

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION FOR ALL CHORISTERS

NEWS & VIEWS

216

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

SUMMER 2018

DEREK JACOBI
Steeton makes the movies

NEW YEAR HONOURS
David Carter MBE

AMICI SINGERS
Cruising Soon

CONFERENCE 2018

DR PAUL WHITTAKER OBE





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Crawford's Corner



The weather just lately makes me think that this really must be the Summer issue of News & Views. It won't last of course but I'll enjoy it while I can.

It was good to see old friends and new at Conference in Norwich and I had a good time, especially enjoying the energy and enthusiasm of Paul Whittaker and hearing about all the things that Bob Chilcott has done in his busy life.

When I got home I thought I'd make a good start on this issue. 'The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley'. I think my friends in Glasgow and East Fife will understand that quote from Rabbie. I seemed to end up waiting for this piece or that, for one image or another so that as I write this I think I'm later than I have ever been with an issue and my hope for it to be with you by the 1 June is a vain one. Never mind, it will get there when it will and at my age I should be a bit more laid back about such things.

Right, what have we got for you? We have a good selection of anniversaries and reports of busy schedules and great fund raising concerts. We have a couple of choirs wanting to sell their staging so you can be seen better when you perform.

Chairman's Chat



Welcome to the summer edition of News & Views and my second year as chairman.

Thank you for re-electing me at the AGM. Conference was extremely enjoyable thanks to our wonderful principal speakers Messrs Bob Chilcott and Paul Whittaker. Crawford has produced a very comprehensive report on it. Everyone who attended made new friends and had a wonderful time.

I would like to add my personal congratulations and best wishes to the President of Teesside Apollo Male Voice Choir, Lillian Thompson, on celebrating her 100th birthday, and to David Carter on receiving the MBE. This was my first choir when I started choral singing some 46 years ago and I remember both of them very well.

John Croft shares wisdom on the health advantages of choral singing and Paul Gailiunas gives a personal view of changes over the last 100 years. It's like buses, nothing for ages then two come at once. Getting stuff out of the officers brings the words 'blood' and 'stone' to mind.

I keep seeing ads on the Internet for advice on GDPR and the emails have been flashing between officers about our responsibilities. I'm keeping my head down, but if you want some advice there is an advice sheet available on the NAC website. So, go and have a look or contact the General Secretary for her words of wisdom. I have had to miss out the New Choirs Directory this time as we can't be sure we are allowed to give you the information about them yet.

It is good to be able to include some Forthcoming Events in this issue. We are happy to show what you are up to if you send the information early enough for it to go into the next issue. You have to plan well in advance to make it work though.

Right, I think that's about it. I'll just go and label the photographs and then I can get this off to the proof readers.

Have a great summer.

Crawford

I have enjoyed reading about all the choir activities in this issue, in particular the ones involving the anniversary celebrations of male voice choirs ranging from 40 to 70 years; my current choir, Snowdown Male Voice Choir, will be celebrating its 90th anniversary during the next year. Will we reach our 100th anniversary? Many pundits say that the male voice choir is a thing of the past and is a dying breed but is this correct? Many choirs are thriving whilst others struggle to survive – what is the secret? We would welcome your comments on this issue, including actions you have taken to ensure survival, and those that are not working. Let us use the News & Views as a forum to share our experiences and help each other. Crawford will welcome any letters you wish to submit.

May I wish you all a very enjoyable summer of choral music.

John Croft

Gen Sec Spot



You should be aware that there are new Regulations regarding the holding and usage of personal data, coming into force on 25 May 2018.

A new Advice Sheet for choirs has been prepared and is now live on the website, under Member Area/Advice Sheets/AS 8.09. This is important, and you should read the information. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the General Secretary and ask for a hard copy of the Advice Sheet.

Following an Employment Tribunal Case decided on 26 April 2018, the Advice Sheets concerned with Recruitment of Musical Directors and Accompanists have been revised. Again, the information is important and should be read as soon as possible.

Celia Johns

OFFICERS' MEETINGS

5 June

Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton
Church Lane, Palterton,
Chesterfield S44 6UZ

11 September

Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton

13 November

Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton

15 January 2019

Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton

MEMBERS' OPEN FORUMS

30 June

Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton

6 October

TBC (Halifax area?)

26 January 2019

Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton



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Last date for submissions for Issue 217
AUTUMN 2018 - 31 August

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A representative group of Côr Meibion De Cymru (The South Wales Male Choir) choristers took part in the Fred. Olsen "Fjords, Mountains and Glaciers" cruise in August of 2016 on board MS *Black Watch*.

The choir thrilled fellow passengers with two formal concerts (in addition to many more sporadic outbursts of song) as the *Black Watch* travelled from Harwich in mid-August to three ports in Norway and through some of its most picturesque fjords.

The cruise was blessed with excellent weather and the party responded accordingly. Both of the "formal" concerts aboard *Black Watch* were performed to

full capacity audiences and the delighted fellow passengers gave the choir a standing ovation at the end of each concert.

The whole tour party was most impressed, not only by the standards of service that they received whilst on board *Black Watch*, but also the polite, efficient and cheerful manner of the friendly staff. Choir vice-president Phil Howells thanked Captain Danielsen and his team for making the cruise on his "Happy Ship" such an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Barri Hurford, Choir Compere, South Wales Male Voice choir.

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The Amici Singers

Thames North

40th Anniversary Celebrations 2018

How Much My Heart Does Love to Sing

At 17.00 on 24 May 2018, The Amici Singers, a ladies' choir from Biggleswade, are due to set sail from Southampton to Rouen & Honfleur in France, as part of their 40th Anniversary Celebrations. As well as their Musical Director, Douglas Coombes MBE, supported by his wife Carole Lindsay-Douglas (responsible for the original formation of the choir & 1st Soprano), the Amici Singers has 7 founder members still singing, with several others as Life Members.

The choir was formed in January 1978, with rehearsals taking place at Brook House, Potton. Today, the choir rehearses at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street on Thursdays from 7.45 to 9.45. Although auditions were originally required, today all you need is a love of singing, and a desire for fun and friendship. If you think you fulfil these requirements, we will be happy to welcome you into our Amici family. Contact us on our website, www.amicisingers.net/ or on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20amici%20singers>

The choir is well travelled both nationally and internationally, with 10 tours of the USA, plus trips to Belgium, Germany, France and Gibraltar, within the UK tours include Lytham St Annes, Norfolk and participation in the Barnardos Carol Concerts at St Paul's, Westminster and Southwark Cathedrals, and will participate again in 2018 once more at Southwark. A history of The Amici Singers will soon be available.

Our 40th Anniversary celebrations commenced on 24 February 2018, with a dinner at John O'Gaunt's Golf Club, Sandy, attended by Douglas; Carole; our President, Brian Mack; guest speaker Paul Smith from the New English Concert Orchestra; our Keyboard/Organ/Piano Accompanist, Trevor Hughes; Chairman Anne Bunker, and 678 current and former Amici Singers including some loved ones.

In preparation for the cruise, between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 28 April 2018, we held a rehearsal in the back room of Trinity Methodist Church, Biggleswade, attended by 52 singers, conducted by Douglas and accompanied on the keyboard by



Amici rehearse with Trevor Hughes on keyboard

Trevor Hughes. The choir arrived early to ensure a prompt start at 10.00 in the morning. Wearing our normal rehearsal uniform of jade polo shirts and 'black bottoms' it was a joyful pandemonium as everybody welcomed each other and found their seats. Douglas began with his usual improvised routine of stretches and voice exercises, before settling down to rehearsing our current repertoire. We stopped at 11.15 for tea & coffee, and again at 13.45 for lunch. Anne Bunker provided 4 dozen scones, with jam and clotted cream, which were enjoyed immensely by everybody present. It was a long, tiring and rewarding day, punctuated with much laughter, and the interaction between Douglas and Trevor providing much of the merriment.

The finale to our 40th Anniversary Celebrations is our concert at Stratton School, Biggleswade at 7.00 on Saturday 30 June 2018. We will be accompanied by members of the New English Concert Orchestra, and school choirs from Henlow and Langford. For tickets please visit our website.

As well as those already mentioned, the Amici would not be complete without Bud the Bear, who became an avid supporter during one of the earlier USA tours, and lives with Rosemary Chapman, current member and the first Chairman of The Amici Singers. He accompanies us on all our tours and has been photographed driving one of the tour buses and a motorbike on another tour of the USA.

Being a member of the Amici for the past 4 years has been a privilege and a pleasure, and if you are interested in joining us we would be pleased to see you.

Lorraine Axford

Teesside Apollo Male Voice Choir North East

News from The Apollo... Our President Lilian Thompson will be 100 years old in May and of course the Apollo Choir will be serenading this great lady on that occasion.

We have a full programme of concerts. this year, culminating in a centenary armistice concert at Middlesbrough Theatre for two evenings in November. Our former Chairman, David Carter, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's honours list for Services to the Teesside Community. Those of you who remember Colin Beeforth, our outstanding bass soloist will be sad to hear of his passing.

David Carter

100 years old Lilian Thompson

NEW YEAR HONOURS FOR David Carter





**91st Annual General Meeting
30th Annual Conference Weekend
15-17 April 2017**

The Maids Head Hotel, 20 Tombland, Norwich NR3 1LB



This year's conference was held in Norwich. The Maids Head Hotel claims to be the oldest hotel in the UK. The first Norman Bishop of Norwich, Herbert de Losinga had his original palace here, so they base their claim on the site's continuous use for hospitality since the middle of the 1090s. It is just over the road from Norwich Cathedral in one of the oldest parts of the city.

The oldest parts of the Maids Head, above ground, date from the 15th century. So, when you dine or take breakfast in the Restaurant, you are sitting in the courtyard of a 15th century inn. The Oak Room is also believed to date from the same era. The bar and snug are slightly 'younger', added in the late 16th century. Relax in the bar with a local beer or glass of wine and imagine the comings and goings when the Maids Head was a busy coaching in during the 18th century.

Fortunately, the rooms and facilities are considerably more modern, and we were made very welcome for our weekend.

The officers set up their welcome station in reception and we spent the afternoon



The view from my bedroom window

watching the world, and some of our members, go by. At four in the afternoon we held our first meeting of the officers to decide who did what and when and then at half past Celia and Karl went to start the first session of conference with a 'Come and Sing'. I don't know how that went as I was back on welcome duty.

In the evening, we had our Gala Dinner. It is an opportunity to meet the delegates; old friends and new. The meal was well presented and, I believe, enjoyed by all. The after-dinner entertainment reminded me of a line that was in my memory, but I did not know where it was from. I have just Googled it. It was a song by Gracie Fields. 'I took my harp to a party and nobody asked me to play'. Well we did ask the lady to play and it was really worthwhile listening. After she finished I went and looked more closely at the instrument which was beautiful but made me think that before I took it to a party I would, definitely, make sure I was going to play. It clearly took a deal of planning and effort to take the marvellous instrument anywhere.

The next morning after a healthy breakfast I went to look around the trade stands and met people who I see each year at conference. This year I was able to meet Sophie from Fred. Olsen Ltd who I had only shared emails with. It was nice to put a face to a name. Pat Lawton couldn't be with us this year, so my wife missed an opportunity to view the jewellery Pat brings. I'm sure we all hope that Pat will soon be fit and well; we missed both her and Clive.

John Croft our Chairman introduced our main speaker, Bob Chilcott, and Bob spent the first session telling us about his musical life. I was especially interested in his connection with The Kings Singers who have been my favourites for fifty years. It is their fiftieth anniversary this year and I have been looking at their anniversary album and five of the sixty tracks were arranged by Bob Chilcott.

In further sessions we sang some of Bob's choral music and I found it a lot easier than I have often found when facing sight reading.

Bob was joined later by Dr Paul Whittaker OBE who is profoundly deaf. In 1988 he founded 'Music and the Deaf', a charity to help deaf people enjoy music. In 1992 he began giving signed theatre performances, working on such shows as Les Miserables, The Phantom Of The Opera and West Side Story. He has signed at the Edinburgh International and Aldeburgh Festivals. With help of his assistant Paul told us of the many things he has done, and shared his passion for music.



Paul Whittaker

Paul taught the delegates how to sign the chorus of one of Bob Chilcott's songs with a view to us performing it at the Gala Concert. It was interesting trying to hold a copy of the song in one hand and sign with the other. The delegates had enormous fun working with Paul and the applause at the end was indicative of that but not a great deal of use to Paul who was unable to hear it. Paul showed how to applaud the deaf by holding both hands in the air and waving vigorously.

Between these wonderful sessions and before lunch we had the second edition of what has become known as 'Speed Dating'. Five of the trade stand people were given opportunity to present their wares and products to the delegates and, as last time, they all did well. This year we had presentations from Jelf, Soundscapes, Black Dress Company, Lyndsey Music and Fred. Olsen Tours.

After a buffet meal we put on our 'glad rags' and took the short walk to hear the Gala Concert in Norwich Cathedral. There

were four choirs in concert. Gildenburgh Choir gave an interesting mix which included Alan Simmons' *Short Leg, Long Leg And Silly Mid Off*. I'll let you work out what that was all about. Hellesdon Community Choir entertained us with songs from Lennon & McCartney to Leonard Cohen, including *Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat*. Broadbeat Choir performed their songs to a recorded track, something we haven't had before. Their Musical Director was a very lively young lady. Norwich Male Voice Choir sang some songs I know well. My wife refuses to sit with me in these concerts because of my, to her, annoying habit of mouthing the words along with the singers.

At the beginning of the second half the delegates sang our song with our signing and it was well received. Throughout the concert Paul Whittaker signed where he was given copies of the music and I found myself watching him a great deal. For a finale all four choirs sang *Rhythm Of Life*. Not an easy choice with such disparate choral types. When Paul was thanked by the compere we all applauded with our hands in the air. We went back to the hotel to enjoy our après concert bacon butties.

On Sunday our final session was led by Molly Waiting who is a colleague of our Hon Legal Advisor. She led us through some very useful advice about the GDPR (See the website for updated advice on this.)

At the Extraordinary General Meeting we made some necessary alterations to the rules and constitution and at the Annual General meeting all the usual things were done including the re-election of the Officers. Then the delegates were able to comment on whatever they wanted at the MOF. I'm not going into that, you can find it on the website.

So, there we are, another conference completed and time to set off for home. See you next year in Stoke.

Crawford

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by Co-op Funeralcare

Greetings from Glasgow. In this section of our season we returned to the excellent venue that is Cambuslang Parish Church for a most enjoyable first concert of the new year, raising funds for the church. Sadly, the Beast from the East led us to

cancel our next scheduled event in Airdrie for fears about the travelling safety of both audience and choir. I'm sure other groups faced similar problems this winter. The good news is we'll now be doing that concert in the summer... if we get such a thing in this part of the world.

By the end of March the weather had settled sufficiently that we've had no further disruptions and took to the stage of the Adam Smith Theatre in Kirkcaldy to raise money for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland and Rotary Charities and, in this final weekend of April, we have undertaken two concerts for Carers Trust in Scotland in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and in the beautiful Killearn Kirk. Carers Trust Scotland is a worthy cause that works to improve support, services and recognition for anyone living with the challenges of caring, **unpaid**, for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or addiction problems.

The concert in the Royal Concert Hall involved special guests, The Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland, and the children of the High School of Glasgow Junior Chamber Choir. Everyone in the choir was enthralled by the participation of our guests and feedback from the audience has been extremely positive for every aspect of the concert. One highlight worthy of mention was the rapturous audience response to his rendition of *The Song of the Clyde* by our veteran tenor, Bill Forrest, who celebrates 60 years of singing with the choir this year. I don't want to suggest that the Concert Hall will need a new roof, in case they charge us for the replacement, but it just might!

The big news for the choir is that, after 11 years, our sponsorship by Co-op Funeralcare will come to an end in June this year. Their support of the choir over the years has included the supply of staging for use in visits to many venues, a new organ and keyboard, a van to carry all of those items wherever we are performing, and new costumes for all sections of the choir. Their generosity has also allowed us to produce high quality tickets, posters, programmes and advertising for all concerts and causes. In return, we have advertised their sponsorship through the 254 concerts we've performed in those 11 years. The choir has been able to do many of these concerts free of charge to organisers and, as

a result, we've raised even more money for a vast range of causes from restoration projects to health-related charities and covering all aspects of life across the age and health range and throughout the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Germany. Sponsorship has allowed us to produce a number of CDs, which also adds to the total raised for different organisations.

As a thank you to our friends at Co-op Funeralcare, we presented them with a special memento of our sponsorship years in the form of a book of photographs and details of all the work done on their behalf by the choir. We are very grateful for all that they have done and for all that they have allowed us to do for the wider community.

The choir is now looking forward to the final part of the season and to our remaining concerts in various counties across the west of Scotland. We're all praying for some beautiful weather to aid our travelling and singing.

Anne Kay
Publicity Officer

Steeton Male Voice Choir Yorkshire West

When Steeton Male Voice Choir was approached by the film director Harry Mitchell and producer Helen Simmons to assist in the production of a new film called 'Ilkley', which is a black comedy about two hapless evangelical brothers tasked with murdering a heretic booked for the Ilkley Literature Festival, little did we realise that we would end up welcoming Derek Jacobi, one of the country's most pre-eminent actors to our ranks, even if it was only for a photograph. Derek Jacobi and his fellow co-stars Anna Maxwell Martin, Harry Melling, Roger Allam, Tom Brooke and Vinette Robinson who have been filming in the local area notably in the churchyard at All Saints Parish Church and The Black Bull, Otley, Allerton Park, Knaresborough and naturally in Ilkley itself for this film which will be released next year.

Steeton Male Voice Choir themselves are no strangers to the silver screen having provided several extras for the blockbuster film 'The King's Speech' in which Derek Jacobi played another evangelical role in which he was the Archbishop of Canterbury. So, naturally when the call came from the production company requiring fifteen to twenty choristers to appear in the film we jumped at the opportunity to



Spot Derek Jacobi

assist. The volunteer choir members were used on a rotational basis due to the film producer only requiring ten on the set at any one time, nevertheless they were all pivotal in the film and provided the links that were vital between scenes. This approach is very rarely seen in films today and originated in Ancient Greek Theatre which included a chorus that offered a variety of background and summary information to assist the audience to follow the performance. Not surprisingly then that some of the cast members of 'Ilkley' were dubious about the director's idea of using a chorus in this fashion. However, after a few scenes were in the can they could all marvel at Harry Mitchell's innovative approach.

It isn't surprising then that the volunteers from the choir have been rehearsing hard and in doing so have added some fabulous traditional folk tunes to our repertoire such as *Keel Row*, *the Lincolnshire Poacher* and *Dibdin's Tom Bowling*. The 'film stars' from the choir had a very enjoyable experience and saw it as a great opportunity to publicise their choir and hopefully attract new recruits.

When the film is released next year, the choir is hoping to be able to sing at the premier screening or at a private showing. Following that, who knows, we could follow in Derek Jacobi's footsteps and produce an album, which he did with his co-star Anne Reid following the success of 'The Last Tango in Halifax'. However I have a feeling it will be back to business as usual, rehearsing hard for our forthcoming concerts.

**Roy Talbot
& David Barraclough**

Northallerton Male Voice Choir North East

Northallerton Male Voice Choir celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Saturday 24 March 2018 at The Golden Lion Hotel in Northallerton. The evening was attended by nearly 100 people comprising wives and partners, former choristers, and friends of the choir. The special guests included Bob Barratt, the choir's President and its founder, together with Doris Williams, the Chairman of the National Association of Choirs, North East Group, the Mayor of Northallerton, Mr John Forrest with his wife Edna, and the Chairman of Hambleton District Council, Mr David Hughill with his wife Gillian. In his welcome speech the choir's Chairman, Peter Kershaw, made reference to its principles and standards which were established in 1968 and which still prevail to the present day.

He acknowledged the part the choir's committee played in providing the support needed for the smooth running and the secure future of the choir. He also gave special thanks to Andrea Rhodes, the

choir's Musical Director, and Catherine Woods, the choir's accompanist in whose hands was entrusted the broad, entertaining repertoire that the men now regularly perform.

To celebrate its golden year the choir had upgraded its uniform to incorporate golden bow ties and pocket handkerchiefs. Before the meal the choir sang Kirby Shaw's arrangement of Paul Simon's *Bridge Over Troubled Water* and John Tudor Davies' arrangement of *Gwahoddiaid*, and later in the evening Bob Barratt cut the anniversary cake. NMVC has recently recorded its second CD which is due to be available for 9 June when the choir continues its 50th anniversary celebrations at The Forum, Northallerton, where it will perform its Summer Concert with guest artiste Rachel Orr, 'The Queen of High Heels'.

The choir looks forward to further decades of singing and being part of the heritage of UK choirs singing for the enjoyment of all.

Peter Kershaw



Northallerton Male Voice Choir



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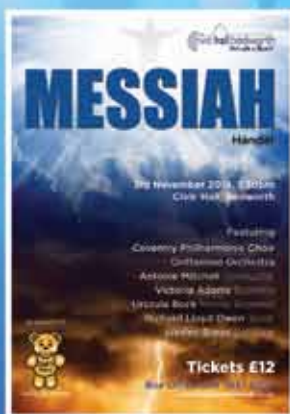


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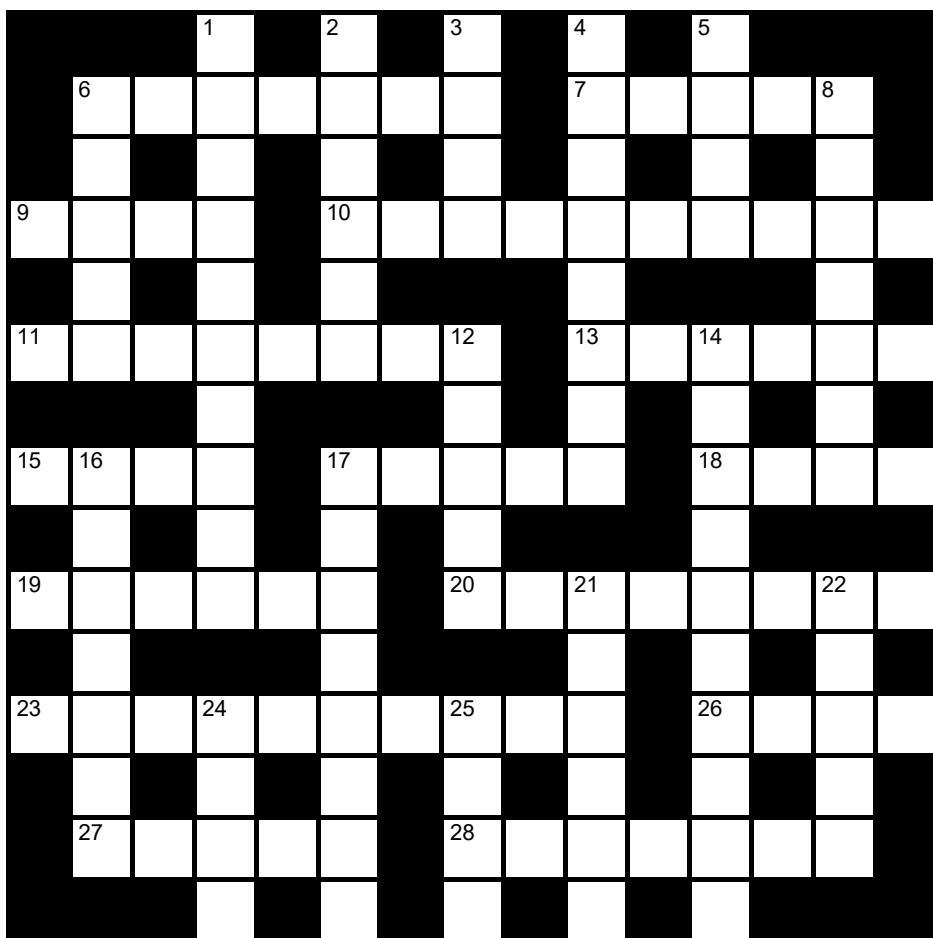


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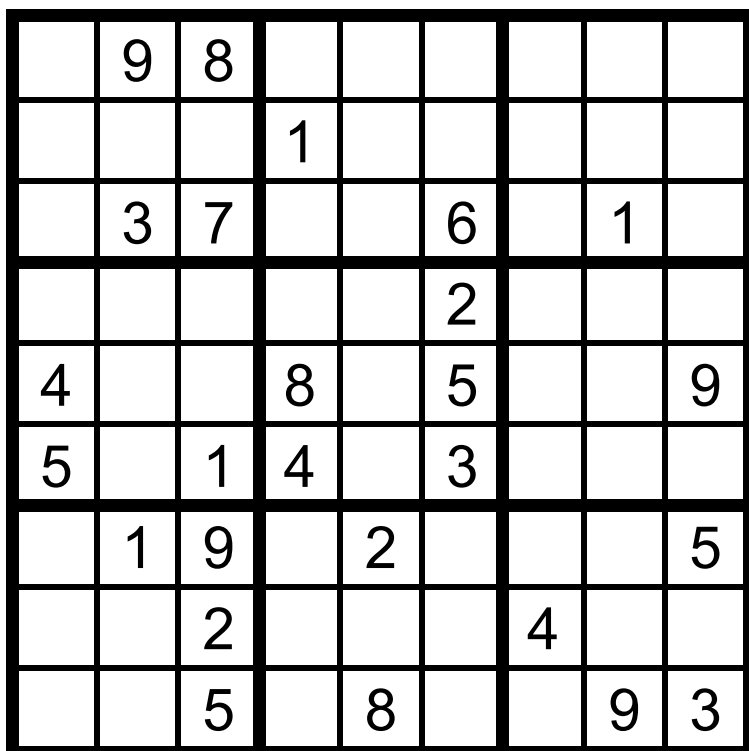
Across

- 6 You can count on a reunion of broken parts (7)
- 7 Church council admits nosy nod (5)
- 9 Pleasing to the eye for the brave? (4)
- 10 Group of things cool client dispersed (10)
- 11 Staunton standard? (5,3)
- 13 Cash me in Indian chief (6)
- 15 Food store for the curiously idle (4)
- 17 Ravel reproduced with the back of the tongue (5)
- 18 A bobbin dance? (4)
- 19 Distracted bosses are preoccupied (6)
- 20 grizzled and bleated (8)
- 23 Tracy mimes oddly lopsided thing (10)
- 26 Reserve, accumulate and retain (4)
- 27 Evergreen shrub (5)
- 28 Without ego courageous contains strident laughter (7)

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- 1 It varies, eggs become belligerent at times (10)
- 2 You can count on it (6)
- 3 Crumbling earth in lower Saxony (4)
- 4 Bureaucrat passes sordid hidden meanings (8)
- 5 Seaweed up is a mosquito down (4)
- 6 To embarrass at a party (5)
- 8 I see cod all over the place where the bishop lives (7)
- 12 Tastelessly remove assets to watch the box (5)
- 14 Gain control over emporium (6,4)
- 16 Possibly my bases for diplomats (7)
- 17 Gut instincts (8)
- 21 Prototype may be treated with contempt (4-2)
- 22 Tea leaves hidden under the edge of the roof (5)
- 24 Ridicule turtle soup (4)
- 25 Scarce bloody meat (4)

S U D O K U



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Allegra Ladies Choir Wales South

Allegra Ladies Choir, based in Newport, South Wales, formed six years ago with a remit to discover the joy of music, have fun and assist charitable causes. The choir has a wide, varied repertoire of world music and gospel show pieces, as well as songs specifically written for the choir. We vibrantly sing in 4 and 6 part harmonies and include dynamic choreography.

We have been fortunate to perform at some of South Wales's most prestigious venues, including St David's Hall, the Wales Millennium Centre and Cardiff Arms Park. Allegra also sing in many smaller venues, local churches and village halls and have raised tens of thousands of pounds for local churches and charities.

Our first sing of the year was on stage with the Grammy Award winning band Blake in Solihull. This popular male vocal trio is celebrating its 10th anniversary year and invites choirs to support them on stage. This was the second time that Allegra Ladies had performed with them, although our MD and choir founder, Emma Dawson, has previously performed with them directing her children's choir Cor Casnewydd.

The sing gave us an opportunity to take advantage of some publicity from the local newspaper who were keen to report that



Allegra Ladies Choir at Tredegar House

a Newport choir was singing with a band who had previously recorded with local Welsh legend Shirley Bassey. Unfortunately, the 2½ hour trip on a Friday afternoon was not possible for some of the choir, especially those teachers amongst us. Nevertheless, there were enough participants in each section to ensure we had a well-balanced sound. The evening was most successful and the bus journey back to Wales allowed the choir members to celebrate in true afterglow tradition and to have a well-deserved unmonitored sing, and a cheeky glass or two of wine. Although Emma declined to comment on the quality of our singing on the journey home she was very happy with our performance on stage.

Our AGM resulted in an almost total change of committee members, many of whom had been in the role since the

choir's inception six years ago. In addition to finding volunteers to relieve the current committee members in traditional roles, a decision was made to ask for volunteers to take on newly formed committee roles. These included a roaming committee member who will be able to step up into a role if required and a social media manager who is tasked to raise the profile of the choir. We are hoping this will widen our appeal and raise the profile of the choir allowing us to explore an even more diverse membership and concert programme.

In February we supported International Women's Day, with a sing at the local Riverfront theatre in Newport, during a daylong celebration of the achievements of women around the world. The day featured women who have made a difference through the arts, volunteering, or the amazing work that they do. Our MD selected a group of songs specifically written by women for women. These featured our versions of past and present pop songs and musical theatre show pieces. We also showcased two special songs that have been written and composed by MD, Emma Dawson, for the choir. One of these songs, *There's a Place*, has become our anthem over the years and we sing it wherever we go. The lyrics tell of the importance of song in Wales and how it feels to hear the sound of the choirs ringing through the vales. It particularly denotes the significance of returning home to Wales for those who have left. This sing was very well received and one of our best to date as all choir members felt relaxed and at ease. We even diversified and began with a flash mob type version of one of our musical theatre favourites.

On a chilly, end of February, morning the choir gathered at local Llanravn Manor where a craft and farm food market was being held. Prepared for a cold dull morning



Blake with Allegra Ladies

with our hats, gloves and scarfs we were pleasantly surprised that the sun was shining. Although it was bitterly cold we were still able to focus on the singing. Being so close to St David's Day we sang *Calon Lân*, a popular Welsh hymn, which was very well received by the crowd that had gathered. Little did they know that it was the first time we had been adventurous enough to sing it in a full concert. We originally mastered the lyrics to perform it prior to the Wales v Ireland ladies rugby game during the 6 Nations Campaign in 2017, directed by Haydn James. No doubt we will find ourselves singing it again sometime soon; we are a choir from Wales after all.

The choir anticipate an eventful and challenging year ahead. We have already begun to learn three new pieces, one of which is challenging the more traditional singers in the group with a rock theme. We also have a first for us in that we have agreed to do two sings in one day in July, one at mid-

day and the other late afternoon, at different summer time events. However, before that we have a joint concert with the local Berry Hill Silver Band in April and will be supporting ITV's Search For A Star finalist Jon Moses in concert in June.

It is busy, but we have big plans, a recording, in time for Remembrance Sunday, of our tribute to the fallen, *Coming Home*. Written, composed and directed by Emma, its lyrics highlight the importance of music in our lives when times are hard. You can see us perform it on Youtube. We may even be heading towards entering our first competition.

If you feel you would like to collaborate with us or learn more about us, please take a look at our website: allegraladieschoir.co.uk You can also find us on Facebook @allegraladieschoir and Twitter @allegraladies

Angela Hiscocks
Committee Member

Choir Jokes

What's the definition of an alto?
A soprano who can sightread.

How do you tell if a bass is actually dead?
Hold out a cheque.

How many basses does it take to change a lightbulb?

None. They're so macho they prefer to walk in the dark and bang their shins.

What is the difference between a high school choral director and a chimpanzee?
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Chordiality Yorkshire North and East

In 1993, with just over a dozen voices, a small choir took to the platform at its first concert at Daisy Hill Chapel in Bradford. Over 100 concerts later, the choir welcomes 2018 as it prepares to celebrate its 25th year together.

Chordiality was founded by Peter Sherlock and he rehearsed and directed that first performance at Daisy Hill those 25 years ago. With Peter still at the helm as musical director, the choir now enjoys a complement of nearly 40 singers and, remarkably, 10 of today's members sang at that first concert.

It was Peter's involvement as an accompanist and arranger for a number of local singing groups in the Bradford area at the time that inspired his interest in choral music and gave him the idea of starting his own choir. He approached a number of local singers that he knew, and Chordiality found its voice.

Although Peter founded the group, in democratic fashion he allowed the members to choose the name for their first outing. 'The Sherlock Musicale', 'Songbirds', 'Voices in Harmony', 'Bel Canto', 'Purissimo', and even 'Sheer Pleasure', were some of the 20 possible names put forward by the members. No one is quite sure who suggested 'Chordiality', but it was unanimously embraced by all concerned and the name stuck.

With just 14 singers, Chordiality took to the stage at the Chapel on the Hill, known locally as Daisy Hill Chapel, in Gillington, Bradford. The performance was part of an evening church service that followed the format of a popular Sunday evening TV religious programme and the choir, as guests, were given small slots within the service. The programme of the invited singing groups could be many and varied and there was no requirement for a religious repertoire.

To prepare for their debut and with no rehearsal venue, the newly-formed group met for rehearsals in choir member Jenny Clark's small flat to practise their three chosen pieces for the night. For the evening, the choir had selected quite an ambitious programme for its first public appearance with all three pieces to be sung unaccompanied. It sang English folk song *Pastime With Good Company*, attributed to King Henry VIII, William Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus* and John Rutter's *God Be In My Head*.



Chordiality celebrate 25 years

As part of its programme, the members of Chordiality were joined by local Bradford singer Paul Francis, who complemented the evening with a number of solo pieces.

The choir was well received and, buoyed by their opening success, the Chordiality singers continued apace. Within a year, the choir had almost doubled its membership and many of those early members still sing with the choir today. Chordiality is now recognised as one of the premier singing groups in the West Yorkshire area.

To celebrate its Silver Jubilee in the summer, the choir has booked Bradford Cathedral for a special evening concert on Saturday 7 July (7:30) when it will perform Mozart's Requiem Mass, which it will be singing from the 2010 Peter's edition score, specially hired from Germany, for choir and orchestra. On the evening, the singers will be joined by an orchestra that will comprise friends and guest musicians who have joined with or accompanied the choir at concerts over recent years. Proceeds from the concert will go to Shipley-based healthy living project, HALE, which is the choir's adopted charity for 2017-19.

Rehearsals are currently under way and, alongside the Requiem, the evening's programme will comprise popular choral and orchestral favourites. Tickets are £15, including wine, and are available from members of the choir or by phoning 07949 696064.

John Ramsdin

Dee-Sign British Sign Language Choir Wales North and Cheshire West

2017 started early for the choir with their entry into the first National Signing Choir Competition, held in The Albert Hall, Not-

tingham on 11 March. Ten Senior British Sign Language (BSL) Choirs and 4 Junior BSL Choirs competed. The competition was the brainchild of Simon Astill of Radcliffe & Derby Community Signing Choirs, and was adjudicated by Nicky Entwisle who was awarded a choral scholarship at Chelmsford Cathedral followed by gaining a university degree in music. Rebecca Anne Withey, a professional actress and sign singer since 2005 www.rebeccaawithey.wordpress.com and Michele Taylor who works with Graeae Theatre Company and six regional theatres to increase the visibility of deaf and disabled people, visiting and working in theatres across the country.

The event was attended by over 700 people and the Mayor of Nottingham. The evening was hosted by Stewart Hill www.stewarthill.co.uk having been selected by Gareth Malone to be part of the Invictus Choir - following traumatic brain injury whilst commanding in Afghanistan 2009. Nottingham's Lace City Chorus www.lacecitychorus.org also gave a wonderful performance as guests of the organisers. The event was also filmed by BBC2 'See Hear'.



Each choir had to perform two songs of two different genres, and Dee-Sign performed an *Abba Medley* and *Hero* by Mariah Carey. The performance can be viewed on Youtube or on the choir website www.deesignchoir.co.uk.

deesignchoir.co.uk video menu. Having only 8 weeks to practise before the event meant a very tight schedule, with extra evening practices to try and get everything spot on. Lip patterns, handshapes, synchronised movements etc. I am proud to say that Dee-Sign Choir gained first place winning the Morgan Astill Trophy, with Vision Signing Choir from Kent coming second and third was Revolution Choir also from Kent. The competition will be an annual event moving from North to South annually. On 19 May 2018 (royal wedding day) it is being hosted by Vision Signing Choir and in 2019 it will be hosted by Liverpool Signing Choir.

Choirs taking part were:-

Junior Section: - Heathlands Harmony, Langley Mill Junior School Signing Choir and Friends, de Ferrers Sign Language Choir & Liverpool Junior Signing Choir.

Adult Section: - Liverpool Senior Signing Choir, Revolution Signing Choir, Radcliffe & Trent Community Signing Choir, Lowestoft Signing Choir, Vision Signing Choir (Gillingham), Dee-Sign Choir (Chester), Hands 4 Voices Signing Choir (Essex), Signed Songs R Us(Scotland) Derby Community Signing Choir, Handy Voices (Oxfordshire)

Our year ended with a wonderful combined twentieth anniversary meal and entertainment evening, where we joined Chester Deaf Club members who were celebrating their fortieth anniversary. The choir also raised £8,000 for our Charity during the year - Chester & District Committee for Deaf People- Reg.237910.

Anne Hesketh
Director.

Claire Doran LRSM

(<https://claire-doran-soprano.com>) is a regular performer on the concert platform, having sung Berlioz (Les Nuits d'été), Mendelssohn (Elija), Britten (On This Island), as well as songs by Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

Claire is a member of the Guildford Choral Society and enjoys performing both as a soloist and as part of the chorus. She has performed at the Royal Albert Hall and St John's Smith Square. Claire makes a regular appearance at Music for Autism concerts at Dorchester Abbey, working with the pianist Derek Paravicini, as well as at the Rudolph Steiner School in London.

She is currently furthering her singing techniques with Jeff Stewart (RCM and the



Claire Doran LRSM

Royal Welsh) and has previously worked with Christine Cairns, achieving both Dip ABRSM with Distinction and the Licentiate of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Claire is available to perform as a soloist and would be happy to provide references and sample recordings on request. Please contact nataliadoran8@gmail.com for more details.

Natalia Doran

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Dursley Male Voice Choir South West

DMVC Celebrates 40 Years

Dursley Male Voice Choir, based at the southern tip of the Gloucestershire Cotswolds, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with a busy programme of concerts and recitals. These feature performances in Bath Abbey and Gloucester Cathedral, as well as competing in the Cheltenham Festival of the Performing Arts in three different classes, namely: Male Voice Choir, Songs from the Shows, and Sacred Music.

Every year we have a full programme of concerts and tours. For example, we enjoyed a short tour to Yorkshire in the autumn of last year, the highlights of which were singing in the wonderful Ripon Cathedral, with its amazing acoustics and performing in a joint concert with the Harrogate Male Voice Choir. We were astounded, on checking back, to discover that nine years had elapsed since our last competition, at the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival back in 2009. We wanted this year to be special so decided to enter the Cheltenham competition. It will be an opportunity to meet other choirs, and of course, gauge our progress and standards against our peers.

Bryan Jones



Also, to mark the 40th year since its founding, choristers voted unanimously at an Extraordinary General Meeting to award life membership to three founder-members who have been singing with the choir since its inception in 1978. They are top tenor Chris Wintle and second tenors Ellis Williams, and Brian Wetton.

'I've loved my time with the choir' said Ellis, 'and enjoyed trips abroad to Germany,



Dursley Male Voice Choir

Canada and Austria,' adding, 'I've competed in festivals in Bath, The Forest of Dean, Cheltenham and Cornwall, and one of my highlights was the choir winning the Gold Cup at Cheltenham. I remember our first concert was a joint event with the Caldicott Male Voice Choir. In those early days we were 18-strong and it has been great to see the Choir grow to well over 60 members'.

When asked about his time with the Dursley Male Voice Choir, Brian said, 'Music has always been important to me and I often wished I'd taken up a musical instrument whilst still at school, so being able to sing with the choir filled that gap'. Continuing to reminisce, he said, 'When I was a young chap, my neighbour, Mike Evans, the choir's first Musical Director, put his head over the fence, told me he was thinking of starting a male voice choir in Dursley and asked if I would be interested in coming along. I've no idea why he'd such faith in my singing abilities, unless I'd left the bathroom window open and he'd heard me singing whilst he was working in his garden. Over the years, DMVC has become a really significant part of my life and it's hard to imagine not turning out on a Wednesday evening for weekly practice. I've loved the concerts and tours over the past 40 years and will especially remember our two tours to Canada and our participation in the Massed Male Voice Choir Concert in the Albert Hall in London.'

Brian expressed what many choristers feel when he added, 'For me now, singing in the choir is about more than just the music. It's being one of the team, with the comradeship that that brings, which is so important.' We all say 'Amen' to that.

Finally, to celebrate this auspicious milestone, the choir's Music Committee, led by

Musical Director Barrie Cooper, ably assisted by his Deputy MD, Brian Parslow, and DMVC Chairman Bryan Jones, is working on producing a commemorative CD, featuring music performed by the choir over the 40 years of its life. 'I guess this is one of the burdens of office' commented Chairman Bryan drily, 'as it's proving to be a really demanding project because, as you can imagine, our repertoire and back catalogue is really extensive after 40 years, so choosing the right songs is proving somewhat difficult'.

Dursley Male Voice Choir has a website www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk and a facebook page for more information on the choir's programme and activities.

Stan Unwin

Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Male Voice Choir West Midlands

Its claim to fame is that it is the oldest choir in Cannock, formed after the Second World War.

The choir's history starts with a few ex-servicemen enjoying a sing a long together with a piano accompanist at the Ex-Servicemen's Club. Then in 1947 it was decided to form a choir. In its heyday, the choir was over 30 strong and won a few choral competitions.

Currently the choir numbers 19, including Musical Director and Accompanist. This allows the choir to perform at smaller venues as well as at weddings, funerals, churches and clubs. The choir's diary has a few annual repeat performances with the rest of the year fluctuating between periods of no concerts to high demand usually during the festive season.

Cannock Ex-Servicemen's Male Voice Choir



Sadly, due to the passage of time and health issues, our favourite Musical Director Dorothy Bates has decided to lay up her baton. Dorothy joined the choir as its Accompanist in 1994, becoming the Musical Director in 2010. At one time she was also the chair of the West Midlands Group. Under Dorothy's happy expert leadership with friendly banter from the men, the choir developed to what it is today. An easy-going friendly choir with a repertoire of traditional choral pieces, popular music, with solo and concert-party type performances to suit all occasions.

The choir is currently being competently managed by the Deputy Musical Director,

Peter Carey, who is possibly the longest serving member of the choir with over 30 years' service under his cummerbund. Peter has had a long musical career in education, as organist with his local church and also sings with another well-known Cannock Chase Choir. Peter and the choir are well supported by our able accompanist Hazel Hailstone, who also has to bear the friendly banter from the men. Now the choir is in need of a slightly younger version of Peter Carey to continue the history of the choir and take Dorothy's legacy forward.

The choir also welcomes newcomers. No musical knowledge required, just an ability to sing in tune. Practice nights take place

weekly on Monday nights at the Victoria working men's club Hednesford where the bar helps to lubricate the vocal chords.

New members will have a choir buddy to show them the ropes and ease them through the early stages of learning to sing as part of a choir.

For any further information or to pay a visit with no commitment. Please contact the choir chairman David Rimmer on 01543-212212 or david.rimmer@gmail.com

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The GentleMen East Midlands

We have progressed a good deal since 2009, adding members, new material, honing our performance and creating an attractive 'look' on stage. Choreography is something of a foreign word to us, although we note with interest the young un's fondness for ankle twisting routines.



Mansfield's Mayor with the choir

Sometimes we find ourselves with plenty to do! On the morning of 10 March we turned out with M&DMVC jackets on, to sing at Mansfield Museum for the Mansfield Sister Cities and the mayor. Then in the evening we joined the New Greasley Singers Chamber Choir in a shared concert at Saint Mary's Church, Eastwood. Recently we splashed out on suits, establishing our credentials as GentleMen. As a subtle camouflage to our usual pieces we began with *Au Fond Du Temple Saint* from The Pearl Fishers, then continued with *We Will Rock You*, in which the audience assisted with the 'stomp, stomp, clap'. Hilarity ensued, and we proceeded to entertain with a varied programme either side of the interval.

Our hosts, (NGSCC), performed a wide variety of pieces, a novelty rendition of *Oh Soldier, Soldier*, and their soloist was wonderful. Their refreshments were eagerly anticipated, and to cap it all I won a very nice rosé from the raffle. Elaine Wilson, the MD for Greasley put in many hours of practice with the choir for which we were very thankful.

We could have rested on Sunday, but we were booked for a wedding reception at Norwood Park Hall. It was for one of our Bass singer's daughter Lizzi and husband Danny. So, during a very enjoyable evening in great company, we put on a good show and finally went home feeling rather pleased with ourselves.

Mario Eric Curtis

Kentwood Show Choir

South West

Sheila Harrod, the Musical Director of Kentwood, places performance skills on an equal footing with choristers knowing their music, that is to say both have to be of a very high standard!

Performance skills, for example, public speaking, stage presence, choreography and the interpretation of lyrics are taught in rehearsals after the music is learnt and the copies are down. From uniformity of marching (yes we are even taught that) to the attention paid to the musicians' opening bars, Kentwood singers offer the audience a wholeness achieved from years of singing together.

A very obvious visual representation of this is the choir uniform and there is more to this than meets the eye. Uniforms are a challenge for every choral group as there are different shapes and sizes to consider and the need to provide male and female versions. Then there is also the problem of sourcing 40 or more of them and their affordability.

Kentwood usually has eight stage costumes, an outdoor-wear uniform and a travel uniform so we all arrive at a venue looking the same. Joining Kentwood can be an expensive business but this is lessened considerably but the good offices of our Wardrobe Officer, Debbie Webb. Debbie looks after the few uniforms that are returned when a member leaves the choir perhaps because they move away from



Kentwood outdoor-wear uniform

Swindon. The uniforms are changed every few years and accessories are added each year. Every uniform has a list of accessories (down to the type of earrings) and, so that we are sufficiently organised to remember everything, we all have a handy and matching travel bag. So what happens if you turn up wearing red nail polish (not allowed), forget your black patent shoes or bring the wrong top? Well, you get to listen to your friends singing and see what a great time they are having. You won't forget next time!

This year the uniforms were given a make-over and I thought you might be interested in how we went about that. Debbie and Sheila wanted to promote a more modern separates look with trousers and tops. So gone are the black and red travel blazers and out too are the long silk dresses - the blues and greens - and the long black skirts.

Thanks to a conversation with Marks and Spencer, we have a new outdoor look that is bang on trend (see photograph) and new black trousers to go with our six coloured tops. The latest additions are the blue beaded tops and the blue glitter jackets made by our choir seamstresses (see photos). These lovely ladies help the men match the ladies as the choir buys bolts of the same cloth to be fashioned into tops/dresses and waistcoats with matching ties. We are sometimes able to choose a dress design which allows us a say over what suits us best but keeps the uniform look by using the same cloth.

As in our private lives there can be an issue with making sure uniforms fit each and every time but as we sing quite often this is not a real problem for Kentwood.

If you think all of this seems a bit strict, then you only need to come and see/hear Kentwood and know that the same standards apply to our music and its presentation. We perform each May and November in Swindon's Wyvern Theatre and tickets are available from the theatre or via our website www.kentwoodshowchoir.org or like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/pg/friendsof.kentwood/

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Penrose Shackel
Lady Bass



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Maelgwn Male Voice Choir Wales North/Cheshire West

Ladies that Lead

There is a saying that behind every successful man there is a woman but in the case of the Maelgwn Male Voice Choir, there are three women, all of whom lead from the front. Some people, probably the ladies, might say that 50 men require three women to control and manage them.

Our Musical Director is Mererid Mair, who has been our Director for the past 2 years, having previously been one of our accompanists for 15 years. Mererid is married with two boys, and graduated with Honours from Bangor University as B Mus. She later was awarded a Masters Degree in Religious Studies and in 2016 was ordained as a Minister by the Union of Welsh Independent Churches and is presently a Youth Worker in Caernarfon.

Our Vice-Conductor is Siân Bratch. Siân is married with two children and she graduated with BA with Honours from Bangor University. She is presently a school teacher at Llandudno. Siân has been with the choir as an accompanist for the past 26 years and was recently deservedly appointed our Vice-Conductor and continues to be one of our accompanists.

The third member of the triumvirate is Caryl Roberts who succeeded Mererid as accompanist in 2016. Caryl is also married, with five children and graduated from Cardiff University with Honours as a B Mus. She is at the William Mathias Music Centre at Caernarfon.

So, there we are – three immensely successful ladies but already I can hear you say - what of the men?

Maelgwn Choir was established in 1974 and currently has some 55 members, who meet weekly for practise, and regularly perform locally and further afield at concerts, weddings and other formal and informal occasions. Six members are original members of the choir which speaks volumes for the healthy benefit of singing. Being based in a beautiful part of Wales we regularly welcome visiting choirs, both men and ladies, to Llandudno and enjoy organising joint concerts with them. Two years ago, we welcomed a touring orchestra from Canada. Monies from these concerts and other charitable concerts organised by the choir are presented to deserving causes and the choir has presented many thousands of pounds to these charities. The choir is particularly proud of having twice



been winners at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, winners at the North Wales Festival of Choirs and successful with the BBC Choral Competition.

Music is universal, and people of all walks of life and language enjoy the sound and singing of Welsh Male Voice choirs and the Maelgwn Choir has successfully toured in the United States of America, Israel, Germany, Canada, France, Holland, Slovenia, Guernsey, to name just a few. We are currently planning a visit to Ireland.

Gwyn R Williams
Secretary

East Fife Male Voice Choir Scottish East

2018 so far is proving to be an eventful year for our choir. As always, we are enthusiastic and interested in the new songs our musical director Marilyn Boulton presents to us. As some of the songs we currently sing are in German or French, we relish the challenge this brings, but the choir members meet what is expected of them with gusto to say the least. As they're often reminded, not only are they learning new songs, they're also becoming bi-lingual.

February welcomed the Fife Festival of Music which was held in the Adam Smith Theatre Kirkcaldy. We were given a great review from the adjudicator, Mr Steven Cowan, following our 15-minute spot. This consisted of four songs showcasing some of our repertoire. Indeed an encouraging start to 2018.

Over the year we've sadly lost a few of our longer serving, members but have also welcomed several new faces.

Also, we have twelve choir members who have given over thirty years commitment to the

choir, which is indeed a remarkable achievement.

This year is a special year for the East Fife Male Voice Choir, being our 60th year, and we looked forward to our celebratory annual concert in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy in April. Unfortunately our Musical Director Marilyn Boulton had an accident resulting in a badly fractured arm only 2 days prior to the concert preventing her from attending. This put great pressure on the choir to perform without being conducted. Fortunately, Robin Bell our accompanist immediately stepped up to the bar and combined both playing the piano, and conducting us with the aid of subtle eyebrow raising movements and head nodding. We knew the pieces had gone well if he was smiling at the end. I'm sure he spent Sunday following the concerts in a darkened room recovering from the pressure.

The choir originated in Buckhaven, Fife, and as this small village also boasts a WW1 hero, Robert Anderson Dunsire born in 1891, we decided to pay tribute to this brave soldier as it is the 100th year anniversary of the war. He was awarded the prestigious Victoria Cross for bravery in action whilst serving in France. So at our Annual Concert we sang songs from this era together with a song that was specially written in memory of Private Dunsire VC. Robert was also known for his musical ability playing both violin and cornet which he took with him to France. He was reported as having played in the trenches to his fellow comrades. Some of his descendants, both near and far, were contacted and several attended the concert as guests of honour.

Accompanying our tribute, we had the honour of John Wallace, a highly acclaimed virtuoso trumpet player, who has an extraordinary list of musical talents. He

became the first, and still the only Scot, to hold the position of Principal of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He was born locally in Methilhill, Fife and one of his many achievements was to accompany Dame Kiri Te Kanawa live to a TV audience of 750 million people at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. It was extremely touching to hear Mr Wallace play some music that would have been in Robert Dunsire's repertoire in the trenches. We felt immensely privileged to have Mr Wallace join us on this memorable occasion and he gave our 60th anniversary concert an evening to be remembered for a very long time. He was accompanied by a student from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland who also stepped in at the last minute due to Marilyn's accident. Her name was Alexa Stier and I'm sure we will hear more of this extremely talented pianist in the future.

This October we are planning a trip to Llandudno in Wales to do a couple of concerts, one jointly with Colwyn Male Voice Choir. These trips are always popular with both choir members and their wives, especially the impromptu sing-songs arising at the hotel after the concerts.

Following on from then, we are planning to record a CD of new songs towards the end of the year.

Aye sing

George Paterson
Publicity Officer

Newquay Male Voice Choir Cornwall

Anniversary of Appointment of Richard Braebrook as Musical Director

April 2018 is the second anniversary of Newquay Male Voice Choir appointment of the renowned Musical Director Richard Braebrook.

Richard was born in Huddersfield and studied at the renowned Huddersfield School of Music before graduating with a vocalist's degree from the Royal College of Music in London. He then sang with the BBC Singers and with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, followed by twelve years with the English National Opera. Just to scratch the surface of Richard's CV reveals an accomplished and versatile musician who has performed on stage and in many cabaret venues. He has taken leading roles in many operas and in musical theatre

As a member of the company of Phantom of the Opera, he took a solo tenor lead in the West End production. Amongst many other prestigious accomplishments he has sung for the Queen Mother and performed in the Cafe Royal in London and on P&O cruise ships. In 1983 he was first prize winner in the World International Singing Festival in Rio de Janeiro.



Richard brings great knowledge and experience to the role of MD and he has used this to enhance the quality of the choir's singing and overall performance. It is producing a refreshed, reinvigorated Newquay MVC sound which has excited and entertained very large audiences locally and further afield on recent tours to Cardiff and South Wales and Yorkshire and Dorset. On 17 April 2018 the Newquay MVC heads of on a 5-day Welsh concert tour.

The next concert at home in Newquay is on 12 May at St Michaels Church Newquay. Proceeds to go to Cornwall Leukaemia Trust and the Molecular Diagnostic Equipment appeal.

The choir will be performing at the prestigious biennial Cornwall International Male Choral Festival which is taking place once again in May 2019.

Newquay MVC has the people of the town and local community very much at its heart. It takes every opportunity to support and raise funds for local groups and initiatives, including and especially those that involve youngsters. Recently the incumbent Mayor of Newquay observed, 'Newquay MVC is a highly polished and popular choir, and as a town we are rightly proud of all its singers and their achievements'. The choir has raised many thousands of pounds for worthy causes. In recognition of this the choir was a beneficiary of the 'Mayor's Fund'

for 2017-2018.

07960216295 ossie100@icloud.com

Wayne Osman
NMVC Publicity and Press officer.

The Pye Hill and District Male Voice Choir Midlands East

The Pye Hill & District Male Voice Choir (PH&DMVC) are delighted to have recently appointed the vastly experienced Linda Darnell FISM, LRAM, ARCM, ALAM as their new Musical Director which heralds an exciting future for the choir.

Linda has an extensive stage and broadcasting career and has toured nationally with the former D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. She has sung in numerous other productions in a career spanning 50 years and has performed at many famous theatres, including Sadlers Wells, Covent Garden, Nongoma in South Africa and Sydney Opera House, Australia.

Locally, Linda was part of East Midlands Music Theatre where she gave the world premiere of the operas 'The Ghost of a Hand' by John Ogden and 'Moonflowers' by Tony Arnell.

Linda has conducted and mentored many local choirs and societies, including the 'Underwood and Bagthorpe Ladies Choir', 'The Underwood Singers', 'The Chatsworth Singers', 'Ravenshead Gilbert and Sullivan Society' and her own ensembles 'Cantorum' and the 'Darnell Singers'.

Linda is well known both locally and nationally as a voice teacher and many of her students are accepted at music and drama colleges and go on to work professionally in the industry. Linda also gives masterclasses, lectures and talks about her life in music and will be celebrating 'Fifty Fabulous Years on Stage' later this year. Linda was made a fellow of the Incorporated Society of Musicians for her long service in the music industry as a performer, conductor and teacher.

Linda says 'I'm thrilled at becoming Musical Director of the Pye Hill & District Male Voice Choir which I have heard perform many times in concert over the years and with which I once sang as a soloist in the past. I'm looking forward to directing the choir through its busy programme, including its May tour to the

Isle of Wight, and in September hosting Cwmbran Male Voice Choir in a joint concert. I'm aware of the choir's history and heritage from its birth in 1903 and look forward to helping write new exciting chapters.

'The choir has, collectively, some very positive attributes, there being some most talented singers, and some members who have given decades of their loyalty to the choir. The choir certainly has the power and determination to bring a song to life... which is what it's all about really; to free the dots from the printed page and let the magic begin!'

'I share the choir's aspirations in what it wishes to achieve, its aims to increase in size, raise as much money for charities and good causes as possible, to sing at new venues, the occasional music festival and to continue build positive relationships in the local community and with other choral groups.'

'I'm challenging the choir not to be afraid of change and place their trust in me. Enjoyment is the key word! I understand the importance for choir members to enjoy the songs they are singing to gain commitment to learning. I want everyone to look forward to rehearsal and have fun whilst perfecting songs to the choir's best ability. By dissecting songs phrase by phrase; to appreciate the song's dynamics, the articulation, the breathing, a feeling for shape and musical direction, the balancing and blending with each other, the marriage of words and music and being aware of all this will help to produce a sound of true quality and sincerity'.

Malcolm Hill of the choir 'feels that choir



Linda Darnell

members have quickly taken to Linda and her style of teaching and respect her musical knowledge, demonstrated first by making simple but very important improvements to songs they have performed for many years. There is a buzz about the choir and Linda's gentle humour, pleasant personality, and positive feedback make it a pleasure to attend practise and concerts.'

The choir has also been recently boosted by Dr Peter Revill becoming President and also joining as chorister.

This is a great time to join the choir. New members are always welcome, both experienced and beginners. Come and join the choir at the Dale Club, Jacksdale on Monday evenings at 7.30 for rehearsal and fun. Further details are available regarding concerts, bookings and recruitment at www.pyehillmvc.co.uk or phone Malcolm Hill on 07706036946.

Malcolm Hill

St Stythians Male Voice Choir Cornwall

Stithians is a Cornish village centred between Falmouth, Helston, Redruth and Truro. It is mainly agricultural but with a history of tin mining and granite working. The village supports a Silver Band (1928), a Male Choir (1947) and a Ladies Choir (1966). The Methodist and Anglican Church choirs were of course important in laying the foundations for this rich musical heritage. The St Stythians MVC celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a series of events through 2017.

There is some evidence for the existence of a choir in 1913. In fact, we possess a minute book partially covering a period 1919-1925. The first half of the 20th Century was so disturbed by the two world wars that we choose to date our choir from its formation after World War 2; indeed one of the stimulæ for its formation was to raise money to ease the social disruption caused by WW2. Remarkably the choir has been led by only 3 Musical Directors in these 70 years. Our present MD, Ken Downing, has been in post since 1986, having joined the choir at 14 as a first tenor. This sort of continuity has been of great benefit to the running of the choir and to its sense of historical identity.

Our 70th Year was launched on 'Day 1' with a change of uniform (green jackets, pale green shirts and yellow ties), a new CD *Let All Men Sing*, and a concert in the village Methodist Church (Penmennor Chapel, our 'home' for the last 25 years). It was the



A change of uniform for St Stythians

start of a very busy year which included about 20 concerts, our County Music Festival, full participation in the 8th Cornwall International Male Choral Festival and a tour of the south coast, including the Brighton Music Festival. We turned up at the Stithians Agricultural Show in July (reputedly the largest of England's one day shows). The Show Ground serves as a backdrop for our picture shown here.

Social events included a choir reunion, a dinner/dance, a River Fal boat trip – and some other fun and games. We managed to maintain most of our regular concert commitments locally and entertained several visiting choirs. There was just time left at the end of the year to fulfil our regular Christmas engagements.

We were delighted when in 2013, the experienced Conductor, Dr Roy Wales agreed to become the choir's President. We first met Roy when he gave a series of workshops in Cornwall. These developed into the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival, with Roy as the founding Musical Director (2003-2007). We have participated in all 8 festivals to 2017. The event, held every 2 years, now attracts approaching 60 choirs ranging from Cornwall, UK, Europe, Russia, USA, Canada and Australia. Our

choir has benefitted greatly from Roy's advice and encouragement in recent years.

One of the highlights of our Anniversary Year was when Roy brought one of his choirs, The English Concert Singers, to share a concert with us in Falmouth. It was an evening that challenged us to give of our best. It is thought that we came 'pretty close'.

We have also hosted in the last year the Grass Valley MVC (California), Epsom MVC, the Wyndham Singers, Stithians Ladies Choir, The Truro School Barbershop Boys and St Stythians Band.

Trying to summarise one year in 1000 words is difficult enough. Encapsulating 70 years is impossible apart from mentioning a few highlights of recent years. The choir has participated in many festivals and joint ventures and has developed links with many choirs across the UK. These include 4 massed concerts at the Royal Albert Hall with Cornish choirs and three massed concerts with choirs from southeast England at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon. We have sung in several Cathedrals, including Truro (twice for BBC *Songs of Praise*), Ely and St John's Co-Cathedral, Malta. Visits to many English and Welsh choirs have extended our experience and range of contacts. BBC and ITV appearances have proved interesting. The larger national

events can be a mixed blessing. I well recall BBC *Children in Need* from the Eden Project in 2000. This entailed hours of practice – for 23 seconds on national TV and 4 minutes on local TV. All in a good cause.

Like many choirs, we have our share of recordings. Most of these have a natural 'sell-by' date – but some just refuse to give up. The Cornish have long loved the range of 'robust' hymns known as Sankeys (from the Sankey – Moody Methodist revivals of the 1870s). Between 1973 and 1992 our choir, with the Stithians Ladies Choir, recorded five Sankey albums – 74 songs. Remarkably, thanks to the internet, we still receive requests for these from UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The originals have been re-mastered as CDs. We are not into platinum disc territory here – but it was an unexpected outcome.

Reflecting on our anniversary year – and briefly on these last 70 years – we are proud of our achievements, including County Championship wins in 1947 and 2016. There were some others in between but we will not dwell on these – rather let us look to the next decade and further. www.ststythiansmalechoir.org.uk

David Hutson

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

June

GWALIA SINGERS

Annual Concert

Saturday 23 June 2018

Venue: **All Saints Church, Oystermouth, Swansea**

Time: 7.00

Guest performers will be Bella Voce.

Tickets are £10.00, available from any choir member or telephone 01792 402080.

<http://www.gwalia-swansea.co.uk/>

LADYBROOK SINGERS

90th Anniversary Concert

Saturday 23 June 2018

Venue: St Mary's in the Marketplace, Churchgate, Stockport SK1 1YG

Time: 7.30

Join us in a celebratory concert to mark 90 years of making music, with guests Flute Salad & Poynton Male Voice Choir

Tickets: £8 (£2 child) or pay on the door

Enquiries: 0161 485 6642

Refreshments available

July

Midlands Hospitals' Choir

A French Connection

Saturday 14 July 2018

Venue: **Erdington Methodist Church
Wesley Road Birmingham B23 6TX**

Time: 3.00

Midlands Hospitals' Choir celebrate Bastille Day with A French Connection

Tickets - £10 including refreshments

A Personal View



The centenary of the NAC will be in two year's time. There have been a lot of changes over one hundred years, both in the world of choral singing and the wider national context, and I was reflecting on

some of the implications of those changes at the conference in Norwich a few days ago. Of course there were, and still are, many types of choir and choral traditions but the origins of our association lie with amateur choirs formed towards the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, generally of singers from nonconformist, usually methodist, chapels. At the same time the music festival movement, driven by friendly competition and a desire to encourage high musical standards, was becoming increasingly significant.

Early in the inter-war period, in 1920, twelve choirs in the north-west of England joined together to influence the conduct of music competitions and the price of music. The inspiration for this initiative undoubtedly came, like trade-unions and the co-operative movement that developed in

the same communities, from a belief in the power of united action. Indeed a choir provides an obvious example of this principle. The NAC is founded on a belief that choirs acting together can achieve what individual choirs acting alone cannot.

Apart from the number of member choirs little had changed by the 1970s. The association was still predominantly based in the North of England: in 1976 there were 92 choirs from Yorkshire, Lancashire and counties to the north, 17 from Notts and Derbyshire, 15 from the rest of the Midlands, 6 from Northern Ireland and 19 from the rest of the UK. The one-day AGM in Sheffield was attended by 90 delegates representing 29 choirs, and included a report from the British Federation of Music Festivals, which was represented at every AGM until 1986.

Things began to change in the 1980s. In 1984 what I believe was the first joint concert in the name of the NAC was held in association with the Newcastle Festival. Interest in competitive singing was beginning to decline and the NAC became more concerned with encouraging choirs to work together in other ways to promote choral singing, such as holding joint concerts. The existing group structure of the association provided the natural organisational framework for these activities. The association

was becoming truly national and one-day AGMs held in the North of England were impractical for many potential delegates, so they were replaced by conference weekends. The organisation of conference was one of the ways in which choirs could work together, and it was managed by a different NAC group each year. Meanwhile the mind-set in the country was changing from collectivism to consumerism.

There are problems associated with delegating the responsibility for conference to a group. Anybody from a region of the country with an inactive NAC group, where there was no culture of choirs collaborating, had no way to contribute. The possibility of something going wrong was perhaps more serious. Conference is the NAC event that is most visible nationally, and if a group failed to deliver one of high quality the image of the whole association would suffer. Following an unsuccessful conference it was decided that the organisation of conference would become the responsibility of the Officers' Committee. However well-intentioned this might have been, it had an unfortunate consequence. When active groups all took a turn in organising conference there was a real sense that conference belonged to the members, and the effort made by the group responsible that year included encouraging as many delegates to

Tamworth Ladies Choir

Is offering for sale their high quality three tier risers. The risers will hold up to forty people.

The framework is of strong anodised steel tubing with carpet covered plywood decking and can be erected as a straight or concave layout.

It is in small easily carried sections and elements which fit together easily to give a very solid platform.

The whole assembly can be undertaken by two people in about thirty minutes.

The whole is in very good order and comes with a galvanised steel trailer in which the risers are currently stored.

The Choir are seeking in the region of £900 for risers and trailer, the trailer is probably worth half of that on its own.

Anyone interested should contact Judith Bowen of Tamworth Ladies' Choir on 01827 280167 or judithbowen@tinyworld.co.uk.



attend as possible. When it was perceived as the Officers' conference such a high level of commitment could not be sustained.

The change in attitude to the annual conference is a good example of the increasing influence of consumerism in the culture of the NAC. In effect the Officers have become providers, and the assumption is that, if the conference experience is attractive enough, more people will pay for it. There have been suggestions that conference should be renamed, and the AGM has not been mentioned in the publicity for a few years. It has even been proposed that the AGM should be dropped from the conference programme altogether. For an association founded on principles of collectivism this change in outlook raises awkward questions. For example, it is run entirely by volunteers, and consumers do not volunteer. There are already more officer posts than people to fill them: how will even those people be replaced?

There are further questions about the role of the NAC. It claims to be an organisation that represents the views of its member choirs on issues of national importance. How do those views become known? What if there are differing opinions? It also

claims to 'promote, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of... choral music'. How might it do this?

Consumerism has had a positive consequence. The NAC does not have any paid staff, so the membership subscriptions can be kept low, and it has an arrangement with a broker to offer insurance at a competitive rate. Many choirs find this attractive and join only for the insurance. Annual income has never been higher. When I became treasurer in 2009 the association had an annual deficit of £8000; it now has annual surpluses of over £7000. The cash reserve could support some ambitious projects if there were volunteers to take responsibility for running them.

If you are reading this you have some commitment to the NAC, or at least an interest in it. Despite strong finances the association is not healthy, and the centenary celebrations in 2020 might provide the last chance to energise the membership to collaborate to enable the NAC to make a significant contribution to the choral life of the UK. It is your association, and it will survive and thrive if the members who are committed to its values, rather than those who are only interested in paying for what

they can get, work together. Talk to other choirs in your group. Collaborative activities are not limited to joint concerts: social days, singing workshops, talks by guest speakers on matters of mutual interest (GDPR for example), visits abroad, have all been arranged by groups in the past. You might have other ideas. For example there have been calls for initiatives to encourage children and young people to sing in choirs, especially since music has become a low priority in schools. If you have helped to develop a new idea that has been successful tell us about it in News and Views. If you are interested in developing an idea more widely let the secretary know. You do not have to be an officer to volunteer to work outside your own group.

It would be relatively straightforward to have some special events in the centenary year that happen and are then only memories. It would be so much better to leave a legacy that will continue to support choirs into the future, and the best legacy would be a strong, lively association with a committed membership.

Paul Gailunas



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Luton Male Voice Choir Thames North

Snowdown Come To Luton

On Saturday 28 April Luton Male Voice Choir was host to Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir at a concert in Luton. This was the third time the choirs have shared a concert platform in the last few years. The connection began after John Croft (Chairman of the NAC and for many years Chairman of Luton MVC) moved to Kent and joined the Snowdown choir.

The hosts opened the evening with a rousing rendition of *African Prayer*, following that with a varied programme including the composite arrangement of *You Are So Beautiful/Wind Beneath My Wings* and ending the set with *An American Trilogy*. Snowdown opened with the choir standard *With A Voice Of Singing*, a challenging piece. Their version of the Maori song *Pokarekare Ana* showcased a song not often sung by male voice choirs while their song *The Flowers Of The Field*, written for the choir, will be sung by them at the Menin Gate, Ypres in November this year as part of the Last Post Ceremony. That will be some experience.

Snowdown produced another varied programme in the second half ranging from *Shenandoah* to their closing number, the jazz standard *Alexander's Ragtime Band*. Luton picked up on the lively theme to open their second set with *Rock Around The Clock* (always a crowd pleaser) and followed that with the Perry Como medley, *Nice And Easy* and *You Raise Me Up* and ending with another choir regular, *Amen*.

The concert ended with the joint choirs singing *Unchained Melody* directed by Snowdown's Musical Director Michael Lewis and finally *Gwahoddiaid* directed by Luton's John Alexander. This was a powerful and rousing end to a very enjoyable evening much enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

It was a pleasure to welcome our friends from Snowdown once again and to both listen to their singing and to sing with them. We look forward to seeing and singing with them again in the future and wish them well with their busy concert programme.

Derek Girvan
Secretary



Snowdown Colliery Male Voice Choir Thames South

In addition to their usual concerts, the choir has supported two local schools in the last couple of months. The first was an infant school in Adisham where the children attended a workshop run by the choir. The choir taught and demonstrated the important aspects of choral singing including the various sections, harmony, diction and the role of the musical director. One child was invited to conduct the choir singing My Lord what a Morning. With the help of our MD he managed quite well until he forgot to indicate when we should stop singing at the end of a phrase – this caused great amusement amongst children and staff. Overall this was a very worthwhile exercise enjoyed by all.

The next event was a Spring Concert at Foreland Fields School in Ramsgate. This school caters for around 200 pupils with profound, severe and complex needs.

The evening of 9 March was cold, wet, misty and dismal. It was the week after the 'Beast from the East' had laid low the whole of Britain and it felt as if the spring would never come, so it was with low expectations that the choir arrived at the Foreland Fields School for the concert. On a night like this we would be lucky to attract an audience of two old men and a dog. Little did we know what awaited us.

That night, in addition to the choir, the concert programme included two supporting musicians, plus performances from the school children, and the event was to take place in the very large school hall. The

choir retired to their dressing room and waited out of sight from the arriving audience.

19.00 arrived; the choir formed up and made their way across the corridor to the hall door. The door was duly opened and the choir entered to a roar of applause from the packed house. The two old men and their dog had been miraculously transformed into a huge, enthusiastic audience who were determined that this was going to be a fun night. And so it proved to be!

It is a truism that you should never perform with children – unless you are prepared to accept second billing. The kids sung, beat their drums and strummed their banjos to a wildly receptive audience of parents and friends. The choir sang with, perhaps a little more precision, but they were on a hiding to nothing. It was obvious who was capturing the hearts of the audience and I have no doubt that tears were being shed in the darkness. The classical music of the evening was provided by Tom Abrahams (guitar) and Denny Wood (flute) who gave a master class in beautiful, lilting sound.

The two joint pieces performed by the Foreland School and Snowdown Choir were especially well received. The Barry Manilow song *One Voice* and *Rock Around the Clock* received standing ovations and roars of approval from the enthusiastic crowd.

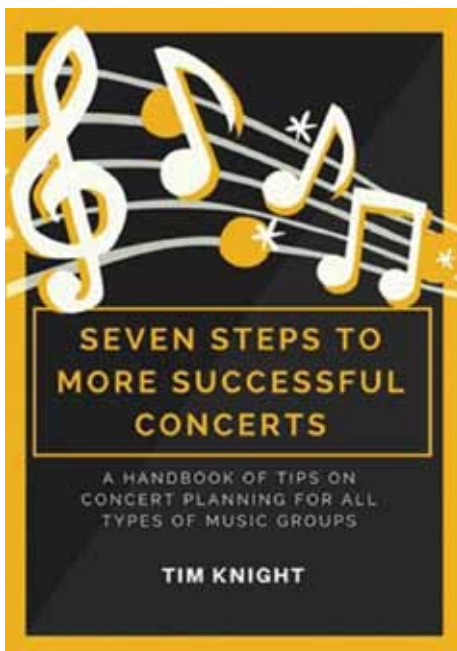
A great evening – the two old men and their dog missed a treat. The look of enjoyment on all the children's faces throughout the evening made this a most enjoyable and gratifying event for the whole choir.

John Croft and Andrew Mitchell

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR FREE GIFT...?



By now you should have received your free gift, 'Seven Steps to More Successful Concerts' by Tim Knight. Tim's latest book has been reviewed as a 'must-have' for all choirs and, being passionate about the future of choral music, Tim was delighted to partner with the NAC to provide a resource which hopes to inspire and add value to NAC member choirs. So, here's how to make the most of this powerful tool...



Build your framework with your free gift... use the valuable advice and guidance in 'Seven Steps...' to build a solid framework within which to plan your concert activities and use the range of solutions to solve issues that are commonly faced in concert planning (which are based on Tim's actual practical experiences over the years).

Then 'Flesh it out' using your exclusive NAC Members 10% off voucher... in the back of your free gift you will find your exclusive NAC Members Offer Voucher which you can use to buy and 'flesh out' your framework with Tim's previous book, '365 tips for a more successful choir' (TKM732, normal cost £7.95), which literally gives you a tip a day, whilst also covering renowned problem areas like choir recruitment and appointing a musical team. Used in tandem, both books cover all facets of choir management – here's a customer's recent review:

'I, and we as a choir have no reservations in recommending Tim Knight's books as an essential read for all choirs and especially anyone thinking about starting up a new choir. His books are thought-provoking, written in an easy in-depth style and cover all facets of choir management, development and above all is geared to the survival of all forms of choral musical performance. Three years ago, I used Tim's first book 'The survival of your choir' as a basis for recruiting 15 new members to the Leamington Royal Naval Association Male Voice Choir. Prior to recruitment, the 24-strong choir only had 2 members under 65 years of age and the majority were over 70! The vocal sound with the new members was brilliant and uplifting. At the end of February 2018, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Royal Naval Association choir ceased to exist. With the help and support of the remaining 24 members of the RNA Choir, we are currently starting a new choir, Two Castles Male Voice Choir, based in Warwick. Tim's two new books have been circulated to committee members and have been well received. They will serve as a basis for the management, recruitment and development to give a long-term security to the choir.' John Woodhead, Founding Member, Two Castles Male Voice Choir, Warwick

Book a one-to-one and make it all about you... Tim can go into more in-depth detail and offer a one-to-one workshop which would be tailor-made to suit your choir's particular set of circumstances and challenges, eg, size, location, audience make-up etc. From Male Voice Choir's feedback after attending a workshop was: 'We can recommend this. Three of us attended one of Tim Knight's courses in 2006 and we still refer to his recommendations. Changes your way of thinking.'



365 tips to a more successful choir
A FOLLOW UP TO THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL 'SURVIVAL OF YOUR CHOIR' BOOK

Tim Knight

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Anne Parker

Choral Singing And Health

'Choral singing should be prescribed as a treatment on the NHS', says a Canterbury music professor who claims its health benefits would have a profound effect on the nation.

Professor Grenville Hancox says he is convinced of the evidence after carrying out a six month research project with Parkinson's sufferers. It used a group of people with the illness, none of whom had sung before in a choral group. The results revealed improved emotional wellbeing and social support and reduced depression, anxiety and stress levels.

Now he has launched an online petition on the Government website calling for the NHS to acknowledge the medical benefits and is appealing for support. 'A growing body of research has found that singing with other people has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of participants,' he says. 'When we sing – and everyone can sing – our brains release hormones associated with physical and mental activities. It is a physical, mental and spiritual activity. Singing with other people in groups has a profound effect on our minds and bodies and could be a cost effective intervention in improving the quality of life for people experiencing a variety of medical and psychological conditions.'

Doctors can already prescribe exercise for patients and he hopes the medical profession will now recognise the health benefits of singing. Singing on prescription would enable the funding of groups, including paying for venues and leadership. It would not place an undue burden on the NHS because of the savings in health benefits it would deliver.

To support the petition, which closes on 5 August 2018, go to www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/211288

John Croft

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If you'd like to learn, sing and harmonise, then join with other singers and attend our 40th Annual Harmony College. It's a two and a half day residential event held at Jubilee Campus of Nottingham University.

Open to men and women, joining the College Chorus is a great introduction to this unique style of harmony. You will be given music and learning tracks in advance, receive expert tuition during the course, and then, along with your fellow choir members, perform on the Saturday evening college show.

Other Courses Available

You can learn more about barbershop harmony by opting to attend other specialist courses including; Directing, Coaching and a Personal Development Stream offering a wide choice of barbershop related subjects and other singing topics.

Book Early - Book Online Now

View the Prospectus online and book your place. Welcome to a great weekend of barbershop singing!

40th Harmony College
24 - 26 August 2018
Jubilee Campus Nottingham University

The British Association of Barbershop Singers
6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road, Warwick CV34 5HQ
Registered Charity No: 1080930

SING BARBERSHOP
It's the Harmony that makes the difference

Barbershop Youth Quartet Contest

2017 Winners
Sound Hypothesis



Contest Closing Date
30th September 2018

Contest sponsored by
The British Association of Barbershop Singers

www.singbarbershop.com

SING BARBERSHOP
It's the Harmony that makes the difference

Saturday 10th November 2018
The Royal Northern College of Music

The British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) contest is open to all young men 25 years of age and under. If you know of a college quartet, music school quartet or other groups, then this contest is for them. They just have to sing two barbershop harmony songs. Advice available on song choice. Entry is Free!

In addition to gaining the title of the National Barbershop Youth Quartet Champions, the winners will be presented with a trophy, medals and a £500 Bursary from BABS Harmony Foundation. If the quartet achieves the qualifying score, they may also be eligible to compete at the International Youth Quartet Contest held in the USA.

Get Details Today!

Open to BABS and non-BABS members -
For further details contact:

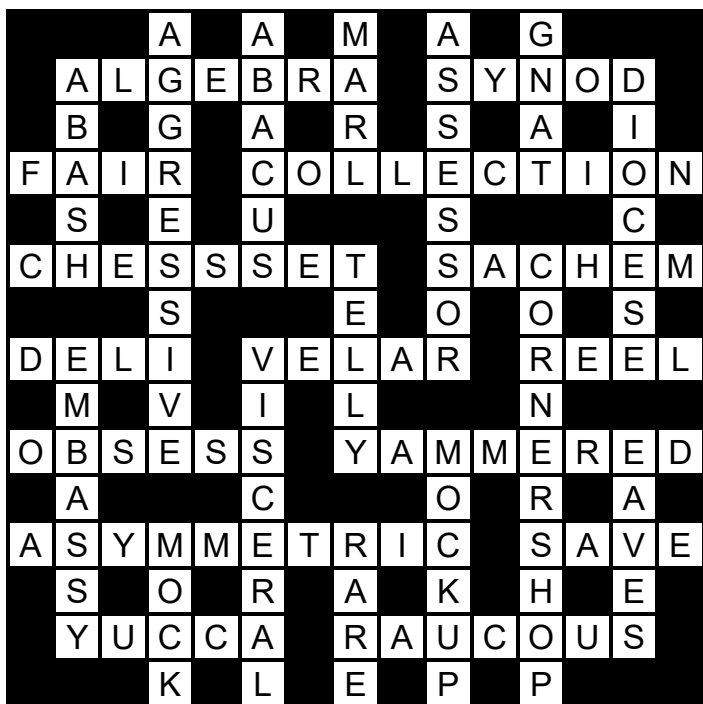
Alan Hughes - Music Services Director

Tel: 07841 819535

email: musicservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com

British Association of Barbershop Singers
Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road, Warwick CV34 5HQ
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Solutions



1	9	8	2	5	7	3	4	6
6	5	4	1	3	8	9	2	7
2	3	7	9	4	6	5	1	8
9	8	3	7	6	2	1	5	4
4	2	6	8	1	5	7	3	9
5	7	1	4	9	3	8	6	2
8	1	9	3	2	4	6	7	5
3	6	2	5	7	9	4	8	1
7	4	5	6	8	1	2	9	3

New Members' Directory

It has been decided not to publish information about new choirs at the moment so that we can be sure that we have the permission of those choirs under the new

General Data Protection Regulations

Choir Jokes

Q: How do you tell when your lead singer is at the door?
A: He can't find the key and doesn't know when to come in.

Q: How many lead singers does it take to change a light bulb?
A: One. He holds the bulb while the world revolves around him.

Q: Did you hear about the female opera singer who had quite a range at the lower end of the scale.
A: She was known as the deep C diva.

Q: What is the missing link between the bass and the ape?
A: The baritone.

Q: How can you tell when a tenor is really stupid?
A: When the other tenors notice.

Ever hear the one about the tenor who was so off-key that even the other tenors could tell?

Q: How many tenors does it take to change a light bulb?
A: Six. One to do it, and five to say, 'It's too high for him.'

Person 1: It must be terrible for an opera singer to realize that he can never sing again.

Person 2: Yes, but it's much more terrible if he doesn't realize it.

Q: Dad, why do the singers rock left and right while performing on stage?

A: Because, son, it is more difficult to hit a moving target.

Q: Mom, why do you always stand by the window when I practise for my singing lessons?

A: I don't want the neighbours to think I'm using corporal punishment, dear.

Q: How many altos does it take to change a light bulb?
A: None. They can't get up that high.

Q: How many lead singers does it take to change a light bulb?
A: None. Get the drummer to do it.

If you took all the tenors in the world and laid them end to end... it would be a good idea.

Where's a tenor's resonance?
Where his brain should be.

What do you call ten baritones at the bottom of the ocean?
A good start.

What is the definition of a mezzo soprano?
Just an alto with a soprano's attitude.

What's the definition of a male quartet?
Three men and a tenor.

What's the difference between a soprano and a piranha?
The lipstick.

What's the difference between a soprano and a pit bull?
The jewelry.

The Officers

Ronald Corp SSC OBE- *President*

Brenda E Wilkinson - *Membership Officer*

Andante, 23 Mendip Close, Ashby de la Zouch,
Leicester LE65 1DZ

01530 411178

membership.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Celia Johns - *General Secretary & Webmaster*

350 March Road, Turves, Whittlesey,
Peterborough PE7 2DW

01733 840370

general.secretary@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

webmaster@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Paul Gailiunas - *Treasurer*

25 Hedley Terrace, Gosforth,
Newcastle, NE3 1DP

0191 285 0654

treasurer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Clive Lawton - *Conference Co-ordinator*

20 Arthur's Court, Stretton,
Burton on Trent, DE13 0GS

01283 569677

conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Bob Swallow - *Publications Officer*

8 Charles Avenue, Laceby,
Grimsby DN37 7HA

01472 500130

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

John Croft - *Chairman, Services Officer & Public Relations Officer*

15 Glendale, The Bayle,
Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1SH

01303 240345

chairman@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

services.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

pro@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

David Goodwin - *Music & Festivals Officer*

2 Sherbrooke Close, Kirkbymoorside
York YO62 6LJ

Office: 01653 628545

music.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

info@banksmusicpublications.co.uk

Karl Harper - *Co-opted Music Review Officer*

67 Woodville Road, Overseas
Derbyshire DE12 6LU

01283 760354 07976 548969

music.reviews@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Natasha Cole - *Co-opted Officer*

89 Stopsley Way
Luton, LU2 7JU

01582 259836

NACatNAC@hotmail.com

Registered Charity: 1014630

Vice Presidents

Bob Barratt - *Music Publisher*

Richard Bradley - *ret Chairman, PRO,
Services Officer*

Jean Cooper - *ret General Secretary*

Gerald Haigh - *ret Chairman*

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Alan Simmons - *Music Publisher*

Doris Williams - *Music and Festivals
Consultant*

How I like to receive articles for News & Views.

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

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

'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.

01472 500130

PLEASE DO WRITE IN

Crawford