

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION FOR ALL CHORISTERS

NEWS & VIEWS

204

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

SUMMER 2014



USAAF B17 'Sally B' flies over the
Donaghadee Male Voice Choir





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Last date for submissions for Issue 205

AUTUMN 2014 - 31 August

On your doorstep by 1 October

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Crawford's Corner



Hello. I'm feeling just a little squeezed here. This issue of News & Views is 28 pages and there isn't a great deal of space to spare. I even

had to take out an article about the Aurora Trio which includes, Heather Wrighton, our Harpist. I will put it in the next issue if at all possible. It is rather nice to be able to bring soloists and small ensemble that you may like to have appear with you. If you know some performers who we could showcase

here please send us their details.

Do you like the plane on the front? It's rather good isn't it. Apologies to the singers on the left and right of the choir who were cut off to make the picture work.

Crawford

Chairman's Chat



Sitting down to write my 'chat' this time, my quandary was where to start because there's a lot to mention. I'll begin with the NAC Conference where I completed my first year in the post of

being your Chairman.

The hotel was a superb venue, but I'm not going to repeat the reports of Bob for the conference and Terry for the fantastic concert which showcased some of the choirs in the Yorkshire East and Yorkshire North groups. During this past year I have been a guest at varying functions held by choirs around the country, and every time it reinforces to me the fact that music

and singing is a wonderful vehicle for creating and cementing friendships – not to mention the upsurge in stationery sales because of all the thank you letters I write!

Looking through the magazine I never cease to be amazed at how busy our regular contributors continue to be – when do you find time to do other things, like learning new repertoire, or have a home or leisure life? – and it was lovely to read about the activities from newer contributors, all of which must be an inspiration.

Talking of new contributions, I was really saddened to learn of the death of Lawson Purdie from Glasgow Phoenix who never failed to submit articles, but they are not fading away as Anne Kay has taken over the helm. When

Lawson telephoned me I just found somewhere comfortable to sit and, after the business part of the call, we would chat for quite some time. I'll miss that.

You can see on page 27 that in my Membership role I have been extremely busy welcoming 30 new choirs. Like Bob says at the top of the piece, if they happen to be near to you why not make contact; especially if you are located in what is termed an inactive group where there is no central point of contact.

I have kept you long enough now, so I'll let you get on and read the magazine.

Brenda Wilkinson



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MUSIC & FESTIVALS



The main subject in my post-bag and on emails is one that, as a composer, I have a real concern with and that is the unauthorised photocopying and arranging of music.

Photocopying

The laws on photocopying music should be known by all choirs. They are easily located on the web and from the Music Publishers' Association.

Arrangements of copyright Music

It is another problem that concerns me; specifically MDs of choirs making arrangements of copyright music for use by their own choirs. It is pleasing to see so many choirs asking for help with this, which can be a complicated process, and it's one I am happy to devote time to on their behalf, but there are still a large body of 'illegal' (sorry to use the strong word but that's what they are) arrangements out there and more being made all the time, which choirs should not be using and can be prosecuted for.

Consider this, the creation of music is, for many people, their living in exactly the same way as working in an office or collecting rubbish and, to be fair, a great deal of study and expense will have gone in to honing the ability to be able to write music. The music they create has rights attached to it which they or their publishers are entitled to protect so that they can continue to earn a living from their creations. Professional musicians have enough trouble convincing people that they should be paid for anything!

To put it very simply: until the composer/songwriter has been dead for seventy years his music is copyright and you may not make a written arrangement of it without permission. Indeed this also applies to the lyrics. Copyright owners - usually music publishers - will often give you permission to arrange their music if you write and ask, especially if you

undertake (a) to use the arrangement only in performances you give yourself and (b) not to sell or disseminate it to anyone else. Sometimes this permission may be given free of charge, and sometimes you have to pay. Of course they also have the right to refuse completely.

This paragraph was extracted from the Music Publishers' Association website - www.mpaonline.org.uk

'For permission to arrange music, the MPA can help to direct you to the copyright owner. You should provide as much information about the music as possible, including the title, composer, any arranger or editor, the name of any publisher that you have for the work and the date of publication or copyright line (usually inside the front cover or at the bottom of the first page of the music).'

Needless to say, I am happy to help choirs through this minefield and an email will set the ball rolling.

Conference Coordinator Conference 2015. Worthing.



I travelled to Worthing last year to look at the hotels in the area and at the theatre earmarked for the Saturday evening concert. In order to keep all our party in one hotel, the choice of hotel comes down to one. The Chatsworth. The hotel is within walking distance of the concert venue.

While in Worthing I met with officers of the group who will be hosting the event and will be meeting them again later this year to finalize arrangement for 2015. Last year I attended the Members Open Forum at the Chatsworth Hotel. I did hope to meet with representatives of the group again on this occasion but unfortunately this was not possible as it may have clashed with their other commitments on that day. However, I will be in touch with them this year to continue with the arrangements.

Booking forms and costs for the 2015 conference will be included in the next issue of News and Views. Hope to see you

all there.

Conference 2016 and beyond.

My thoughts with regard to locations for the next few years centre really on geographical distances and being fair to all corners of the country, so enabling everyone to have the opportunity of reaching locations within a reasonable distance some of the time. Last year we went west of centre to Chester, this year east of centre to Scarborough. Next year, South to Worthing. My thought for 2016 is north. I thought of the hotel for 2016 being at Durham which would open up The North East as a possibility, together with the location being nearer to Scotland and our colleagues there.

My thanks must be extended to Brenda and Celia. They have both been a fountain of information as I get to grips with understanding the complexities of the organisation. Taking on the conference coordinator role comes with the responsibility of making the conference a rewarding and pleasant experience for all our delegates. I hope you think I have achieved this from your experience of conference 2014 in Scarborough and I hope you will tell me if I haven't, together with suggestions for improvement. It's your conference and I and the National Executive are there to listen to your comments, particularly at the Members Open Forum.

My best wishes

Clive Lawton



Forthcoming Events

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

Send your event to

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Europa Cantat - European Choral Festival Friday 24 July to Sunday 2 August 2015

Venue: **Pecs, Hungary**

EUROPA CANTAT XIX - Pécs 2015 > Europa Cantat > Festival history

Festival history

EUROPA CANTAT is the biggest event of the European Choral Association - Europa

Cantat organised every three years in a different country.

The EUROPA CANTAT Festival first began in 1961 in Passau (Germany), and since then, every three years it is hosted by a different European country.

This great musical event brings together, for one week, more than 3,000 singers from across Europe and several countries in the world. It wants to offer its participants the opportunity to meet each other, make

important educational experiences, sing their repertoire, learn new music, tighten relationships, understand choral and vocal traditions of the hosting country and also of the participating countries, as well as the latest news, innovations, perspectives of the international panorama.

This is preliminary information only - please watch their website!

<http://ecpecs2015.hu/>

2014 National Conference - Gala Concert Organised by NAC Groups Yorkshire East & North

After some eighteen months of intense planning, finally it was 'showtime' on Saturday 5 April 2014 in Scarborough when some 200 choristers from seven member choirs from within East and North Yorkshire assembled together to perform the 2014 NAC Conference Gala Concert at Westborough Methodist Church, the objective being to enjoy a festival of music as well as to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care – we did both.



In the autumn of 2012, I had attended a meeting of the National Association of Choirs in Scarborough and because formal committees had lapsed between the various choirs that comprised each of the Yorkshire East and Yorkshire North Groups, it had been decided to take the Annual

Conference to Scarborough in 2014 in the hope that this would encourage interest in addressing these matters, whilst at the same time doubts were expressed in the meantime regarding whether or not there would be sufficient interest generated for the Yorkshire Groups to undertake the now traditional Saturday evening Conference Gala Concert. How wrong were these concerns to have been.

Having put my hand up at the meeting to assure the National Officers that such a 2014 Conference Gala Concert would take place in Scarborough, I set about planning how to co-ordinate the event, contacting every NAC member choir in Yorkshire with an invitation to participate in the concert.

Just seven choirs responded positively with a desire to participate – enough to achieve a Gala Concert and so an inaugural meeting was held that was followed by many more as considerable numbers of representatives from each of the seven participating choirs attended planning meetings which included of course not only the musical content but also the administrative arrangements for seating the choirs – in this latter respect, two concert Choir Marshals were 'appointed'. They were Trevor King and Chris Lake who worked extremely hard on the seating plan linking in to Choir Marshals of the individual choirs.

The concert was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough, Councillor

and Mrs Andrew Backhouse, our celebrity and very distinguished conductor guest, Manvinder Rattan, a judge of 'The Choir' fame, NAC National Officers and delegates plus a near capacity public audience. Those attending this Gala Concert were treated to a spectacular showcase of seven of the best choirs in North and East Yorkshire, several of the choirs being brave enough to sing without music for the first time.

The concert opened with a very fitting and rousing piece of music conducted by Stan Kell, MD of Staxton Singers, and accompanied on the organ by Julian Savory, MD of Hull MVC, and sung by all 200 choristers. *With a Voice of Singing* aptly introduced what was to be the spirit of the Gala Concert as the dynamic voices of the Mass Choir were enhanced by the great acoustics of the Methodist Church.

Beverley Male Voice Choir - formed nearly 60 years ago - was to follow under the direction of their Assistant MD, Nigel Clarke, and accompanied on the piano by Pat Cave. They opened with an arrangement by John Leavitt of *Bring Him Home* from *Les Miserables*, perhaps one of the most performed musicals worldwide. This was followed Hallelujah - a song written by Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen and originally released on his album *Various Positions* in 1984 although perhaps better known as being the song made popular in 2008 by X Factor finalist, Alexandra Burke. To conclude their set, Beverley Male Voice Choir performed



an arrangement by Eric Jones of *African Prayer* that had originally been composed by a Methodist school teacher named Enoch Sontonga in 1897 – the Choir sang this item in both Xhosa and English.

In complete contrast to the male voices, next came Cadenza - a mixed choir of 16 experienced singers based in The Yorkshire Wolds and which was established just over two years ago by members of a choir that had disbanded. Conducted by MD Penny Walker and supported by their recently appointed new accompanist, Alan Farrow, Cadenza performed three items a capella, because at the time of selecting their musical contributions for the concert, they were without any accompanist. To the delight of the audience, Cadenza opened their set of songs with a fantastic piece by John Rutter entitled *A Choral Amen* which was to be followed by, *The Hills*, a song by the late John Ireland. This choir's final contribution was to be David Blackwell's catchy arrangement of Cole Porter's *Let's Do It* - a popular song written in 1928 and introduced in his first Broadway success, the musical 'Paris'.

Hull Ladies Choir, conducted by Pamela Runcieman and accompanied by Marlene Pinchbeck, performed Don Besig's and Nancy Price's *As Long As I Have Music*, a beautiful song about the power of music in our lives. Then followed a song composed by Amanda McBroom and made famous by Bette Midler who recorded it in 1979, entitled *The Rose*, it has since been recorded by many other artists including Westlife. As their final contribution, Hull Ladies Choir performed, with great gusto, *My Guy* - that 1964 No 1 hit single recorded by Mary Wells, written and produced by

Smokey Robinson of *The Miracles* - the song being a woman's dedication to the goodness of her man.

Next there followed a contribution by the combined choir of female voices, which included choristers from Cadenza, Hull Ladies Choir, North Ferriby Ladies Choir and the Staxton Singers. Conducted by Heidi Rîchâl and accompanied by Marlene Pinchbeck, this item was full of surprises as the assembled choir sang *Hail Holy Queen*, from the musical 'Sister Act' - and they did Whoopi Goldberg proud as they moved into her somewhat upbeat style after an initial very reverent introduction, the version performed having been arranged by Marc Shaiman and arranged by Roger Emerson.

Cheryl Barrett - Product Manager of Marie Curie Cancer Care for the Tour de France Grand Départ Charity Partnership - made an impressive appeal on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care which was to help generate the huge financial success of the concert that was beyond our wildest dreams. Her local Scarborough committee assisted with great professionalism and enthusiasm with the raffle, programme sales and the bucket collection at the conclusion of the concert.



With Julian Savory again on the organ and conducted by Nigel Clarke, it was the turn of the combined male voices to delight the audience with their rendering of that beautifully dynamic Welsh piece arranged for male voices by John Tudor Davies, *Gwahoddiad*. Originally an English hymn 'I hear thy welcome voice', the words and tune were written in 1872 by the American Methodist and hymn writer Lewis Hartsough. This mass male voice choir comprised singers from the choirs of Beverley Male Voice Choir, Hull Male Voice Choir, Malton District Male Voice Choir and the Staxton Singers.

Hailing from an East Yorkshire village on the outskirts of Hull, North Ferriby Ladies Choir - formed nearly 50 years ago - opened the second half with Karl Jenkins' *Adiemus* - a song with a catchy tune but whose lyrics were syllables and words invented by Jenkins. This was followed by that well known spiritual *Were You There* - a beautiful, moving and meaningful hymn arranged by Robert Latham. Finally in their set, North Ferriby Ladies Choir sang *Barbara-Ann* - written by Fred Fassett and made famous by the American rock band 'The Beach Boys' as a single in December



1965. The version performed by North Ferriby Ladies Choir had been arranged by its own Musical Director Heidi Rîchâl and was accompanied by Marlene Pinchbeck of Hull Ladies Choir, since their own newly appointed accompanist Laura Stamp had been unable to attend the concert.

The choir which followed had only been formed in 2007, but yet its membership and local media attention grows from strength to strength - accelerated by a change of rehearsal night, which might be an idea for ailing choirs. With its MD Vivien Wilcock at the helm and Chris Welch at the piano, the first song performed by Malton District Male Voice Choir was *I am a small part of the World* with music by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse which was to be followed by *Take Me Home* - a song was written for the London Welsh Male Voice Choir by pop duo Rod Edwards and Roger Hands about a young boy who

does not follow in his father's footsteps to work in the mines, but instead escapes to start a new life. To end their set, the choir performed *Anthem* from the musical 'Chess' music by Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus, formerly of ABBA, and with lyrics by Tim Rice. The choir sang an arrangement by Haydn James.

Then we had a welcome to the world of the Staxton Singers, a mixed choir from the Scarborough area. Conducted by MD Stan Kell and accompanied by Mike Lester, Staxton Singers performed three items, the first of which was the lively *Dashing Away With The Smoothing Iron*, a traditional song which originated in Somerset in the early 1900s - the arrangement performed was by Chris Wright. Then, in contrast, they performed *God Shall Wipe Away All Tears* from *The Armed Man*, this being essentially an anti-war piece based on the Catholic Mass by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins, commissioned for the Millennium Celebrations. The Staxton Singers' final item was *Sing Cantate Domino - O Sing to the Lord* - by Jerry Estes. After an explosive piano introduction, one immediately sensed the excitement of this rhythmic contribution.



choir's youngest member Robin Datta. This was followed by an Alan Simmons arrangement of *Sailing*, a song written by Gavin Sutherland and originally recorded in 1972 by Gavin and his brother Iain but made more popular by Rod Stewart in 1975. Then, aided by much rhythmic clapping from the audience, Hull Male Voice Choir sang another upbeat song. *Is This The Way To Amarillo?* is a song written by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield that was recorded by Tony Christie and released originally in the UK in November 1971 but

delegates had participated in a workshop lead by Manvinder Rattan and much to their surprise they were to learn two items during that workshop which were to be performed at our concert. So, under the direction of Manvinder Rattan, the delegates performed a motet, *Jesu Dulcis Memoria* by Tomas Luis Victoria followed by an arrangement of *Go Down Moses* by Alan Simmons.

There followed what was without doubt the biggest challenge of all that evening to face conductor Stan Kell; the singing of G F Handel's famous *Hallelujah Chorus* from 'The Messiah' accompanied on the organ by Julian Savory. It was performed by all seven choirs that had been showcased in the Gala Concert that evening plus delegates from the National Association of Choirs Conference and its Executive Officers as well our guest celebrity Manvinder Rattan and the Mayor of Scarborough - and so, it was all eyes on Stan to conclude the evening's musical extravaganza with a memorable rendering of this great chorus.

What an amazing spectacular showcase of seven of the best NAC choirs in North and East Yorkshire; hardly an empty seat; and not one 'weak link' as the performance, singing tone/quality and stage management of each choir was tremendous with a musical style to satisfy everyone present; and the concert finished on time, despite fears that it would have been so long that coach driver's tachographs would expire before some choirs returned to their destinations.

As Brenda Wilkinson, NAC Chairman, summarised, 'The concert was exactly what it should be - entertaining, and you could tell the audience were well satisfied'.

Of course, the success of the Conference

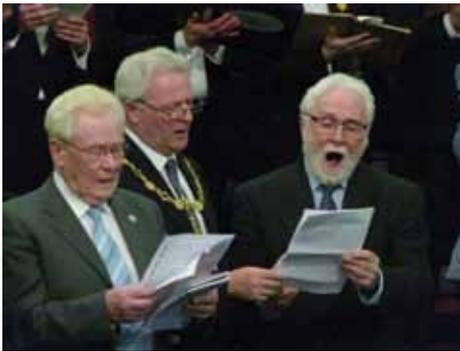


In 2011, the Hull Male Voice Choir proudly celebrated its centenary and this choir was next to take centre stage under its MD of some 30 years, Julian Savory, and accompanied by Dorcas Leather. Its first item was an up-beat number called *Mexican Fiesta Song*, a traditional Mexican song arranged by Denys Hood. It included percussion elements by the

re-issued in 2005 when it reached No 1 in the UK, thanks in part to Peter Kay's star studded video. The arrangement sung being by Andrew Goddard.

Then there followed a surprise item, introduced by Celia Johns, General Secretary of the National Association of Choirs. Earlier in the day, the 60 or so

Gala Concert could not have been achieved without the support and encouragement given by the National Officers of the National Association of Choirs; the support of the seven participating choirs and their musical directors and accompanists; the great enthusiasm of the gala concert committee members and in particular Chris Lake and Trevor King, our tremendous duo of Concert Choir Marshals, aided by Stan Kell, without whom our stage management would have been chaos; Marie Curie Cancer Care managers and their local team of volunteers; Westborough Methodist Church staff and volunteers who accommodated us and provided refreshments to the choirs and audience; the media - both conventional and social - for helping to promote the event as well as our ticket outlets; Majestic Publications for its sponsorship of our programmes and posters; our advertisers: and most especially, our wonderful audience for supporting the event by your kind attendance, warm applause and financial generosity.



Against a modest target of some £1,200 our Conference Gala Concert has raised a net £2,650 for the benefit of Marie Curie Cancer Care. On behalf of the Charity, Project Manager, Cheryl Barrett has expressed a huge thank you to everyone who played their part as it represents almost 133 nursing hours or nearly 15 full nights of care for local patients and their families.

Terry Wallis

The Barnstaple Ladies Choir Devon

The Barnstaple Ladies Choir was formed in 1984 and so this year we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary. At the present moment we have a membership of 32 Ladies and our Musical Director is Mary Chant. Mary is well known locally for her work in amateur theatre, having played leading roles in various musical



productions. She also teaches singing and is therefore able to utilise her theatrical experience and vocal talent to the great benefit of the choir.

The choir is very lucky to have two extremely talented pianists who accompany it. They are Peggy Spiers and Jackie Ellmore and their piano solos are a feature in the choir's concerts.

In 2013 we were very busy with over 26 concerts raising in excess of £3500 for charity. We sing at a wide range of venues from theatres, churches to nursing homes and also at weddings, but we always enjoy every one however large or small the audience. Highlights from last year would have been singing with 'Blake' at the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple for the second time; a concert in Marazion, Cornwall with our friends in the Heyl St Piran Singers; a Last Night of the Proms event with South Molton Town Band and also the Mayor's Concert in Barnstaple.

Our repertoire consists of all styles of music from sacred pieces, songs from the shows to popular songs, and as well as the choir and the piano solos we usually include, solos, duets, and recitations.

The choir is proud of its long standing friendship with the Barbel Grosse Chor in Uelzen, Germany (Barnstaple's twin town) The choir also have exchange visits with the City of Stoke Male Voice Choir, the Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir and the Heyl St Piran Singers. We also sing regularly with our friends in the Barnstaple MVC.

We have approximately 25 concerts already booked for 2014. Highlights will be singing with The City of Stoke on

Trent MVC at Christchurch, Barnstaple on Saturday 10 May and a return visit for us to Stoke on Saturday 4 October at Longton Hall. On Saturday 28 June we will be at Bideford, High St Methodist Church with the Torrige MVC and on Saturday 13 December we will be singing with the Barnstaple MVC at the Parish Church in our home town.

Already we have performed at the Newton Abbot Methodist Church on 1 March and raised £770 for the charity Coast Watch.

So we have much to look forward to in our 30th Year, long may it continue.

Lynne Beer
Secretary

Dursley MVC South West

The recent concert with Wynne Evans, in April, for the RNLI at the Victoria Rooms in Bristol presented an organiser's worst scenario. The strong likelihood that the Guest Soloist would be unable to perform at short notice does tend to get the pulses racing. For the week before the concert, Wynne Evans was not well and it looked as if he might not be able to sing because of a throat condition. However following treatment, he improved but there was still some doubt until very shortly before the concert as to whether he would be able to sing throughout.

Wynne was insistent that he should fulfil his commitment and being the true professional, he arranged for his brother, Mark Llewelyn Evans, another internationally renowned singer, to be on standby should matters not be resolved.

It was agreed that Wynne would start the concert and see how his voice stood up to his problem. As it happened, he was superb and performed to his highest standard. The bonus for the audience was that Mark was also present 'on standby' and he also contributed a number of items to the concert programme. Their final song – *The Bold Gendarmes* by Offenbach, which the brothers sang together, received very loud applause. You can share the fun by following the link to another of their performances of this song - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M3XNiYcYq4>

Dursley's contribution reflected the breadth of their current repertoire. The classics were well represented with *The Pilgrims' Chorus* from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, *Laudate Dominum* (Mozart) and *Alleluia* (Mascagni). On the lighter side, the audience enjoyed *Widcombe Fair*, *The Sloop John B* and *Grandfather's Clock*. The medley of songs from *Les Misérables* was very well received and the singing of the *Fishermen's Hymn*, (*Eternal Father strong to save*), to close the concert with Wynne and Mark joining the choir, was a fitting end to a concert in aid of the RNLI. Needless to say, in view of the brothers' heritage, the encore was *Gwahoddiad*, sung in Welsh by the choir and The Evans Boys.

The Compère for the evening was Geoff Twentyman hot foot from presenting his programme for Radio Bristol and he kept events moving smoothly in his own inimitable way.

The concert, as noted, was in aid of the local RNLI and all were delighted to hear that the early indications were that in excess of £5,000 was raised. This will contribute to the costs of establishing a new lifeboat station in Portishead. The Trustees of the RNLI have agreed, in principle, to pursue the adoption of The Portishead and Bristol Lifeboat from The Portishead Lifeboat Trust. Exciting times lie ahead for the RNLI locally.

The choir's next commitment is very different. It will sing during the morning of 26 April in the new foyer of the WWT at Slimbridge to promote the work of the choir.

The Annual Concerts approach. They will be held on 16 and 17 May in the Lister Hall at the Chantry Centre in Dursley. The Guests will be 'Havoc', a ladies Barbershop quartet that has won competitions in the UK and abroad.



In the longer term you could enjoy Wynne and Mark again at the West of England Male Voice Festival at The Colston Hall, Bristol, 12 September 2015 when Dursley will be joined by five other male choirs – Bristol, Cirencester, Forest of Dean, Gloucester Police and Worcester.

For more about the choir go to www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk.

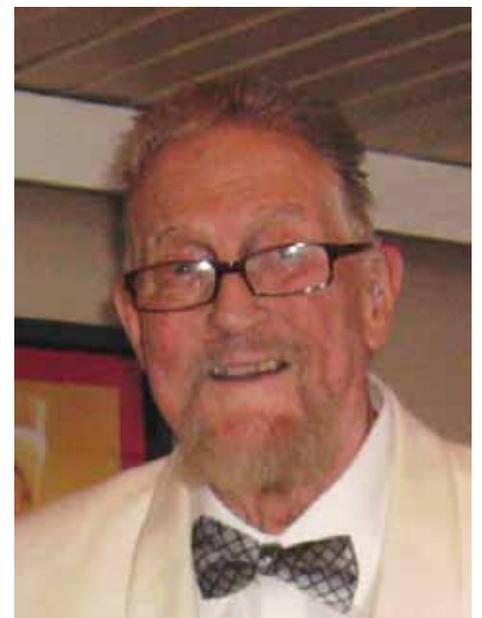
Huw Jenkins

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

My second 'News and Views' contribution must, sadly, begin with two pieces of bad news. On Boxing Day, 2013, Glasgow Phoenix Choir lost a much loved lady with the sudden death of Mrs Jan Elbourn. Jan had been a friend of the choir for more than 20 years and, more importantly, was the mother of our esteemed conductor, Marilyn J Smith. Over the years, Jan had developed special friendships with many choir members but was supportive and friendly to all of us. Even a short conversation with Jan always included mention of her family and her love of Marilyn, her husband Ian and their daughter Hayley and her family was obvious to all. As might be expected she was justly proud of her daughter but equally she was truly delighted by her success. When Marilyn told us about her mum's death, she used the phrase 'my lovely mum'. I can think of no better way to describe Jan Elbourn and no greater praise.

Our second piece of bad news follows on from my report for the spring issue of 'News and Views' and I am very sorry to report that J Lawson Purdie has died after a long period of illness. Lawson was a stalwart of the choir, which he joined in 1983. He carried out the role of Publicity Officer for 24 years and provided a great model for those of us who have followed him. Lawson also provided a great model for the Phoenix family - he was a friendly and affable man who made newcomers welcome and he was always ready to tell a story or a wee joke. Since taking over as Publicity Officer, I have had to speak to a wide range of people who had contact with Lawson when he carried out this role and when his name is mentioned, the response is always the same, 'What a nice man!' Lawson was a great ambassador for Glasgow Phoenix Choir and will be sorely



missed by all of us. In particular, he leaves behind two bereft sopranos, his wife Ellen and his daughter, Elizabeth Dingwall. Liz said that Lawson was her greatest support and that his encouragement helped her to develop her musical talent. Liz can be heard singing solo on many of our CDs and her beautiful voice is testament to her father's belief in her.

Since January, the choir has been very busy. We performed at three Burns' events two of which helped raise funds for the Govan Weavers and their Youth Pipe Band and the third was in aid of the restoration of the Burns' Monument in Alloway. After we finished our haggis, neeps and tatties for the year, we continued performing with a return to our more usual programme in successful concerts in Coatbridge and East Kilbride.

Our most unusual venture took place at the end of March when we performed, literally, 'in at the deep end' of Glasgow's iconic Western Baths. The building dates from the Victorian era when it was necessary to drain the pool every three weeks (before modern filters). People living in the area were offered the opportunity to attend concerts in the drained pool, as there was no other appropriate venue in the west end of Glasgow at the time. The experience was revived in 1990, when Glasgow was European City of Culture and has now been repeated as an early celebration of this year's Commonwealth Games. The Glasgow Phoenix Choir was delighted, but intrigued, to be invited to perform in the baths. I suspect some of us were convinced we would end up wet. The concert was a great success, raising much needed funds for the Carers' Trust. We were joined by two former singing students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and by a current post-graduate violin student as well as four trombonists from The Co-operative Funeralcare Band.

April has come to an end with three concerts in a row. The first took place in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, where we were joined by the Northampton Male Voice Choir (also sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare), conducted by Stephen Bell; the National Youth Choir of Scotland, National Boys Choir, conducted by Christopher Bell (brother of Stephen); and, lastly, some of the children from four schools in the Govanhill area of Glasgow. They sang a song written especially for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, *The Commonwealth for the Common Good* by Frank O'Hagan. The concert was very well received with particularly enthusiastic

responses for the Govanhill schoolchildren and the Chamber Choir of the National Boys Choir who performed *Like a Singing Bird*, featuring the beautiful voice of Marcus Swietlicki. The future of choral singing is safe. Our final two concerts took place in East Kilbride and Largs, again in the company of the excellent Northampton Male Voice Choir.

This season will end for us in mid-June, when we will be in company with two Gaelic choirs and yet another choir of schoolchildren - we are all looking forward to these events.

Finally, I must refute the myth that men cannot multi-task. Anyone who needs evidence for this should come and watch our accomplished Accompanist and Deputy Conductor, Cameron Murdoch. He stepped into the breach earlier in the year and can manage to play the piano magnificently while controlling 90 singers by head nods and facial expression... a sight to behold! Well done, Cam.

Anne Kay
Publicity Officer

The Plymouth Area Police Choir Devonshire Group

In 1972 a charismatic police District Commander, Jack Tarr, decided he wanted a police choir in Plymouth although he admitted he could not sing a note. He detailed Detective Sergeant John Weymouth to explore the potential. John immediately contacted Phillip R Buttall, a pianist and composer who was, and still is, a classical correspondent for The Plymouth Herald. Phillip readily agreed to accept the challenge of music director of the embryo formation. After periods of auditions, fifty serving and retired officers together with civilian staff became founder members. Forty years on, nine of that number remain active members of the choir. After two months rehearsing, the choir was launched on the public with its inaugural concert in the Plymouth Guildhall.

Phillip Buttall passed the baton on to Bob Brennan in 1980 and he passed it to Brian Gerry in 1985, with the exception of a short period when Surgeon Commander Jon Perry RN, officiated. Brian has been the musical director for the past twenty six years. Similarly, the choir has been blessed with fine accompanists. Jenny Shipley served from 1986 to 1993; Rosemary Fox

succeeded her and is still with us. Her time this coming season may well be restricted as her husband, Michael, will shortly become the Lord Mayor of Plymouth.

The last two years have been difficult for the choir and upsetting for Brian Gerry who has spent much of the last eighteen months in hospital. It would not be fair to state that this is the only reason why the choir has not been able to send in a report of its activities to News & Views but it has played a major part. To add to our woes the assistant music director, Michael Chown, has been very poorly but is now on the road to recovery. However, rehearsals are once again challenging and hard work with much new music being introduced for us to learn. It is Brian who has taken us from one success to another and taught us to sing from our hearts, with meaning and a smile on our faces. Not an easy task for forty odd aging retired policemen.

We now have just over fifty members and badly need some new, young blood. Each year we perform from between fourteen to eighteen public appearances. The choir has two simple objectives – to provide an opportunity for male voice singing and to raise money for charity. The choir does not charge for its services, other than a small donation towards travel costs, and it is estimated some half a million pounds has been raised during the forty years of its existence; an achievement of which we are particularly proud. A special mention and vote of thanks must be made here to our Chairman, Brian Phillips, who, in spite of his previous high rank, puts all the chairs out for the choristers on practice evenings; drives his van with the choir's risers to concerts taking them home afterwards; acts as the choir's almoner in every case of need; permits his home to be used for committee meetings, even supplying the wine and performs his duties with tolerance and dedication.

A grand annual concert is held in June and a Christmas concert in December, both in the Central Methodist Hall, Plymouth. The Christmas concerts are very popular with all 630 seats sold in advance. Retiring collections for different charities normally bring in between £900 and £1000 pounds and we are grateful to our audiences for their generosity.

Over the years the Plymouth Area Police Choir, along with many other male choirs, has had the honour of singing with various soloists and bands including Mike Dewis, Anthony Stuart Lloyd, Cynthia Glover, Kay Deeming, Cheryl Travis, John Hansen, the



Barry Blackler - Rod Fowler - Ken Roberts - Derek Carthy - Brian Hodgins
Bill Mallett - Mervyn Hunt - David Parry - John Weymouth

Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, the Band of the Royal British Legion and other male choirs, ladies choirs, school choirs, a male voice choir from South Australia and a ladies choir from Cape Town, South Africa.

We have travelled extensively having performed concerts in many parts of Devon and Cornwall, Europe, including St Pierre su Dives in Normandy, Cathaix and La Feuillie in Brittany, Celle, Bielefeld and Wiesbaden in Germany and Enschede in The Netherlands. All these concerts were important but there is something different about singing with choristers from other lands and customs. We shall be doing that this coming year when we shall join with other international choirs taking part in the Cornwall International Music Festival singing in various locations throughout the Duchy. By far the most rewarding visit the choir has made was in 2010 when we were invited to sing in the Festival Corale Verona-Garda Estate – the Grande Concerto Corale in Verona, Italy. We gave concerts in Verona, Vicenza, Sirmione and Breganze. Joining us were choirs from the USA, Canada, Belgium, Finland and France.

This trip was one of the most memorable the choir has ever made. Our guide took us to a bridge over a river looking toward the mountains at Bassano Del Grappa, a city and commune in the Veneto region of Italy. There, unrehearsed and to a good audience of locals and visitors, we sang the Italian folk song *Signore delle cime* (*Lord of the Mountains*). It is a song of prayer and has been translated into many languages. It is performed every year at the festival of the

Raduno Nazionale degli Alpini, which since 1920 has usually been celebrated annually in mid-May. The song it is described in Wikipedia in the following words, 'The simplicity of the song and its great emotional impact has ensured its inclusion in many repertoires: the simple melody is accompanied by traditional harmonies with a text that represents feeling, popular piety and Christian devotion'. A very apt and succinct description.

Following our five concerts the choir received a special invitation to stay a further day in Italy and sing during the evening mass in St Mark's Basilica in Venice. There we sang *Tibyay Payom*, a Slavonic Orthodox Liturgy by Dmytro Bortnianski arranged by Nick Hart - our basses struggled to reach the B flat - and the hymn *Deep Harmony*. This was an experience we shall never forget and of which we are very proud.

For our annual concert in June we are currently learning (again) *Bohemian Rhapsody*, words and music by Freddie Mercury, transcribed by Alan Simmons from Jim Morgan's arrangement and dedicated to Mike Kidd and the Hereford Police Male Voice Choir. *Hallelujah*, words and music by Leonard Cohen, and *Songs From the First World War*, arranged by Alwyn Humphreys. Our year starts in September and we have a number of engagements to honour. The first is Friday 26 September when we host the Essex Police Choir at a joint concert in the Salvation Army Congress Hall, Plymouth. All monies received at this concert will be for The Children's Hospice South West.

In view of the Charity the Salvation Army has given use of their hall free of charge; for this we extend our grateful thanks to them.

We would welcome fresh blood within our ranks: any man moving, or retiring to the Plymouth area who sings or is interested in joining us, please contact our secretary, John Streeter 01822 855410. We would be delighted to see you. Further details about the Plymouth Area Police Choir are available on our website www.plymouthareapolicechoir.com. We extend our best wishes to all member choirs of the National Association.

Roger C Bawden

Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choir Yorkshire West

It was in 1980 that the last celebrity concert was produced by Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choir. For the previous 20 years or so the celebrity concerts welcomed principal soloists from Sadlers Wells Opera, national and international singers to be guests of the choir. When performing now, the choir has to compete for an audience with the ubiquitous television and the many other stay at home couch attractions. So it was with fingers and everything else crossed that 33 years later, in September 2013, the committee decided to resurrect our celebrity concert.

To make the venture even more hair raising, the concert was to be held on the same night that 'Last Night Of The Proms' and the first night of a new series of 'Strictly' was being televised (We booked our date first). As one satisfied audience member said, 'You can watch repeats on television: you have to be there to enjoy the unique atmosphere of a real live performance'. The choir was well rehearsed, Margaret Keys, a finalist in the 'How do you solve a problem like Maria' television series, was booked to sing. All that we needed was 'bums on seats'. Proceeds were donated to Kirkwood Hospice Huddersfield.

Many good people from Skelmanthorpe and the surrounding area turned out to witness that their local village choir had grown to be a substantial singing force in the region and gave a 'professional' performance to accompany the very fine singing voice of Margaret. In modern terminology, the concert was 'fantastic' 'brilliant' and 'awesome'. You should have



been there. It was also, on this occasion, that we released our latest CD, entitled 'Those Magnificent Men'.

Over the past few years our MD Jane Hobson has established herself as one of the leading MDs in the area, and under her expert and patient guidance the choir has grown in the quality of the sound produced to be able to compete with the best of the choirs in the region. All competition entries under her baton have resulted in one of the top three places and all results marked with 'Distinction'.

In 2012 Griff Jones, our long serving accompanist decided to retire after 50 years and hand over to our accomplished deputy Craig Schofield. Now as our principal accompanist, we know we are

in safe hands as he has played for many choirs, soloists and dance competitions. We have been fortunate to acquire the services of Tim Wilkes as our deputy accompanist, who has already played for us at a number of concerts. The choir is lucky to have these three members on our team.

In September 2013 our AGM saw the retirement of our Chairman, John Bexon, who now wishes to just be able to sing in the choir. He handed over to the newly elected John Bailey and we wish them both a successful future.

The choir is going from strength to strength but, to maintain the highest standard, new singers must continue to be recruited to this successful team. We continue to

practise weekly on alternate Tuesdays at The Methodist Chapel, Pilling Lane, Skelmanthorpe and Sandal Methodist Church, Barnsley Road, Wakefield. So if you are an experienced, lapsed or a keen-to-learn singer between the ages of 18 and 80, please do contact the chairman, John Bailey on 01924 267189.

This year we celebrate our 80th anniversary with an extensive concert programme. Two major events will see the choir share birthday celebrations with Wakefield AOS Chorus, also 80 this year and the Rodillion Singers who are 50, which will be held in Wakefield Cathedral on 1 November.

On 19 December Skelmanthorpe join with the Black Dyke Band for their annual Christmas concert. This will be the 47th consecutive year in which this will have been the highlight for this choir and its supporters.

John L Hampson

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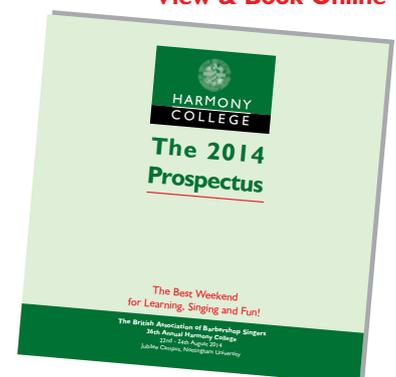
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If you wish, you can learn more about barbershop harmony by opting to attend other specialist courses. For example, the Personal Development Stream allows you to create an individual learning programme from a wide choice of barbershop related subjects and other singing topics.

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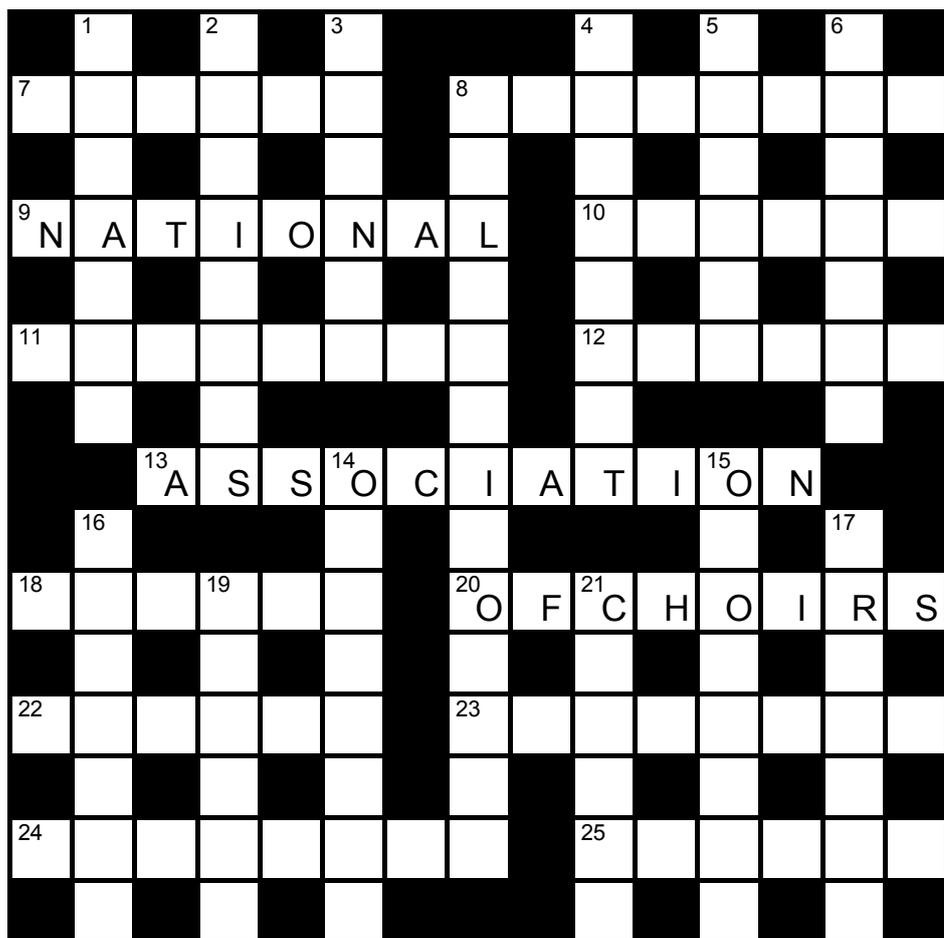
We look forward to welcoming you to a great weekend! Whilst it is primarily an educational event, it is also full of fun and laughter!

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PUZZLE PAGE



Across

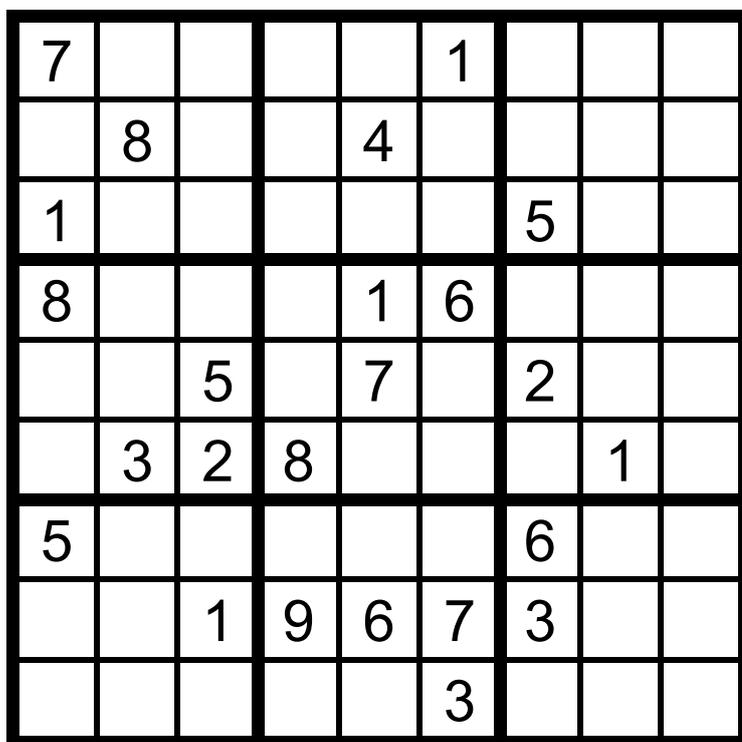
- 7 Swedish valley flower (6)
- 8 Shape a nice piece of mahogany to end the year (8)
- 10 'Frenzied woman from whose lips the god speaks' - Walter Burkert (6)
- 11 Might be important after sternutation (5,3)
- 12 A meeting place perhaps? (6)
- 18 Could this be twelve sleepers? (6)
- 22 Hoping to see afar? Still visible if you remove the bins (6)
- 23 Not your odd vocal offering (8)
- 24 Hogarth made it with a harlot and others (8)
- 25 Lambert may have baked after his pardon (6)

Down

- 1 Sou'wester for a seaman who is competent (7)
- 2 Lunatic lips lie... (8)
- 3 Cash in before Good Friday? (6)
- 4 Leave an insect clueless (8)
- 5 Chinese or empty handed (6)
- 6 For beauty or games (7)
- 8 A careless gasoline lunch may cause illusions (13)
- 14 Bystander buys a newspaper for a voyeur? (8)
- 15 O they are just playing dead (8)
- 16 Magic under a cup could be misspelling (7)
- 17 What shall we do with this matelot? (7)
- 19 Not to be confused with elegy (6)
- 21 Say it and smile please (6)

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Solutions on page 26

Comments And Suggestions To Crawford At
publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Dr Tara Leiper - Musical Motivator

Banchory Singers Scotland East

Dr Tara Leiper is not just a musician, singing teacher and choir director here on Deeside, she is our very own musical motivator.

She has inspired many people in the area to take up and continue singing, both as individuals and in groups and runs her own highly successful music teaching studio.

Since graduating with a first class honours music education degree from Aberdeen's Northern College of Education, Tara continually strives to improve and expand her skill and knowledge base. Her commitment to continuing professional development has led to impressive additions of experience and qualifications. She has attended Estill voice training courses, national seminars in music education and voice use, accent training and has achieved a masters' degree in voice training and a doctorate in private professional teaching!



Not only is Tara a professional and inspiring singing teacher but she also freelances as an accompanist, composer and workshop leader.

Tara believes in supporting local events and forging community links. Several



local charities have benefitted from her concerts. Recently she directed the 'Pirates of Penzance' involving the local choir and orchestra who had not performed together for 20 years. Despite all the hard work, the choir and orchestra members are keen to repeat the experience!

Tara is a formidable choir director! There is not one member of 'Banchory Singers', the 70-strong community choir, however, who doesn't love attending rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. 'Banchory Singers' with members aged between 32 and 92, some who do and some who don't read music, is a true community choir. Tara provides recorded and written music for them all to practise with. They are in big trouble however if caught reading music during rehearsals as she is training the choir to sing without sheets or books. Instead Tara mouths all the words and uses a hilarious array of actions as prompts for the coming lines. And since Tara has encouraged the choir to learn the words by heart, the performances have been noticeably enhanced.

Tara has an uncanny knack with her private

pupils of knowing just where to set the next challenge and before you know it you are singing something you never even aspired to.

Tara is dedicated to the improvement of singers both collectively and individually. Both choir members and individual pupils benefit from her forthright manner, energy and creative learning approaches. These creative learning approaches range from making faces in the mirror at private lessons through to softening the hard work at choir rehearsals with her home baking.

Like Gareth Malone, Tara believes in the social benefits of singing together and working as a group and although this requires large amounts of concentration, commitment, careful listening and discipline, the rewards are worth the hard work.

We are indeed lucky to have such an accomplished and inspirational musician in our midst. Thanks Tara!

Jane Elder

Send Your Submissions To Crawford At

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

The Paraguayan Harp

Recently I was providing harp accompaniment for Enfield's International Voices and after reading my biography June Keyte asked me if I would bring along my Paraguayan Harp as a surprise item for their concert. I always play a harp solo in their concerts and my performances have inspired a couple of the choir members to take up the instrument.

The harp is the national instrument of Paraguay and is very popular in South America. My first experience of the Paraguayan harp was whilst attending The Edinburgh International Harp Festival which features different styles of harps and music from around the world. After attending a workshop on this harp I was inspired to take up the instrument because of its beautiful sound, uplifting music and the array of special harp techniques incorporated into the music such as trino (Paraguayan tremolo), muffled glissandi and bending of the soundboard. Over the years I have been taught by many of the leading Paraguayan harp players.

The traditional Paraguayan harp is very different from the pedal harp. It is smaller and of lighter construction with nylon strings which are played with the fingernails. It is normally tuned in F Major and to raise a note a semitone you have to either bend the string at the bottom on to a peg or use a special metal key which is worn on a finger which you then press on the string. The music is mostly taught aurally as written music is hard to come by and every harpist will develop their own arrangements of the traditional pieces. One of the most well known is Pájaro Campana (Bell Bird).

I have made two trips to Paraguay and have performed in concert and on radio there. I frequently incorporate my Paraguayan harp music in to my concerts and it is always extremely popular with audiences.



www.heatherwrighton.co.uk

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Scarborough Fair

I continue my annual attempt to find a song suitable to the conference venue. I was easy this year, though I don't recall there being any parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. There was some tarragon in the sauce at the dinner.

The Crown Spa Hotel was an excellent venue, being the only four star hotel in Scarborough, so they tell me. My wife was very pleased with the swimming pool and she really enjoyed walking in the area. Our room was on the third floor and may well have been servants quarters in the dim and distant past but the room had been recently refurbished and was very well appointed. There was even a TV screen in the bathroom, which is daft really as it steamed up as soon as you put the shower on. I'm afraid I don't like one aspect of hotel bathrooms. They have altogether too many mirrors.

There was an excellent selection of trade stands again (ten in all) though I was accosted by members of a ladies' choir who were unhappy that, once again, uniforms for ladies' choirs were not offered. We had a lovely jewellery stall, you can't have everything.

The dinner on the first evening was rather

good with each table named after a musical instrument and little musical notes scattered across it. I thought the meal was excellent with plenty of vegetables and roast potatoes. I leave it to others to comment on the quality of the after dinner entertainment. Most of the officers offered a song or monologue. The Chairman and General Secretary sang *Duetto buffo di due gatti* that's *The Cat Duet*. They were still re-elected to their respective positions so it must have gone well. Our conference co-ordinator was compère and stand up for the show.

Saturday began with a seminar by Manvinda Rattan where he spoke about 'Sing for Pleasure' and his work with the John Lewis Partnership. Later followed two sessions where he rehearsed the choir of delegates for a performance of two items for the Gala Concert in the evening, a motet and an Alan Simmons arrangement of *Go Down Moses*. I'm afraid I can't say how the rehearsals went as I was rather under the weather that day and spent much of it resting in hope of feeling well enough to attend the concert. This meant that I also missed Tim Knight's words of wisdom on copyright and photocopying. I asked Tim to bring some of what he said to his Music & Festivals section so go to page

5 for that.

I managed to recover enough to take my place at the AGM where the business was discussed and dealt with in a very straightforward manner. All your officers are still in place and working hard for you.

If you turn to page 6 you can find a full report on the Gala Concert from Terry Wallis one of the great team from Yorkshire East and Yorkshire North who worked so hard to create not only a successful Gala Concert in terms of performance and in terms of money raised for Marie Curie Nurses.

On Sunday morning I introduced our final speaker, Roger Hagarty. I introduced Roger last year to my wife and one other. His seminar ran parallel with Patrick Hawes and most of the delegates chose to attend that session. It was a great pleasure to introduce Roger to a larger audience who much appreciated his demonstration.

Conference closes with a Members' Open Forum and that it did leaving the officers to discuss what needed discussing at the end. The meeting, not the officers, was guillotined after one hour.

And that's it. See you next year.

Crawford



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Basingstoke Ladies' Choir Southern Counties

Basingstoke ladies' choir, sometimes known as BLC, was formed in 1964 by a small group of housewives in Basingstoke who enjoyed singing. The choir has kept going all that time and has gone from strength to strength in recent years. A few years ago we took part in the BBC's 'Last Choir Standing' and made it through to the last 25, which meant we were in the televised part of the competition. It was a very interesting experience! The eventual winners were 'Only Men Aloud' who have since enjoyed huge success.



We sing a broad range of music including sacred, classical and folk as well as show songs and pop songs - you could say everything from Schumann to Simon

& Garfunkel and from *Chicago* to the *Cantique de Jean Racine*. We have also had to be multi-lingual, singing in German, French, Latin, Maori, Italian and - the trickiest one so far - Russian.

We now have around 48 members and we perform both locally and further afield. We have had many trips abroad, notably to Canada, Germany, France and Malta. Our most recent tour was last October to Malta, which was very successful and great fun. We have forged links with several UK choirs in various parts of the country, with whom we hold joint concerts, and with the Taubach Männerchor in Weimar, Germany. Most of our concerts are in aid of local charities.

We are lucky in having several choirs in the Basingstoke area and in July we are all getting together to perform at the Anvil, our splendid concert hall in the town. The massed choirs will be singing part of Karl Jenkins' wonderful *Armed Man*, among other things. The theme for this concert is to commemorate the start of World War 1,



in July 1914, a hundred years ago. The first Basingstoke Festival of Choirs was held two years ago and was a great success.

This year is a very special one for the choir as it is our 50th anniversary. Coincidentally, the Basingstoke Male Voice Choir was also formed in 1964 so we are having a joint Golden Jubilee Concert - and party - on 1 November. I'm sure a good time will be had by all.

I am adding two photographs, one taken in 1965 and the other a few months ago - I'm sure you can tell which is which.

If you would like to find out more, have a look at our website

www.basingstokeladieschoir.co.uk

Judy Ball
General Secretary

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Brixham Orpheus Male Voice Choir

Devon

Brixham is well known as a holiday destination and attracts people new and returning to both Torbay and South Devon. Its fishing fleet helps to maintain the balance of its work and play environment and provides a vivid backdrop for those who like to wander along the harbour side and out on the harbour arm. For many, their first awareness of a choir is to hear them sing down on the Old Fish Quay when on warm summer evenings Brixham Orpheus Male Voice Choir indulge their passion for song.



BOMVC celebrates its sixtieth anniversary this year. Back in 1954, a group of twelve young men got together to form a choir. Little did they know that all these years later the choir would still be as strong as ever. With a membership of thirty-five regular members, the choir meet for rehearsal once a week in Brixham. Whilst the average age of the choir is over seventy, the comradeship and bond between members enables the choir to continue to flourish. As with every choir, members come from very varied backgrounds, including some local lads and many who have now made Torbay their home more locally known as 'blow-ins'. Age is no barrier and with one or two members now in their early 90s they all continue to rise to each occasion. Drawing members from Torbay and beyond, under the direction of their Musical Director, Ron Burrington the choir will be singing both home and away this year. This year BOMVC will be joined by choirs from all over Devon and Cornwall, including: Barnstable Male Voice Choir and City of Truro Male Voice Choir; Quay Harmony; The Old Gaffers Shanty Men; The Riviera Singers; Torpoint Ladies Choir; and Tregadillett Ladies Choir.

Singing from a wide repertoire the choir enjoy many pieces well known to male voice choirs from sacred to traditional, from songs of the sea to popular tunes. Each year the choir takes on new pieces, which soon become part of their current repertoire. The choir is indebted to these

pieces being bought by choir members as well as from donations to choir funds. At our annual concert in July the choir enjoy presenting these pieces as well as singing many old favourites. This takes place in All Saints Church, Brixham, famous for its connection to its first Vicar, Sir Henry Francis Lyte who wrote the well-known hymn 'Abide with me'. With it being their sixtieth anniversary, this year sees the local Brixham Town Band joining in on the celebrations. A dinner is being held in honour of the occasion with all choir members, their partners as well as Friends of the choir coming together for the occasion. Indeed they have a wealth of history to celebrate having sung in many places in the UK as well as visiting both Belgium and Germany. To this day many of their concerts raise money for local charities including last year £5000 from a joint concert with the Plymouth Military Wives Choir.

Thus, Brixham is proud of its history, its attraction as a modern tourist location and its choir. We look forward to continuing to serve and help the people of our community.

Alasdair Anderson
Chairman

Hull Male Voice Choir

Yorkshire East

No sooner had Kingston upon Hull been named as the City of Culture in 2017 than Hull Male Voice Choir was contacted by Mansfield & District Male Voice Choir with a suggestion of the two choirs participating in a joint concert in Hull during 2017 to celebrate this achievement.

Both choirs have a long history and each have similar membership numbers of around 40-50 choristers. Hull Male Voice Choir celebrated its Centenary in 2011 and Mansfield & District Male Voice Choir was established in 1944 following an amalgamation of three choirs, one of which was formed in 1926.



Whilst a date and venue for the 2017 concert in Hull has not yet been finalised, matters have moved forward very swiftly and already plans are being prepared for a joint concert on Saturday 6 June 2015 at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Mansfield which has been described as 'having a wonderful old hall with a rewarding acoustic'.

All this forward planning follows the choir's recent participation on 5 April in the NAC's 2014 Conference Gala Concert in Scarborough when seven choirs from within East and North Yorkshire were showcased, the event having been co-ordinated by myself, and the concert having raised some £2,656 to benefit Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Sadly, several of our members have been called by that Great Shepherd over the past twelve months or so, including Ian Runcieman who was a Vice-President as well as serving on the choir's committee and as its treasurer during his very long association with the choir. In memory of Ian, a special concert has been organised in conjunction with NAC member Hull Ladies Choir (the Musical Director of which, Pamela, is Ian's widow), to be held on Saturday 14 June 2014 at Derringham Bank Methodist Church in Hull commencing at 7.30 when much of Ian's favourite music will be performed as a tribute to him, as he so loved his singing and choirs in general.

We are eagerly awaiting the fabulous and very popular Maureen Hunter Singers, our special guests at a concert to be held in the splendour of Hull's Guildhall on Saturday 18 October 2014 commencing at 7.30. Both choirs are members of the National Association of Choirs. There will be something in the choirs' varied programme for everyone to enjoy and an evening of magical music is promised.

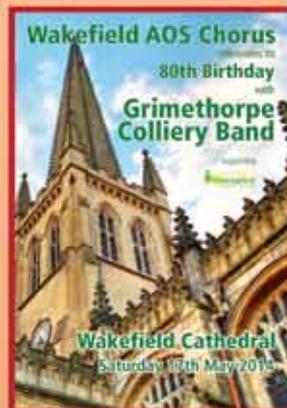
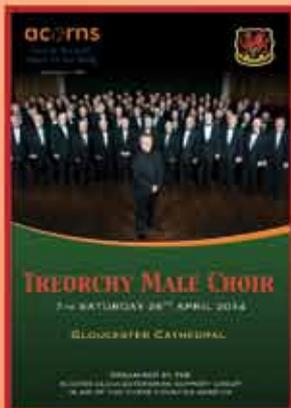
Terry Wallis

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SongCycle Thames North

The all singing all cycling male voice quartet

SongCycle was formed in 1996 following the founder members first combined entry in the 'Friends of Essex Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride' when as well as raising money for charity by cycling from church to church, they sang a different four part motet in each one and have so far cycled 623 miles, visited 606 churches, sung 283 motets and raised £32,000 for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. They have also helped raise thousands of pounds for other charities.

Since inception SongCycle has progressed from singing purely sacred music to singing in a variety of styles, from Bach to The Beatles. Their style is not barbershop but à la King's Singers. The group are or were all members of the Parish Choir at St Thomas of Canterbury, Brentwood, Essex, and together with their passion for singing, they have a liking for real ale, good food and wine.

SongCycle has performed at a number of events including local concerts and weddings, both inside the church and at the reception; birthday parties, retirement parties and wedding anniversary celebrations. They have taken part in Brentwood 'Lunchtime Concerts' and performed in numerous Essex churches and church halls. Further away from home they have given concerts and recitals in Sidmouth, Woolbrook and Ottery St Mary, Martock and The Quantocks in Somerset, Swindon in Wiltshire and Bridgham and Kenninghall in Norfolk. They have performed on local radio stations in Essex and Wiltshire and in 2007 featured on the



BBC's Songs of Praise programme with Aled Jones.

As well as performing concerts they have sung the Eucharist, Choral Evensong and Matins in many churches around the country and during their annual tours they have sung the daily services in Bath Abbey, Wells, Exeter, Truro, Guildford Salisbury and Worcester Cathedrals as well as Sherborne Abbey.



After performing at the Bishop of Chelmsford's retirement party in 2003 the Bishopsaid 'Their renditions of *Postman Pat* and *Bob the Builder* are certainly not to be missed, and you will always be guaranteed good professional entertainment'. After their visit to Salisbury Cathedral in 2011 the Director of the Royal School of Church Music said, 'Keep up the great work and thank you for all you are doing for church music'. Praise indeed!

SongCycle are:

Brian Lynn: A freelance professional Bass Trombonist playing for many top orchestras. Brian has sung in church choirs since the age of 7, and joined St Thomas' in 1992. Brian also composes and arranges music for brass and choirs and arranged most of SongCycle's repertoire. More recently Brian has pursued a career in his other passion, driving, and now offers professional chauffeuring services, while he is not being the Speciality Cheese Co-ordinator at the local farm shop. He lives in Pilgrims Hatch, with his wife Lesley. They have two grown up children, Robin and Emily and two granddaughters: Paige and Faith.

Richard Baker: Has been a member of St Thomas' choir since 1961 which he joined

at the age of 7, following a family tradition. Richard has two grown up sons, James and Jonathan (SongCycle's official 'Dep' and sound engineer). Richard is a freelance Building Surveyor dealing with residential and commercial properties throughout the country. Richard plays the trumpet (occasionally) is keen on DIY and lives in Brentwood with Wendy.

Nick Rayner: Is the Deputy Head of Creative Arts at Mark Hall Academy in Harlow and the Organist and Choirmaster of All Saints' and St Peter's parish churches in Hutton. He is also an accomplished pianist and tenor soloist. Nick, a member of St Thomas' Choir since 1993 and founder of the church's girl's choir, has also been singing in choirs since the age of 7 and was Head Chorister at Norwich Cathedral at the age of 13. He has been associated with many choral organisations and lives in Pilgrims Hatch with his wife Amanda and two boys Oli and Alex.

Sam Adams: Is the newest (and youngest) member of SongCycle joining in 2008. He joined St Thomas' choir in 1994 aged 7, spent three years as organ scholar and following his four year post as Organist and Choirmaster of Holy Cross Parish Church in Hornchurch is now the Director of Music at St Thomas' Church Brentwood. Sam studied at Hedley Walter School in Brentwood (music teacher Nick Rayner) before graduating from Goldsmiths College London. Sam is a full time music teacher at St Edwards Romford and lives in Hutton.

Jonathan Baker: Yes I know we are supposed to be a quartet and Jonathan makes 5 but since stepping in at the last minute in 2001 for Nick he has become SongCycle's official deputy. Jonathan also joined St Thomas' choir at the age of 7 and whilst gaining his degree he sang in Leeds Parish Church Choir. Jonny (as he is affectionately known) runs his own recording company Jonny B Productions Ltd, is a sound engineer for the BBC, and freelances for London Radio stations as well as other local and national companies and institutions.

Richard J Baker

Hadley & District Orpheus Male Choir

Midlands North

The Hadley & District Orpheus Male Choir is based in Hadley, Telford in the county of Shropshire and can trace its origins and progress back to its formation in 1901. Since that time the choir has become well known throughout Great Britain and in other parts of the world.

The choir has an impressive list of competition successes to its name and is particularly proud to have the distinction of winning the Welsh National Eisteddfod on three occasions in 1923, 1926 and again in 1933. This is believed to be a record, as no other English choir has achieved three wins. These days the choir tends to concentrate on performing well on the concert platform and is ever popular both locally and throughout the Midlands. Other concerts have been performed in Eastbourne, Torquay, Scarborough, Weymouth and on the Isle of Wight. The choir is a major supporter of charities and good causes and raises many thousands of pounds each year to show that support. During 2013, typically, the choir raised over twenty thousand pounds and is justifiably proud of their fund raising efforts.



The current choir numbers fifty singers and is always looking to recruit more voices to its ranks. All interested gentlemen are made very welcome by a very friendly choir. Regular recruitment workshops are held and these appear to be very popular and also successful.

The choir is now under the guidance and leadership of their very well qualified, committed and enthusiastic Musical Director, Robyn Davies, who is supported by the choir's equally talented French accompanist Nykko Mickael Gregoire. Robyn and Nykko form a formidable team and together are moving the choir forward and enabling the choir to perform to an ever-higher standard. Robyn also encourages the choir to accept

and perform more modern music, while not forgetting the more traditional songs, much loved by male choirs. This transition seems to be well justified by the reaction of audiences wherever the choir performs.

Hadley & District Male Choir performs an average of twenty concerts each year and does unfortunately have to restrict itself due to its popularity. The choir has always been a strong supporter of the National Association of Choirs and hopes for the Association's continued success.

Further information about the choir and details of our concerts can found at www.homvc.org.uk and on our Facebook page.

Bryan Pickering

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The Viva Musica Choir Midlands South West

2014 sees Viva Musica celebrate 25 years since its formation. The choir of around 70 mixed voices is led by Rosemary Phillips and accompanied by Andrew Biggs, both of whom bring a wealth of experience and a passion for music.



During Viva Musica's successful 25 years it has performed with Alfie Boe and Amore, and the choir is currently looking forward to being joined by Wynne Evans later this year. The choir has performed at Symphony Hall, Birmingham Town Hall and Worcester Cathedral. It has performed in Europe and has welcomed choirs from South Africa and Australia.

On Saturday 29 March Viva Musica was joined at Dudley Town Hall by The Gentlemen Songsters led by Mike Wells. The evening was compered by Michael Collie of BBC Midlands Today. The concert included classical, religious and modern pieces, the highlight of which was three pieces performed jointly by both choirs. The concert was a great success and a sell out.

To celebrate our silver anniversary, our programme for 2014 will include pieces commissioned for our special year, together with some of the choir's favourites.

Our Silver Celebration Concert on Saturday 17 May 2014 will take place at St James Church, Stourbridge. The choir is excited to be joined by Summerhill Choral Society, led by Andrew Biggs.

Saturday 18 October 2014 sees the choir return to Dudley Town Hall to perform with Wynne Evans. The accomplished tenor has

performed with the English and Welsh National Operas and his debut album went to number 1 in the classical music charts in 2011.

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

Photograph kindly supplied by Ralph Mason Photography

www.ralphmason.co.uk

New members are always welcome.

Lorraine Newman

Willenhall Musical Society Midlands West

This mixed choir was formed in the 1940s originally called Yale & Town as it was predominately employees of the company. In later years 'outsiders' were able to join



and it then became Willenhall Musical Society. In earlier years the choir travelled to many places and competed with much success. We now mainly concentrate our efforts on raising funds for local good causes and charities. Every year we hold a charity concert arranged by ourselves, with invited guests. In October 2013 we had a wonderful concert in a local school with our guests and a full capacity audience, we raised £2000 for the local MS Therapy Centre. In the past 20 years we have raised a total of £32,225 for a variety of charities. We also sing for local groups and churches to help them to raise money for their causes.

This year we are already planning our charity concert which will be on Saturday 25 October 2014 at Poole Hayes Performing Arts School, Willenhall, in aid of SSAFA and The British Legion. As this is the 100th Anniversary of the First World War we are hoping for a bumper audience again.

We are always looking for new members in all sections but especially contraltos, basses and tenors. By the time you are reading this we will be without an accompanist as she and her husband are moving away from the area, so if anyone reading this article is interested in joining us for singing or as an accompanist we would love to hear from you, or see you, at one of our rehearsals. We rehearse each Monday evening between 7.30 and 9.30 at Portobello Methodist Church, just off the Keyway on Portobello Island in Willenhall, except for Bank Holidays of course. You can contact us through our website: www.willenhallmusicalsociety.co.uk

Pam Proffitt

Worcester Male Voice Choir Midlands South West

Floods did not stop a patriotic start to 2014

Yet again Worcester made the headlines with floods causing major disruption within and beyond the city centre. Did it stop choir rehearsals? Not likely! Choristers made their way in from all parts of the city and county, found new car parking facilities and arrived at the rehearsal rooms on time despite the Angel Centre rehearsal rooms being very close to the floods.



So the New Year saw no let up in the commitment of the choir. Our dedicated musical team consisting of Nicolas Wright MD, Shelia Leatherland, Accompanist, and Haydn Thomas, Deputy Conductor, prepared the choir to add a number of new pieces to their repertoire including *Mansions of the Lord*, *Let it Be*, *Yesterday* and *When I'm 64*. This was as well as preparing for the major concerts in celebration of St David's Day and St George's Day.

March soon arrived and it was our annual visit to a rather wet and muddy Cradley, Herefordshire for the St David's Day concert. However the weather and road conditions did not dampen the spirits with a large choir producing another wonderful rendering of Welsh pieces all in the Welsh national language. Joined again by Shelley Fairplay on the harp this was a truly enjoyable occasion

Not to be outdone we had a double celebration of St George's Day with two concerts. The actual day fell on a Wednesday so we joined others and participated in the Concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham on the Saturday prior to the actual day and had our own concert in

Worcester on the Saturday following. At Symphony Hall we joined a star studded cast including the Birmingham Gospel Choir, Spal Automotive Sovereign Brass, Quill, a number of soloists, school children and the male voice choirs which included Birmingham Icknield, The Gentleman Songsters, Solihull and Newport Salop and District. We were proud to provide over 30% of the total choristers present and even more delighted that our very talented Sheila Leatherland was the guest accompanist for the male voice choirs and soloists. Sheila displayed all her talents including keeping calm when others around her were a little forgetful, not the choristers I might add. This performance by Sheila at such a venue was great recognition for a very dedicated and much appreciated person.

We then followed up with the concert in Worcester at one of our favourite venues: St Martin's Church. A capacity audience heard the choir sing a range of pieces including the new additions to our repertoire mentioned earlier. By the time we got to the third verse of *When I'm 64* it had become 94 which may or may not more closely reflect the age profile of the choir! Never mind the age, the singing was great. We were joined for the evening by the Holborne Brass Ensemble whose unique music was really enjoyed by all. On their admission some of their pieces had tenuous links to St George's Day as such but all of the aspects of the evening complemented each other to provide a wonderful balanced evening of entertainment and celebration. For the first time we had a series of readings read by choristers and Friends of the Choir to reflect our English heritage. These included Chesterton's *The Englishman* and *Henry V's Speech before Agincourt* by Shakespeare. The concert finished with the traditional flag waving and audience participation raising the roof with *I Vow to Thee My Country* and *Jerusalem*. Nicolas Wright MD had once more devised and implemented an evening to remember even giving way to allow Henry Sandon - Antiques Roadshow expert on Worcester Porcelain - to conduct the choir as it sang *When the Saints*.

In between the national celebrations a group of some 30 choristers sang at a Saturday morning coffee concert at St Martin's Church and in front of a record attendance for this innovative monthly event. As a result of the concert £300 was donated to Worcester Snoezelen

which provides a sensory environment for anyone, of any age who has learning difficulties.

This busy period also included a concert in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support where we helped raised over £1000. At that concert we took the opportunity to record the singing for our next CD and to put some pieces on You Tube, Facebook and our website. The social media is beginning to be so much more important in terms of engaging with our existing and new supporters.

During April the choir had its Annual Awards Lunch held at the Bank House Hotel, Spa & Golf Club in Bransford. Over 100 people attended and long service awards were presented to a number of choristers including John Hadley 15 years and Graham Blackett 20 years. Inevitably on such an occasion the choristers sang four pieces which the Hotel recorded and put on their own Facebook page. As well as long service awards, Geoff Ruddock, Chairman of the choir presented a cheque for over £3000 to the Mayor of Worcester for her three designated charities. This, together with another cheque for over £1000, for the Malvern Community Hospital were the proceeds from our Christmas concert.



We now begin our preparation for the summer events, top priority being the 5 day tour to Vernon in France. Our MD has already warned us to dust down our copies of the music for *Cantique de Jean Racine* and no doubt he will want us to show our multi lingual talents not just English and French! More details about the French trip next time. Au revoir.

Terry Dillingham
Public Relations Officer

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir Northern Ireland

At the recent Annual General Meeting of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir, Musical Director Robert Wilson MBE paid tribute to the efforts, energy and enthusiasm of the members of the choir.

He said, 'This past season has been the busiest and most momentous in the history of this choir. The choir has performed on almost fifty occasions. In Krakow alone we gave seven performances in four days, and on occasions the choir was giving three local performances in one week, an incredible feat.'

Without mentioning each and every engagement, the following is a summary of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir's amazing year.

The choir led the praise at nine church services across the province including the 175th Anniversary of Ballygrainey Presbyterian Church and the bicentenary of Donaghadee Methodist Church.

The choir performed at eighteen concerts including a Family Fun Day in Newtownards organised by Ards Borough council; The Commemoration of the sinking of the Princess Victoria off the coast of Donaghadee in 1953; the 400th Anniversary of the awarding of the charter to the Borough of Newtownards; and fund raising concerts for local Rotary Clubs.

There were two appearances at Ravenhill Stadium, home of Ulster rugby, prior to Ulster rugby matches. The first appearance was a very emotional occasion to pay tribute to Nevin Spence an up-and-coming young rugby star who, along with his brother and father, was killed in a farm accident at their home. The second appearance was the launch of the choir's YouTube recording of *Stand Up For The Ulstermen*, with all proceeds going to the Irish Rugby Football Union's Charitable Trust to aid injured rugby players in Ireland. This recording made No 1 in the Irish Download Chart and No 23 in the UK Vocal Chart.

The choir appeared twice in the famous Ulster Hall, Belfast with prestigious visiting choirs. The first appearance was with

the famous Fron MVC, Wales, who were touring Ireland, and the packed venue enjoyed a wonderful evening of male voice singing culminating in a stupendous joint rendition of the wonderful *Gwahoddiad*. This brought the house down. Our second appearance a few months later saw Greeley Chorale from Colorado, USA as our guests in a concert entitled 'This Land Is Your Land'. They were also on a tour of Ireland and after a most varied concert featuring songs from USA and Ireland, both choirs concluded the magnificent concert appropriately with a joint singing of *This Land Is Your Land*. At the end of the concert the Chorale received a standing ovation from the appreciative audience and Dr Galen Darrough MD of



the Chorale told the audience that they were overwhelmed by the warmth of the reception they received in Northern Ireland. The proceeds from both concerts went to Age NI.

There were two industry awards functions where the choir entertained the guests from across Northern Ireland and UK, an appearance on John Anderson's Radio Ulster 'Sing In' and a video recording of 'Danny Boy' for the Irish Tourist Board's promotion entitled 'The Gathering'.

The choir made three appearances in Parliament Buildings, Stormont, the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The first was a concert to mark the 80th Anniversary of the opening of Stormont, the home of the Northern Ireland Government. This was followed a request by the Speaker of the House, William Hay MLA, for the choir to perform at the Annual St Patrick's Day celebration in the Great Hall. Finally, through the auspices of the First Minister, Peter Robinson MLA, Donaghadee Male

Voice Choir hosted the Glasgow Phoenix Choir for a joint concert in the magnificent and impressive building.

Glasgow Phoenix Choir was touring Ireland last season and Donaghadee Male Voice Choir welcomed it back to Ulster. There were two joint concerts, one in Parliament Buildings, Stormont and one in Streatan Presbyterian Church, Newtownards. All proceeds from the two concerts went to the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, and our Musical Director and Chairman were invited to the House of Lords to present a significant cheque to Baroness May Blood, Chairperson of NICIE. This was the third occasion when the two choirs have shared the platform,

once before when Glasgow Phoenix was in Northern Ireland and again when DMVC travelled to Glasgow to sing in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall as part of the Glasgow Phoenix Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations.

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir returned to Krakow, Poland, having been there the previous year, to participate in the Annual Krakow International Choral

festival, where it finished runners-up in the Male Voice Competition and achieved a 3rd place in the Pop, Folk and Gospel Competition. This was a very creditable achievement when competing against choirs from Russia, Poland, Latvia, Sweden, Norway and even Singapore. In addition, the choir gave superb performances at five magnificent venues across Krakow, each to standing ovations both on and off the platforms, including a gala concert in Krakow Philharmonic Hall. A wonderful memory was entertaining passengers and crew at 35,000 feet on EasyJet back to Belfast from Krakow.

All the members of the choir were honoured and privileged to lead the praise at a service to mark the Official Opening and Dedication at the Former American Forces Military Cemetery at Lisnabreeny, Castlereagh, just outside Belfast, in the presence of the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Peter Robinson MLA; the acting American Consul General Gabrielle

Mosley; Air Vice Marshall David Niven CB, CBE; Lt Colonel Travis Phillips, Army Attaché, United States Embassy London; the Lord Lieutenant of Co Down and Representatives of the British Military, Royal British Legion and local politicians and councillors. A specially commissioned monument was dedicated to the 148 American Servicemen and Servicewomen who died in Northern Ireland from 1943 to 1948. At the end of the service there was a flypast by the only remaining operational B17 bomber 'Sally B', which had flown over from London for the occasion.

The men from the 'Dee travelled to Navan, Co Louth, to compete in the 34th Navan Choral Festival against choirs from across Ireland. In an already incredibly packed and successful year the choir came home with a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd place. In winning the Male Voice Section the choir sang *The Priests' Chorus* from *Die Zauberflote*, in German, and Matyas Seiber's *Marching Song*.

The choir was invited to sing on the Grand Staircase of the Titanic Exhibition. This was a special privilege as the staircase area of

the Titanic Experience is not open to the public and is only used for special events.

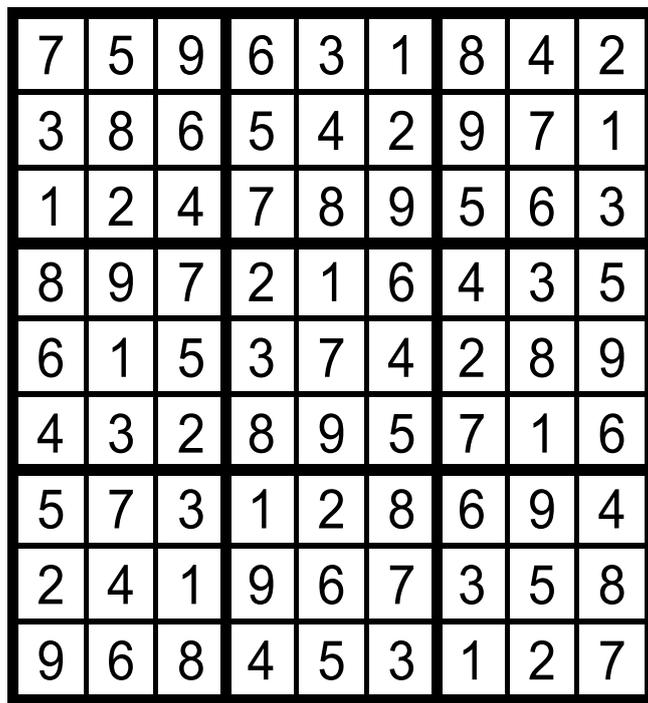
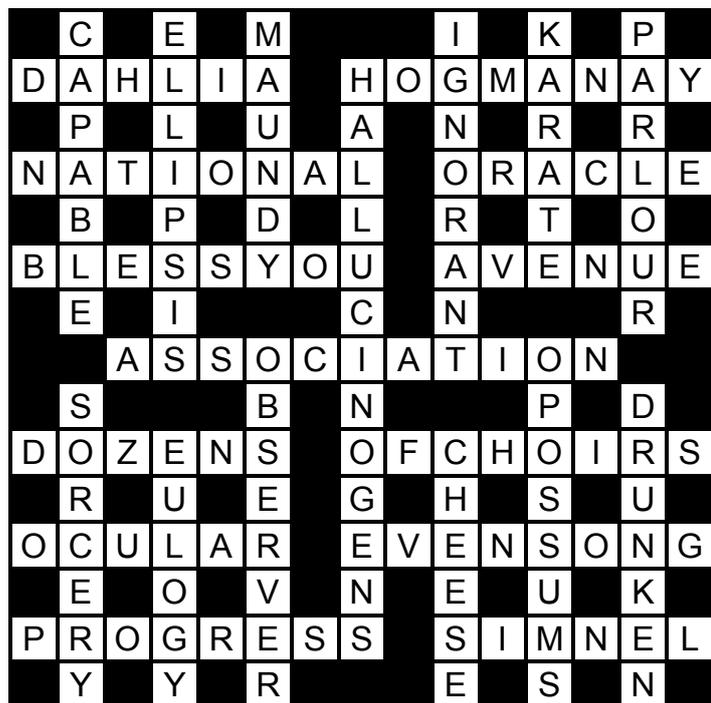
We performed at a 'Big Brew Up' in Comber, Co Down. This event is a part of a fund-raising mission held across the UK by The Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Association, with all proceeds going to Combat Stress. Combat Stress is the UK's leading charity which specialises in the treatment and support of British Armed Forces veterans. The Comber event was organised by Rosemary Day, mother of corporal Channing Day, who was killed in action in Afghanistan last October. After the performance our President, Lady Hermon, presented Rosie Day with a cheque on behalf of the choir.

The choir held a charity ballot and a fundraising evening in aid of Donaghadee Rotary Club and once again President Lady Hermon presented a cheque to the Local Rotary Club President for the purchase of two Shelter Boxes for the world's disaster zones. Over the year the choir raised and donated almost £20,000 to various charities.

In April Donaghadee Male Voice Choir travelled to Whitby to compete in the Eskdale Festival of the Arts. I am pleased to report that the choir won the Sacred Music Competition and were runners-up in the Male Voice Section. As I write, we head to Navan in Co Louth to compete in the Navan Choral Festival and then we head for Barcelona to participate in the Cantate Choral Festival.

As you can see it has been a remarkable year and one which meant being a member of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir was never dull, boring or repetitive. The choir, through the amazing energy, enthusiasm and leadership of its Musical Director Robert Wilson MBE; he has been conducting the choir for 46+ years this could be a record; never stands still and always looks to new horizons and challenges. As Robert stated, last year was 'an incredible feat'.

Michael Pritchard
Publicity Officer



For some reason the musical world holds the viola in rather low esteem. Here are a few viola jokes.

What's the difference between a viola and an onion?

No one cries when you cut up a viola.



How do you stop someone stealing your violin?

Keep it in a viola case.



What do a viola and a lawsuit have in common?

Everyone is relieved when the case is closed.



New Member's Directory

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

- ALDFORD SINGERS** WalesN/ChesW Mixed voices 60 choristers
Ann Yates 1 New Cottages, Beachin Lane, Coddington, Chester CH3 6LY
01289 782775
- BARLOW SINGERS** MidsE Mixed voices 55 choristers
Karen Cook 56 Firthwood Road, Dronfield, Derbyshire S18 3BX
01246 412890 karen@barlowsingers.com www.barlowsingers.com
- BICESTER CHORAL & OPERATIC SOCIETY** SW Mixed voices 60 choristers
Mrs Caroline Graham 101 Kestrel Way, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6XZ
01869 357969
- CANORYON LOWEN** Cornwall Mixed voices 28 choristers
Nick Hart West Northwood Farm, St Neot, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 6QN
01579 320683 nickandjennyhart@hotmail.co.uk
- CANTANTI** SW Mixed voices 34 choristers
Lisa Williams 3 Richards Close, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wilts SN4 7LE
01793 854071 lisawilliamsmusic@gmail.com www.cantanti.org.uk
- EDEN SINGERS, THE** LancsN Mixed voices 42 choristers
Adrian Yapp 11 Stambourne Drive, Astley Bridge, Bolton BL1 9UC
01204 305034 a.yapp@sky.com
- ELIZABETHAN SINGERS, THE** Lincs Mixed Voices 24 choristers
Mr Andrew Willoughby 41 Tothby Lane, Alford Lincs LN13 0AW
01507 462437 willoughbyama@hotmail.com
- FERRY BLEND** ScotE Mixed voices 50 choristers
Janice Robertson 126 Echline Drive, South Queensferry, West Lothian EH30 9XG
0131 331 3372 bjrobertson@talktalk.net www.ferryblendchoir.yolasite.com
- GOSPEL TOUCH CHOIR** ThamesN Mixed voices
Samuel Odebanjo 3 Leeward House, 174 Watkinson Road, London N7 8ES
07956 608391 samuiwg@gmail.com www.gt.gospelchoir.com
- GOT 2 SING – Shrewsbury** MidsN Mixed voices 50 choristers
Jane Dunn 61 Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcester DY12 2HA
01299 401749 office@got2sing.co.uk www.got2sing.co.uk
- GOT 2 SING – Telford** MidsN Mixed voices 50 choristers
Jane Dunn 61 Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcester DY12 2HA
01299 401749 office@got2sing.co.uk www.got2sing.co.uk
- IMERY'S SINGERS** Cornwall Ladies 33 choristers
Jenny Skipp Burjulia, St Georges Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 7YH
01726 821476 skipp.j@gmail.com
- ROOTS COMMUNITY CHOIR** MidsE Mixed voices 25 choristers
Mrs Sue Kendrick Bushwell House, 7 Melbourne Road, Newbold, Leicester LE67 8JH
01530 224254 sue@folkonthefarm.co.uk
<http://folkonthefarm.co.uk/community-choir/>
- LEEK CHORAL SOCIETY** MidsN Mixed voices 50 choristers
Celia Wooliscroft Moorview, Alma Street, Leek, Staffs ST13 8EH
01538 387186 michael.segaud@live.co.uk
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Yvonne Odell 74 Belmont Road, Tutbury, Staffs DE13 9NL
localvocalschoir@yodell.net www.local-vocals.co.uk
- MELTON MOWBRAY CHORAL SOCIETY** MidsE Mixed voices 50 choristers
Mr James Gutteridge 19 Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicester LE13 0NP
07832 974668 mailto:James_Gutteridge@yahoo.co.uk
- MEVAGISSEY LADIES CHOIR** Cornwall 37 choristers
Mrs L Pye 50 Perhaver Park, Gorran Haven, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6NZ
01726 842337 lindapye@sky.com
- MOUNTAIN HARMONY LADIES CHORUS** WalesN/ChesW 44 choristers
Mrs Heather Allsopp 4 Fford Hengoed, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1QD
01352 753312 allsopp.heather@gmail.com www.mountainharmony.net
- NOTEABILITY** Cornwall Mixed voices 60 choristers
David Howatt 10 Crinnis Wood Avenue, Carlyon Bay, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 8QD
01726 817321 david_howatt@yahoo.co.uk www.note-ability.weebly.com
- PADDOCK SINGERS, THE** ThamesS Ladies 55 choristers
Fiona Monson 18 Francombe Close, Wivelsfield Green, Haywards Heath RH17 7RA
07786 252145 fiona.monson@asrmda.co.uk www.thepaddocksingings.co.uk
- PARKSIDE SINGERS** ThamesN Mixed voices 35 choristers
Claire Jones 3 Ossory Place, Ampthill, Bedford MK45 2NZ
01525 753110 ken-clairejones@ntlworld.com
- PERTH CHORAL SOCIETY** ScotE Mixed voices 100 choristers
Fiona Connah Burnbank Cottage, Den Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6PY
01738 624855 fionaconnah@hotmail.com www.perthchoral.co.uk
- PHOENIX MVC** Anglia 25 choristers
Mr Alana Gidney 10 Rocelin Close, Norwich NR3 4DQ
01603 408393 alanandjune.gidney@talktalk.net www.phoenixmalevoicechoir
- QUAY HARMONY** DEVON Ladies voices 16 choristers
Janet Pettit 2 Sellick Avenue, Brixham, Devon TQ5 9PN
01803 851991 janetpettit19@btinternet.com
- REJOICE** Devon Mixed voices
Veronica Layne 4 Cecil Avenue, Paignton, Devon TQ3 1LW
01803 552134 singerslayne@yahoo.co.uk www.facebook.rejoice-achristianchoir
- SONGBIRDS LADIES CHOIR** MidsE 50 choristers
Mrs Gill Keenan Highgate House, 161 Cross Street, Market Harborough Leicester LE16 9ES
01858 461569 harboroughsongbirds@hotmail.co.uk
- SONGCYCLE** ThamesN Male voices 4 choristers
Richard Baker 17 Western Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SU
01277 201672 richard@songcycle.co.uk www.songcycle.co.uk
- STOCKPORT MVC** NW 19 choristers
Mr Colin Hughes 39 Langdale Road, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 1DL
0161 439 7331 stockportmvc@gmail.com www.stockportmvc.org.uk
- VILLAGE HARMONY** YorksS Mixed voices 15 choristers
Ginny Massey 32 Park Lane, Retford, Nottingham DN22 6TY
01777 706046 ginnymassey@hotmail.com
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY MVC** ThamesN 35 choristers
Alan Cain 4 Watermill Lane, Bengoe, Hertford SG14 3LB
01992 589355 publicity@www.wgcmalevoicechoir.org.uk
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How I like to receive articles for News & Views.

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

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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

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

HOUSE STYLE

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

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

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

Attach them to an email.

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

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PLEASE DO WRITE IN

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