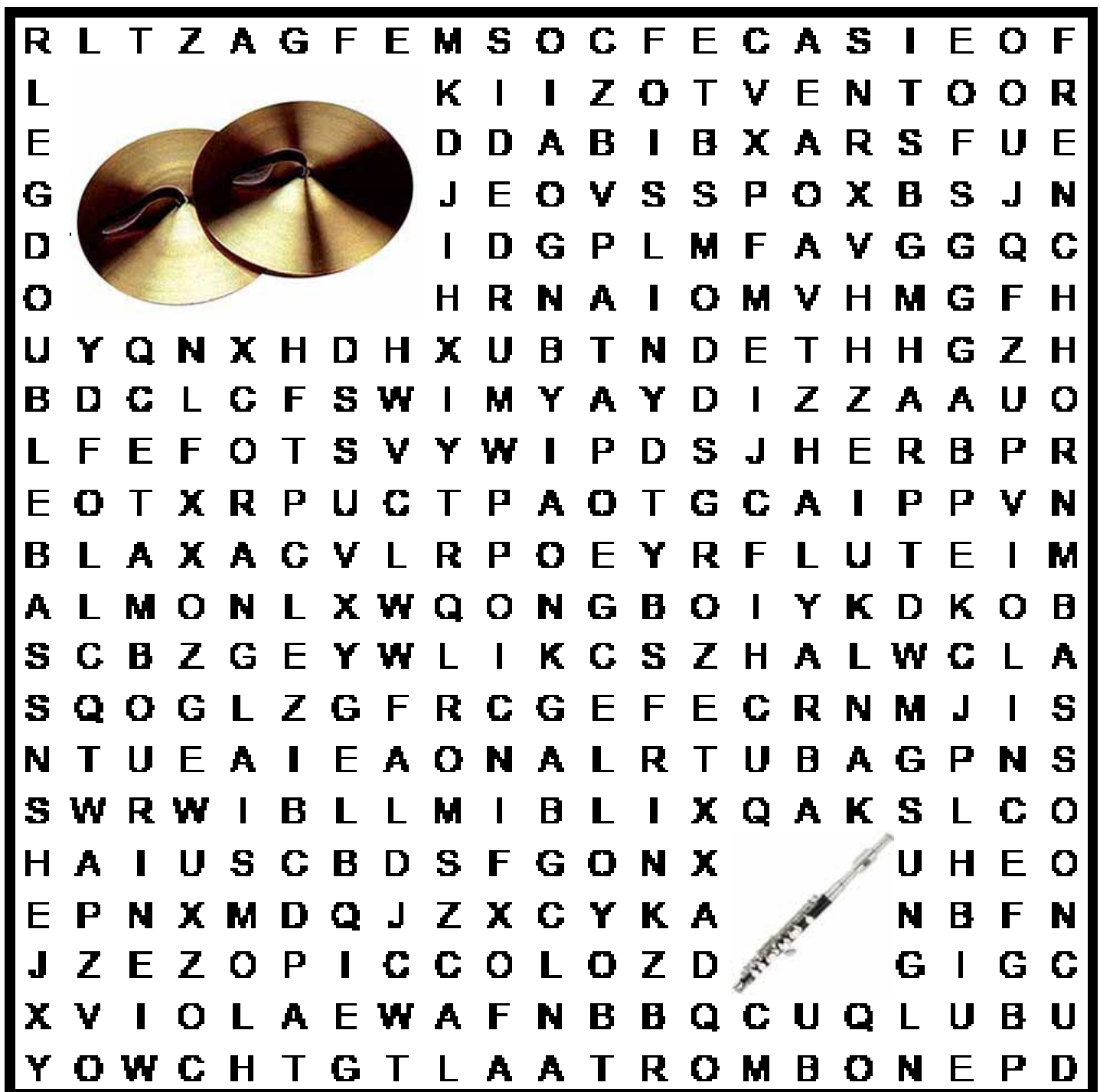
S
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SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 31

INSTRUMENT SEARCH

I have hidden a number of orchestral instruments in the grid.
Can you find them all?



The grid contains the following letters:

```

R L T Z A G F E M S O C F E C A S I E O F
L           K I I Z O T V E N T O O R
E           D D A B I B X A R S F U E
G           J E O V S S P O X B S J N
D           I D G P L M F A V G G Q C
O           H R N A I O M V H M G F H
U Y Q N X H D H X U B T N D E T H H G Z H
B D C L C F S W I M Y A Y D I Z Z A A U O
L F E F O T S V Y W I P D S J H E R B P R
E O T X R P U C T P A O T G C A I P P V N
B L A X A C V L R P O E Y R F L U T E I M
A L M O N L X W Q O N G B O I Y K D K O B
S C B Z G E Y W L I K C S Z H A L W C L A
S Q O G L Z G F R C G E F E C R N M J I S
N T U E A I E A O N A L R T U B A G P N S
S W R W I B L L M I B L I X Q A K S L C O
H A I U S C B D S F G O N X           U H E O
E P N X M D Q J Z X C Y K A           N B F N
J Z E Z O P I C C O L O Z D           G I G C
X V I O L A E W A F N B B Q C U Q L U B U
Y O W C H T G T L A A T R O M B O N E P D
    
```

- BASSOON
- CELLO
- CLARINET
- COR ANGLAIS
- CYMBALS
- DOUBLE BASS
- FLUTE
- FRENCH HORN

- HARP
- OBOE
- PIANOFORTE
- PICCOLO
- SIDEDRUM
- TAMBOURINE
- TIMPANI
- TRIANGLE

- TROMBONE
- TRUMPET
- TUBA
- VIOLA
- VIOLIN
- WOODBLOCK



Arrangements for our 2016 conference at Newcastle are all in place and we look forward to an excellent conference.

Renewing acquaintances and forging new ones with people who share your love and interest in music is always rewarding and a pleasure. There will be plenty of opportunity for this. I have taken note of your suggestions from Open Forums and comments made while in Worthing this year. Some of the requests will be met in 2017 as it was not possible to accommodate them in the 2016 conference as dates were already fixed. I refer to the suggestion we move from our traditional template which is that, if Easter falls in March we have the conference two weeks later, if in April, two weeks before. This arrangement does not suit many of our delegates who cannot request leave outside the Easter break.



The booking form and costings for the conference in Newcastle are included in this publication of News & Views. I would encourage all our delegates to send in their forms as early as they can, including the deposit in order for me to book rooms at the hotel.

This is a modern spacious hotel with lifts to all floors. There are no stairs to worry about. Parking is not possible on the roads outside the hotel and therefore I have arranged for parking in the multi storey opposite the hotel. Anyone who has

difficulty with walking or coping with their luggage should drive to the hotel reception and make it known you need assistance to be brought back to the hotel from the car park once you have parked your car after booking in at the hotel. I have arranged that the car park staff will drive you across to the hotel in the car park shuttle car. The cost of parking is £8 per 24 hours and is not included in the conference tariff.



Our main speaker is David Lawrence who will cover conducting technique and developing choral sound performance. His last half hour will be covering his work and expectations in his chosen field.

Tracey de Vere White will cover Social Media in her seminar, giving advice from her extensive knowledge in this field.

Karl Harper is a Musical Director, voice coach and instrument repairer. He is a robotics engineer and sound technician. He will be giving insight into the world of sound management and control. Beth Emery has entitled her seminar 'Choral Identity in the 21st Century'. A resumé of her talk is attached to this report below.

Our Gala concert will be staged in The Sage at Gateshead. I have arranged coaches to transport us to the venue for this outstanding event where I believe twenty seven choirs will perform in groups for our



entertainment. As always, I have arranged a supper on return to the hotel following the concert.

Our Gala dinner on Friday evening will be in the main hotel restaurant followed by entertainment arranged by the North East Group.

Clive Lawton

CHORAL IDENTITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

With the ever changing world we live in, does your choir stand out from the crowd? Are you easily recognised when you are out and about? At Dunkley Web Designs no job is too big or small. Whether you would like a full re-brand of your website, new logo, programmes and publicity material, personalised choir leisure wear of just a few pens, magnets and key rings to sell on at concerts and events.

Beth is going to talk about the possibilities open to you and your choir and will have some special offers available.

**BOOK NOW
WRITE TO CLIVE LAWTON
BOOK ONLINE**





Reg'd. Charity No. 1014610

National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Booking Form 1 8-10 April 2016

The Jurys In Hotel, Scotswood Road, St James Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4AD

Conference Costs

Full Conference Stay

The price quoted is per person for the whole conference

There are no single room supplements

Price per person for whole conference includes admission to all lectures

two nights bed breakfast and evening meal

refreshments and free admission to Saturday evening concert

per person £220

Stay an extra night - Single £72 BB - Double (two persons) £82 BB

Day Delegate [Saturday]

Please circle requirements

Refreshments and lunch included £40.00

Evening meal Saturday add £20.00

Concert ticket Saturday add £10.00

Gala Dinner add £30.00

Payments

Full Conference Stay

Deposit of £70 [non refundable] by 30 November 2015, balance by 28 February 2016

Final payment reminders will be sent

Day delegates

Payment in full when booking [non refundable]

Amount Submitted £ _____

Please return your completed forms and deposits to the address below

• **This Year it is possible to book on-line at www.nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk** •

You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by 1 March 2016

[cancellations after this date will incur a charge of 50% of the total fee payable]

However substitute guests will be welcome

Cheques should be made payable to the National Association of Choirs

THE PERSONAL DETAILS OF EACH DELEGATE MUST BE ENTERED ON FORM 2

Please return your completed forms and deposits to

Clive Lawton- Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS

07939012458

conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



Reg'd. Charity No. 1014610

National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Booking Form 2 8-10 April 2016

The Jurys In Hotel, Scotswood Road, St James Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4AD

The event is open to all who wish to attend on payment of the appropriate charges

Guest 1

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone Home _____ Mobile _____

Email Address _____

Special Requirements

Diet [type] _____

Disability [wheelchair user/handrails required etc.] _____

NAC group _____

Choir Name _____

Guest 2

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Telephone Home _____ Mobile _____

Email Address _____

Special Requirements

Diet [type] _____

Disability [wheelchair user/handrails required etc.] _____

NAC group _____

Choir Name _____

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM FOR MORE GUESTS IF REQUIRED

Please return your completed forms and deposits to

Clive Lawton- Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS

07939012458

conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



Reg'd. Charity No. 1014430

National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Provisional Timetable 8-10 April 2016

The Jurys In Hotel, Scotswood Road, St James Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4AD

Friday 8 April

- 2.00 Delegates arrive and register
- 4.30 National Officers' meeting
- 7.30 Delegates and guests assemble for dinner
- 7.30 Reception National Officers and guests
- 8.00 Dinner is served
- 9.30 After dinner entertainment provided by the North East Brass Ensemble
- 12.00 Bar closes

Saturday 9 April

- 7.00 Access to trade stands to set up
- 7.30-9.00 Breakfast in main dining room
- 9.15-10.15 Annual General Meeting
- 10.15-10.30 Comfort break only
- 10.30-11.30 Seminar 1 David Lawrence - Conducting Technique
- 11.30 Coffee and trade stand viewing
- 12.00-1.00 Seminar 2 David Lawrence - Developing Choral Sound/Performance
- 1.00 Lunch and trade stand viewing (Lunch included in full delegate package)
- 2.00-3.00 Seminar 3 Tracey De Vere White - Social Media.
- 3.00 Coffee and trade stand viewing
- 3.30-4.00 Seminar 4 David Lawrence - What Makes Him Tick In The Musical World
- 4.15 Buffet meal before concert (included in full delegate Package)
- 6.15 Coaches to Sage depart hotel
- 7.00 Concert at the Sage - Massed Male Voices (10 choirs) Massed Mixed Voices (7 choirs)
Massed Ladies Voices (7 choirs) Finale (All choirs)
Interval 20 minutes at about 8.00
- 10.00 Return from concert - Light cold buffet (included in full delegate package)
- 12.00 Bar closes

Sunday 10 April

- 7.30-9.00 Breakfast
For those delegates wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at hotel reception
- 10.00-10.45 Karl Harper Sound technology, Inc amplification, rhythm tracks, backing tracks and much more
- 10.45-11.30 Beth Emery Choral Identity in the 21st Century
- 11.30 Coffee and trade stand viewing
- 12.00 Members Open Forum
- 1.00 Conference closes (Lunch available in dining room at members' own expense)
- 1.00 National Officers' debrief meeting (guillotined after one hour)

Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Sixty is the new Forty

Some thoughts on the future of choirs as the Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir approach their 60th Anniversary

Formed on the 16 February 1956, the Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir is about to celebrate its sixtieth birthday. 'Congratulations', 'Many Happy Returns of the Day' but the loudest call of all is... are you having a party?'

Your warm wishes are all gratefully accepted and yes we are planning a party and guess what? You're all welcome to come along. In fact, we have treated the whole of our 2015-16 concert season as one long celebration culminating in our Diamond Anniversary Concert on 16 April 2016 at Derby Cathedral.

We have made a number of changes to our programme this year to add a little extra sparkle to our performance. A small lapel badge signifying 60 years of singing has been added to our already smart uniforms and each of our choristers has received a framed message from the Chief Constable of Derbyshire, Mr Mick Creedon, thanking them for the wonderful contribution the choir has made to charitable works within the county.

At the end of each of the 25 concerts that we have performed during the current concert season our concert host has been both surprised and delighted to receive a special edition commemorative pennant from the choir. The choir has also adopted two local charities this season and intends to donate any surplus funds to these worthy causes at the end of our anniversary year.

In 1932 American psychologist Walter B Pitkin famously coined the phrase 'Life Begins at 40'. New research however, indicates that life now begins at 60, twenty



years later than the old adage - and middle age stretches for almost a decade after that.

So as we approach the grand old age of 60, what sort of future can the choir look forward to?

A recent survey of 1,000 over-60s revealed that comfy slippers and snoozing by the fireside came nowhere in their plans. Instead, they were determined to take up parachuting and hang-gliding, to see the Northern Lights and swim with dolphins, to go to the opera, grow a beard and have more sex!

Now whilst these activities are not compulsory to choir singers, and may not appeal to all of us; it would appear that '60-somethings' certainly can't be accused of opting for the quiet life. There is no longer an assumption that advanced years are a time to wind down and switch off. In fact, a world of opportunity is open to Britain's modern day mature generation.

So why is it that older people have such a highly developed sense of adventure?

And more importantly what is the choir equivalent of hang gliding, swimming with dolphins or having more sex?

One part of the answer lies in the fact that being over 60 concentrates the mind wonderfully. At 20, we thought we would live for ever; and so would our friends and family. Now, as some of those closest to us are taken from us, we become very aware of our own mortality. Time is precious - and not to be wasted.

So if we as a choir adopt the same approach as individual sixty year olds there must be a future full of adventure and challenge ahead of us. And recent developments within our choir have placed us in a good

position to face these challenges and grasp new opportunities with both hands.

Whilst the choir has never boasted a large membership, recruitment over the past few years has increased membership to around forty - the largest it has ever been. Our reputation within the county of Derbyshire is also at an all-time high as a result of the hard work of our musical team and the quality of the performances that we have delivered.

The choir's profile within the local community has also risen consistently through the use of all forms of social media, regular reporting in the local press, informal networking and even occasional appearances on regional radio. So we find ourselves in reasonable shape to face the future.

But as all choirs know however, maintaining a healthy membership is a continuing challenge and there is always a need to introduce new and younger blood. The good news is that the pool from which we can recruit new members is also growing significantly. People aged over 50 currently represent a third of the population and are set to grow by 25% in the next 20 years.

So the question is how best to recruit from this growing pool of people and how do we ensure we possess sufficient stimulus to satisfy their need for new challenge and adventure?





What within a choir experience is the equivalent to parachuting, hang-gliding and swimming with dolphins?

Well I for one can testify that the adrenalin rush of singing in front of an appreciative audience as part of a choral ensemble is not to be underestimated. To consistently reproduce this experience however demands a need for new audiences, new venues, new material and new media.

So to attract adrenalin junkies perhaps we need greater ambition and to cast our sight further and wider afield than ever before. Should concerts featuring soloists such as Jonathan Antoine, Alfie Boe or Andrea Bocelli be beyond our scope? Is the Royal Albert Hall, the O₂ arena or the renamed Principality Stadium a venue beyond our dreams? Should the thought of a collaboration with rappers such as Jay-Z or Eminem be an idea unspoken? Must a choir always sing with piano accompaniment? Where is the choir which performs with an Indie band and features electric guitar solos? And what of the European tour or world tour next year?

Perhaps some of these ideas are a little far-fetched but unless choirs begin to challenge and shift the self-imposed boundaries within which they operate, we will never attract those fifty-somethings who want new adventures, new experiences and new challenges. Worse than that, without change we risk the danger of becoming obsolete. And this is a condition which most choirs are openly reporting throughout the UK as recorded in a recent film and television documentary on Welsh Male Voice Choirs. The film by Focus Shift Films featuring Blaenavon Male Voice Choir with contributions from seven other well established choirs highlights the difficulties in attracting younger members to sustain the longevity of the choirs.

Maybe a choir working with Jay Z, Eminem, Rita Orla or Jesie J is an idea worth considering.

If younger people (or even sixty-somethings) aren't attracted by the

current offering of a choir, then some form of change is required. This is a reality throughout the world of business and non-profit making organisations and charities. A successful organisation needs to evolve and adapt if its product or service is to thrive. Take Heinz for example, a mainstay in kitchens, cafés and bowls around the country – has it remained static? No. Throughout its 110-year lifespan, product labelling has changed frequently and yet remains instantly recognisable to consumers - both young and old. So whilst choirs should respect and treasure their heritage we must also be prepared to adopt material and methods that younger choristers want to sing and younger audiences want to hear.

So as we approach our sixtieth birthday in a relatively strong position, do we the Derbyshire Constabulary MVC possess the ambition and courage to survive for another ten, twenty or sixty years? Without some form of evolutionary or revolutionary changes it's unlikely. The only certainty is that given our average age of seventy-two years, only a handful of us will be around to experience the effects of these changes.

So here's the challenge fellow choristers - if time is precious and not to be wasted - grasp the opportunity for change and make it happen now. Find out what younger people would find attractive about 'the choir experience' and involve them in introducing these changes - before it's too late. But for now let's put on our party hats, sing Happy Birthday and take a deep breath to blow out all the candles. Remember Life begins at 60.

For further information please visit

www.derbyshire.police.uk/About-us/Male-Voice-Choir/About-the-Choir.aspx

DCMVCenquiry@virginmedia.com

01332 606356

Kevin Griffiths
Publicity Officer



Thanet Male Voice Choir Thames South

The Gurkha Memorial

On Sunday 4 October 2015, members of the Thanet Male Voice Choir and their loyal supporters set off from St Peters, near Broadstairs, Kent, to participate in the unveiling ceremony of the Gurkha Memorial in Folkestone.

It was a real privilege to be included in this event as the memorial is the only one in Britain dedicated to the Gurkhas to commemorate the loyalty and selfless sacrifice that these men have made over the last 200 years for this country.

After the impressive Gurkha pipe band opened proceedings by marching through the town accompanied by the guest of honour Joanna Lumley, several dignitaries commended the soldiers for their bravery and talked of their pride in having a Gurkha regiment here in Folkestone.

Joanna Lumley and Sujata Koirala (the first lady of Nepal), then unveiled the most splendid statue of a young Gurkha soldier, sculptured by Rebecca Hawkins (a renowned local artist). This was followed by a blessing by Catholic, Buddhist and Hindu priests and the service was completed with the *Last Post*.

Dhan Gurung (the organiser of the event and retired Gurkha soldier of 18 years service), Joanna Lumley and Peter Carroll were presented with medals in acknowledgement of their work in bringing the Gurkha cause into the public eye and the TMVC followed with a medley of stirring songs.

The afternoon then took on a more relaxed atmosphere with music, dance and song and to end this very colourful occasion 200 balloons were released to mark 200 years of Gurkha participation in the British forces while TMVC sang them out with some more military songs.

I'm sure that I speak for everyone in saying that the choir thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and was proud to be present on such a memorable day for the Gurkhas.

Chris Sykes
TMVC Chorister

Mendip Male Voice Choir South West

The Mendip Male Voice Choir kept their best till last, the final concert of the year at St John's Church Midsomer Norton certainly showed off the choir talents.



A packed church was treated to some great pieces of music, including *Mary's Boy Child, The Holly And The Ivy, When A Child Is Born* and *Nowell Nowell*.

To break up the singing Musical Director Jamie Knights and pianist Philip Evry firstly played a duet on one piano then in the second half played a duet on two pianos that had the large audience and the Mendip Men on their feet.

Throughout the concert Jamie Knights invited members of the audience to pull crackers. He was not interested in the gifts, only the jokes that he shared with the gathering, some good some not so good that brought jeers from the men he was conducting.

In the audience were special guests, previous MD, Kate Courage, previous pianist, Carl Speck, and the ever popular Patron, Alex Hann. You could see from their enthusiastic applause how they enjoyed the singing and had nothing but praise for the men.

The choir's ladies support-group chaired by Mary Downing organised wine and mince pies in the interval which was well received, thanks must go out to this loyal band of supporters who work hard throughout the year.

A tremendous year for the Mendip Male Voice Choir has ended. Many thousands of pounds has been raised for charity and hours of enjoyment has been given to audiences throughout the Somerset area, Wales and Worcester, and of course the men have enjoyed every minute of it.



Now on 11 January 2016 at St Mary's School Tisbury at 7.15 all the hard work starts again, new pieces to learn Jamie Knights trying to get the pronunciations right and Phil Evry tickling the ivories playing all the right notes all in the right places.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful group of men please come along any Monday night you will be made most welcome. You will never know what you have missed until you have sung with 80 men.

www.mendipmen.co.uk

Bryn Hawkins



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NO Mains Power? NO Singing? NO Problem!

Recently, Mendip Male Voice Choir had to turn down an outside engagement as the organiser stated there would be no mains power available. At the same time the choir was asked to take part in a local 'Light of the Night' on 31 October - Halloween - which involved at least 80 metres of electrical cable stretched across uneven ground in the dark.

The choir's Stage Manager suddenly thought about inverters, as used in cars to run/recharge small appliances. He talked to his electrically-trained son and cutting a long story short, they did some mathematics on the wattage, voltage and amperage of the keyboard, its transformer, amplifiers and a small light. A test on a car's lighter connection with son's inverter and all worked. The conclusion was a visit to the local DIY to purchase a 300w inverter (it clips direct to battery); then to the local motor factors/caravan supplies for a Leisure Battery. A Leisure battery is required rather than a car battery as a vehicle battery has to provide a high current surge to start an engine, but once that has been achieved, a vehicle's alternator immediately replenishes the power it provided. In contrast, a leisure battery has to provide a steady flow of current over a prolonged period and seldom gets replenished until

the user recognises that its voltage level has substantially fallen. That's when a recharge is duly provided. If left long in a discharged state, a battery will generally not regain its former condition. Also, manufacturers often recommend that recharging is commenced when a battery drops to 50% of its full condition.



The real test came the next evening at the 'Light of the Night'. We clipped inverter to battery, put plug in inverter's socket, connected keyboard and lamp and switched on inverter. Hey presto, it all worked. The Pianist tinkled the ivories, the MD conducted and the choir sang for half an hour. Thirty minutes rest when we left only the light burning, and then another half hour singing. Left the light burning so we could pack all away, finally disconnecting battery.

Subsequently, a digital charger was purchased from the same local motor factor and the battery topped up, as it was again the day it was wanted.

The set-up has now been tested a second time by singing for two 30 minute slots at Bath Christmas Market. Again all went well with battery and inverter. Our choir rarely sings for more than 2 x 30 minute slots at an outside event so the above purchases suit us well.

Other choirs may sing for longer and therefore need more power. An e-mail to a well-known electrical manufacturer with photos of the equipment badges for info got the following advice: *If you have their inverter with a 100aH leisure battery you should get about 5 hours running time and some spare capacity on the inverter so you are not running at full load.*

So, there you are – power with no mains available – and you keep singing!

I have edited the specific brands and sellers from this article. if you would like all the details email me or contact Mendip MVC directly. I'm sure they'll be glad to help.

Crawford

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Gresley Male Voice Choir

Midlands East

An individual's Loyalty and Dedication within society and the workplace is often quite rare, but very commendable and valued by all colleagues and friends.

This is just as important in voluntary organisations such as Gresley Male Voice Choir (GMVC), particularly for those who have held, and those who currently hold key roles, requiring a great deal of time and effort out of social and/or non-working life.

It was therefore deemed fitting and appropriate to make mention in the NAC News & Views of the following GMVC member for which the choir is extremely proud!



Roy Atkins

Roy Atkins recently achieved 66 years 'service, 38 years of which he was Chairman of GMVC.

Roy's enduring dedication and commitment over the years has undoubtedly made a huge contribution and difference to the choir's evolution and consistently high standard of singing achieved by their choristers.

The choir is therefore hugely grateful to Roy for his knowledge, experience and guidance which has and continues to be passed on to existing and new GMVC choristers.

Karl Harper

Karl joined GMVC as a chorister in 1978 until appointed as Musical Director (MD) of GMVC in 1994.

Karl has therefore this year achieved, 21 years service as MD during which his



experience of over 30 years' teaching singing has undoubtedly benefited GMVC in their current standing as a competent and very much sought after male voice choir in their local community and beyond.

Ken Wildes

Ken Wildes joined GMVC in 1980 as a chorister and has therefore this year achieved a commendable 35 years' service.

Over the years Ken's dedication and experience has benefited new choristers, particularly those in the Tenor Section in which currently sings.

Over the years Ken held various GMVC officer roles including Special Purpose Committee Secretary.

It is therefore important to say that the choir is very grateful to Ken for his enduring commitment to GMVC.

Phil Bath

Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir

Midlands West

An Indian Summer for a visiting German choir

In March 2014 an enquiry was received by Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir from Sängervereinigung Seckbach Männerchor (Singers' Association, Seckbach Male Voice Choir), Frankfurt, about the feasibility of exchange visits being arranged between our two choirs during the following year. Their visit was to be part of their 140th anniversary celebrations.

Whilst we were apprehensive about arranging a reciprocal journey, we were excited by the prospect of hosting them for part of their trip, so in September 2015 we were thrilled that the plans came to fruition, especially since their contact, an Englishman living in Frankfurt, had been seriously ill over the development period.

On Monday, 28 September, 15 singers, some wives, and their Musical Director arrived at our rehearsal location, the Chuckery Club, in Walsall. There we rehearsed two items that we were to perform later that week, then we socialised, entertaining each other with some choir songs and 'Partei-Stücke' (party-pieces) and had some food and drinks together, and got to know each other. The Seckbach choir presented the Walsall choir with some bottles of Äpfelwein, their local speciality.

During the week our new German friends took in some of the sights of the Midlands: *inter alia* the Severn Valley Steam Railway, Ironbridge Gorge and Museum, Birmingham Art Gallery (meeting Birmingham's Lord Mayor), the Black Country Museum, Cosford RAF Museum, and Gas Street Basin, centre of the Birmingham canal network. They also met three other local choirs for social events and concerts.

On the Friday at the end of the week, visits were made to the German War Cemetery on Cannock Chase, a Roman settlement on Watling Street, a canal-side restaurant, and Lichfield Cathedral (meeting Lichfield's Mayor). In the cathedral, the choir sang



two lovely pieces: a beautiful a cappella Italian folk song, *Benia Calastoria*, and Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*.

Then, later that evening, they were the guests of WHMVC in a free concert in Wednesbury Town Hall. The concert was a great success, and the two joint items went without hitch. The German choir's repertoire included some surprising items: *Conquest of Paradise* by Vangelis, *Alkohol* by Herbert Grönermeyer and *Skandal im Sperrbezirk* by Spider Murphy Gang. We joined them in singing an arrangement of The Who's *Behind Blue Eyes*, whilst with us they sang the traditional Male Choir hymn *Gwahoddiad*.



As their final activity in the region, the Germans headed towards Sparkbrook in Birmingham, to sample the delights of the renowned 'balti triangle'. This was followed by an early morning 16-hour trip home. Auf wiedersehen!

For the whole of the week, the weather was glorious: the rain stayed away, we were bathed in sunshine every day; it was a real Indian summer. Some of the choir were sporting sun-tanned faces, some suggested that they might take their summer holidays in England.

The next week it rained...

Meanwhile, we at Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir continue steadily to present concerts in the local area; we must be all right, we keep getting called back to venues and are building up a steady rapport with our 'regulars'. At the same time we are extending our repertoire with newer and different songs, under the guidance of our MD, Bryan Jeffreys, so we are able to present a varied and changing programme at each concert.

And who knows – perhaps we will travel to Germany next year.

Details of Seckbach's choir can be found on www.sv-seckbach.de, and they have more pictures on Facebook.

Bob Share
Secretary

Worcester Male Voice Choir MidlandsSW

The choir was privileged to join the South West of England Massed choirs for a major concert in support of the Prince's Trust at Colston Hall, Bristol in September. Joining with male voice choirs from Bristol, Cirencester, Cheddar, Churchdown, Dursley, Gloucestershire Police, and Forest of Dean this proved to be an outstanding event. The concert was introduced by Moira Stuart and also starred soloist Wynne Evans who also displayed excellent skills as a comedian. This was the start of another very busy period leading up to Christmas.

At the end of September we held our own annual concert in College Hall, Worcester and a full house saw us use our new staging. Aimed at making life easier for some choristers who were finding our previous staging very difficult to access, this new format provides for ease of use and a more rounded formation aiding the choir sound. For this concert we were joined by Worcester City Youth Brass Band, a very talented group of young people under the direction of Nickie Daw. Their skill and enthusiasm was obvious and it was refreshing to see young people enjoying their music so much. The choir gave a very good performance of *The Holy City* which had been one of the new pieces learnt for the massed choirs concert in Bristol.



In October we visited St Mary's Church, Kempsey to raise funds for the church. Efforts to recruit new choristers then continued with informal concerts in the main Worcester Crowngate Shopping Centre in September and again in December. These proved to be very popular, gave us good publicity and a couple of new members. We also welcomed a member from Mendip MVC whose choir happened to be on tour in the Worcester area.

Continuing on the recruitment front we arranged to visit the University of

Worcester and sang during the lunch hour in the student dining hall. It was well received and we hope to gain some recruits to our choristers. Our view is that if we can encourage undergraduates to sing we may help ourselves and other choirs when the youngsters gain employment and settle permanently in an area.



Remembrance Sunday saw the choir leading the singing at the service held in Worcester Cathedral attended by the Mayor of Worcester, Roger Knight, who has become a very welcome visitor to a number of our concerts. The end of November saw our traditional singing at the Victorian Fayre in Worcester. A very well attended activity over three days involving lots of local and German twinning association retailers. We entertained the large crowds of shoppers as they moved along the main High Street.

This is a time when we move smoothly from our traditional repertoire into getting into the spirit of Christmas with carols. A collection was held for the very important work of the St Richard's Hospice Worcester. Fast on the heels of that came another annual event with our Christmas concert in Pershore Abbey; a splendid venue for what is now an established two concert packed event on a Friday and a Saturday at the beginning of December. Proceeds from the event were for Worcestershire Headway (a charity for those who have suffered brain injuries). Guests included the Mayors of both Worcester and Pershore. We were joined by our great friend the international organist Keith Hearnshaw who in addition to some outstanding solo pieces accompanied us when we sang a number of pieces including *Morte Christe*, and *Love Could I Only Tell Thee*. In addition we welcomed back Holborne Brass who bring a very special musical dimension to a concert and they were again superb. Amongst other carefully selected brass pieces they accompanied three carols sung by the choir. Our final guest was another very talented young local soprano, Sophie Edkins who we had met at a concert we performed in Droitwich earlier in the year.

As well as her own repertoire she sang the solo part of *Morte Christe, O Virgin Of The Angel Host*, and *O Holy Night*. The format for our Christmas concerts really works well. In the first half the choir sings from its general repertoire and each of the guests have a slot as well. Then the second half is all about Christmas.

This year our MD Nicolas Wright had masterminded a wonderful programme with a careful mix of both quiet and rousing pieces which threatened the roof as much as the gale force winds outside. Undoubtedly the highlight was the Saturday evening concert rendition of *The Hallelujah Chorus* accompanied by organ, brass ensemble and all. It was simply magnificent and earned a standing ovation. WMVC are very conscious of those who are spending their remaining years in care homes and regularly visit such places. During November and December we sang at Norton Care Home and the Lawns Nursing Home, Kempsey. The latter were sponsors of our new staging and we have for our part offered concerts and complimentary tickets for their hard working staff over a three year period.

Our final engagement of 2015 was another recruitment concert during the busy Christmas period in the Crowngate Shopping Centre where we were collecting in favour of Midlands Air Ambulance. We were able to use our new pop up banners to promote joining the choir and these have not only given us an addition to our armoury but brought a number of enquiries from other male voice choirs.

A period of refreshment and learning new pieces will see in another very busy New Year. However we will be ready for a joint concert the day before 14 February when we will be singing - very appropriately - with Kidderminster Valentines Choir.

Terry Dillingham
Public Relations Officer

Stockton Synthonia Male Voice Choir North East

The choir has recently been formed through the amalgamation of Stockton Male Voice Choir and Synthonia Male Voice Choir. Despite various initiatives by way of recruitment in recent years, falling numbers in both choirs and the retirement of Synthonia MVC's Accompanist, Dr Gordon Angus, last summer has brought

the two choirs together. Following initial discussions, we began having joint rehearsals in the run up to the North East Group's Choral Spectacular held at The Sage, Gateshead in March 2015 and this arrangement continued through to the end of 2015 using each choir's rehearsal venue on alternate weeks. Furthermore, both choirs have supported each other's concert commitments during the year so as to provide our 'customers' with the quality of sound that comes from a larger choir.



Synthonia MVC is the older of the two choirs having been formed in 1928 as part of the Synthonia Club, a sports and social club, then owned by Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates before it became part of Imperial Chemical Industries. The choir has practised and held concerts at the Synthonia Club in Billingham, Teesside ever since and the new choir is carrying on that tradition. Stockton MVC was formed in 1948 and is a registered charity committed to 'promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals'. The new choir is maintaining Stockton MVC's charitable status with the same objectives.

The two choirs started talking about amalgamation over a year ago and agreed to amalgamate in May whereupon a Steering Committee was formed to address the principal issues of Musical Director, Accompanist, practice venue, constitution and uniform for the new choir. As a result of these deliberations, Janet Howells, who was the MD of Stockton MVC, has been appointed as our MD and Rebecca Topping as our Accompanist. Regrettably this has meant that Margaret Pringle, the MD of Synthonia MVC for the past 20 years, has had to stand down. However, her involvement with the choir will continue as she has graciously agreed to be the President of Stockton Synthonia MVC.

The run up to Christmas was a very busy time as the choir had to honour all commitments made previously by the two

individual choirs. Rehearsals are now in earnest again as it will soon be time for the 2016 Choral Spectacular at The Sage, Gateshead on the 9 April as part of the NAC Annual Conference being held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Both Janet Howells and Margaret Pringle will be conducting male voice choir items.

Stuart Cook
Secretary

Tamworth Male Voice Choir Midlands West Group

The historic Assembly Rooms in Tamworth hosted the choir's 38th Annual Concert in November with very special guests Tamworth Ladies Choir. Although the two choirs have performed together in the past, this was the first time they have sung together at this auspicious venue.

TMVC was ably led by MD Andy Smith and accompanied by Hannah Woolf in her first Annual Concert and the ladies performed with their new team of Gail Brindley and accompanist Mary Hawkes.

The first half saw both choirs showcase their own songs. The men beginning with the rousing *When the Saints go Marching in* and including *Fields of Gold* and *Gwahoddiad* followed by the ladies' renditions of *Impossible Dream*, *Sound of Silence* and *One moment in Time* among many others.

The first half apparently went well as the enthusiastic audience stayed to listen to the second half.



The men gave their rendition of *Gwenllian* and *Can you feel the love tonight* from the *Lion King* featuring soloist Jolian Waldon who will be known to many in the Cheltenham area from his association with Churchdown Male Voice Choir. The ladies presented *Whistle Down the Wind* and a stunning version of *All that Jazz*. The Grand Finale consisted of both choirs singing together extracts from shows such as 'My Fair Lady', 'Oklahoma', 'Chess' and finally from 'Les Miserable'.

The audience reaction was tremendous, egged on by the enigmatic Peter Cooper who combined singing with the duties of MC with the assistance of Rhona Pownall. It is to be hoped that the show was a great advertisement for choirs and will encourage members of the audience to come along on rehearsal nights and enjoy the camaraderie and joy of singing and raising money for many good causes. Tamworth Male Voice Choir and Tamworth Ladies Choir are both looking for new members.

John Egan

Sing4Fun Midlands North

Sing4Fun started in September 2014 and was created by husband and wife team, Dale and Heather Kynaston. It is aimed at any age or gender and the intention is to bring together folks who just want to have a night together singing popular songs from the past to present.

On the first night, just over a 100 people turned up to find out what it was all about and now the choir has a regular attendance of around 60-70 people.



Since its start on 11 September 2014, the choir has learned 18 songs, including 2 Christmas songs and on 18 December of the same year, they had their Christmas party where they entertained an audience of friends and family. Around 200 people gathered to enjoy each other's company and the great fellowship that has developed in the group. It was decided to run a raffle on the night in aid of the local Cottage Care Centre in Newport and the choir and friends raised £160, which was presented to the centre on 9 January (picture attached L to R, Kerry Nolan, Don Shaw, Aneta Allcock from Cottage Care and Heather and Dale Kynaston from the choir).

On 11 September 2015, the choir celebrated one year together and had a party to mark this milestone. The evening at the newly refurbished Burton Borough School was attended by 60 of the choir



members and some family and friends. Entertainment was provided by 'The Travellers', barbershop quartet and by Dale himself, who gave a solo performance.

Earlier in the year, the choir managed to raise over £200 when they sang and fronted a tombola stall at the Newport carnival. The decision on which charity to make the donation to was easy, as one of the choir members, Helen Watts, has a degenerative sight condition, so 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' was the obvious choice. Cyril Plant and Pat Grainger from Guide Dogs for the Blind, came along with Tilly (a Guide Dog in training) and gave a short talk about the charity and how the donation will be used.

Newport's Nova FM were also in attendance to interview several members during the evening and will be broadcasting the interviews in the next week or two.

Pictured here L to R are Heather Kynaston (Sing4Fun), Helen Watts (Choir Member), Cyril Plant and Pat Grainger (Guide Dogs for the Blind), Tilly (Guide Dog puppy in training)

www.sing4fun.biz

Dale Kynaston

The Viva Musica Choir Midlands South West

Viva Musica's 'Last Night of the Proms' concert was held on Saturday 17 October 2015 at Dudley Town Hall, to commemorate both 70 years since the end of the Second World War and to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning monarch in British history. The choir was led by Musical Director Rosemary Phillips and accompanied by Andrew Biggs.

The choir was joined by Sovereign Brass, conducted by Trevor Jones, and the choir of St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School. The children's choir was conducted by Pamela Griffiths and Kathryn O'Grady, both members of Viva Musica.

The programme commenced with *Zadok the Priest* by Handel and *I Was Glad* by Parry. The choir also performed two pieces by Ivor Novello *Rose of England* and *Waltz of my Heart*, a *Concert Celebration* by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and *One Day More* from *Les Miserables*. The soloists were Debbie Wright, Joanne Welch, John Gripton and Matthew Terrado.

Sovereign Brass performed a varied programme, which included *The Red Shield* by Goffin, the atmospheric *Lament from Stabat Mater* by Jenkins, as well as favourites *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* by Kaye and Prince and *Sing, Sing, Sing* by Prima.

The children's choir also performed a wonderful programme. They sang *Believe* by Lin Marsh, *No Wars Will Stop Us Singing* by Wiseman and Black, *When I Grow Up* by Tim Minchen and a traditional *Gospel Medley*.

Viva Musica and Sovereign Brass joined together to perform *Hymn to the Fallen* by John Williams, a moving piece from the film 'Saving Private Ryan'.



Viva Musica, Sovereign Brass and the choir from St Margaret's School joined with the audience for *Pomp and Circumstance*, *Rule Britannia*, *Jerusalem* and *God Save The Queen*. The soloist for *Rule Britannia* was Matthew Terrado resplendent in a Union Jack cape. The flags were waving and the roof at the Town Hall was truly raised.

Viva Musica's next performance will be on Saturday 12 December at St James's Church in Wollaston. The concert will be packed with traditional and popular Christmas music.

For our full concert programme please visit our website www.viva-musica.co.uk or our Facebook page.

New members are always welcome - please see our website for full details. Viva Musica is particularly looking for new tenors and basses.

Lorraine Newman

Letter from NAC in Oz

Greetings from the Antipodes on a glorious Spring morning with temperatures in the high 20s, a cloudless sky and a gentle breeze. Has that made you feel envious?

We are in the lead up to Christmas and I'm writing this a little earlier than usual because we are spending Christmas with our son who now lives in Victoria, about 1,000 kilometres south of here. He previously lived in Brisbane which is 1,000 kilometres north of here and where Christmas can be very uncomfortable due to the high temperatures and very high humidity. Victoria should be much more pleasant. It's a long drive and we are breaking the journey at Wagga Wagga - great name isn't it? Pronounced Wogga Wogga and usually referred to as Wagga. It's the largest inland city in NSW and was once considered as a candidate for the capital city of Australia. Wagga is an Aboriginal word meaning crow and by repeating the word it makes it plural and the meaning becomes the "place of the crows". There is a good male voice choir there formed by the rugby club.

I have included what may seem a strange picture with this edition of my ramblings. First of all, do you know what it is? More marks if you know the actual name of this variety.



Well it's a cicada, of which there are over 200 species in Australia but only one in England - did you know that? I didn't. This picture was taken by me on our back deck and the species is Greengrocer, *Cyclochilia australasiae*, and, to quote from Wikipedia 'is amongst the loudest insects in the world'. As I have been writing this piece the cicadas have been making their chorus, which is unusual because they normally sing - if that's the right word - at night. I have measured their noise level at over 90 decibels or comparable to a petrol driven lawnmower.

Why did I include a picture of the Greengrocer? Well it's pretty isn't it and I thought it was something rather unusual.

Also it made me wonder what was the noise level of a choir. Obviously it depends on the size of the choir and probably male choirs make more noise than ladies or mixed choirs. Has anyone done any work on it? I must measure the sound levels of my choir, the Men's Shed Chorale, but we are only a small choir and we are getting old too. We recently realised that the average age of our choristers is - wait for it - 82 with a range from 69 - he's the baby - to 91. We recently sang for the Christmas celebration at several aged care homes and realised that we were probably older than the residents. Singing keeps us young.

By the time you read this Christmas will be long forgotten and 2016 will be in full swing. I hope that you had a good festive season and that the New Year is bringing you all the peace and happiness you deserve.

As usual if you wish to contact me please do so via email at petefig@optusnet.com.au.

I always look forward to contact from the UK.

Peter Marshall

Rowland Singers Choral Society Thames South Group

What an incredibly exciting term we have just finished. It started in September with five open rehearsals of 'Messiah' at the same time preparing for a joint concert with Churchdown MVC on 17 October, which was great fun, and we are looking forward to our visit to their neck of the woods in 2018. The Emery Ensemble were the soloists and much appreciated by a full house audience.

We then turned our attention to our 'Christmas Celebrations Tour' which included carol singing at Haskins Garden Centre, outside Beales' Department Store in the town centre and three carol concerts. The first two concerts were in local churches with an eclectic mix of carols old and new, devotional and less so with plenty for everybody to sing and enjoy. The soloists were again the Emery Ensemble and they stunned us with seven movements from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The Procession and Recession were sung unaccompanied processing on and off stage and it was magical. Our last Carol Concert was at the prestigious Assembly Hall, Worthing. Again a great success

but the audience were delighted when Helen presented a showcase of her piano students from ages five to late teens. They played arrangements of Christmas music and carols all with panache and great professionalism. For most of them this was the first time they had ever been in the Assembly Hall (seats 1000), had never played the Steinway grand piano and to so many people too. Any mistakes were ignored, and a nice smile and bow at the end, totally charming and professional. Helen duetted with several of her students and at the end of the evening the pieces were of a Grade 8 standard. Rowland Singer highlights included Scott's *Nativity* (Alan Bullard), *The Three Kings* (Peter Cornelius) with Helen Emery, soprano, *Cowboy Carol* (Malcolm Sargent) and *Blue Christmas* (Arr Mac Huff) with Trevor Coffey, tenor. After a rousing *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*, the choir sang a very moving arrangement of *Let There Be Peace On Earth* (Miller & Jackson arr Mark Hayes) which brought a few of the audience to tears.

Our chosen charity for this term has been 'Sussex Multiple Sclerosis Treatment Centre' and we are delighted to report a total collection of well over £900.

We start back to rehearsal on 6 January for 'Messiah' in full which will be in the Assembly Hall, Worthing on Good Friday at 7.00. We are absolutely delighted (and a little bit scared) to have for the first time booked a full orchestra, The Sinfonia of Arun. It will be absolutely great and a tremendous experience for everyone but there is a lot of learning to do in between times and a lot of tickets to sell too. Please come if you can.

On the social side, we have another big event planned and that is to be a 'Summer Fair' on Saturday 11 June 2016 at Clapham and Patching Village Hall near Worthing. This will be a day of so much fun for all the family and will include Craft Stalls, Demonstrations, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Rides, Tea/Coffee & Cake, Traditional Games, Ice Cream Van and much more. There is plenty of space for parking and naturally we would like as many people there as possible. Why not have a weekend away on the South Coast? The Village Hall is surrounded by the South Downs and is only five miles North West of Worthing in a lovely part of the country. For more details, please look at our website www.rowlandsingers.co.uk

Jacky Hetherington
Rowland Singers' Hon Life President



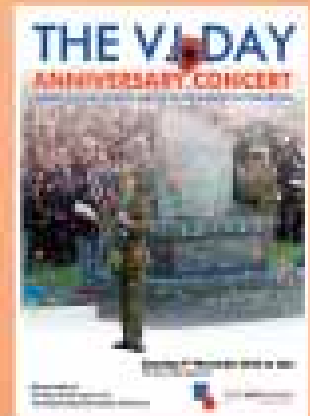
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York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

Yorkshire North and East

Music builds Bridges!

York has been twinned with the city of Münster in Germany since 1957. Their two male voice choirs York Philharmonic and MarQant twinned in 1969 and have met regularly since.

Over the years Münster has partnered with many other cities and on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the ending of World War II invited choirs from its partner cities to come together for a week-end (18-20 September) of concerts under the title 'Music builds Bridges - from a disgruntled Europe to a united Europe'. So 7 choirs from 6 cities; Poland (2), Russia, France, Norway, UK and Germany joined with their Münster choral partners to give a total of 14 choirs. There was a wide range of musical styles to enjoy from madrigals to hip hop; and the singers were of all ages from the under 10s in a children's choir to men in their mid 80s.

It was a busy week-end with street sings on Friday and Saturday, a full male voice concert with MarQant on Friday evening; the major commemorative concert with all choirs on the Saturday evening and singing at a church service on Sunday morning. We didn't appreciate just how busy a time it would be until on the way home we added up the number of different songs we had sung - 41. As a choir we are comfortable giving impromptu sings on the streets (thankfully it didn't rain) and we were looking forward to the concert with MarQant. We were not sure, however, as to the tone and style of the Saturday night combined concert. Was it to be just a celebration of different musical styles or was the commemorative significance to be included? We knew that as the first city to be twinned with Münster we would open the show. With a 12 minute allocation our director, Berenice Lewis, picked 4 pieces which were both entertaining and commemorative: *The Impossible Dream*, *For The Fallen*, *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother*, and the upbeat spiritual *I'm Gonna Walk*. This was a good choice which was very well received. A review published in the local paper was complimentary describing 'a seasoned choir showing great skill in contrasting styles from the calm *For the Fallen* to the lively lilting *I'm Gonna Walk*. Of greater interest, however, was the reviewer's need to tell the readers

that we were 'directed by a lady'. It would seem that a female director of a male voice choir is still unusual in Germany. Berry has been our director since 2000 and is the third woman to hold that role.

One interesting aspect of the evening was that the combined shanty choirs from Norway and Germany sang 6 songs - 4 in English; *The Wild Rover*, *Strike The Bell*, *Liverpool Girls*, and *My Bonny Lies Over The Ocean*.

We were looking forward to the Friday evening concert with MarQant as this would be the sixteenth time that our two choirs had shared a concert platform. The venue - the Friedenskapelle - had been chosen with care by our hosts. It had been built, post-war, as the garrison church for British troops but had fallen into disrepair when those troops left and was refurbished as a concert hall in 2003. Seating about 250 people it had intimate feel, good acoustics and an excellent piano. We were made to feel even more at home with the arrival of more than thirty members of the Lochems Mannenkoor who had specifically made the journey from Holland to join with us. This Lochem choir has links with both MarQant and the York 'Phil' and visited York in April 2015.

The concert began and almost instantly became one of those memorable occasions when the emotional links between the choir, the music, the conductor and the audience are so heightened as to give a performance which releases the full beauty and power of music. Under the impassioned direction of Berry the choir responded, and that 'intangible essence - the spirit of a piece' which we know is always there, but which we cannot always find, filled the hall. Such moments are hard to describe and need to be experienced to be fully appreciated. We were fortunate to have such a performance on that Friday evening. According to many long serving singers the choir gave its best performance for many years and the standing ovation received was the greatest in living memory. It was a very proud choir, which left the stage that evening.

The remaining engagement was on Sunday morning when we had been invited to sing at a Mass in a large Roman Catholic Church. The liturgical music was to be given by an excellent youth choir and we were asked to provide four items including a piece at the close of the service to send the congregation on its way. What should we sing? It was large building with a big congregation. Berry chose; *My Lord What*

A Morning, Calm Is The Sea and *Let There Be Peace On Earth*. The decision as to the final item was left to the last moment, and the congregation were sent on their way to that glorious Welsh Hymn *Tydi a Roddaist*. The Mass concluded and we began (with two Welsh speakers in our choir we do sing verse one in Welsh) but no one moved. As the last of the four great 'Amen's' soared and faded the church erupted in applause - a spine tingling moment and a wonderful way to end our formal engagements.

A weekend such as this takes a lot of organising and both the city authorities and our friends in MarQant did an excellent job, the social aspects of the weekend were as successful as the music. Even the weather was 'mostly' kind. As singers we men stayed dry but during two rehearsals it did rain and some of our ladies did get wet. En route to a restaurant one group sought cover in a bus shelter. Pity the poor bus driver who on stopping found his shelter full of English women giving a hearty rendition of *Singing in the Rain*.

The city authorities remembered that, in the years following 1945, it was the work of creative artists reaching out to one another which had helped Germany reintegrate with the rest of Europe. This week-end, 70 years on, hoped to refresh those links and add to them a cross generational dimension. If the other visiting choirs had the same experience as us then the citizens of Münster can be assured that music does indeed build Bridges.

Colin Hockridge

Wanted!

News and Views

back copy dated August 1969

To help in the research into the 90 year life of the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir

I would like a copy of an annual review of the choir published in August 1969

Please can anyone help?

Colin Hockridge: 01904 690610

colinhockridge@btinternet.com

Allegra Ladies Choir Wales South

It's A Family Affair!

How many mums and daughters choose to spend their valuable evenings together, not only by joining a choir but setting up one from scratch?

That's exactly what happened at Allegra Ladies Choir in 2011 when mum and daughter team, Jane and Emma began to advertise for local ladies who were looking for something a bit different. Amongst those who answered the call were Helen and Heidi, Claire and Nicola.

At the helm of Allegra is the vibrant and passionate musical director, Emma Dawson. Emma was responsible for setting up Allegra Ladies' Choir with her mum, Jane Rowland, and has been its inspiration since the beginning. She directly enabled the choir to reach its current high standard and to explore a variety of choral styles and even choreography. For the past four years, Jane has been the capable chairlady of the choir, ensuring the smooth running of its development, vision and presentation.

In second alto section sing mum and daughter, Helen and Heidi. Helen is a founder member of the choir and a member of the ensemble, and Heidi is New Members' secretary and our talented deputy conductor. They are joined by our youngest member, top soprano Nicola who is 16, and her mum, Claire, who is our Publicity secretary and a second soprano.

With an energetic, modern and varied concert programme which has been developed over the last four years, we have been delighted to perform at some of the country's most prestigious venues from Movies and Musicals with Wynne Evans and Nathan James in St David's Hall, Cardiff, to singing Macbeth a capella before the performance of the Scottish Play in the amphitheatre as part of the



Caerleon Arts Festival to being the backing choir for Blake, the classical boy band, on their autumn tour in Wimbourne Dorset.

To commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Emma composed a SSAA piece, *Coming Home*, especially for the choir to sing at Llanyrafon Manor in Cwmbran as part of their WWII weekend in June 2015.

The choir has flourished into a thriving, talented group of over 50 singers. We're proud of our diverse membership base and our unique, high-energy performance style.

Allegra Ladies Choir is looking forward to joining our voices with the Côr World Choir - 20,000 voiced massed choir at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff at the end of May 2016.

For more information on Allegra Ladies Choir, please go to our website - <http://www.allegraladieschoir.co.uk>.

Claire Cowper

The Dalesmen Singers Male Voice Choir North East

The Dalesmen Singers Male Voice Choir from Danby, tucked quietly away among the beautiful North Yorkshire Moors have had another busy year, which will culminate

in a performance with massed choirs at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 14 November.

The Dalesmen began life in 1971, well documented locally, through a chance meeting between Joe Easley and Colin Throup who both shared a passion for music and such was their success, they became a registered charity and over the years have raised many thousands of pounds for good causes.

Led by Musical Director Stephen Maltby for the past twenty seven years, they began their year with a Choral Spectacular at the Sage, Gateshead in March, quickly followed by joint concerts with their namesakes – The Dalesmen - from Derbyshire and Marsh Ladies at Huddersfield. A trip to Skipton for a performance with Steeton MVC proving close to Dalesmen member Colin Easterby's heart as he sang many years with this choir before moving to Easington on the East Coast to join the Dalesmen and continue his enjoyment of singing.

In September, a visit by the Dalesmen from Derbyshire proved a very successful night with the two choirs combining well and received a standing ovation from the large audience.

October saw another sell out of tickets for their gala night, which this year had special guests David Taylor (Cello) accompanied by Frank James performing. The concert raised a marvellous £1309 for Marie Curie North Yorkshire Nursing Services.

The Dalesmen Singers will continue to travel and perform abroad and a trip to Sweden beckons for 2016. This last couple of years has seen a significant rise in membership, with quite a few younger members joining, which bodes well for continuity and the future. The choir is extremely lucky to have such talented leaders and musicians in the form of MD Steve Maltby, Assistant MD Andy Dyer



and Accompanist Ann Hartley whose enthusiasm for their role lifts the choir to even better performances.

The choir, always on the lookout for new members, rehearses at Danby Methodist Chapel every Tuesday night at 7.30.

To find out more information, click on their website

dalesmensingers.net

John Watson

Mevagissey Male Choir Cornwall

Over £1,000 was raised for Cornwall Hospice Care on Saturday 14 November when Mevagissey Male Choir and their guests, Canoryon Lowen, combined for a joint concert in Tywardreath, near Fowey.

Proceeds from programme sales, a raffle and a collection came to a mammoth £1,158.06.

Tywardreath Church, in the heart of the ancient Cornish village, was full to bursting on the night and the audience was treated to stirring performances by the two choirs over two hours.

Earlier this year, the Mevagissey choir performed its 1,000th concert, a tribute to its reputation for quality and versatility under Graham Willcocks, who recently completed 20 years as the Choir's Music Director.

These qualities were apparent as Mevagissey performed a series of pieces ranging from the Flying Pickets' hit, *Only You* and Robbie Williams' *Angels* to *Au Fond du temple Saint*, from Bizet's 'The Pearl Fishers' and the rousing, *We Rise Again*, by Dubinsky & Macmillan.

The audience also heard two pieces by Meva Cappella, the Choir's quartet, featuring a debut by baritone Mike Thompson as successor to the late Robin Hunkin, who sadly passed away in August.

Canoryon Lowen, a mixed choir from St Neot, near Bodmin, was formed in 2002, and is still led, by Nick Hart, whose own arrangement of Paul Simon's *Under African*

Skies which metamorphosed into Toto's *Africa*, with realistic rainfall sounds produced by the singers, brought the house down.

Cornwall Hospice Care is a leading independent Cornish charity, providing special care, free of charge, to patients with life limiting illnesses at hospices in St Austell and Hayle.

Karen Murrish, Fundraiser for CHC, said: 'On behalf of everyone at the charity I would like to thank the organisers and everyone who supported the event'.

Mike Tate

What is the difference between a conductor and God?

God doesn't think he's a conductor.



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New Members' Directory

If they are in your group give them a call and say hello.

AINTREE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MIXED VOICE CHOIR NW
Mixed voices 20 choristers

Julie Bulger 9 Ferrey Road, Liverpool L10 7NG
0151 476 6018 irene@irenewilsonart.com

APPLETON THORN VILLAGE CHOIR NW Mixed voices 35 choristers

Ben Varley 8 Pepper Street, Appleton Thorn, Warrington WA4 4RU
01925 601499 appletonthornchoir@gmail.com

BALLYGOWAN COMMUNITY VOICES NI Mixed voices 40 choristers

Robert Campbell 9 Keel Park, Moneyrea, Co Down BT23 6DE
07708 538345 robert.c@homecall.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM CANOLDIR MALE CHOIR MidsW 53 choristers

Mr Adrian Birch 2 Enville Close, Walsall WS3 3TT
01922 473629 adrianbirch7@hotmail.co.uk www.Canoldir.co.uk

CÔR HEOL Y MARCH WalesS Youth voices 40 choristers

Eleri Roberts Green Meadow, Heol-y-March, Bonvilston, Vale of Glamorgan CF5 6TS
01446 781858 eleriroberts@msn.com

CÔR MEIBION TALGARTH Wales South 45 choristers

Richard Williams Y Derw, Talachddu, Brecon LD3 0UG
01874 625140 dickyderw@gmail.com www.talgarthmalechoir.com

DOIRE CALGASH Singers NI Mixed voices 30 choristers

Martin White 17 Belmont Crescent, Derry, Northern Ireland BT48 7RR
02871351171 mjwhite48@btinternet.com www.doirecalgashsingers.com

GLEN MORAY MVC ScotE 62 choristers

Ken Ferguson 2 Birnie Crescent, New Elgin, Elgin, Moray IV30 6JE
01343 548140 ken.ferguson14@gmail.com

ILESHA LADIES CHOIR YorksS 40 choristers

Mrs Sue Millar 16 Bence Close, Darton, Barnsley S75 5PB
01226 383685 parkmoor59@talktalk.net www.ileshachoir.btcc.co.uk

KINDRED SPIRITS CHOIR ThamesS Ladies voices 38 choristers

Mrs Lani Tom 24 Cheriton Way, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 0JG
01276 500002 kindredspiritschoir@gmail.com

MOMENTUM COMMUNITY CHOIR NI Mixed voices 40 choristers

Michelle Doherty 13 St John's Park, Derry BT48 8AL
07779 283334 michellefureydoherthy@hotmail.co.uk

PEWSEY BELLES SW Ladies voices 48 choristers

Jean McGuigan 2 Littleworth, Littleworth, Pewsey SN9 5LF
01672 562600 music@julesaddison.co.uk www.pewseybelles.org.uk

SONGBIRDS (The) Anglia Ladies voices 30 choristers

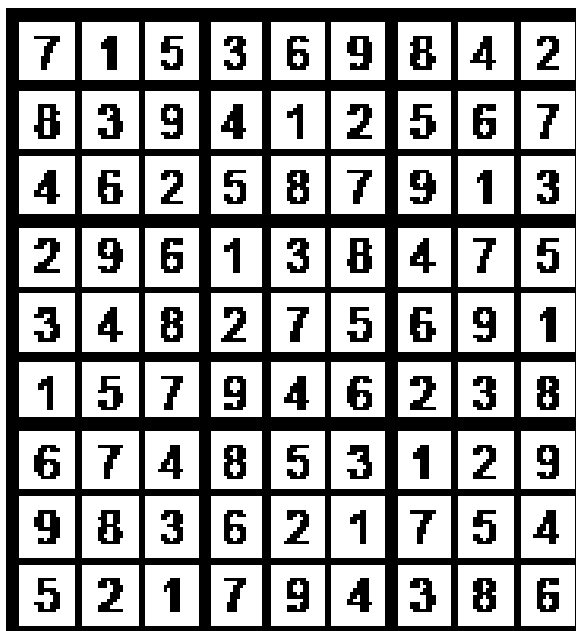
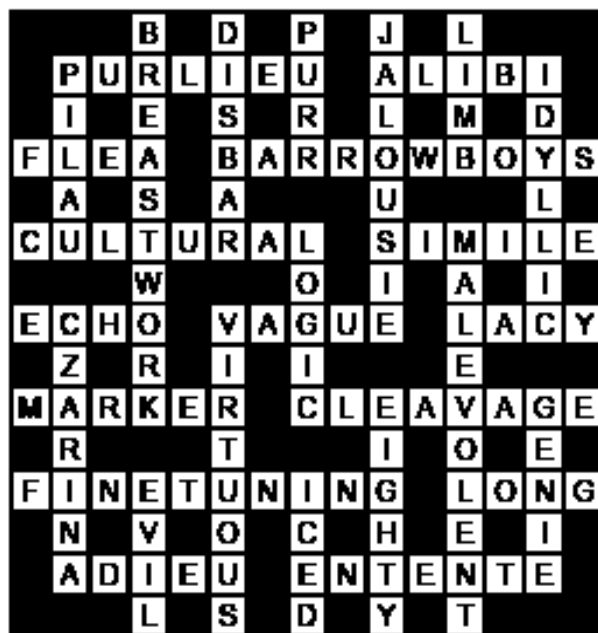
Anna Turnbull 36 Diana Way, Burton Latimer, Northants NN15 5RD
07929 006102 annalyman@btinternet.com

SYCAMORE SINGERS ScotE Ladies voices 24 choristers

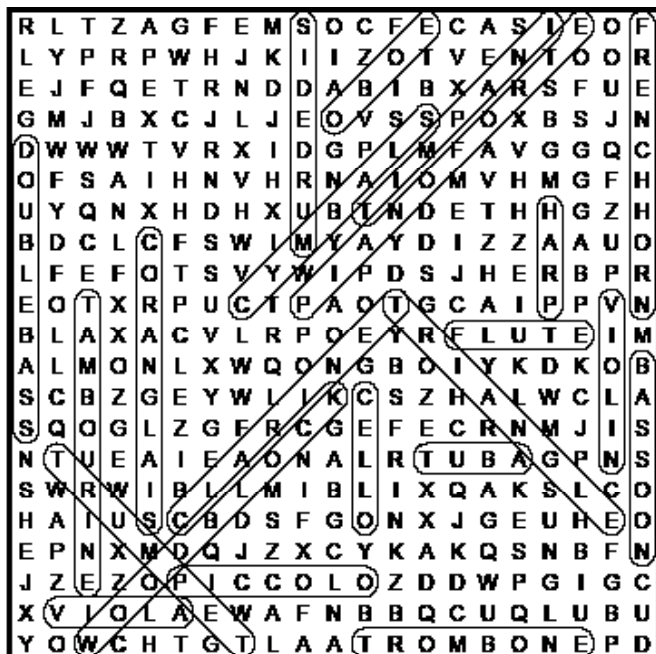
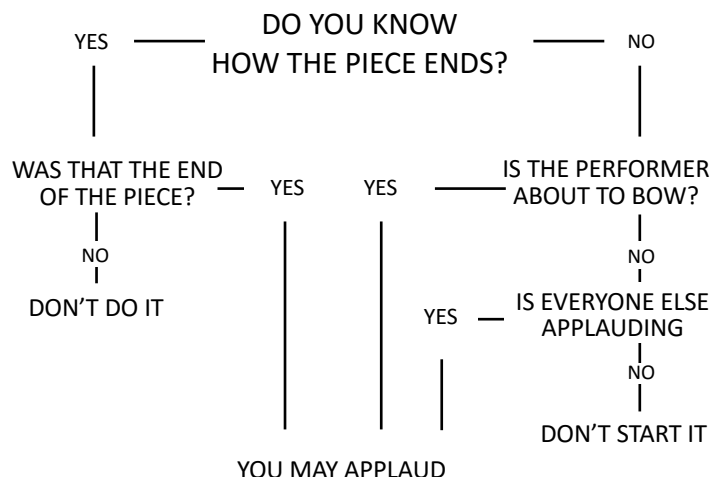
Mrs Marion Fry 7 Bariny Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 8RE
0131 334 3801 sycamore30@yahoo.co.uk www.sycamore-singers.co.uk

VOCALISE LancsN Youth 14 choristers

Ann Parker 46 Pleckgate Road, Blackburn BB1 8NZ
01254 260468 vocalise@blackburnpeopleschoir.org
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SHOULD YOU APPLAUD?



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The first thing is to send your article **attached** to (not in the body of) an email to

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'Wow! that is a long email address', I hear you say. Yes it is but you will find that once it's in your computer you can just start to type it and your computer will offer to finish it for you.

Many of our contributors love to show their prowess by sending in wonderful finished articles with **coloured** headlines, five different **fonts** and many **underlinings**, *italics* and **bold** bits. Then, of course, I have to spend time taking them all out before I can set their article up the way you will see it in the magazine. **KEEP IT SIMPLE!**

HOUSE STYLE

- We use Calibri 10pt in News & Views. (If you don't have this, don't worry I can soon change the one you use.)
- Set your paragraphs to single space with no spacing before or after paragraphs.
- Start with the name of your choir.
- Then say the NAC group your choir is in.
- Write your article.
- Say who has written it.
- Quotes use single speech marks (same key as @ but without the shift).
- Dates do not include st nd rd or th
- Abbreviations do not have full stops.
- Song titles are shown in *italics*.
- Do not put photos in the text.

- Don't use am or pm in times.
- Unless the word 'choir' is part of a title it should **NOT** have a capital letter.
- Your choir is singular so 'the choir is' not 'the choir are'.

Send me pictures as high res .jpegs of between 1 and 5Mb or more, minimum 300 dpi.

Attach them to an email.

If this is hard to understand then ring me and I'll talk you through it.

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