



National Association of Choirs
Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

News & Views



MARILYN J SMITH MBE
Musical Director of the
Glasgow Phoenix Choir

The National Publication for all Choristers

Spring 2012

No 197



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Summer 198 - April 30

On your doorstep by 1 June

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Crawford's Corner



Let's begin with a Happy New Year to all of you. I know it will be almost February by the time you read this but never mind.

You will notice that I have at last been able to squeeze in the two items that complete our look at the four parts of a mixed choir. The basses at last get what is coming to them.

There is no large puzzle this time but look out for the two little ones in the green boxes. Crawford's Cwiz is for male voice lovers and especially for those who like Welsh hymn tunes. Ten questions but

only nine Welsh tunes. I learn quite a bit researching these cwizzes. If anyone has a cwiz topic they would like to let me know about, please write to the new letters page and I'll start Googling immediately.

Another new feature is our directory of new members. It occurred to us that our Yearbook is rather like a road atlas as it is out of date the day after you get it since members are coming and going all the time. Brenda, our Membership Secretary circulates the officers with all new members so I thought that I could put this information into News & Views so that a choir joining in January becomes known to other members in a couple of months rather than next year. This time I have put in all the ones I have heard of since

October. Let's see how it goes.

It seems quite a while since we had a biography of one of our officers so I have taken myself by the throat and forced some information out of myself.

Don't forget that there is a booking form for the NAC conference on page 22 and it's about the right time to get your booking sorted out. See you all in the Lake District in March. Oh Yes I must get my booking sent in. Julie, where's the pen?

Crawford

Chairman's Chat



A very Happy New Year to you all - although it may be well into the 2012 by the time you receive this edition of News & Views. I hope your Christmas concerts were successful and that you did not lose your voice too badly

after all the carol descants!

I must start by wishing our President and his lady, Eric and Jan, a speedy recovery from a recent unfortunate traffic accident. We all hope they will be fully better and back with us very soon.

Before I get too deeply into the goodies on offer this time, can I remind you all of the Annual Conference weekend, and the necessity to book as soon as you can. We have an excellent selection of seminars and workshops for you, and I am really looking forward to those to be run by our headline presenter, David Lawrence. The setting for the weekend could not be better - right on the shoreline of Lake Windermere, with a fabulous view over the lake, and the opportunity to do some sightseeing on the lake steamers. The dates are 23-25 March; the booking details are on pages 19-22, or on our website, or failing that, do give our Conference Coordinator, James, a call and he will be only too happy to send you a form.

How good to see an article written by Joe Agnew, giving some details about his long association with choral singing and his life in the NAC. It is people like Joe who are the backbone of singing in the UK - people

who are interested and committed enough to share their love of singing with others over many years. What he has not said, being too modest, is that he has in the past donated at least one cup and monetary prize to the winners of a choral class at Buxton Music Festival - I happen to know this because my choir won it!

This is definitely a 'people' issue of the magazine - there are many who deserve special mention here so that you can read further in the articles themselves. For instance: Glyn Hughes MBE, MD of Cor Meibion Brymbo, retiring after no less than 46 years in that post; Marilyn Smith, MD of The Glasgow Phoenix Choir, being awarded an MBE for Services to Music; Edwina Currie taking up the post of President of Tideswell MVC (losing one man on Strictly Come Dancing and gaining 60 in Derbyshire!); our own Bob Swallow telling us of his route to becoming the Publications Officer of the NAC.

I am so pleased to see some letters in this issue, as well as the quizzes and comedy snippets. Can I ask for more contributions in that direction - this is your magazine, and your input is gratefully received. Mind you, if you can speak Welsh you should be all right with one of the quizzes - see page 17 - I can't even pronounce most of those words! You will also see a list of forthcoming events and concerts. This is taken directly from the website and is only as good as the information I receive and upload (wearing my hat as Webmaster), so can I encourage you to let me have as much forward information as possible. In addition, you can advertise free for a new MD or Accompanist - as indeed Sheffield MVC have done on page 24, but if time is running too short for the next edition of

News & Views then a quick note on the Vacancies page on the website can help.

A new item this time is a list of the new choirs who have joined as NAC members since the last magazine. If any of those are in your area, please do get in touch and welcome them - they will I am sure be grateful for a friendly approach and perhaps an invitation to take part in a joint venture in the future!

Happy singing and all good wishes.

Celia Johns

From The President



Unfortunately Jan and I have not been able to fulfil our invitation to the Tamworth MVC Annual concert. We were on our way to Stetton near Burton on Trent when he were involved in an accident and I have

missed several concerts with Gresley MVC since then.

It will be several weeks before Jan is again mobile and our Christmas festivities had to be postponed and it may be some time before I get to the NAC meetings.

Gresley MVC are planning our next visit, this time to Cornwall and we will be joining with Marazion MVC in a concert.

Our trip to France was a great success and our supporters have started booking for the Cornwall trip.

Eric Jackson

Joe Agnew

An Associate member

60 years Conducting

Evacuated from Manchester to Mow Cop Stoke on Trent on 1 September 1939 aged 10 years, I started to sing in the Methodist Church Children's Choir. The evacuation period ended at the school leaving age of 14 and I returned to Manchester.

July was the Sunday School Anniversary time at Mow Cop and I asked my parents if I could go for the weekend to listen to the choir, to which they agreed. My old friends asked the conductor if I could sing with them. He said yes, if I could learn the 6 songs off by heart in time. My mates and I spent all Saturday afternoon and evening practicing and I sang with the choir on the Sunday.

One of the songs had a chorus that included the old hymn tune *Beulah Land* and this tune played so much on my mind when I went home, that I asked my parents, this time, if I could go back to Mow Cop to stay, which I did, and stayed until September 1991. It was during the 'Open Air' singing at the Sunday School Anniversary in July 1950 that the conductor asked me to take

over while he had a cigarette, I asked what I should do, he just gave me his pitch pipe, told me to choose a hymn, give the note and conduct. In February 1952 the conductor retired due to ill health and I was appointed his successor, as it turned out, two days after the Queen's official proclamation of her accession to the throne.

Through illness and deaths I eventually became the choirmaster at three Methodist Churches and the guest conductor for Oratorio performances at another. From 1957 to 1979 (when I had a heart attack), again due to the same reasons, I conducted three performances of 'Messiah' and two of 'Elijah' and 'Creation' each year. For a two year period I was also the deputy conductor of The City of Stoke on Trent Choral Society. During 1976/77/78/79 I formed a United Church Choir, a choir of some 220 voices and conducted two performances of 'Messiah' and two of 'Elijah' for various charities in Hanley's Victoria Hall, where we also had a notable recorded NAC concert involving 16 Group Eleven choirs.

Moving to Sale in 1991 and in 1992 I formed the Meadway Singers (Ladies Choir) and in 1994 Meadway Youth Choir

and Meadway Junior Singers. I became the secretary of Group One for Nine years and Chairman for a further Three years. During that time we had Group One Events at Wigan Pier, Royal Northern College of Music and Bolton's Victoria Hall, the latter two involving 400 singers. I formed the Francis House Children's Hospice Choir (75 voices) and with them performed 'Messiah' (twice), 'Creation' and Faure's 'Requiem'. In 2000 I was invited to be the guest conductor for a performance of Mozart's 'Requiem' in Manchester.

In July 2011 accompanied by my wife, Irene, I attended the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace by invitation, described as being for my 'Outstanding service to music in South Manchester'. I was obviously nominated, but I have never found out by whom. I will be 83 on 28 March, but still enjoy conducting my three choirs with four hours weekly rehearsals and hope to continue 'DV'. My musical career, looking back, began with an old hymn tune and a cigarette! I am now only an Associate Member of the NAC but choral singing is in my blood.

Joe Agnew

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New for 2012

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Gresley MVC Midlands East

On their last visit to France, twenty-two years ago, the choir performed in Pithiviers.



Last year the choir was honoured to sing at the fiftieth year twinning celebration of Ashby de la Zouch and Pithiviers at the Manor House School, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire. This paved the way for our return with immense help from Aimee Hanaquin, President of the twinning society.

Monday morning the 12 September was the day we had all been looking forward to as we all set off on our trip to France after many hours of planning.

The one thing that couldn't be planned was the weather with very blustery conditions forecast. With one of our two coaches booked for a ferry crossing, things were looking a little difficult; with force nine gales reported to our coach driver, it looked like being a long day. Then there was the other problem that seems to blight our motorway 'traffic' and boy there was some, all of which made for a very long journey to our hotel in Orleans. Our 'Ferry' coach arrived some five hours later than planned at 1.30 the next morning but hats off to the hotel for keeping the restaurant open to make sure that everyone had got something to eat and drink on arrival.

The following day gave us free time in Orleans to have a look at the cathedral, prior to our concert on the Friday night. There are few words that could describe the feeling when one looked up the street to this enormous building, where we were soon to sing. After looking inside I think we all felt quite emotional, to say the least.

Wednesday saw us take a trip to Chartres for an afternoon concert in one of the world's greatest cathedrals. Having to push all our equipment through cobbled streets too small for a coach to travel, we

made straight for the cathedral. Words are inadequate to describe the opportunity we were about to embark on. 'Mind blowing' might go a little way towards it and it certainly didn't disappoint! The acoustics were unbelievable.

Thursday brought a day off from singing with two different trips planned; one to Paris and the other to Versailles, both of which went well with lots to see and do.

Friday we visited Chateau de Chambord, which was but a short trip from our Hotel down the Loire Valley; yet again a very impressive place well worth a visit if ever you find yourself in that area. After an early dinner it was time to make our way to our evening concert at Orleans cathedral, about ten minutes walk for those able, with the rest going on the coach. Here we sang in front of the high altar in the, usually locked, nave. The sound was incredible, disturbing all the bats high up in the roof!

Saturday came all too soon. This was our last full day where we relaxed and took an early dinner before heading for Pithiviers and our final concert. The church was full where we experienced amazing standing ovations and encores. We were made most welcome and after our performance presented a vase on a wooden plinth as a memento of our visit and also a gift to Aimee Hanaquin for making it possible to sing in such prestigious venues. Afterwards people were reminiscing over pictures and memories from our last visit and gave us a warm invitation to visit again.



It was felt by the organising committee that these concert venues presented their members with an opportunity of a lifetime and it certainly lived up to all expectations and more. The choir continues to perform its engagements and is preparing a new repertoire to be performed first in their Celebrity Concert at Burton upon Trent Town Hall, on Saturday 29 October 2011 with guest Adele O'Neill

www.adeleoneill.net

For further information, photographs, recordings and history of the choir, visit

www.gresleychoir.org

Geoff Hampson
Chairman

A Simpleton's Guide to the Four Part Choir.

Here is the last in our series of four part choir guides.

The Basses

They sing the lowest of anybody. This basically explains everything. They are stolid, dependable people, and have more facial hair than anybody else. The basses feel perpetually unappreciated, but they have a deep conviction that they are actually the most important part (a view endorsed by musicologists, but certainly not by sopranos or tenors), despite the fact that they have the most boring part of anybody and often sing the same note (or in endless fifths) for an entire page.

They compensate for this by singing as loudly as they can get away with - most basses are tuba players at heart. Basses are the only section that can regularly complain about how low their part is, and they make horrible faces when trying to hit very low notes.

Basses are charitable people, but their charity does not extend so far as tenors, whom they consider effete poseurs. Basses hate tuning the tenors more than almost anything else. They like altos - except when they have duets and the altos get the good part. As for the sopranos, they are simply in an alternate universe which the basses don't understand at all. They can't imagine why anybody would ever want to sing that high and sound that bad when they make mistakes. When a bass makes a mistake, the other three parts will cover him, and he can continue on his merry way, knowing that sometime, somehow, he will end up at the root of the chord.

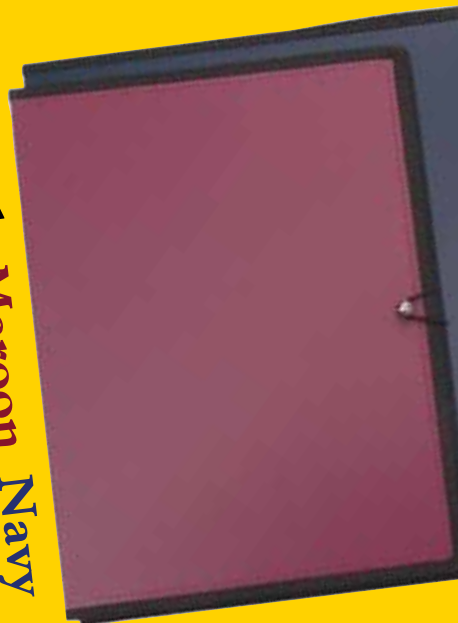




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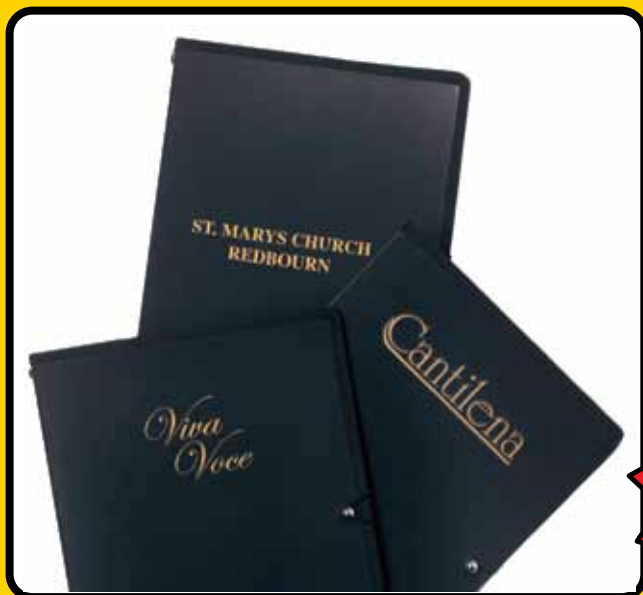


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Forthcoming Events

Events taking place from February to May are in greater detail as they take place between issues of News & Views. The rest are only concert title, date, venue and contact. In the next edition 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

FEBRUARY 2012

Majestic Tours Open Choir Festival

Friday 24 - Sunday 26 February 2012

Venue: **Riviera International Centre**

Due to the popularity of the choir festivals over the last four years, and upon the requests of choirs from across the country, Majestic are pleased to announce that 2012 will see two exciting competitions:

'The Open' a festival for choirs of any style and size, from Ladies Harmony to Barber Shop, Gospel to Male Voice... A whole weekend of energy, fun and entertainment like no other event.

This mix of professional competition, entertainment, comradeship, £6000 prize fund per event, plus the delights of the English Riviera, make the Majestic festivals unique and ones we guarantee your choir will not forget.

www.majestictours.co.uk/choir2012_open.htm

MARCH 2012

Majestic Tours Strictly Male Voice Choirs

Friday 2 - Sunday 4 March 2012

Venue: **Riviera International Centre**

Due to the popularity of the choir festivals over the last four years, and upon the requests of choirs from across the country, Majestic are pleased to announce that 2012 will see two exciting competitions:

'The Strictly Male Voice Choir' It's back to the roots of the Majestic Choir Festival with an event of wonderful musicality and judging by an international professional panel. 'The Battle of the Male Voice Choirs' boasts thunderous voices, haunting melodies and magical moments. All with the Majestic love of professionalism, excitement and entertainment.

This mix of professional competition, entertainment, comradeship, £6000 prize fund per event, plus the delights of the English

Riviera, make the Majestic festivals unique and ones we guarantee your choir will not forget.

www.majestictours.co.uk/choir2012mv.htm

APRIL 2012

International Festival of Sacred & Profane Music

Thursday 12 - Sun 15 April 2012

Venue: **Rome**

Roma Incanta – First International Festival of Sacred and Profane Music

For the first time with Roma-Incanta, non-professional choirs and bands will perform in beautiful settings of cultural and artistic interest. Locations continuously attended by the tourists who visit them every day. Locations where performing means connecting different art forms (music, painting, architecture, sculpture). The festival will take place in Rome, Italy between April 12 and 15 2012.

An occasion to share such an experience with other musicians and highlight what music can contribute to the encounter between different societies and cultures.

Missing it is the only mistake you can make. For information and participation forms:

www.incantafestival.it/en

Associazione Incanta
Segreteria organizzativa
Monica Cantiani - mobile +39 3473350908
Francesca Palombi -
mobile +39 3426271144
segreteria@incantafestival.it
Via Anastasio II 442
Italia – 00100

2nd World Choir Festival

Friday 27 - Sun 29 April 2012

Venue: *Thessaloniki, Greece*

We have the honour to invite you to Thessaloniki in April 2012 to participate to the 2nd World Choir Festival in reference to Music.

Thessaloniki, a sea front city with a history of 2,300 years, is situated in

North Greece and it is the second in population city of Greece. It is a major economic, industrial and political centre and a major transportation hub for the rest of southeastern Europe; its airport and its commercial port are also of great importance.

The pleasant Mediterranean climate and the hospitality of the people living in this historical city guarantee an unforgettable visit.

In 2012 Thessaloniki celebrates 100 years of its liberation so our Festival will have a unique nature and will be dedicated to Peace, Friendship, Collaboration, Brotherhood and Solidarity of people.

The Festival does not have a competitive character.

All kinds of choirs (children, youth, adult, female, male and mixed) can participate.

The main performance will take place at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - Ceremony Hall 1,054 seats - at the centre of the city.

Choreographies that accompany the performance of the choirs are welcome.

Entries will be accepted until 1 March 2012.

For the best preparation of the choirs their registration forms will be answered directly.

www.xorodiakorais.com.

We look forward to meeting you in our city to this celebration of choirs and Music!

Welcome to Greece!

On behalf of the Board of Choir 'KORAI'

Stratos Tsihlias Mary Konstantinidou

President of the Organizing Committee
Artistic Director

Contact: 53 Alkminis Str.
542 49 Thessaloniki – Greece

Fax : 0030 2310 309900

choir_korais@hotmail.com

Forthcoming Events cont'd

Choral Spectacular NAC Choirs in the North East Saturday 28 April 2012 7.00

Venue: **The Sage, Gateshead**

The NAC North East group proudly presents 26 choirs in concert at the unique international music venue situated on a landmark waterfront site on the banks of the River Tyne. Massed ladies, male and mixed choirs will perform a programme for all tastes - popular classics, musicals to opera, lasting 'evergreens' and a touch of sacred. The 'Finale' will be a massed sing for all voices, ending with *Jerusalem* joined by the audience. 'Spectacular' singing, dazzling colour and an expected capacity audience will indeed be an evening to remember.

Tickets and information from
The Sage Box Office: 0191 443 4661

MAY 2012

Cork International Choral Festival Wednesday 2 - Sunday 6 May 2012

Venue: **Cork, Republic of Ireland**

As one of Europe's premier choral festivals, now approaching its 58th year, the Cork International Choral Festival in Ireland has long attracted choirs from all over the world to take part in either a competitive capacity, as part of the prestigious Fleischmann International Trophy Competition, or to participate non-competitively.

With the next festival taking place from 2nd - 6th May 2012, we'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for this wonderful celebration of choral music. Cork welcomes choirs from across the globe to join in our programme of lively choral performances, national and international competitions, and Gala performances from internationally renowned choral artists over the course of five days in May.

For visiting choirs Cork provides an opportunity not only to perform, but also to experience some of the world's best choral music. There is also plenty of opportunity to soak up the festival atmosphere and enjoy the mingling, singing and fun of the festival club, as well as explore the vibrant city of Cork and its surroundings on Ireland's beautiful south coast.

Fleischmann International Trophy Competition.

Each year some of the finest amateur choirs are selected to compete for the prestigious Fleischmann International Trophy. The selected choirs also have an opportunity to perform in a range of additional festival activities throughout the week, including fringe concerts, church and informal performances.

Each year a number of very fine choirs are also selected to participate in the noncompetitive strand of the festival. Participating noncompetitively gives choirs the opportunity to present informal performances in various locations across the city, while having the possibility to meet with other choirs, attend some of the festival events and soak up the festival atmosphere in Cork. There is also plenty of opportunity to visit some of Ireland's beautiful south-west region.

www.corkchoral.ie

London Sangerstevne Choral Festival

Friday 11 - Sunday 13 May 2012

Venue: **St Matthew's Church, North Common Road, Ealing, London W5 2QA**

www.sangerstevne.org.uk/concerts

[Sangerstevne 2012](http://www.sangerstevne.org.uk/concerts)

Mayo Choral Festival

Thursday 24 - Sunday 27 May 2012

Venue: **Royal Theatre, Castlebar, Co Mayo, and other venues**

Mayo International Choral Festival 2012 to boost tourism.

Festival Director Mr Edward Horkan explained that the idea to host an International Choral Festival in Mayo came as a result of his involvement in organizing the concert for the opening of the Mayo Memorial Peace Park with Michael Feeney MBE with 7 choirs on stage at the Royal Theatre.

He recalled mentioning to Pat Jennings, Mayo Man of the Year, that Mayo could organize an International Choral Festival with all the great facilities we had in Mayo - The Royal Theatre for a gala concert with all participating choirs involved. Mayo's vibrant towns would provide accommodation and local choirs would host and arrange concerts with visiting choirs for various charities, the various concert venues, the schools and the regional college, the choirs to sing at religious services varying from small local churches to the larger ones like the Basilica in Knock. All combined would assure the Festival would be a major success.

The Festival will welcome competitive and noncompetitive adult choirs from all parts of

the world, both male and female, who will visit Mayo to perform and also if they wish to take part in competition and various workshops connected with choral performance.

The Mayo Festival is targeting over 2,500 UK choirs who have easy access to Mayo through Ireland West International Airport, Knock, and our dates are based on the UK bank holiday weekend 24 to 27 May 2012. To date we have a number of UK travel agents interested in organizing groups to come to Mayo for the festival

www.mayochoral.com

info@mayochoral.com

May 2013

Cornwall International MVC Festival Thursday 2 - Monday 6 May 2013

Venue: **Truro and other venues in Cornwall**

www.cimvcf.org.uk

JUNE 2013

Musica Sacra Bratislava Thu 13 to Sun 16 Jun 2013

Venue: Bratislava, Slovakia

<http://choral-music.sk/en/festival/detail/12>

Black legs in Blackpool

There is the story of the male voice choir which competed every year at Blackpool, and made the occasion a full day's outing.

Arriving by the sea they enjoyed a paddle in the briny. This was the routine for many years, and then one year it was noticed that one of the baritones had very black legs. He was taunted by the tenors.

'By gum, Bill, thi' legs is mucky!'

'Well, tha knows a cudn't cum last year!' Bill replied.



LOMVC and The Orpheus Singers Thames North

Orpheus Together in Aid of Bosom Pals

The Orpheus Singers, founded in 2008 and the Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir have joined forces and produced a CD in support of Southend University Hospital's Bosom Pals, the breast cancer screening charity.



The CD was launched at the Park Inn Palace Hotel along Southend seafront, and a launch concert was held in the evening at Westcliff High School for Boys. The CD features a varied mix of songs from show tunes to pop classics and folk to spiritual. Musical Director David Clark said, 'It is the first time the two choirs, which both perform regularly for local, national and international charities have come together in such collaboration'.

However, the choirs support charities through their busy concert programmes at home and abroad and often join forces to raise money for local charities under the Musical Directorship of David Clark and accompanist Janet Walker.

To support the fight against breast cancer the *Bosom Pals Appeal* is raising money to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the earlier detection of smaller breast cancers. Based at Southend Hospital, the charity is attempting to raise £500K to fund two mobile screening trailers complete with the latest screening technology which will help save many more lives in the future.

Copies of the CD, priced at £7, are now on sale at selected local retailers or by calling 01702 547315 or 07767 376176

sjlta@btinternet.com

For further details of both choirs' concert diary and future fund raising concerts, please visit their respective websites

www.lomvc.org

www.theorpheussingers.co.uk

Sue Latchford
The Orpheus Singers Secretar

The Forest Singers Midlands East

Our choir recently secured the services of a new Musical Director. This was due to the retirement of Jean Ward who had been our MD for almost 30 years.

Our new MD is Vicki Melling, a former member of the world renowned Cantamus Girls Choir based here in Mansfield. The actual handover coincided with our 40th Anniversary in September. The Forest Singers was formed in 1971 when The Welbeck Colliery Male Voice Choir combined with The Havendale Singers, a ladies choir, and we still have two of the original members with us, namely Janet Otter and Brian Mitchell. A representative from the Mansfield CHAD, our local newspaper came along to our final rehearsal under our retiring conductor on 29 September when the official handover was made. The event was reported together with a photograph the following week.

Audrey Barnes
Secretary



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Penzance Orpheus Ladies Choir Cornwall

This choir, from the beautiful depths of west Cornwall, recently enjoyed a fabulous weekend tour to Worcester.

The choir has an increasing membership, and it was a first trip for several. After such a fine time they already have their names down for the next trip, to the Isle of Wight, in April 2012. There was a warm welcome in the hotel, where a meal was enjoyed by all on the Friday evening. After a day in and around Worcester on the Saturday, when a trip to the top of the Cathedral tower was a highlight for several, it was off to St John in Bedwardine Church for a concert.



The Penzance Ladies were joined by fellow NAC members Worcester Male Voice Choir for the concert. The Ladies, conducted by Stephen Lawry and accompanied by Jill Abbott, were first to take the stage, and impressed with their vibrant sound and excellent diction, which drew many admiring remarks from the capacity audience. The local men, with Musical Director Nicolas Wright and accompanist Sheila Leatherland, were also in high spirits, making sure the audience had a double helping of fine music. To top it all off the choirs combined to end the first part of the evening with *Hey, Look Me Over*.

Following the concert the Worcester Choir and their partners provided some wonderful refreshments at a nearby hostelry, and the singing continued!

After another full breakfast, a photo call on the hotel staircase, and a song for the staff at the hotel who had gathered to say good-bye, it was a 5 minute walk along the high street to sing in the morning service at St Andrews Methodist Church. The Ladies were very well received again, and their songs fitted in with the themes of morning worship. So with a mug of coffee inside them, they headed back to Cornwall. A weekend filled with music and laughter.

Stephen Lawry

North East Group

2011 has been a busy year for the group with choirs participating in exchange concerts throughout England and Scotland as well as our member 'Billingham Choral Society' hosting 'Love in Motion' signing choir from California.

We have been privileged as a group this year to have Gwynn Arch conduct a composer's workshop and James Morgan undertake a choral 'Sing and Mix' seminar following the AGM. On 3 March 2012, 27 choirs from the group will present a Choral Spectacular evening at 'The Sage', Gateshead. The logistics of this could

result in increased grey hairs for a number of members. The evening programme will be presented by Marian Forster, well known and respected for her work with the BBC.

Mary Weston
Secretary

It's a Puzzle 1

What do these words have in common?

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Answer on page 32

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Hull Male Voice Choir Yorkshire East

On 2 April we enjoyed our 100th Anniversary Concert in Holy Trinity Church in Hull with the Hull Ladies Choir as our guests.

Then, on 4 June in The Guildhall in Hull, we presented a Centenary Concert with the Humberside Police Concert Band as our guests. This was followed by a very successful HMVC Centenary Dinner Dance at the Ramada Hotel in Willerby on 13 August before the choir got down to more serious work in preparation for its jewel in the crown concert, 'Sounds of Celebration', two months later.



On Saturday 22 October Hull City Hall was filled to capacity for Hull Male Voice Choir's major centenary charity concert 'Sounds of Celebration', and the audience was rapturous when, at the commencement of the evening, compere, Terry Wallis (of Hull Male Voice Choir, introduced the Brighthouse and Rastrick Band - 2011 Champions of Great Britain - with their guest conductor, Mark Bentham, and the massive silver Championship Cup that they had won in the Royal Albert Hall on the previous Saturday evening was ceremoniously lifted onto its pedestal by two band members for all to view during the evening. We were honoured to have amongst our special guests at this concert the President, Chairman and Secretary of the National Association of Choirs as well as the Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding, the High Sheriff of Hull, the Chairman of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and many other civic dignitaries from the area, including the Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull.



A Massed Male Voice Choir - comprising some 120 voices from not only Hull Male Voice Choir but also Beverley Male Voice Choir and Driffield Male Voice Choir (all members of the National Association of Choirs) - was conducted by Julian Savory, and accompanied on the piano by Dorcas Leather and on the organ by Ian Cockerline. The audience was clearly highly delighted by the high performance of the massed choir but clearly the stars of the evening were the Brighthouse and Rastrick Band who gave first class championship performances, with some outstanding playing by their soloists, and the band leading the finale in true 'Last Night at the Proms' style with much flag waving by the audience and vigorous singing! Clearly the audience appreciated our charity concert which was the climax of our centenary celebrations. It really was a 'wow' factor experience for Hull, enjoyed by everyone. One of our senior civic VIP guests commented that it is almost unknown to achieve a capacity audience in Hull's City Hall, so we are absolutely thrilled by the response of the public in supporting our event. Special thanks are due to the regional and local media for their support; to Majestic Publications for its highly professional service in delivering free of charge excellent posters and programmes; to the staff at Hull City Hall who did a commendable job and to everyone else who assisted in making the concert such a great success, especially our audience.

To close the year, we presented our popular 'Sounds of Christmas' concert to another capacity audience on Friday 2 December in The Guildhall Hall, when our special guest choir was the City of Hull Youth Choir which gave an impressive performance. Representatives from the two nominated charities to benefit from our 'Sounds of Celebration' concert in October - HELP the HEROES and our local Dove House Hospice - attended and were each presented with cheques for £8,615 by our new Choir President, Councillor David Gemmell OBE, as a result of the financial success of our concert, made possible by the support of our audience, from advertisers in our programmes and the generosity of sponsors, some of whom wish to remain anonymous and to whom we are very grateful.

Hull Male Voice Choir launches 2012 recruitment drive

The Hull Male Voice Choir - which celebrated its Centenary during 2011, having become a registered charity in 2008 - participates in approximately 10 concerts each year which all help to generate



financial aid to support a variety of local as well as national charities and institutions, although a recent new innovation has been the choir's availability to sing at weddings as well as concerts. Already for 2012, the choir has been booked for eight concerts and a wedding.

Ongoing recruitment of new members is always a challenge to any organisation, and Hull Male Voice Choir is no exception, despite it being a strong and vibrant choir currently comprising over 50 members under the professional leadership of Musical Director Julian Savory and accompanist Dorcas Leather. Conscious of the need to secure its continued future, Hull Male Voice Choir has just launched its 2012 recruitment drive.



Rehearsals - which re-commence on 4 January 2012 - are held on Wednesday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 at The Church Hall, Church of the Holy Apostles, Walker Street, Hull where a very warm welcome is always guaranteed to potential new members who are invited to come along to a few rehearsals without any obligation - anyone interested should either telephone the Hon Choir Secretary, Reuben Hird (01482 656869) for further details or e-mail the choir

hullmalevoicechoir@live.com

We are always delighted to welcome new members to Hull Male Voice Choir, no matter what part they sing although we could do with a few more tenors, and whilst there are absolutely no age restrictions, younger members are especially sought to enhance this sector of the choir - and the ability to read music is not essential. After new members of the

choir have been with us for a few weeks, they nearly always comment how they wished that they had discovered the joys earlier of singing in a male voice choir and joined us many years previously, and so I do encourage men - young and old - to come along and join us for I am confident that they will enjoy not only the music but also the fun and fellowship that exists amongst us. There are opportunities also for soloist spots in our concerts. Maintaining choir membership numbers to around 50 is like an ever flowing river because with the passage of time, numbers are challenged as members advance in years, suffer ill-health and we endure sad losses - and so we desperately need you to keep our choir strong and vibrant, and hopefully you will soon realise just how much you needed us.

Note: the photos relating to the Sounds of Celebration concert are courtesy of Nigel Clarke and the Choir's official Centenary photo is courtesy of Ivor Innes Limited.

Terry Wallis
Public Relations Officer

St. Stythians Male Voice Choir Cornwall

The St. Stythians Male Voice Choir was founded in 1947 in Stithians, Cornwall, a village situated between Falmouth, Helston, Redruth and Truro.



Stithians, with a population of about 2100, lies in a granite upland area. The parish is mainly agricultural but traditionally quarrying and mining (tin, copper, etc) provided most of the employment in the district. The parish church is dedicated to St Stythian, hence the name adopted by our choir. The origins of our Saint, however, are something of a mystery. Our saint may have been female. We just do not know.

John Wesley visited Stithians in 1744-50 and brought Methodism to the parish. Penmennor Chapel built in 1865 (United Methodist Free Church) is set half a mile west of the village. Just across the road sits the abandoned Hendra Chapel (1815, Wesley Methodist), which is now converted into dwellings. It has often been said that more than half of the chapels in Cornwall are monuments to an argument. These two chapels form a good example - being unusually close. Whatever the cause of the differences, Penmennor the building won out. This has been the 'home' of our choir for many years - and very grateful we are for being allowed this privilege.

The choir was founded by Sydney Bowden, who also later founded the Stithians Ladies Choir in 1966. Our current Musical Director, Ken Downing, joined the choir at age 14. He became Director in 1986. Sydney and Ken between them have directed the choir for 60 of its 64 years. Choir members are drawn from Stithians, surrounding villages and the Camborne/Redruth, Falmouth and Helston areas.

The choir is a founder member of the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs and has participated in all four massed Cornish Choir Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, London between 1980 and 2000. Highlights of the last decade include gaining third place in the Malta International Music Festival and three appearances in massed choir concerts at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, the latest being in June 2006. Another is planned for 2012. The choir regularly competes in local and county music festivals and has participated in all five Cornwall International Male Choral Festivals 2003 - 2011 based in Truro.

The choir performs 20 or more concerts per year, singing across the County from St. Buryan to Bude. It tries to tour about once a year and has visited South Wales, SE England, the Midlands and Lancashire, Malta and France. Several appearances on TV have extended its range of activities. The latest of these was BBC's *Songs of Praise* from Truro Cathedral in 2008 with other Cornish choirs. Our repertoire contains lighter, more modern music and show songs together with the traditional 'grand' male voice items, spirituals and hymns. The choir has made a dozen or so recordings over the years. We do not put a 'sell by' date on these - our public usually does this for us! One series of five albums, however, has proved remarkably durable. *'Sing with Sankey'* was made with the Stithians Ladies Choir in 1974. The combined choirs made

these Sankey recordings between 1974 and 1992, the last being *'Sankey - the Fifth Album'*, produced as a CD. All five recordings are now available as CDs. The series contains 73 hymns and we think that it may well be one of the most complete collections in the world. The recordings sell across the UK and in Australia (including Tasmania), New Zealand, South Africa and the United States.

Ira D Sankey was originally an amateur singer, composer and choirmaster. He composed several hymns and, with preacher Dwight Moody, formed a worship team in the United States. Sankey used hymns from many sources and composers, mainly those in the characteristic style - you might say 'robust' - that has lived on.

As new members, we look forward to joining in the forum that NAC provides.

www.ststythiansmalechoir.org.uk

David Hutson
General Secretary

The Wessex Male Choir

South West

In 2011, the Wessex Male Choir celebrated its 10th anniversary. Originally the inspiration of its musical director, Rob Elliott, Wessex has come a long way in those 10 years, and in July 2011 the choir became International Male Choir Champions at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.



Wessex began 2011 with ambitious and exciting goals. In February, it recorded a new CD, *'It's Christmas'*, to raise money for Parkinson's UK. This was in collaboration with the wonderful Crystal Palace Band and is very much in the spirit of a family Christmas. Although by the time you read this, Christmas will be behind us, *'It's Christmas'* can still be sampled and purchased on our website along with our other current CD, *'Shades of Wessex'*. As for Parkinson's UK, the choir has raised in excess of £50,000 for the charity over the years, including completing the London Marathon in full song in 2007.

In June, Wessex staged its 10th Anniversary Concert at the Steam Railway Museum in Swindon with European Barbershop Champions, the White Rosettes, from



Leeds. Also on stage were the Warneford School Big Band from Highworth near Swindon. What a great evening and what a venue! An audience of over 500 left in high spirits, whilst the choirs retired to a local Italian restaurant to end the evening in traditional afterglow style!

Of course, we will remember 2011 as the year we lived the dream by winning at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. This was our third attempt having previously been placed 3rd and 2nd. The choir sang 3 pieces: *Psalm 150* with music by Goff Richards; *Demon in My View*, a poem by

Edgar Allen Poe set to music by Jeffrey T Horvath in eight parts; and *Salvation is Created*, a hymn written by Pavel Chesnokov and sung in Russian. All of these Llangollen performances are on our website under 'Videos'.

Following the summer break, Wessex, like all choirs, got back to the business of rehearsing and learning new pieces.

In October it celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a Dinner-Dance at the Four Pillars in the Cotswold Water Park. Concerts at the Yeovil Octagon and then with Paul Potts in the Parkinson's UK Christmas Concert at Central Hall Westminster ended the year in style. There was also Twickenham on 3 December, when the choir sang from the pitch-side at the Help for Heroes North vs South Hemisphere Rugby Challenge.

For the future, we look forward to developing our repertoire and performance so that we can continue to entertain audiences wherever we go. In March, Wessex will be at Minsterley Eisteddfod's 50th Anniversary event, and later in the year in Chatham for Parkinson's UK. We are especially looking forward in 2012 to being guests of two fantastic ladies choirs, Jubilate in Ruislip and the White Rosettes

in Leeds. In June, we in turn welcome the University of Kentucky Women's Choir for our Annual International Concert, again at Steam. Wessex then hopes to go on tour, either late in 2012 or early 2013.

If you want to contact us, sample or buy a CD, join the choir, sing with us, go to a concert, or hire us then please visit our website

www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk,

or just Google Wessex Male Choir.

Ken Bull
Chairman

It's a Puzzle 2

One of the words in this puzzle is spelt incorrectly. Which one?

PRECEDE DELICACY PARALLEL
RHYTHM SEPARATE DECEIVE
answer on page 32

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Children's International Voices of Enfield Thames North

This choir will celebrate their 21st Anniversary with a Gala Concert on Sunday 15 July in Palmers Green URC, Fox Lane, London N13 4LR at 3.00.



We cannot believe where the 21 years have gone... However, we can easily see how the organisation has grown. We began with just 5 children and now we have 5 choirs! They are from the ages of 3 to 23+. We have no upper age limit as we like to welcome former choristers when they return from university. We are thrilled that 3 former choristers who joined us at the age of 7 or 8 are now our vocal coach/conductors, having graduated in music at university with one of their friends who graduated with them who is our accompanist.

We had so many highlights last year including a Masterclass and Recital with Ralph Allwood at Eton College; a recital and 2 concerts in our new venue in Enfield Town, the Dugdale Centre, and a weekend residential course at the Youth Organisation, Pro Corda at Leiston Abbey near Aldeburgh, Suffolk (where we had Masterclasses by Alexander L'Estrange on his super new work ZIMBE!).



Then there was a month of Sunday Rehearsals with Dr. John Rutter CBE in preparation for the BBC 2 TV Christmas Day programme 'A Musical Nativity with John Rutter'; a tour of Milan at half term including High Mass and a Concert in Milan Cathedral to over 2000 congregation as well as singing in beautiful Varenna and Bellagio Churches on Lake Como and two Christmas performances of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and *Hallelujah Chorus* and eight Rutter carols in 4 parts for all our choirs, accompanied by the Enfield Chamber Orchestra.

We then gave our final performance of the year with a small ensemble at the invitation of the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka at his residence in London. Can you believe we managed so much in 2011.

Our rehearsals are usually fortnightly on Sundays from 2.30-5.00 and the Children's Younger Voices from 1.00-2.00 on the same day. For Christopher and me it was amazing organising last year.

We began this year with some 60 children and parents staying with us sightseeing in London, singing in schools and returning Monday 9 January to Milan, The name of this innovative children's choir ages 4+ to 12 is Piccolo Coro Santa Maria Ausiliatrice. We had a fantastic joint concert on Saturday 7 January.

We would like to invite any of the NAC Officers to come as our guests to our 21st Anniversary Gala Concert here in Palmers Green, North London on Sunday 15 July 2012. You would be warmly welcomed and we would really appreciate some representatives of our excellent National Association of Choirs organisation.

We send our greetings to everyone for another successful year of singing and performing.

June Keyte

The Orpheus Male Voice Choir Lincolnshire

On Saturday 17 December the Orpheus Male Voice Choir welcomed Isla St. Clair to the Central Hall, Grimsby as their special guest at their Christmas concert. Well-known for her appearances as a presenter with Larry Grayson on the TV show 'The Generation Game' many years ago, Isla began her career as a folk singer in her native Scotland when still a young girl and has continued to entertain with that kind of music ever since.

Right from her first appearance on stage she established a rapport with the audience which continued throughout the whole concert and created a very special atmosphere.

She began by singing songs with a fishing theme, having reminded the audience that she could connect with the history of Grimsby, having been brought up in Buckie, a fishing village, in the north-east of Scotland.

The haunting melody of the *Eriskay Love Lilt* was accompanied by the choir who finished off the first half with two foot-tapping numbers, *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and *The Mulligan Musketeers*.

The second half of the concert was mainly given over to Christmas music but first Isla got the audience to join in with the chorus of some Scottish folk songs and then surprised us with a burst of what could only be described as Celtic scat singing!



She had the backing of the choir with a lively rendition of *The Holly and the Ivy* before the lights went up and the audience were invited to join in with a selection of Christmas songs and carols with *O Come all ye Faithful* bringing the concert to a rousing climax.

Those members of the audience who adjourned to the bar afterwards were treated to more impromptu singing as some of the choir serenaded Isla with a version of *My Luv is Like a Red, Red Rose* (which she had sung rather more beautifully in the concert). This led to more social singing and Isla delighted us by joining in enthusiastically and trying to teach us some Scottish folk songs

Bill Threapleton



Almondbury Ladies Choir Yorkshire West

The choir are trying a new venture on 21 April as we are staging a concert to showcase a new and up and coming Tenor called ADAM SMITH, He is studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. His repertoire is extensive from Opera and Concert Performances. We feel it is a worthwhile venture to encourage and bring his work to the notice of other choirs. It will also stretch our own choir as we hope to be able to accompany him in various pieces.

The Concert is at Hall Bower Chapel, Newsome, Huddersfield starting at 7.15 on Saturday 21 April.

Tickets available from
01484307685 07929140899 or
mj.ford@ntlworld.com

Joan Ford

Crawford's Cymru Cwiz Answers on page 32



Here are ten questions about Welsh songs, the 'bread and butter' of male voice choirs in Wales and beyond.

1. Which song is translated into English as 'Little Saucepan'?
2. Which song was composed by Joseph Parry and first published in 1875? Parry wrote the music to lyrics written by Richard Davies 1833–77. Some sources say it was written with Parry's childhood sweetheart in mind.
3. Translate *Diolch I'r Ior* into English.
4. What is the popular hymn tune written by John Hughes (1873–1932) and first performed in 1907? It is often erroneously called *Bread of Heaven*.
5. In 1993 the newly-appointed Secretary of State for Wales, John Redwood, was embarrassingly videotaped opening and closing his mouth during a communal singing of the national anthem, clearly ignorant of the words but unable to mime convincingly. What was he trying to sing?
6. 'Praise the Lord his glories show'. In English it means 'The Church of St Mary'. What is the popular hymn tune?
7. Which 'Welsh?' tune was originally the English hymn 'I hear thy welcome voice', the words and tune of which were written in 1872 by the American Methodist minister and hymn writer Lewis Hartsough (1828-1919), during a revival meeting at Epworth, Iowa where Hartsough was Pastor?
8. Which Welsh favourite is a song and military march which is traditionally said to describe events during a seven year long siege between 1461 and 1468?
9. What kind of song is *Suo Gân* and why is it a strange one for a male voice choir?
10. This is unusual among the most popular Welsh traditional hymns and songs in that the English version of the words is virtually never sung but the tune does appear, for example, in the current (British) Methodist hymn book, 'Hymns & Psalms' set to the lyrics of 'I will Sing the Wondrous Story' by P P Bliss. What is the tune?

Duncan James

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Bob (Crawford) Swallow

NAC Publications Officer



It has been some time since we had a biography of one of our officers so here is one for you to enjoy. Or not, please yourselves. Crawford

Bob cannot remember a time when he did not sing; in church choir, in junior school choir, at Hull Grammar School, Hull Youth Choir, College G & S, Orpheus, Humberston Singers and church choir again. Even when not with an organised choir he sang with guitar in school. The song *How Can I Keep From Singing* says it really.

Bob trained as a teacher at the Sunderland College of Education, spending three very enjoyable years in the north east and leaving with a teaching certificate and a wife, Julie.

Bob is a Hull lad and Julie one of those pretty Nottingham lasses so they set up home in Grimsby of all places. They spent their honeymoon in a rather ancient caravan in Cleethorpes while they hunted for a flat. They found one on the Thursday and began work in Grimsby on the following Monday.

Bob was a Primary School teacher who always dreaded the question, asked by new people he met, 'What do you teach?' the answer was 'Children' but that always seemed not to be what they wanted to hear.

From the time, at Hull Grammar, that he was roped in by Fred Plater (Alan's brother) to play a small part in Julius Caesar, he has loved to 'tread the boards'. He played the voice of God in a college Mystery Play (The nickname 'God' following him

through college). He appeared in 'The Alchemist' where he ended the play with his trousers round his ankles. Bob played Leontes in Shakespeare's 'A Winter's Tale' and sang in three G&S operettas.

For several years, after college, he was a member of a local drama group. In school he began a very happy dramatic time directing school Christmas productions and writing, directing and acting in pantomimes which the teachers presented for the children. Here he established the dubious reputation for playing the dame which also went into panto for the Orpheus.

He is a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music London as a teacher of speech and drama.

Bob plays golf but has never claimed to play well. It didn't help when one February morning a golf ball, struck by his playing partner, rebounded from a hazard marker and struck him in the left eye. The surgeon was able to save the eye but he has no sight in it. The whole event did nothing to improve his handicap but he still plays the same course. He hopes for three things from his golf games; good exercise, good companionship and good golf but generally has to be satisfied with two out of the three.

When he retired from primary school teaching in 1999 he took up Creative Writing and has written many short stories, three of which appear in anthologies produced with Hull University. He had a story published in Bon Marché's Magazine, earning the princely sum of £100. There also exist, in a draw somewhere, two chapters of a book that are unlikely ever to see the light of day.

Bob sings first tenor and is Stage Manager for the Orpheus Male Voice Choir with whom he has sung for twenty-five years. It was around the time that he joined the Orpheus that the name 'Crawford' came into being. He still insists that he will only tell that story, at NAC conference, for the price of a pint. He also produces posters, programmes and tickets for all Orpheus activities so the opportunity to produce a complete national publication was too much to resist.

One of his prized possessions is a season ticket for Hull City. He was at Wembley on the day that two historic records were set for his beloved 'Tigers', their first appearance at Wembley and their entry

into the Premiership after 104 years.

Bob has been married to Julie for over forty years. He has three children, John, Christopher and Kirsty and three grandchildren, Abigail, Sam and Megan, and we mustn't forget two dogs, Perdi and Poppy.

The Top Ten Reasons for Being a Bass:

1. *You don't have to tighten your shorts to reach your note.*
2. *You don't have to worry about a woman stealing your job.*
3. *Or a pre-adolescent boy.*
4. *Action heroes are always basses. That is, if they sang, they would be basses.*
5. *You get great, memorable lyrics like, 'Bop, bop, bop, bop...'*
6. *If the singing job doesn't work out, there's always broadcasting.*
7. *You never need to learn to read treble clef.*
8. *If you get a cold, so what?*
9. *For fun, you can sing at the bottom of your range and fool people into thinking there's an earthquake.*
10. *If you belch while singing, the audience just thinks it's part of the score.*

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The National Association of Choirs is pleased to be able to announce details of its forthcoming National Conference for 2012. This year sees the introduction of the National Conference being open to all, non-members included!

The National Association of Choirs will be holding its National Conference in the heart of the Lake District in the popular resort town of Bowness-on-Windermere at the Belsfield Hotel. Built in 1845, this Victorian hotel stands within six acres of beautiful gardens located in a truly stunning location overlooking the tranquil Lake Windermere and the glorious Cumbrian Hills, this fabulous Victorian hotel is the ideal place for a relaxing retreat in the heart of The Lake District and lends itself perfectly to host our National Conference.

Inside the Belsfield Hotel guests will find recently renovated elegant and classic decor, within spacious and comfortable rooms which command stunning views of the local area including the gardens and the magnificent Lake Windermere. The hotel offers 64 en-suite rooms in a variety of styles, equipped with satellite television and radio, hairdryers, trouser press and a hospitality tray, combined with free Wi-Fi internet and an indoor heated swimming pool, gym and sauna facilities, games room, putting green and an outdoor patio (perfect for resting and unwinding after a day of workshops and seminars) the hotel is well equipped to look after you, our delegates. In the evening delegates can indulge with fine food, fine wine and beautiful views of the lake in Moonwaters Restaurant in a variety of comfortable communal rooms. The hotel has a relaxed atmosphere which is the perfect way to end a busy day of seminars and workshops.

The Belsfield Hotel was originally built in the 19th century for the Baroness Von Sternberg, as a private house and since then this building has a fascinating history. Its most famous owner was Henry Schneider, who was engaged in commercial pursuits until 1840 when he decided to prospect for iron in the Lake District. He settled in Ulverston, taking a royalty on the Park Farm

from the Earl of Burlington (later the Duke of Devonshire). After a disappointing start and the expenditure of £25,000 he purchased and leased other mines in the area, which he worked successfully. The House then became a hotel in 1892 where Lieutenant A D Macleod became proprietor. His tenure was marked by his colleagues by the presentation of a rifle which is now proudly displayed on the Lounge wall, adjacent to the Drawing room. Between 1910 and 1911 drastic alterations were made, when an entire storey was added between the existing first and second floors. The wing, which now includes the Moonwater Restaurant on the ground floor, was added and the then existing tower was removed stone by stone and reconstructed above the new storey. Since transferring from a private house to a commercial hotel the house has seen many owners and was even part of the hostile take-over by the TrustHouse Forte plc group before finally ending up in the ownership of the Corus Group.



Headlining this year's National Conference is none other than the internationally renowned David Lawrence who is one of the UK's most versatile conductors, working with orchestras, symphony choruses and national youth choirs. He was recently nominated for a Gramophone Award for his conducting, and currently holds the Guinness World Record for conducting the UK's largest choir - 6,846 singers!

David's work has taken him all over the world. His positive and engaging manner makes him a popular guest conductor, and he is an experienced and respected trainer of choral conductors. He teaches regularly alongside Ghislaine Morgan in Portugal, and for the company Artsworks, delivers management training and team building through the media of singing and conducting. With particular experience in the field of contemporary music, David has prepared and conducted première performances by Per Nørgård, Pierre Boulez, Iannis Xenakis, Mauricio Kagel, Graham

Fitkin, James Wood, Bob Chilcott and others. As a guest chorumaster of the Netherlands Radio Choir he has worked with conductors such as Kenneth Montgomery, Frans Brüggen, and John Adams. Working closely with Stockhausen David also conducted this exceptional choir in the German première of Scene II from his opera *Sontag aus Licht*. David has worked with the London Philharmonic Choir, the Hallé Choir, and the CBSO Chorus for whom he is the Associate Conductor, as well as the national youth choirs of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

David has adjudicated at international choral festivals as well as for the BBC Choir of the Year and Young Musician of the Year competitions. He conducts for BBC Television's 'Songs of Praise' and directed 'The People's Chorus' for BBC Four.

As Principal Conductor of Young Voices, David directs massed choirs in an annual series of concerts with some choirs incorporating more than 8,000 singers. He continues to work with Sinfonia Viva as their Choral Advisor, a project leader and conductor, and has also directed large scale education projects with the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, the English Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In 2011 David will conduct Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Barrier Reef Orchestra as part of a six week visit to Queensland and in 2012 will be the principal speaker, workshop leader and seminar presenter for the National Association of Choirs National Conference.

Liz Garnett studied music at the Universities of Bristol (BA Hons, 1st class) and Southampton (PhD, 1995). She then taught at Colchester Institute's School of Music and Performance Arts for four years, before moving to Birmingham Conservatoire where she was Head of Postgraduate Studies until 2009. Her teaching experience is varied in subject area, delivery style and level, from lectures in Musical Philosophies to practical



workshops on Playing by Ear and one-to-one tutorials in Professional Development for Musicians.

As a student, she studied piano with Christopher Northam (gaining an LRAM in piano teaching) and singing with Glynn Davenport, Duncan Robertson and Molly Petrie. She started conducting as an undergraduate, attending the Choral Conducting course at the Canford Summer School of Music at age 19, then went on to conduct the Southampton University Light Opera Society as a postgraduate.

She became involved in barbershop music after the completion of her PhD, and it became the subject of her first book. She is one of the UK's most prominent arrangers and performance coaches, having coached and/or arranged for many of the UK's top choruses and quartets, and arranged for groups from the UK, Ireland, the USA, Canada, Germany and Holland. She certified as a Music Category judge in 2000, and served as LABBS Music Category Director from 2006-2009. She has adjudicated in both barbershop and 'mainstream' choral classes at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod and the Sligo International Choral Festival, and is the founder-director of a female close-harmony choir called Magenta.

After the completion of the barbershop book, her research and practical interests focused back on conducting, leading to a five-year project that produced her second major book 'Choral Conducting and the Construction of Meaning'. The research process involved visits to more than 40 choirs in rehearsal, and these observations provided not only material for the book, but also a deep understanding of the conductor-choir dynamic in a wide variety of contexts and styles. This experience continues to nourish her work as a choral clinician, giving rich and varied insights into the problems that conductors and choirs face, and the relative success of different approaches to solving them.

A full and packed Conference awaits consisting of Trade Stands (especially chosen for the expertise and understanding of the Choral World) offering products and services required to help and assist all choirs as well workshops and seminars covering a whole host of subjects and themes.

The entertainment on Saturday evening will be a change from the normal massed voice concert. We have arranged for the La Serenata Trio to perform for us. Formed eight years ago by Charles Edmondson, who accompanies soprano Tracie Penwarden and

flautist David Edmonds, this well known local trio have given over fifty concerts in churches and concert halls throughout South Cumbria and North Lancashire.

All in all I think you'll agree that the National Conference weekend is going to be fun packed, busy weekend in a stunning location giving you an ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends, make some new ones, sing and learn, be challenged musically, vocally and hopefully take back to your choirs the benefit of the wisdom and expertise given to you throughout the weekend's seminars and workshops.

The National Conference is sure to appeal to everyone; places are strictly limited and you are encouraged to make your booking early to guarantee your place. This year the Officer Team have taken the decision to include non-members of the Association to join with you at the National Conference and enjoy the benefits of the talented and well versed presenters and speakers.

Make a date in your diaries and get your booking form today by downloading it below. Remember places are strictly limited and are sure to go fast due to the location and the speakers presenting.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

2012 Conference Timetable

Friday 23 March 2012

Belsfield Hotel

14h00 onwards Delegates arrive and register
 15h00 National Officers' Meeting
 18h00 Annual General Meeting 2012
 19h30 Delegates and guests assemble for dinner
 20h00 Informal Buffet Dinner is served
 21h30 After dinner entertainment (quiz night etc)
 22h30 Keyboard available for guests own entertainment
 00h30 Bar closes

- Hotel Reception
- Esperance Syndicate Room
- Windermere Suite
- MoonWaters Bar
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Bar/Reception/Library
- MoonWaters/Reception

Saturday 24 March 2012

Belsfield Hotel

07h00 Breakfast
 07h00 Access for Trade Stand holders to install
 09h00 Trade Stands (Music, travel, staging, recording and more!)
 09h30 Seminar One – Dr. Liz Garrett
 10h30 Tea/Coffee & cookies (included in price)
 11h00 Seminar Two – David Lawrence
 12h00 Sandwich lunch (included in price for resident delegates)
 13h00 Seminar Three – David Lawrence
 14h00 Tea/Coffee & cakes (included in price)
 14h30 Seminar Four – David Lawrence
 16h00 Last visits to Trade stands
 19h00 Delegates and guests assemble for dinner
 19h00 Reception – NAC Officers & their Guests
 19h15 Dinner is served
 20h30 "Grand Concert" La Serenata Ensemble
 22h00 Afterglow, sandwiches (included for residents)

- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite 1 & 2
- Windermere Suite 1 & 2
- Windermere Suite (Main)
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite (Main)
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite (Main)
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite (Main)
- Windermere Suite 1 & 2
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Library
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite 1 & 2
- MoonWaters/Reception

Sunday 25 March 2012

Belsfield Hotel

07h30 Breakfast
 (for those wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at reception)
 10h15 Seminar Six – Rayburn Tours
 11h00 Tea/Coffee & cookies (included in price)
 11h30 Members Open Forum
 13h00 Conference closed - Lunch available at guests' own cost
 13h00 Officers' meeting – guillotined after one hour

- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite (Main)
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Windermere Suite (Main)
- MoonWaters Restaurant
- Esperance Syndicate Room





National Association of Choirs

National Conference Booking Form 23 – 25 March 2012

The Belsfield Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness - on – Windermere, LA23 3EL



This event is open to all who wish to attend on payment of the appropriate charges, please refer to the charges below:

- * Friday and / or Saturday dinner should be booked using this form
- ** Saturday day delegates should use this form to book their attendance

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Full Name of other delegates included with this booking, continue on reverse if required:
.....

Address (Lead Name):.....

.....Postcode:.....

Telephone:.....Email:.....

Special Requirements: Wheelchair user Mobility Medical Other:.....

Dietary Requirements: Vegetarian Vegan Halal Wheat free Other:.....

NAC Group:.....

Choir Name:.....

Please make payments by cheque, payable to the National Association of Choirs (enclosed:).

Total Payment Required/Submitted:

- Resident Delegates £70 per person **non-refundable** deposit
- Day/Dinner Delegates FULL payment per person

Receipt Required? Y N (Please enclose a SAE)

Amount Submitted: £.....

You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by Friday 29 February 2012. (Cancellations will incur an administration fee of 50% of the fee payable).

No refunds will be given after Friday 2 March 2012; however substitute delegates will be welcome.

How did you hear about this event? Website Email Other.....

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NAC Members

Room Requirements:-	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) Dinner, B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type.	Double	<input type="text"/> @ £163.50	<input type="text"/> @ £163.50	<input type="text"/> @ £100.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
Single delegates please be aware that a £20 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room.	Twin	<input type="text"/> @ £163.50	<input type="text"/> @ £163.50	<input type="text"/> @ £100.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
	Single	<input type="text"/> @ £102.50	<input type="text"/> @ £102.50	<input type="text"/> @ £70.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

*Dinner for non-resident delegates including wine with your meal only	<input type="text"/> @ £35.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
**Saturday/Sunday non-resident delegates conference fee includes lunch and refreshments	<input type="text"/> @ £30.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

NON NAC Members

Room Requirements:-	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) Dinner, B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type.	Double	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £110.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
Single delegates please be aware that a £20 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room.	Twin	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £110.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
	Single	<input type="text"/> @ £112.00	<input type="text"/> @ £112.00	<input type="text"/> @ £77.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

*Dinner for non-resident delegates including wine with your meal only	<input type="text"/> @ £40.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
**Saturday/Sunday non-resident delegates conference fee includes lunch and refreshments	<input type="text"/> @ £45.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00


Please return your completed form and deposit to:

James Ferrabee – Conference Co - ordinator, 35 Hawton Crescent, Wollaton Park, Nottingham, NG8 1BZ

Tel: 0115 9788847 Email: conference.co-ordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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Sheffield Male Voice Choir Midlands West

Sheffield Male Voice Choir was formed in 1968 with just 11 members of which Harvey Boucher the Musical Director was one. He was appointed MD and has held the office for almost 44 years seeing the choir grow to a membership of 60 today.

Not long after his appointment his wife Sheila joined as the choir accompanist. The emphasis of the choir has always to be a family and it is certainly the case when they go away on singing tours. The choir ladies play a great part in creating the family atmosphere. Harvey has guided the choir to success in the competition field in gaining successes at Cheltenham, Blackpool, Tamworth and Brownhills festivals.

The choir has raised many thousands of pounds for charities over the years singing at venues from the humble village hall to the stately cathedral. The choir has toured extensively in Europe singing in France, Holland, Austria, Spain Germany and Malta. They had the privilege of singing in Barcelona Cathedral and Montserrat Abbey.

At home they have sung from Devon in the South to Yorkshire in the North and also in North and South Wales. They have graced the platform with London Welsh Male Voice Choir at the Royal Albert Hall on six occasions. The choir has a wide repertoire including sacred music, spirituals, both modern and traditional male voice music, classical test pieces, and music from opera, popular songs and songs from the shows.

The choir has just completed a successful Christmas period giving two carol concerts at Sheffield Methodist Church and was able to present a cheque for £2000 to Parkinson's UK and also donated £500 to the Samaritans.

All good things have to come to an end and Harvey and Sheila have decided to retire so the choir is looking for a new Musical Director to take the choir forward. The successful applicant will need to be well trained with a firm approach but also with a pleasant nature to blend into the sixty strong family choir.

www.sheffieldmvc.com

Roy Evans

SHELFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Are you ready to help write the next chapter in this choir's history, whilst respecting its past?

The choir's repertoire includes sacred music, spirituals, both modern and traditional male voice part songs, classical test pieces and music from opera.

The applicant needs to be well trained with a firm approach, but also with an understanding and pleasant nature to blend into this fifty strong 'family' choir.

Practices are held on Monday evenings at the Methodist Church, Sheffield.

The appointment will commence in September 2012 and suitable honoraria will be paid.

Applications to Choir Secretary.

Mr Roy Evans, 4 Church Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall, WS4 1DP.

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Dear Crawford

I am a regular reader of the 'News & Views' magazine of the National Association of Choirs through my membership of Cwmbran Male Choir. I would like to share the story of an incident in my choir life which may be of interest to other choir members throughout the British Isles.

A number of years ago we were rehearsing the piece *Oh What a Beautiful Morning* from 'Oklahoma'. During the chorus we were meant to sway in one direction and then sway in reverse. Being a trifle uncoordinated, due to a mild disability, I always got it wrong causing some jollity in the ranks of the choir. They decided to grab both of my arms and pulled me in the right direction causing an end to the problem.

On reflection years after the event the thought occurred to me if when people think of me and the incident, hopefully they will say he did it 'His sway'.

Whilst I am writing to you please may I give choral greetings through your pages to the Ashington and District Male Choir in the North East and to the City of Chester Male Choir in the North West. These choirs I know of because I used to live in their respective areas at different times in my life, sadly I only heard of them after I left each area and now am a patron of Ashington and an Associate Member of Chester.

I am with my present choir, Cwmbran Male, and have been since 1981. Fairly recently I gave up singing as my voice has deteriorated but am still involved as a non singing member assisting in the music library which I have turned around from being disorganised to an alphabetically correct system where most pieces can be found in as short a time as two minutes. I appreciate the help and encouragement from committee and choristers, conductor

and pianist of Cwmbran Choir to whom I express thanks. Thanks boys and girls.

Yours Chorally,

Bill Steiner
Cwmbran
Gwent

Dear Crawford

I am writing this on the last day of 2011 - Yes Crawford, I know I'm cutting it fine but it should be with you before the year ends - and the weather is excellent, at last. Summer has been nonexistent so far but maybe it is due to change. We will be watching Sydney's famous firework display later tonight. Not from the harbour though! We have done it once and that's enough. Too busy!

The year has been hectic again with the Sydney Male Choir performing on about 30 occasions, including a week - long tour of the Riverina, an area of New South Wales to the south west of Sydney, raising money for a cancer charity which supports rural patients aiding them to receive treatment and post-operative care. We had 2 concerts with the National Australia Brass Band, travelled to the central coast area of NSW as well as many concerts in the greater Sydney metropolitan area. With the distances to venues in general much greater than is common in the UK we cover a lot of kilometres. In addition we have taken part in 2 recording sessions at the ABC and at the studios of the Australian Army laying down the first tracks of our next CD.



2012 is shaping up to be equally as demanding as 2011 on singers, musical director and accompanist with 20 concerts already in place and several more in the pipeline. Our year officially finished with a party in the Sydney CBD (central business district) when several members of the choir and supporters were given citations as a mark of their contribution to the success of the choir. The picture shows Denise Layton, wife of our last President and long-time supporter and helper being presented with her citation by Peter Gair our current President.

The last year has marked the first full year in office of Houston Dunleavy, our Musical Director and he has brought his own approach and emphasis to the choir's performance. New pieces of music have been introduced and some old favourites have been dusted off and re-introduced. Here is Houston with some of the guys on the Riverina tour!



As always if you wish to contact me please do so via email at

petefig@optusnet.com.au

I always look forward to contact from the UK.

Peter Marshall
from NAC in Oz

Dear Crawford

Please find below details of Bestwood Male Voice Choir's Len Hogg Memorial Concert on 28th January 2012 which may be of interest as a news item.

At the commencement of its 60th anniversary year the choir is beginning celebrations with their annual tribute to Len Hogg, the choir's much loved and respected founder member, with a concert at the Watnall Road Baptist Church, Hucknall on Saturday 28 January commencing at 7.00.

Supporting the choir's traditional and popular songs will be both solo and duet items by choir soloists as part of the exciting programme being prepared by Musical Director Mirek Rus.

Proceeds from the event will go to the local charity 'Under One Roof' the centre for voluntary work in Vine Street, Hucknall and tickets at £6 are available either direct from church members, box office on 01159 285055, or on the door.

bmvc@ntlworld.com

David Riley
Publicity Officer

This letter is rather late notice but perhaps David will tell us what happened in our next issue.
Crawford

Churchdown Male Voice Choir South West

One of the traditions of this choir is the three annual Christmas Concerts in Churchdown Community Centre, and this year was no exception. Playing to houses of over 240 each night the concerts were an enjoyable way of starting Christmas for everyone.

Compered by Barry Woods the concerts are a perfect time for the choir to let its collective hair down, to relax and to enjoy the convivial atmosphere and the excellent supper. The choir is fortunate to have some superb soloists and all of them were heard during the 3 nights. Tenors Bob Bonwick and Jeff Bourton and baritone Malcolm Webb were all in brilliant form and delighted the audiences with their choice of songs.

MD, Ralph Barnes, was in sparkling form on the conductor's podium and also sang a very smooth version of Andy Williams' *You're just too good to be true*. The highlight for most was the choir's accompanist/singer Mike Haines, who got everyone's feet tapping with an electric version of an Elvis Presley medley, including *Blue Suede Shoes*. The audience

greeted his performance by calling for an encore, which he responded to by singing a beautiful version of Eric Clapton's *Wonderful tonight*.

Chairman, Pete Wilson, thanked the choir for a splendid performance over the three nights and presented a plaque to member Ken Palmer for 40 years service with the choir and to Peter Richardson and to Ron McCullen for 20 years service. Pete went on to say that according to the constitution he would have to retire in March 2012. He said that he had been honoured to have served as chairman and thanked the choir for their tremendous support over the period.

He then introduced the choir's President, Ian Mean, Chief Executive of Gloucester Citizen. Ian thanked the choir for a successful year and looked forward to an exciting future. He particularly recommended two forthcoming concerts; on Friday 9 March the choir will be holding a concert in Gloucester Cathedral in support of LINC, the charity that support patients and their families affected by leukaemia, lymphoma and other blood cancers. He explained that in February 2009 in Gloucester Cathedral the choir had held the inaugural concert for the County Jenner Appeal to improve facilities

at the Edward Jenner County Day Unit. He was pleased to announce that the appeal had been very successful and the 9 March concert will celebrate this achievement.



The choir's favourite soprano Sue Black will be taking part in the concert, which begins at 7.30. On Thursday 22 March the choir will be taking part in a Military Music Spectacular in Cheltenham Town Hall when the main attraction will be the Military Band of Belarus.

Barry Woods

Stena Line North Wales Choral Festival

26-28 October 2012
Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Friday 26 October *

Conwy Schools Competition and workshop; 8pm - Evening Concert

Saturday 27 October *

11am - Male Voice; 1pm - Ladies; 3pm - Youth; 7.30pm - Evening Concert

Sunday 28 October *

12pm - Mixed; 2pm - Barbershop style

* - All timings are provisional

**There will also be opportunities to perform in other venues throughout the town.
Details will be available shortly.**

www.northwaleschoralfestival.co.uk

For more information please call:

01492 575943/8 or e-mail:

northwaleschoralfestival@conwy.gov.uk

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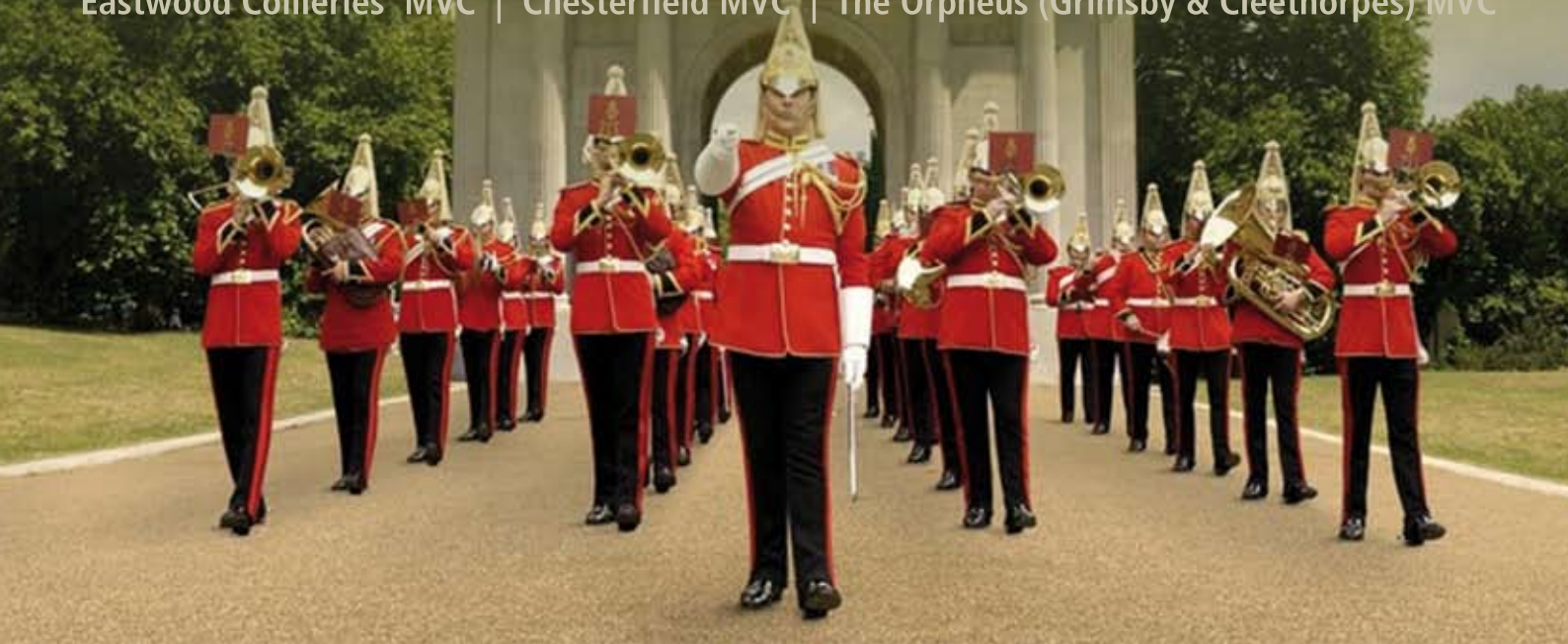
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Tideswell Male Voice Choir North Derbyshire

Tideswell Male Voice Choir has experienced a wonderfully exciting and challenging year in 2011. This highly acclaimed choir has gone from strength to strength regularly performing to capacity audiences with its unique brand of choral singing. During the year, TMVC has appeared at over forty concerts/events, the last of which took place on New Year's Eve.



TMVC is also in demand when it comes to raising funds for charity and during the past five years more than £20,000 has been presented to local cancer charities. During this period, the choir has also helped raise £20,000 for other charities which included joining with bands from the RAF at Buxton Opera House and the Royal Marines at the Winding Wheel Theatre in Chesterfield in support of Help for Heroes.

Following a hugely successful community project undertaken in the latter part of 2010, the choir was able to welcome twenty five new members bringing the total number of singers to more than sixty. These men have embraced the choral experience with real enthusiasm. Under the expert guidance of Principal Conductor and Director of Music, Dennis Kay, the choir continues to extend its horizons with performances at a wide range of new and diverse venues. A new CD entitled 'The Sounds of Tideswell' was also released.

During the year, the choir has put down roots in Tideswell's 16th century Old Grammar School. thanks to the generosity of main sponsor M. Markovitz Ltd and other organisations who provided grants. The building was on the point of being sold when the firm stepped in to renovate and secure it as the choir's new home. Choir members used their technical and manual skills to help with the six month restoration project Dennis Kay said: 'I am delighted we have a beautiful building with so much history as our new headquarters. It is fantastic, and I hope it will be home to the choir for many years to come.'

In December, following her dancing exploits on BBC TV, the choir was delighted to

announce that Edwina Currie has become the new President of TMVC. Edwina said:

'I never thought I would win Strictly Come Dancing and coincidentally, when I was eliminated, I was invited to become president of a wonderful male voice choir in the Peak District. I was delighted to accept the opportunity. So, while I may have lost Vincent Simone, I have now gained sixty men from Derbyshire.'

Edwina attended a choir rehearsal accompanied by her husband, John, and joined choir members for refreshments in a local hostelry. Her first official engagement as TMVC President was at a sell-out charity Christmas Spectacular at the Winding Wheel, Chesterfield on Sunday 18 December. She participated enthusiastically in all the audience carols and played an active part in a rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

With a full programme of events already in place, 2012 promises to be another exciting year for this progressive choir. For more information, visit our website at www.tideswellmvc.co.uk

Stuart Gordon

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Côr Meibion Brymbo Wales North/Cheshire West

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A splendid four day tour of the Scottish Borders was greatly enjoyed by Côr Meibion Brymbo at the end of May 2011. The usual impressive singing by the choir, combined with our travels through the magnificent countryside of the Scottish Borders made a wonderful few days away, with choristers' wives and friends accompanying Brymbo Choir.



Most importantly, this tour was to be the last one undertaken by Glyn Hughes MBE before his retirement as the choir's Musical Director. Glyn has been 46 years as Musical Director and so has conducted many concerts worldwide; this Scottish tour, although perhaps not so far-flung as earlier venues, provided a most memorable celebration of Glyn's work with the choir.

After an early morning start the coach took us through Northumberland to the border town of Coldstream and to our accommodation booked in hotels and hostels in nearby Wooler. It was back to Coldstream that evening for a delicious meal of traditional Scottish fare: haggis, neeps and tatties, so generously provided by our hosts. It was indeed a warm welcome and a most convivial first evening of our stay.

Next morning was free time to spend in Wooler and perhaps a climb into the Cheviot Hills behind the town, before returning to Coldstream for yet more warm hospitality and lunch and a final choir practice, before what was perhaps the high spot of the tour that evening.

Brymbo Male Choir had been invited to join with the Coldstream Pipe Band as part of their 80th anniversary celebrations, and what a fantastic evening it was!

After yet another lavish dinner and the bar facilities open, the concert began.

This comprised an extensive and varied programme of singing by the choir along with a spellbindingly polished performance by the Old Coldstream Corps of Drums and

orchestral pieces by Harmonie Municipales d'Origny en Thierache. The rousing marches of the Coldstream Pipe Band led by Drum Major Rob Bell, added to this brilliant and awesome spectacle. Brymbo Choir was proud to receive a standing ovation after their final piece, the uplifting and exhilarating *Gwahoddiad*.

The musical section of the evening ended with a fantastic finale of everyone joining together in their singing, or playing, of *Highland Cathedral*, *Flower of Scotland*, *Amazing Grace* and *National Anthems*: the sheer volume of such a thrilling sound should stay for a long time in the memories of those who were there.

Next morning the venue was Coldstream Parish Church for the Sunday service. This important building, with its close association with the Coldstream Guards, and a part of the Church of Scotland, presented an impressive setting for an uplifting and thought-provoking service. It is a large, imposing church with a fine stone pulpit at the arched entrance to the chancel which is hung with the Kings and Regimental Colours. Again the choir excelled themselves and their singing of *Cwm Rhondda*, *Morte Christe*, *Gwahoddiad* and *The 23rd Psalm* brought the packed congregation to its feet in yet another standing ovation: an applause and appreciation not usually displayed in a religious service.

More generous Scottish hospitality followed before reluctantly leaving Coldstream, and travelling along the border to Dumfries; this was a spectacular journey through remote and unspoilt countryside, flanked by the Tweed, Yarrow and Moffat rivers.

Our arrival in Dumfries gave little time at our hotel to get ready for the evening, but with the typical good-humour and resilience of Brymbo Choir we piled once again on our coach and arrived at St George's Parish Church for the evening concert where Brymbo was to join with the Dumfries Male Voice Choir. Another wonderful performance was given by both choirs. Dumfries' choice of some modern, showtime pieces complemented the choral items chosen by Brymbo, and made for a most enjoyable and eclectic programme of music which was enthusiastically enjoyed by everyone.

This was a marvellous short Scottish tour which we all greatly enjoyed; there is a varied social life in joining a male voice choir and anyone interested will be given a warm welcome by Brymbo Male Choir.

A Summer Concert at Stoke on Tern, Shropshire.

The concert at St Peter's Church, Stoke on Tern on 18 June 2011 was a significant milestone in the life of the choir: it marked the retirement of Brymbo's musical director, Glyn Hughes MBE, after 46 years dedicated service to the choir, and his handing over of the role to the new director of music, Dr David Evans. This concert was the fourth over a number of years to be held by Brymbo Male Choir at St Peter's.

The evening in aid of Greenfields Africa, a charity which helps impoverished and disadvantaged people in African townships, was a most enjoyable and successful occasion and the first of many future concerts under David's directive. St Peter's is a church standing on its own in the beautiful countryside of Shropshire and provided a wonderful setting for a varied selection of music. The choir performed items from their rousing, traditional Welsh repertoire of songs and hymns along with more modern pieces from film and musicals. At two intervals in the choir's programme, John Walton, organist and director of music at Standish Parish Church, gave recitals including works by Massenet, Elgar and Widor. A most memorable evening of exhilarating and uplifting music which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The accompanist on piano and organ for the concert was Owen Roberts, organist and choirmaster at Llangollen Parish Church.



The retirement of Musical Director, Mr Glyn Hughes MBE.

A Celebratory Dinner was held to mark the retirement of the choir's Musical Director, Glyn Hughes MBE, in October 2011 at the Brymbo Cricket Club, Tan-y-Fron, North Wales.

Glyn has held the post for the past 46 years and in that time his talent and enthusiasm has carried the choir forward to many successful events at home and abroad; from its beginning many years ago with a group of men from the Brymbo Steelworks, Glyn's leadership and expertise has developed the

fine and impressive sound of the choir today. Prestigious venues have included Carnegie Hall and State Capitol Buildings in America, to more recent performances at Strasbourg Cathedral and the Menin Gate at Ypres.

The Dinner was attended by Lord Barry Jones and Lady Jones, who have recently been pleased to accept Vice-Presidencies of the choir. Lord Jones spoke on the joys and value of singing and the very significant contribution of Cor Meibion Brymbo to the local community whilst under the directorship of Glyn Hughes over such a long period of time.

Rod Williams living in Llandegla in North Wales, not only sings in the choir but is also a full-time artist specialising in watercolour and pastel. Rod was commissioned to paint a portrait of Glyn on his retirement and a delightful, relaxed likeness of the retiring Musical Director, sitting in a chair, was unveiled and drew much admiration during the evening.

The choir is now under the directorship of Dr David N Evans and we wish him and the choir continuing success in the future.

Wendy Beynon

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

The year finished with a bang and a great flurry of activity. The Christmas season was busier than usual with four concerts in six days – Freemasons' Hall in Edinburgh, a concert sponsored and broadcast by Smooth Radio from Kelvingrove Art Galleries in Glasgow, the choir's annual Christmas concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and finishing with Moncreiff Parish Church in East Kilbride to round off the diamond jubilee celebrations.

The members were thrilled and delighted to wake up on Hogmanay – the last day of the year to learn that our Conductor and Director of Music of twenty years – Marilyn Smith had been awarded an MBE in the New Year's honours list for services to music. It was particularly fitting that it happened in the choir's sixtieth year and Marilyn's twentieth year as conductor. She earned this honour as a result of her encouragement of youth and her long service as a teacher of singing in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Glasgow University, together with her leadership of the Phoenix which has resulted in it being acknowledged as great ambassadors for the city of Glasgow. This latter resulted in the granting of the Lord Provost's Award for Performing Arts to the choir a few years ago.

Congratulations have been flooding in from all over the arts world and beyond. Marilyn is reported to be delighted and thrilled with the honour, as is the choir.

However the New Year beckons and the choir will be into the recording studios again to lay down more CDs including a Christmas release for Christmas 2012. The New Year will bring a varied number of concerts throughout the UK in Glasgow, Greenock, Renfrew, Newton Mearns, Linlithgow, Coatbridge, Largs, Kirkcaldy, Northampton, Hereford and Worcester – the last two in the respective cathedrals.

The choir's Business Manager, John Blue, ever industrious, is never satisfied unless he has filled up every available Friday or Saturday evening with a concert, so watch this space. Members may groan at the burden being thrust upon them, but enjoy it nevertheless.

Marilyn J Smith MBE



Marilyn Smith; conductor and music director of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir has been awarded an MBE for

Services to Music in the 2012 New Years Honours List.

The choir is justifiably proud that Marilyn has been awarded this honour in the year the choir celebrates its Diamond Jubilee anniversary and Marilyn her 20th year as conductor. This, the 2011/12 season marks 110 years of musical excellence for the choir - 50 Years of its predecessor the Glasgow Orpheus Choir and now 60 years of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir.

Marilyn has upheld this tradition through her artistic direction and musical leadership, resulting in the Glasgow Phoenix Choir enjoying a global reputation as one of the foremost mixed voice choirs in the United Kingdom. Under her direction, the choir has flourished and has now performed throughout Scotland, the UK, Europe and the USA. Marilyn and the choir's reputation have been further enhanced by the generous sponsorship of The Co-operative Funeralcare which has allowed the choir to raise significant funds for a wide variety of charitable projects, whilst promoting the joy of singing, which is at the forefront of everything Marilyn and the choir have achieved together. Marilyn, through her teaching, has also been a major advocate for young people and has wherever possible cre-

ated performance opportunities for them with the choir in major concert venues. Aged 59, Marilyn originally from London, has lived in Bearsden in Scotland for the past 39 years.

Marilyn Smith said, 'I am extremely honoured to receive this prestigious award and would like to thank the musicians and choristers I have worked with over so many years, those who have nominated me for this award and every member of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir, past and present.'

George Tinning, Managing Director, The Co-operative Funeralcare, which has supported the choir since 2007, said: 'Marilyn has been deservedly recognised for the way in which she has helped to spread choral music across Scotland. This honour is particularly fitting for the charitable activities of the choir and the work that she has done in encouraging young people to get involved in choral music.'

GPC Conductor and Musical Director Marilyn J. Smith was appointed Conductor and Musical Director in 1991. Trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London, she gained her LRAM and Professional Certificate in Singing before moving to Scotland in 1973. She sang professionally as a soloist, and with Scottish Opera, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus, the Scottish Chorus and the John Currie Singers.

Marilyn teaches singing at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and Glasgow University, and is in great demand as a choral trainer. Choirs have always played a significant part of Marilyn's career. She first conducted a very successful junior choir in London, and in Scotland, trained and conducted children's and adult choirs before her appointment to the Glasgow Phoenix Choir. With the GPC she has made many recordings and toured Europe, the UK and USA. The choir gives regular concerts in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, throughout Scotland and beyond.

Marilyn is in great demand as a vocal and choral coach and conducts master classes and workshops in her own inimitable way. She regularly adjudicates at music festivals including the National Mod. Marilyn is proud that many of her students are now performing, teaching and conducting professionally themselves, keeping the tradition of choral singing alive.

www.phoenixchoir.org

*J Lawson Purdie
Hon Vice-President*

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New members since October. If they are in your group give them a call and say hello.

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020 7538 1502 webmaster@canarywharfchoir.org

CANTARE Scotland East Ladies voices 105 choristers

Mrs Jane Ferguson 2 Birnie Crescent, Elgin, Moray, IV30 6JG
01343 548140 jraferson27@yahoo.co.uk

CANTARE Thames North Ladies Choir 50 choristers

Mrs Christine Brown 38 Doulton Way, Ashingdon, Rochford, Essex, SS4 3BX
01702 549631 christinebrowne@aol.com www.cantare.org.uk

CANTILENA Southern Counties Ladies Choir 35 choristers

Mrs Pauline Guest 34 Henbest Close, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 2EX
01202 881263 guestpauline@rocketmail.com

COTSWOLD MVC South West Male voice 45 choristers

Mr Paul Hipkiss 93 Redegrove Park, Cheltenham, GL51 6QZ
01242 511139 secretary@cotswoldmvc.org www.cotswoldmvc.org

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Miss Olga Li La-Vigars 2 Frankin Avenue, Frankin Street, Hull, HU9 1JG
01482 323167 olgajane@hotmail.co.uk

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Pat Tripney Dunkirk Villa East, By-pass Road, Lea-by-Backfird, Chester, CH1 6LY
0773 7580734 pattripney@yahoo.co.uk

HUDDERSFIELD VOICES Yorkshire West Mixed voices

Mrs Lynne Rhodes 38 Arkenley Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6SQ
01484 542257 info@huddersfieldvoices.org www.huddersfieldvoices.org

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01903 812130 anniecousins@talktalk.net

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01343 548140 jraferson27@yahoo.co.uk

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02476 732790 barbara.oakley@sky.com

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Answers to Crawford's Cymru Cwiz

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Sosban fach | 6. Llanfair |
| 2. Myfanwy | 7. Gwahoddiad |
| 3. Thank you my Lord | 8. Men of Harlech |
| 4. Cwm Rhondda | 9. A lullaby, which is strange
for men to sing as is
speaks of a baby 'at my
breast'. |
| 5. Land of my Fathers
(Hen Wlad fy Nhadau) | 10. Calon Lân |

It's a Puzzle 1

The words all begin with a composer's name

HOLST BACH BLISS RAVEL

It's a Puzzle 2

This is a bit of a trick one.

The word '**incorrectly**' is the one you are looking for.