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News & Views



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The National Publication for all Choristers

Spring 2011

No 194



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In this issue...

- 4 Crawford's Corner
Some stuff from him and some answers
- 5 Chairman's Chat
A message from Celia Johns
- 6 Hartlepool Ladies
Hitting the high notes

Charvil Girls & Charvil Voices
Travelling to Llandudno
- 7 Midlands West Group
Concert at the Prince of Wales
- 8 Music & Festivals
Eric reviews and brings festival news
10 Top Reasons for being an Alto
- 9 Isle of Man Festival of Choirs
First festival a triumph
- 10 North Wales Choral Festival
This year's results
- 12 Choir Festival, Rhyl 1998
An odd ode on a festival day out
- 13 Children's International Voices of Enfield
Meeting the Princess Royal
- 14 Musical Wordfit
Try your hand with our special puzzle
- 16 Annual Conference Weekend
Come with us to Shrewsbury
- 17 Conference Timetable
Look what's happening!
- 18 Conference Booking Form
Get your booking in quickly
- 20 Simpleton's Guide Part 2
This month it's the altos

Penn Singers
A new Musical Director
- 21 Dursley MVC
Across the sea to Ireland

Hull Ladies Choir
75th Anniversary year
- 22 Paul Gailiunas
Our third Officer profile

Crawford's G & S Cwiz
From which operetta do these songs come?
- 23 Ladybrook Singers
Singing for 82 years
- 24 Eastwood Collieries' MVC
New Accompanist

Sounds Sensational
Nottingham Concert a great success
- 26 Letter from NAC in Oz
Peter Marshall's report from down under
- 27 Churchdown MVC
3 Christmas concerts
- 28 Hull Male Voice Choir
A century not out
- 30 Low Fell Singers
70th Anniversary this year
- 31 Swansea Excelsior Ladies Choir
70 years strong

Worcester Male Voice Choir
Singing in Betwys Y Coed
- 32 Caerwys Male Voice Choir
Newest choir in Wales?
- 33 Honley Male Voice Choir
A rose by another name

Huddersfield U3A
Going from strength to strength

- 34 Charity begins...
Advice of registered charity status
- 35 Dalston Male Voice Choir
English choir that performs the Haka



Last date for submissions for Issue 195 Summer 2011 - 30 April

Advertising Index

4 Alan Simmons Music	11 Conwy Council	10 John Trent Wallace	15 Mapac
30 BaBa Productions	26 Duncan James	6 Lintons	32 One Stage
27 Barbershop	34 Grove Music	23 Lyn Oakes	20 Slaters Menswear
19 Coomber	29 Hull MVC	25 Majestic	12 Stage Innovations
			2 The Insurance Partnership

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Crawford's Corner

Well here we are in 2011 with lots to do and never enough time to do it. By the time you read this the Yearbook will be somewhere on the horizon so look out for it. Conference is up ahead so make sure you've got your booking sorted. Didn't know about it? Don't be ridiculous read pages 16-18 and get your finger out! I'm in the middle of rereading Ellis Peter's Brother Cadfael stories at the moment so I'll be all ready for Shrewsbury Abbey, the Castle, the Gaye and the river Severn curving round the town.

There seems to be quite a bit about festivals lying around in this issue. As I had some spare space (that's your fault) I have included an ode I wrote some time ago about one of my choirs' day out in Rhyl. If you don't like it send me an email and complain. If you want to keep my stuff out send your stuff in.

There is a different puzzle in this issue. I made it up myself and I tested it out to make sure it can be done. It can but it gets a bit tricky in a couple of places where two words could fit in the same spot so you have to think about it a bit. I bet some of you are thinking that you daren't fill in the puzzle because someone else will want to read the magazine and you don't want to spoil it for them. No problem! There will be a copy of News & Views in the members' section on the website. You can download the pdf file to your computer. Just print out that page and get going. If you can't get into the member's section then contact James Ferrabee and he'll send you your own username and password. If all that is

just too much then why not send me an email and I'll let you have a copy of the page.

Does anyone fancy sending in some sort of puzzle for the summer issue? Just be sure it's not someone else's copyright puzzle. Can you create crossword puzzles? I'm not sure I have time. I'm also on the lookout for jokes, stories, and quotations funny or profound.

Is there anything that you would like to see in News & Views? We'll do our best to provide anything reasonable.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and that this year is a great for you and your choir.

Crawford

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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Chairman's Chat



As I am writing this in January, it seems appropriate to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

I am not sure that there will be room in the magazine this time for all that I would like to tell you, so some of my ramblings will merely be suggestions for you to look at articles of particular interest!

The first thing which springs to my attention is a description of the first Isle of Man Choral Festival, which took place last October. NAC member choirs took the top spots in all three classes! Coincidentally the General Secretary and I visited the Isle of Man the week after the Festival, and the feedback we received from the people on the Island about the choirs and the fantastic weekend they had was really superb. We met Geoff Corkish MHK while we were there, and he was extremely pleased with the attendance by NAC choirs – largely down to the publicity work he and a colleague did at our Conference last year.

Talking of Conference reminds me to remind you about booking early for this year's event – to be held in Shrewsbury from 8-10 April. Full details and a booking form are on pages 16 and 17, and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. And a teaser for you – at the Conference this year we will be able to give you most of the forthcoming details about the 2012 Conference in Cumbria. We have never done that before, but your Officers are now working three and four years ahead and it is appropriate to let you know the goodies we have lined up for you already.

Choirs have been on their travels again, I see. The Irish Sea evidently beckoned. Not only the Isle of Man, but also Killarney, Blarney Castle, and other delights of Southern Ireland, courtesy of Dursley MVC. It is great to hear about successful choir tours; apart from anything else it encourages other choirs to take the plunge and go exploring. The Ladybrook Singers, you will see, are off to Bruges shortly, and the Charvil Girls' Choir is attending the North Wales Choral Festival in Llandudno. I hope they all really enjoy themselves. Worcester MVC has a Choir Tour Manager – now there's a thing you don't often find in choir committees.

It has come to the Officers' attention lately that some member choirs are having problems with their insurance. Worse – some member choirs do not have any insurance. We would like to point out that the approved insurer for the NAC is The Insurance Partnership (see their advertisement on the inside front cover). Any queries about choir insurance should be directed to Richard Bradley in the first instance, as he is our recognised contact with TIP.

I am pleased to see that we again have a puzzle for you – a Musical Wordfit on page 33. If you like the puzzles that our Publications Manager is finding, please do let us know. Even better, if you can provide some more for publication! Feedback is important to the Officers – it helps us to give you what you want from your Association, so do feel free to get in touch with any one of us.

My good wishes to you all – happy singing, and I hope to see a goodly number of you in Shrewsbury at the Conference weekend.

Celia Johns

From the President



The bad weather over the Christmas and New Year had brought problems for getting to practices and to concerts. Thankfully we can now get back to our future activities

I am fortunate to have met some of the founder members of our organisation namely Mr and Mrs Smith at some of the early meetings in the 1950s.

They had sought to improve conditions and adjudications at Music Festivals as the main aims of the Association. Reports on the meetings were produced by Stan Warwick, typed on foolscap and then posted to the member Choirs.

Consider how we have progressed over the ensuing years with the excellent standards we now come to expect with the News and Views magazines.

Conferences in those early years were only over a Saturday afternoon with a concert by one of the Choirs in the evening.

Committee meetings were conducted at local pubs and houses. I remember

my first was at a Doncaster hotel with Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and a few members of Choirs representatives.

Our first weekend Conference was at Skegness in 1988, with a concert by local choirs to follow.

It is good to see how more professional we have become and I must take this opportunity to give praise to the Officers for keeping up good standards over recent years and improving all the time.

Gresley MVC are currently finalising their French Tour to Pithiviers with plans to sing in Chartres and two other Cathedrals. The tour will be over 12 to 18 September and a total of 100 members, wives and friends will form the party.

I wish you a successful year of singing and of course meeting you all at Conference.

Eric Jackson

The following programme notes are from an unidentified piano recital.

Tonight's page turner, Ruth Spelke, studied under Ivan Schmetnick at the Boris Nitsky School of Page Turning in Philadelphia. She has been turning pages here and abroad for many years for some of the world's leading pianists.

In 1988, Ms Spelke won the Wilson Page Turning Scholarship, which sent her to Israel to study page turning from left to right. She is winner of the 1984 Rimsky Korsakov Flight of the Bumblebee Prestissimo Medal, having turned 47 pages in an unprecedented 32 seconds. She was also a 1983 silver medalist at the Klutz Musical Page Pickup Competition: contestants retrieve and rearrange a musical score dropped from a Yamaha. Ms Spelke excelled in 'grace, swiftness, and especially poise.'

For techniques, Ms Spelke performs both the finger-licking and the bent-page corner methods. She works from a standard left bench position, and is the originator of the dipped-elbow page snatch, a style used to avoid obscuring the pianist's view of the music. She is page turner in residence in Fairfield Iowa, where she occupies the coveted Alfred Hitchcock Chair at the Fairfield Page Turning Institute.

Ms Spelke is married, and has a nice house on a lake.

Hartlepool Ladies Choir North East

Hartlepool Ladies Choir have been hitting the high notes now for 8 years and are going from strength to strength with an increasing membership and the 2011 diary filling up nicely.

Many of you will be aware of the very successful Hartlepool Male Voice Choir, and it was the wives of some of the members of that choir who were responsible for the formation of the Ladies Choir, under the direction of John Holmes. However, due to increasing health problems John had to retire from his position and the task of Musical Director was taken over by the excellent David Gibson who also directs the Male Voice Choir.



We have been very fortunate recently, and are deeply grateful in having been awarded a generous cheque by The Tees Valley Community Foundation to assist in the development of our group and to cover the costs of setting up a web page.

Eileen McConnell

Charvil Girls' Choir and Charvil Voices Thames South

We are really looking forward to getting involved in activities in the region. Charvil is a small village between Reading and Maidenhead. Both choirs are directed by Suzanne Newman and accompanied by Mary Daniels. The choirs sing a wide variety of music - popular, classical, folk songs and spirituals.

Charvil Girls' Choir is travelling to Llandudno shortly for the North Wales Choral Festival. This is the first time that the choir has taken part in this festival and the girls are really looking forward to singing at Venue Cymru in the Youth Choir class with other choirs from England, Wales and Ireland. We will be singing *You Raise Me Up*, *The Sky Is Crying On The Sea* and *Lollipop*. In December the girls will be singing at a concert to raise funds for Children In Need and Children's Cancers at Christmastime. Plans for 2011 include

participation in the Music for Youth regional festivals, Cheltenham Festival, a joint concert with Charvil Voices and Tapestry, hosting a young choir from Colorado and the International Choir Festival of Jersey.

Charvil Voices has enjoyed a quiet time learning lots of new songs ready for a concert on 13 December at St Mary's Church, Twyford where we will be joined by the Twyford Handbell Ringers. In the New Year, the 25-strong ladies choir will be working towards the joint concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts, Maidenhead on 27 March. In the summer term, the choir is looking forward to taking

part in the Thames South Choral Concert in Worthing followed by their own summer concert.



Suzanne Newman

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Midlands West Group. The Prince of Wales Theatre, Fundraising Concert

The Midlands West Group held a very successful Group fundraising concert on 18 September 2010 at The Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock.



We were very fortunate to have as our honoured guests and to enjoy the support of the Chairman of Cannock District Council, Councillor Gordon and Mrs Audrey Alcott; representing The National Association Of Choirs, the General Secretary, Lord James Ferrabee KtGC, OBE, and his partner; the Mayor of Walsall, Gary and Mrs Yvonne Clarke; the Mayor of Sandwell, Mrs Pauline Hinton with consort Councillor David Hinton; Councillor Derek Davis OBE with his wife Councillor Muriel Davis.

Providing the entertainment were Cannock Ex-serviceman's Club Male Voice Choir, Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir, St Cecilia Singers a mixed choir, with Diana Gunn singing two exquisite solos and the children from Heath Hayes Five Ways Primary School Choir and last but not least, the wonderful voices and songs performed by our guest artistes 'Eternity', Nicky Moran and Cliff Thomas, a vocal duo.

The concert was steered along by compere Mike Smith who had obviously done his homework on the music chosen, working in some wonderful links. All choirs sang Speed Your Journey, in the finale. Following the thanks given by The Chairman of Cannock Chase District, Council Gordon Alcott the concert ended with a rousing rendition of Land of Hope and Glory by choirs and audience alike, to complete a most enjoyable evening of choral music.

Dorothy Bates
Chairman

Send
Crawford
your Group News

A soprano died and went to Heaven. St Peter stopped her at the gate asking, 'Well, how many false notes did you sing in your life?'

The soprano answers, 'Three.'

'Three times, fellows!' says Peter, and along comes an angel and sticks the soprano three times with a needle.

'Ow! What was that for?' asks the soprano.

Peter explains, 'Here in heaven, we stick you once for each false note you've sung down on Earth.'

'Oh,' says the soprano, and is just about to step through the gates when she suddenly hears a horrible screaming from behind a door. 'Oh my goodness, what is that?' asks the soprano, horrified.

'Oh,' says Peter, 'that's a tenor we got some time back. He's just about to start his third week in the sewing machine.'

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Richard Bradley
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Music



I hope you all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year.

By the time you read this article it will be time for thinking of music for next Christmas so I have included some new numbers for your consideration.

Royal School of Church Music (RSCM)

Nowell! Nowell!!! for upper voices by Malcolm Archer. This is a collection of ten carols drawing mainly on medieval texts. Well suited for youth church or worth consideration by ladies choirs.

musicdirect@rscm.com

0845 021 7726

Faber

A Garland of Carols by Anthony Bolton for upper voices and harp. Arrangements of traditional titles and some new titles - Eleven carols.

Enchanted Carols SSA and organ/piano by Howard Goodall. Seventeen arrangements of traditional Christmas material.

Mirabile Dictu SATB from the 'Manchester Carols' by Carol Ann Duffy and Sasha Johnson Manning.

From the 'Choir Rocks' series arr Ben Parry *You Got the Love* SA Florence + the Machine.

If I Ain't Got You SA Alicia Keys.

Empire State of Mind SA Alicia Keys. She's

Always a Woman SA Billy Joel/Fyfe Dangerfield.

sales@fabermusic.com

Goodmusic Publishing

Requiem For An Angel SATB Soprano and Baritone Soloists by Paul Carr, first performed 2006, dedicated to Gavin Carr and the Athenaeum Singers of Warminster.

www.goodmusicpublishing.co.uk

01684 773883

Boosey & Hawkes

Joy to the World SATB or SSA Karl Jenkins. Nine traditional carols arranged with various orchestral combinations.

Stella Natalis SATB or SSA Karl Jenkins, an interesting collection of twelve pieces suitable for Christmas and other festivals.

www.boosey.com

Alfred Choral

I have received the latest CDs of their catalogue. Too many titles to mention individually.

www.alfred.com

Curiad

I have received all the latest scores from Curiad and these along with all the music featured throughout the year will be available for your perusal at conference.

www.curiad.co.uk

My thanks to all the publishers who have submitted scores and material for review.

Festivals

Isle of Man Festival of Choirs 2011

Following the triumphant success of the inaugural Isle of Man Festival of Choirs, organisers have announced the dates for the 2011 Festival.

The 2011 Festival which is being staged a month earlier - from 23 to 25 September - in the Royal Hall of the Villa Marina in Douglas. Director Geoff Corkish, a member of the Manx Parliament, said they had taken the decision to proceed with a second event as a result of the positive feedback, via email and letters, from participants and felt the festival had certainly made its mark in the choral world.

Information about how to enter the festival can be obtained from Laura Quinn on 01624 698372 or laura.quinn@gov.im

www.visitisleofman.com

(I attended the festival with my wife's choir, Marsh Ladies. We had a wonderful time) Eric C. Music & Festivals Officer.

2nd INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL
WARSAW, POLAND
26-29 MAY 2011

5th INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL
LLORET DE MAR (CATALONIA), SPAIN
16-19 JUNE 2011

11th ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SONGS FESTIVAL
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
1-4 DECEMBER 2011

Further information about these non-competitive musical events

www.mwsfestivals.com

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john@mcgrory1950.fsnet.co.uk

0113 283 2960

A word about festivals to their organisers. Details need be sent a year in advance with details of closing dates for entries. This will enable me to give advanced notice to choirs and encourage them to enter.

Details of most festivals are available on the British and International Federation of Music Festivals web site. www.festivals.demon.co.uk

PRS and Copyright

I have over the last year been able to answer many questions regarding PRS and Copyright. One of the most important is an exemption. Pieces to be learnt may be recorded on an instrument for purpose of learning new music. These may be sent to the private email addresses of choir members. Only short excerpts must be sent and the original copy of music must have been purchased for each recipient. This does not require a PRS licence.

Eric Cooper

Top Ten Reasons for Being an Alto

1. You get really good at singing E flat.
2. You get to sing the same note for 12 consecutive measures.
3. You don't really need to warm up to sing 12 consecutive bars of E flat.
4. If the choir really sucks, it's unlikely the altos will be blamed.
5. You have lots of time to chat during soprano solos.
6. You get to pretend that you are better than the sopranos, because everybody knows that women only sing soprano so they don't have to learn to read music.
7. You can sometimes find part time work singing tenor.
8. Altos get all the great intervals.
9. When the sopranos are holding some outrageously high note at the end of an anthem, the altos always get the last words.
10. When the altos miss a note, nobody gets hurt.

First-ever Isle of Man Festival of Choirs – a Triumph!

All three section winners are members of the NAC

Choir of the Festival & Mixed Voice Choirs-Keighley Vocal Union-Yorkshire North
Ladies Voice Choirs-The Swift Singers-Thames North
Male Voice Choirs-Portadown MVC-Northern Ireland



of the Isle of Man and its people and was sure everyone would look back on the weekend as a time when they made new friends through music.

Presenting the awards, Moira Anderson paid tribute to Geoff Corkish MBE, MHK, member for Tourism, for not only conceiving the Festival idea but having the organisational flair to convert his dream into reality.

Keighley Vocal Union from Yorkshire became the first holders of the title 'Choir of the Festival' when they won the inaugural event in the Villa Marina on Sunday afternoon.

Choir conductor Frank Smith received the Festival Trophy, and a cheque for £1,500, from Festival Patron Moira Anderson. Keighley Vocal Union was selected for the final by adjudicator Alwyn Humphreys after winning the mixed choir section the previous day. Other finalists were the Swift Singers from Essex, who won the ladies' voice section, and Portadown Male Voice Choir from Northern Ireland. Each group received a cheque for £500 as class winners.

Another big winner was the event itself. Conductor of the Keighley choir, Mr Smith, said afterwards that he had enjoyed the Festival which had been a great occasion. He added: 'It was a really tough decision for the organisers to launch something like this and I am really pleased for them that it has gone so well.'



The adjudicator, Mr. Humphreys, told the audience in the Royal Hall that he had enjoyed the Festival immensely. He said he would leave with very happy memories

In turn, Mr Corkish thanked his team for their hard work and organisation and also the choirs for their support. Said Mr Corkish, 'We flung our bread upon the waters many months ago in the hope that choirs around the British Isles would join with us in the passion and enthusiasm we have in the Isle of Man for making music. Thank you for returning that passion and enthusiasm.'

The aims of this Festival are to celebrate friendship, harmony, and the love of music Alwyn Humphreys

He went on to thank Alwyn Humphreys and Moira Anderson for their involvement in what he hoped would be a festival which would grow and grow. He said it was right that it should be centred on the Isle of Man where they enjoyed singing so much.

Earlier, announcing the winners at the conclusion of the classes on Saturday afternoon, Mr Humphreys described it as a really fantastic afternoon of music making. He said he looked on it as a great honour to be asked to adjudicate at the first ever Festival of Choirs.

He added: 'We have heard so many different sounds, a variety of music from different cultures and periods of history – all in a wonderful spirit. The aims of this Festival are to celebrate friendship, harmony, and the love of music and that is exactly what we have had.'

Top local performance of the weekend came from Musicale (conductor Mrs Judy Cross) who picked up a cheque for £200, and a trophy, after coming second in the mixed voice choirs. They finished only three marks behind the section winner, Keighley Vocal Union, who was to go on to claim the Choir of the Festival Trophy.

Results of the different classes:

Ladies Voice Choirs: 1. The Swift Singers from Essex 255; 2. Abbey Belles Chorus (Yorkshire) 253; Manx Voices 252, Marsh Ladies Choir (West Yorkshire) 248, Glenfaba Ladies Choir 245, Lon Vane Ladies Choir 235.

Male Voice Choirs: 1. Portadown Male Voice Choir (Northern Ireland) 262; 2. Tideswell Male Voice Choir (Derbyshire) 259; Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir 251.

Mixed Voice Choirs: 1. Keighley Vocal Union (Yorkshire) 265; 2. Musicale (Isle of Man) 262; Glenfaba Chorale 254, Poringland Singers (Norwich) 249, Kerry Choral Union (Ireland) 242.

The Festival brought to the Island over 500 choristers and supporters. The organisers, Isle of Man Tourism, said that plans were already in hand for the 2011 event which is scheduled for 23-25 September. Many choirs said they would be returning. In addition, a number of representatives of off-island choirs attended the event to assess it with a view to bringing their choirs to future festivals.

After the welcome reception for the choirs on Friday night there was a pleasant surprise for pub-goers when some of the singers visited Douglas hostelrys to give impromptu performances.



North Wales Choral Festival

The 2010 North Wales Choral Festival saw its most successful year yet with 27 choirs flocking through the doors of Venue Cymru on Saturday 6th November. With a full programme starting with the Youth Section at 10am and closing with the largest Male Voice Choir Section to date at 5pm, the event has grown considerably since its birth in 1987.

It goes without saying that the scale of the event therefore gave the judges a difficult task.

The results were as follows:

Youth Section:

- 1st - Côr Ieuenctid Môn
- 2nd - Loreto Secondary School Choir
- 3rd - Bradford Girls Choir

Mixed Section:

- 1st - Choros Amici
- 2nd - Cantorion Rhos
- 3rd - Côr Rhuthun

Barbershop Section:

- 1st - Affinity
- 2nd - Anvil Chorus
- 3rd - Mountain Harmony

Ladies Section:

- 1st - The Park Singers
- 2nd - Tonyrefail Ladies Choir
- 3rd - Cantabile Vocal Ensemble

Male Voice Section:

- 1st - Amici Men
- 2nd - Flint MVC
- 3rd - Bolsterstone MVC

The overall festival winner this year was Choros Amici.

The festival, which is organised by Conwy County Borough Council, is open to all abilities and attracts choirs from all over the UK and Ireland. 2010 also saw the first entry from an International choir for a number of years, with Askersunds Manskor, a male voice choir from Sweden taking part.

Due to the festival's ongoing success, organisers are looking to expand in 2011, with competitions likely to take place over 2 days and an open category also being introduced. Another change will see a Saturday evening concert, with a soon to be confirmed, exciting artist, set to wow the crowds,

We look forward to welcoming you to North Wales from 5-6 November, 2011.

For more information about the festival, please visit:

www.northwaleschoralfestival.co.uk

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North Wales Choral Festival

5-6 November 2011
Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Saturday 5th November *
10am - Mixed
12pm - Barbershop
2pm - Ladies
4pm - Male Voice

Sunday 6th November *
11am - Youth
2pm - Open

* - All timings are provisional

8pm - Special Guest Concert (Artist to be confirmed)

For more information please call: 01492 575943/8
or e-mail: northwaleschoralfestival@conwy.gov.uk

www.northwaleschoralfestival.co.uk

Total prize
money of
£4,500

The National Male Voice Choir Festival, Rhyl 1998

There seem to be a number of choir festivals mentioned in this issue and it brought to mind the last time that the Orpheus Male Voice Choir, Grimsby & Cleethorpes, entered in the lists to tilt for a title. It was a very long day with a four hour bus journey and much waiting about. I spent some of that time playing with rhymes and putting together this little ode. I thought you might enjoy reading it, or even saying it. (it goes quite well in a Welsh accent)

Male Voice Choir Champions at Rhyl.

Twas a Saturday morn in October.
Out at Healing the air was so still
As we boarded the bus. We were going
To be Male Voice Choir Champions at Rhyl.

The coach it was filled with excitement.
We were keen but we'd four hours to fill.
So we slept or we read or we chatted
About being choir champions at Rhyl.

We got into Rhyl about lunchtime.
We'd about thirty minutes to kill
Before we rehearsed at the Town Hall
To prepare to be champions at Rhyl.

We all sang quite well at rehearsal.
Then Richard said, 'All of you will
Fasten your jackets, you too Bob,
We're going to be champions at Rhyl.'

And so we turned up at the theatre.
They walked us down dale and up hill
To a room half the size of a crisp bag
For the Male Voice Choir champions at Rhyl.

Ken said, 'Get into line for performance,
Basses left Tenors right fits the bill.'
But the stewards said, 'T'other way round
boyo
To be choir champions at Rhyl.'

We jostled about for a minute.
We might have been jostling still,
But we sorted it out like professionals.
Like Male Voice Choir champions at Rhyl.

We got on the stage in good order.
The lights, the applause, what a thrill.
This was what we had come for.
To be choir champions at Rhyl.

I stood up and made the announcement
With a voice of singing was first on the bill.
Audrey played, Richard whispered, 'Now smile
boys'
It's time to be champions at Rhyl.

We sang all five songs in succession
And then we stood awkward and still.
Which way to get off, no one told us.
That's no way to treat champions at Rhyl.

After that we sat and we waited.
By now that was run of the mill.
We sipped beer and nibbled on nibbles
Soon to be champions at Rhyl.

We listened to some of the choirs.
They were mostly long-winded and shrill.
They didn't sound quite, entertaining
Not like choir champions at Rhyl.

At last came the glorious moment
The place had now started to fill
With choirs and all their supporters.
All hopeful champions at Rhyl.

A man said that for Entertainment,
The Orpheus was second to nil
And he gave us a rose bowl to prove it.
How's that for champions at Rhyl?

Then they said who were third and who
second
Oh no! Oh how bitter the pill.
It wasn't our choir in first place.
We weren't choir champions at Rhyl.

We then had to have a rehearsal.
Boy that guy put us through the mill,
Singing songs that we'd never heard of
For some Gala concert at Rhyl.

We eventually got out of the theatre
And a chance for our stomachs to fill
But we had to eat quick and get back there
For that Gala concert at Rhyl.

Now I'm near the end of the saga
All this talking is making me ill.
We didn't get home till the morning
From singing like champions at Rhyl.

So we didn't win none of the money
Our coffers we just couldn't fill.
But we'd stood in our Paprika jackets
And looked like choir champions at Rhyl.

Crawford

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">CAR BOOT</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">PLATFORMS & PODIUM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">CATWALK</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">SUITCASE</p>	

Children's International Voices of Enfield.

Thames North

We have just concluded a hugely successful tour of South Wales, giving three prestigious concerts, including one with the Aberavon Male Voice Choir.



The Choristers went to many beautiful places in the Vale of Glamorgan, the Gower Coast, and the Valleys from Cardiff to Blaenavon, where we all had an amazing experience of going down to the Big Pit coal mine which was three hundred feet below ground. Some fifty-two choristers and parents went down Big Pit in small groups, and were amazed at the incredibly difficult times the children from as young as five had to endure when the coal mines were first set up. Every group was directed by an experienced miner who had worked in that pit. We also visited the National Folk Museum of Wales, St Fagans, near Cardiff. It was a gloriously sunny day and we were able to visit the many Welsh traditional buildings which had been re-built in the four hundred acre park.

On our return we drove to St Paul's Cathedral, where we had been specially invited to be the solo choir for the ninetieth anniversary of the Save the Children Fund, and amazingly, arriving at exactly the time expected, 1.30. We rehearsed in the Cathedral while hundreds of tourists were visiting there. Later in the day we were the guest soloists. The Cathedral was full to capacity; some two thousand were in the congregation. We sang two beautiful pieces by the eminent composer, John Rutter, which had been specially requested by the Cathedral.



We then went to the crypt for a reception of very special guests. The names of the five choristers selected to be presented to her Royal Highness Princess Anne are (from the smallest chorister to the tallest): Amy Bastani, Tom Chappell, Yelena Neal, Giulia Laudano and Edmund Jeffery. We were really thrilled that the Deputy Director of Education for Enfield, Ms Jenny Tosh, was present.

We had a most fantastic day, following our residency in the Urdd Centre for young people in the Millennium Centre Cardiff.

There are many more photographs of the Cathedral, the Clergy, the two thousand plus congregation, us singing, and the presentation and reception in the crypt, with her Royal Highness Princess Anne.

This is the website for the photos:

www.johnsandersphotography.com/clients.html.

You will be asked to enter a client log in lower case: stpauls

To view photos from the reception in the Crypt where Princess Anne and I were with some five choristers, please enter the client log in: cryptreception

Dr June Keyte

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

As reported in the last issue, the German tour in September, which was expected to be rather hectic, turned out to be even more so. After an uneventful flight from Edinburgh to Frankfurt Hahn, the coach journey to our destination in Enger turned out to be a nightmare due to traffic chaos on the German motorways. Our German driver decided to take another route and got lost. As a result the choir spent over 7 hours on the road arriving at our concert venue 10 minutes after the concert was due to begin. Our hosts the Widukind Chor filled in for half an hour until our members got into concert dress. With no preparation or sound checks the Phoenix plunged right into a performance of Faure's Requiem – at 11pm. That the Choir managed to perform to the high standard it did was down to the dedication of Conductor – Marilyn Smith, Depute Conductor – Cameron Murdoch, and the members.

The year 2010 ended in absolute turmoil due to the atrocious weather experienced in December with the Choir's annual

Christmas Concert in St Michael's Church, Linlithgow being cancelled by Rotary, the organisers. Two rehearsals prior to our Christmas Concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall were also cancelled, and one of our guest groups at that concert – Inverclyde School's Choir - also being pulled out by the Education Authority on safety grounds. The concert went ahead in spite of these difficulties with our other guests – The Co-operative Funeralcare Band (current Scottish Brass Band champions) attending. The programme had to be altered considerably with the Choir adding items from our normal repertoire. Most of the parents of the School's choir weren't able to be there, but nevertheless the Concert Hall was almost filled to capacity – a very pleasing result despite the problems. The Band performed a most stirring programme of music which had the audience roaring their approval.

The year ended with another annual event – our concert in Moncrieff Parish Church, East Kilbride – always a favourite of choir and audience alike, and although a sell-out, the audience was reduced a little due to the weather.

The New Year heralded in the beginning of the Phoenix's Diamond Jubilee year with various events planned throughout. It also marks the 110th anniversary of the foundation of our predecessors – The Glasgow Orpheus Choir. Among the concerts in the planning are a spring concert in St Michael's Church, Linlithgow; Barrhead; Dunoon; Dumfries; St Andrews Cathedral, Glasgow; Lamlash in Arran; Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh; and a tour to Oban, Mull and Iona in late May. The season will end with concerts in Cumnock; Eastwood Theatre, Giffnock; and St Peter's Church, Glasgow.

The Choir's Spring Concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall will have as guest the Donaghadee Male Voice Choir which also is our guest at Moncrieff Parish Church in East Kilbride. They were invited after a successful collaboration in Belfast last May.

The Choir's Diamond Jubilee Concert takes place in September in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall with many of the Choirs associated with the Phoenix taking part in what promises to be a major event in the city; more about that later.

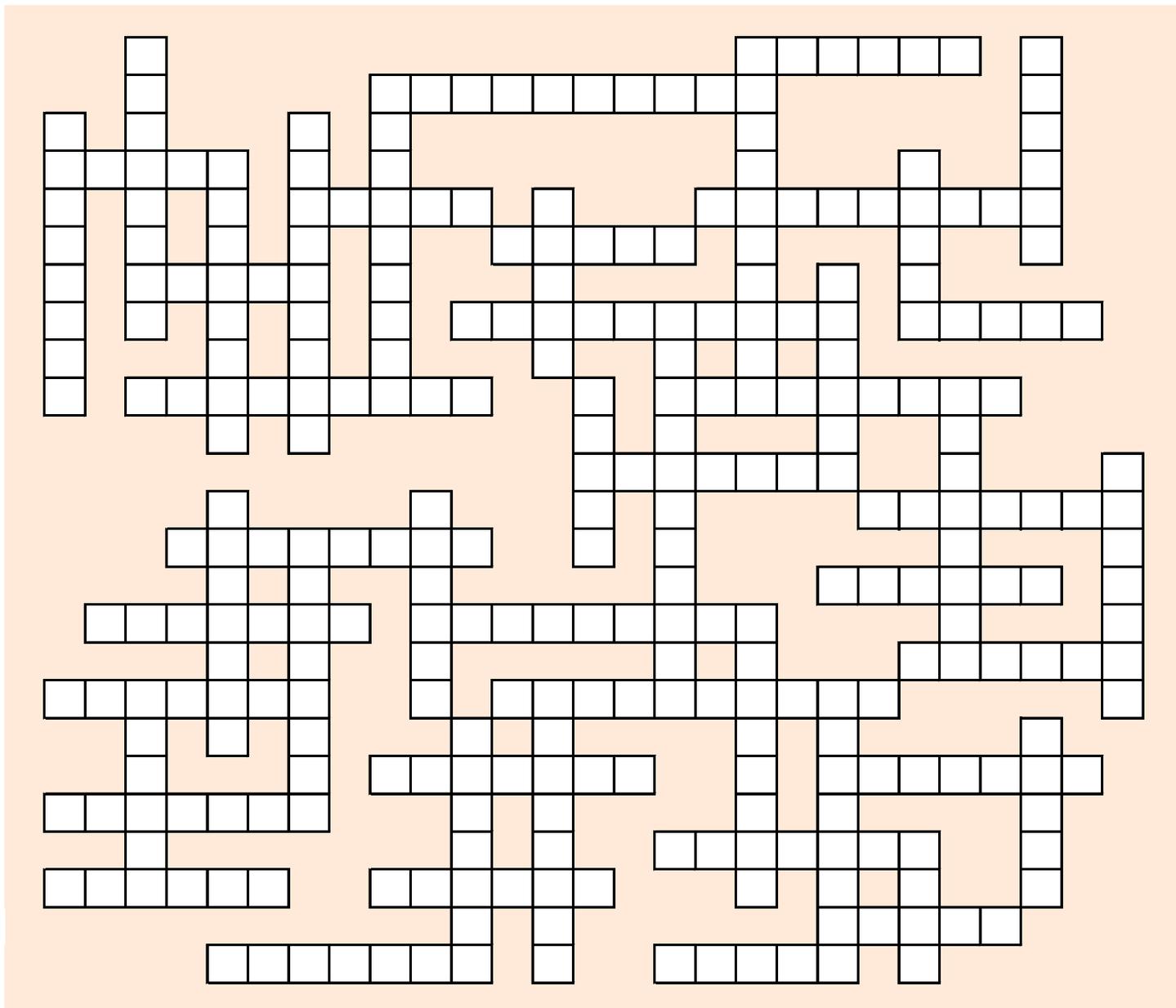
Visit the Choir's website

www.phoenixchoir.org

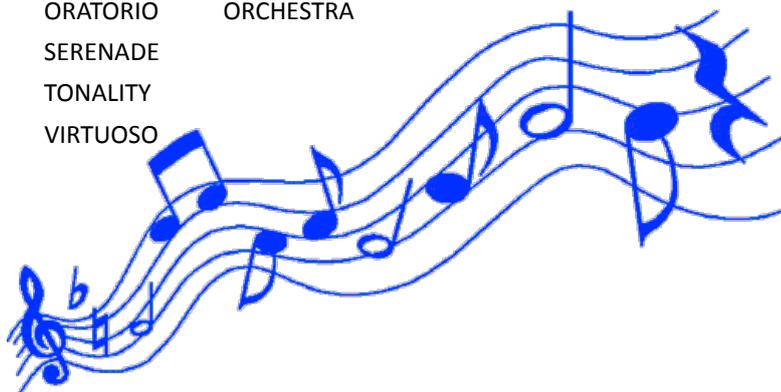
*J Lawson Purdie
Hon. Vice-President*

MUSICAL WORDFIT PUZZLE

Try fitting all the words below into their correct places in the grid. For the most part it is straightforward but there are a couple of places where you will have to think a bit. (I had to and I made it)



- | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|------|-------|--------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| TONE | CAROL | ADAGIO | ALLEGRO | CAVATINA | CANTABILE | DISSONANCE | ACCELERANDO |
| | GRAVE | FINALE | GAVOTTE | ENSEMBLE | CLASSICAL | INTERMEZZO | |
| | MAJOR | LEGATO | MAESTRO | INTERVAL | GLISSANDO | MODULATION | |
| | MARCH | MINUET | PARTIAL | LIBRETTO | IMPROMPTU | RECITATIVE | |
| | MINOR | OCTAVE | PARTITA | NOCTURNE | INTERLUDE | | |
| | NONET | PARODY | QUARTET | ORATORIO | ORCHESTRA | | |
| | OCTET | QUAVER | QUINTET | SERENADE | | | |
| | OPERA | SEPTET | REFRAIN | TONALITY | | | |
| | ROUND | SONATA | REPRISE | VIRTUOSO | | | |
| | SCALE | | REQUIEM | | | | |
| | STAFF | | SCHERZO | | | | |
| | | | VIBRATO | | | | |



84th Annual General Meeting 24th Annual Conference Weekend 8th - 10th April 2011

Set amidst glorious countryside near to the Welsh Borders, Shrewsbury is one of England's finest medieval market towns boasting over 600 listed buildings including the Castle, now a regimental museum, and the world-famous Shrewsbury Abbey, home of Ellis Peters' fictional Brother Cadfael. Charles Darwin was born and educated in Shrewsbury and all around you will find reminders of his association with the town.

The River Severn forms a loop around the town centre offering gentle riverside walks. Here is your opportunity to experience an eventful piece of history, enjoy good food, entertainment and some exciting retail therapy with shopping in Shrewsbury by attending the NAC Conference.

The Albrighton Hall Hotel is a luxurious 4 Star Hotel situated 2 miles outside Shrewsbury Town Centre. The hotel itself is an 18th century manor house with a lake and 15 acres of grounds. The hotel has modern rooms, each with internet access and satellite TV. The Oak Room Restaurant has elegant lunch and dinner menus, and the Terrace Bar is the place to relax. The spa has an indoor heated pool, and facilities for our conference are first class with a series of 9 meeting rooms easily accommodating the NAC Conference.

A full and packed conference awaits consisting of Trade Stand Exhibitors offering products and services from the choral world, seminars and workshops each offering a different topic and theme.

As well as our main workshop contributors to be found below there will be a series of other seminars and workshops covering Practical Singing, Developing Music from the Inside, Developing the Ensemble.

As well as all this there is also the massed concert on the Saturday night, for which resident delegates receive guaranteed concert tickets, hosted by the Midlands North NAC Group especially for the National Conference weekend where some of the area's finest choirs will come together and entertain and enthral you all. Tickets for this concert went on sale in January 2011 to the general public.

All in all I think you will agree that the National Conference Weekend is going to be a fun packed busy weekend, a chance to meet new faces, catch up with old friends, sing and learn and hopefully take back the wisdom and expertise given to you throughout the weekend's seminars and workshops. The National Conference weekend is sure to appeal to everyone; places are strictly limited and well worth an early reply to ensure your booking is in time.

Every member is invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting** and give your views and direction to the Officer Team, after all it's your Association and your input and feedback is vital to the continuing success and future of the NAC.

Make a note of the date in your diaries and please do get your booking forms back in good time to ensure your place at the Conference.

Extraordinary General Meeting

Change of Rules
&
Constitution

Albrighton Hall Hotel

Drawing Room

18 April 2011

4.30pm



Douglas Coombes will Headline this year's conference seminars and workshops.

Douglas was Assistant Music Adviser to Norfolk LEA for 5 years. He has worked at the BBC, working on education programmes such as 'Singing Together' and 'Time and Tune'. Writing scripts and arranging for many of the country's leading musicians.

He was the founder of the Amici Singers. His wife, Carole Lindsay-Douglas, was one of our contributors last year.



Dr Liz Garnett will address our delegates taking two individual seminars. Liz studied music at the Universities of Bristol (BA Hons, 1st class) and Southampton (PhD, 1995).

She then taught at Colchester Institute's School of Music and Performance Arts for four years, before moving to Birmingham Conservatoire, where she was Head of Postgraduate Studies until 2009.

Find her on
<http://www.helpingyouharmonise.com>



Gwyn Arch studied English at Cambridge University where he played for both the Cambridge and Oxford University jazz bands. He began his teaching career as Head of English in a large secondary school, whilst studying composition in his spare time at Trinity College London. Gwyn has produced a large number of musical pieces arranged for the male voice choir.

They can be found at
www.malechoirmusic.co.uk



National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

24th Annual Conference Weekend Albrighton Hall Hotel Shrewsbury Final Conference timetable

Friday 8 April

1400	onwards Delegates arrive and register	Hotel Foyer
1500	National Officers' Meeting	Drawing Room
1630	Extraordinary General Meeting - CHANGE OF NAC RULES & CONSTITUTION	Drawing Room
1700	Annual General Meeting	Drawing Room
1930	Delegates and guests assemble for dinner	Terrace Bar
1930	Pre- dinner entertainment - Shrewsbury Music Department Youth Orchestra	Terrace Bar
1930	Reception – NAC Officers & their Guests	Lakeside Suite
2000	Dinner is served	Lakeside Suite
2130	After dinner entertainment – Quindici	Lakeside Suite
2230	Keyboard available for guests own entertainment	Lakeside Suite
0030	Bar closes	

Saturday 9 April

0700	Breakfast	Restaurant
0700	Access for Trade Stand holders to install	Restaurant
0900	Trade Stands (Music, travel, staging, recording and more!)	Lakeside Suite
0930	Seminar One – Gwyn Arch – Arranging Music	Lakeside Suite
1030	Tea/Coffee & cookies (included in price)	Lakeside Suite
1100	Seminar Two – Douglas Coombes	Lakeside Suite
1200	Sandwich lunch (included in price for resident delegates)	Oak Room & Restaurant
1300	Seminar Three – Douglas Coombes	Lakeside Suite
1430	Tea/Coffee & cakes (included in price)	Lakeside Suite
1500	Seminar Four – Dr. Liz Garnett – Developing the Ensemble	Lakeside Suite
1600	Last visits to Trade stands	Lakeside Suite
1700	Hot & cold buffet (included in price for resident delegates)	Albrighton Suite
1830	Concertgoers depart under their own steam	
1930	Midlands North Group Massed Concert	Alington Hall School
2300	Return from concert– Afterglow, sandwiches (included for residents)	Terrace Bar
2300	Keyboard available for guests own entertainment	Terrace Bar

Sunday 10 April

0730	Breakfast	Restaurant
	(for those wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at reception)	Lakeside Suite
0900	Trade Stands available	Lakeside Suite
0930	Seminar Five – Dr. Liz Garnett – Music from the Inside	Lakeside Suite
1030	Tea/Coffee & cookies (included in price)	Lakeside Suite
1100	Seminar Six – Richard Bradley – Practical Singing	Lakeside Suite
1145	Members Open Forum	Lakeside Suite
1300	Conference closed - 'Lunch available at guests' own cost	Restaurant
1300	Officers' Debrief Meeting – (guillotined after one hour)	Drawing Room



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National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

2011 National Conference – Booking Form

Albrighton Hall Hotel, Ellesmere Road, Albrighton, Shrewsbury, SY4 3AG.

8 ~ 10 April 2011

Please complete in **BLOCK LETTERS** and return to the address below:

Title: First Name: Surname:

Special requirements? (Dietary, Medical, Mobility etc):

NAC Group Name: Choir Name:

Your full address for correspondence:

.....

..... Post Code:

Telephone No.: Email:

Full Name of other delegates included in this booking:

(continue on reverse if necessary)

2011 Conference Costs

!! Midlands North NAC Group hosts the Saturday night concert !!

!! This event is open to all including non NAC Members who wish to attend on payment of the appropriate charges !!

* Saturday day delegates should use this form to book their attendance,

** Friday and / or Saturday dinner should be booked using this form

Resident Delegates Only:

Room Requirements:- Tariff Fri & Sat includes >>	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type. Single delegates please be aware that a £44.50 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room. Alternatively try to twin wherever possible.	Double	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £200	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £200	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £99	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
	Twin	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £200	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £200	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £99	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
	Single	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £147	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £147	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £99	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

Day Delegates / Non Residents:

**Dinner for non-resident delegates including wine with your meal only >>>>>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £35	<input type="checkbox"/> @ N/A	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
*Saturday non-resident delegates conference fee includes lunch and refreshments – (no concert ticket included)	<input type="checkbox"/> @ £48		= £ <input type="text"/> .00

Total Payment Submitted (Resident Delegates £100 per person non-refundable deposit) (Day Delegates / Non Residents Full Payment is Required with this Booking Form)	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
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Balance of Payment Due (by 9 March 2011) PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN FULL SEND WITH YOUR CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO THE – 'National Association of Choirs'	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
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For the attention of: - James Ferrabee – Conference Co - ordinator, 35 Hawton Crescent, Wollaton Park, Nottingham, NG8 1BZ

Tel: 0115 9788847 Email: conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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A Simpleton's Guide to the Four Part Choir.

Part two of our 'tongue in cheek' look at a mixed part choir.

The Altos

They are the salt of the earth - in their opinion, at least. Altos are unassuming people, who would wear jeans to concerts if they were allowed to. They are in a unique position in the chorus in that they are unable to complain about having to sing either very high or very low, and they know that all the other sections think their parts are pitifully easy. But the altos know otherwise.

They know that while the sopranos are screeching away on a high A, they are being forced to sing elaborate passages full of sharps and flats and tricks of rhythm, and nobody is noticing because the sopranos are singing too loud (and the basses are, too). Altos get a deep, secret pleasure out of conspiring together to tune the sopranos flat.

Altos have an innate distrust of tenors, because the tenors sing in almost the same range and think they sound better. They like the basses, and enjoy singing duets with

them - the basses just sound like a rumble anyway, and it's the only time the altos can really be heard. Altos' other complaint is that there are always too many of them and so they never get to sing really loud.

Penn Singers Midlands South West

Penn Singers are proud and delighted to announce the appointment of their new Musical Director, Helen Smith.



Having grown up in Preston, Helen studied music at the University of Birmingham where she began conducting, working as musical director for choirs, orchestras and musical theatre productions. After graduating, Helen moved into the classroom, and for six years was part of a thriving music department, teaching 11 to 18 year olds and running extra-curricular ensembles. In 2007 she completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Choral Conducting at Birmingham Conservatoire, studying with Paul Spicer. As part of her recent ABCD Conducting Apprenticeship, she worked with David Lawrence and the City of Birmingham Young Voices, and participated in a workshop with David Hill and the BBC Singers. Currently,

she works for Birmingham Music Service as a vocal skills teacher in primary and secondary schools throughout the area, and conducts choirs and wind bands. Helen is also a member of the CBSO Chorus and with them has performed throughout Britain and Europe, and has sung for conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Charles Mackerras, James Macmillan and Andris Nelsons. She is also musical director of Alcester Singers, and is a member of the Association of British Choral Directors.

We are looking forward to performing an exciting and innovative repertoire with Helen to further enhance our established reputation as an experienced and versatile choir. We would love to welcome new members to our choir, especially MEN, to provide deeper resonance and balance to our numbers.

We rehearse on Monday evenings, 7.30-9.30 pm, at Penn United Reformed Church, Wolverhampton. If anyone is interested in joining us at this new and exciting time, please contact Anita Morris 01902 897545 or anitam29@aol.com.

Elaine Gill

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Dursley Male Voice Choir South West

Tours are an important and enjoyable aspect of choir life and the most recent visit to Ireland in September was no exception. A party of over 100, including wives and partners, made the journey, some travelling by sea via Fishguard whilst others flew. Following an overnight stop in Waterford the choir moved on to make Killarney its base.



The first concert was held at the Tinteén Theatre in Ballybunnion. Hosted by Listowel Rugby Club, the venue was a superb modern 600 seat theatre. The income from the tickets, costing €35 each, raised over €15,000 for local causes. The concert was very well attended as the choir performed, with Kevin Robbins (cornet) and pianist Colm 'Stride' O'Brien as guest soloists. Colm, a brilliant exponent of Scott Joplin and Ragtime, is well known throughout Ireland and wider afield for his radio and TV work, as well as public performances.

Everybody should look forward to hearing Colm when he performs as the guest soloist at our Annual Concert next year. He said he had enjoyed the concert so much and asked if he could come to Dursley to perform with the choir again. The tourists were given a superb welcome, a standing ovation at the end of the concert and 'bottomless' hospitality and kindness.

After a very late night return to the hotel, the following day saw the performance of the second concert in St Mary's Church, Killarney, this time organised by the town rugby club in support of the South West Counselling Centre. Another packed church and another standing ovation – and a late night of warm friendship and hospitality.

The pace did not falter because the next commitment was in Listowel the following day. The Choir contributed to a mass at

the local Catholic church and the pattern of standing ovations continued. The choir moved on to sing in the grounds of Listowel Castle and there then followed a presentation to the Sexton family by Dick Spring the former Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland and former rugby International. The family is renowned in the area, having for generations given huge support and commitment to the club. The award was accepted by Jonathan, the current Irish international outside half. A Hog Roast was organised to follow the presentations. Later the tour party were introduced to the delights of an Irish Theatre Pub in the town with entertainment provided. This included music, poetry and story-telling. The occasion was a delight to all and it must be admitted that some stout did pass our lips.

Throughout the tour, time was found to explore various tourist attractions. A visit was made to Blarney Castle and 'the stone'. It was said that some of the party didn't need any of the benefits offered by the stone! The Ring of Kerry was completed in weather that dramatically improved as the day progressed. Visits were also made to the Jameson Experience in Midleton and the Waterford Glass Factory.

The abiding memory for all who participated in the tour was the kindness, generosity and welcome afforded us all throughout the visit. Yes, we supported deserving causes, we ate well and many drank the local ale in moderation – but this, together with the hospitality and friendship of the hosts, is what a choir tour is about. The only question left to answer is 'Where next and when?' (Go to our website www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk for more information and photos.)

The rest of the year proved to be quite trying! Firstly our MD, Barrie Cooper, was away ill for more than two months. Brian Parslow, the Deputy, covered admirably and concert commitments were fulfilled in Gloucester and Berkeley Castle with no practices lost. However when Barrie returned, Brian became unwell and he has had to have time off from duties. The end of year Christmas concerts were viewed with great anticipation. Both evenings were sold out but sadly the weather intervened and the second concert had to be cancelled at short notice because of road conditions in the area; a big disappointment to all concerned.

We look forward to fewer problems in the New Year as we prepare for competition in Cornwall.

Huw Jenkins

Hull Ladies Choir Yorkshire East

Since our 'change of direction' five years ago, from a Festival Choir to a more light-hearted and modern approach to our singing which was featured in the magazine some time ago, our choir has gone from strength to strength.

We now have over 50 members and our Musical Director, Pamela Runcieman, continues to inspire us all with her professionalism and enthusiasm. 2010 has seen us helping to raise much-needed funds for local charities and organisations, entertaining at private functions and singing at 8 weddings.

2011 sees the choir celebrating its 75th anniversary, for which we already have several special events lined up. Plans are being considered for a massed-choir event in Hull Truck Theatre in January. In April we join with the Hull Male Voice Choir, who will be celebrating their 100th year, in concert in Hull's Holy Trinity Church, with Civic Dignitaries in attendance.



On the 23rd July we will be singing in the beautiful church of St Andrews in Aysgarth, in the Yorkshire Dales, and in December, to round off a memorable year, we will be guests of the Hull Choral Union at their annual Carol Concert in the Hull City Hall. It's been my great pleasure to be involved with the choir as its Publicity and Events Organiser and I would like to thank everyone at Hull Ladies Choir for their support over the last five years.

*Val Dawson
Publicity & Events Organiser*

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

Paul Gailunas NAC Treasurer



Paul Gailunas is a relatively new member to the NAC Executive Committee but holds a key position of the treasurer. After being co-opted as an officer and observing the workings of the NAC Paul readily

agreed to become the treasurer when Celia Johns relinquished the position to become the Chairman.

Paul was born in 1952 in Stargate which is a mining village about seven miles west of Newcastle. He attended St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas Primary School and then progressed to St Joseph's Grammar school at Hebburn. Paul took Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at 'A' level and then studied Natural Sciences at Churchill College Cambridge.

After graduation Paul did a year's voluntary work in Bedfordshire and then he began his teaching career at Brownrigg School, Bellingham, Northumberland where he taught mathematics. Brownrigg School was a county run mixed boarding school for pupils aged 11 to 16 years. From there Paul moved to Gosforth High, Newcastle where he taught Chemistry from 1978 until he took early retirement in 2007.

Throughout his teaching career Paul was an active member of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers and served in a variety of capacities including chairman, treasurer, negotiating secretary, and assistant secretary. He also represented the union on many committees in the city of Newcastle and helped many individual members through a range of difficulties often representing them in formal hearings. Paul was also a member of the General Council of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics for five years with specific responsibility for website development.

Paul played the clarinet while at school and then continued during his years at university and has an interest in most forms of music, but he is particularly passionate about early music. He is a member of West Gallery Music Association which focuses on church music especially in country parishes during the years 1700 to 1850.

His other interest is bookbinding which he has developed since the 1980s. Paul is active in the Society of Bookbinders and is currently part of the editorial team of its annual journal. He also undertakes commissions for book repairs and modern designed bindings. For ten years Paul has been the Chairman of the North East region of the Society of Bookbinders. He has recently been elected to the board of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Paul has an interest in links between Mathematics and Art and has attended every Bridges Conference since 2000 presenting a paper each year, and has exhibited a variety of art every year since 2007. He is currently jointly responsible for organising the workshops (mainly but not exclusively for teachers) at the conference. Paul is also a member of the editorial team of the Journal of Mathematics and the Arts.

Paul has sung with the Prudhoe Gleemen, a male voice choir and the Ryton Choral which is a mixed voice choir, since 1979 originally as a baritone but more recently as a tenor as circumstances demanded. He has been the Deputy Conductor of the Prudhoe Gleemen for the last ten years and also sings with All Saints Chamber Choir which is based in the local church in Gosforth. Paul also sings with the Fitzwilliam Singers which is a loosely organised group that sings by invitation in local churches and in Newcastle Cathedral for a week during the summer holidays. Paul also leads Joyful Noise which is a small choir that specialises in 'West Gallery' music.

Paul came to the NAC Executive via the North East Group where he has held the position of both Treasurer and Chairman and he in fact was the Chairman of the North East Group which presented the Conference concert in Newcastle in 2007.

Paul is single and continues to live in Gosforth which means that he is involved in a lot of travelling to attend NAC meetings, but he brings with him a wealth of varied experience that enables him to make a valuable contribution to the future development of the association.

Richard Bradley

Crawford's Gilbert & Sullivan Cwiz

My choir is practising a G & S medley commissioned from Alan Simmons in memory of one of our late choristers so the music was on my mind and I thought, why not pose 10 questions about these lively operettas. So here goes.

From which G & S operetta do these songs come?

1. A Wandering Minstrel I.
2. Take A Pair Of Sparkling Eyes.
3. I'm Called Little Buttercup.
4. Poor Wand'ring One.
5. When Britain Really Ruled The Waves.
6. Twenty Lovesick Maidens We.
7. When The Night Wind Howls.
8. When I, Good Friends, Was Called To The Bar.
9. Oh! My Name Is John Wellington Wells.
10. If You Give Me Your Attention.

Answers on page 30

In the next issue I think I'll try Rodgers & Hammerstein.

If you have a theme for a future cwiz why not let me know?



What will your choir be doing this year?
Why not write and tell us about what will be happening to your choir
from **August** onwards.

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Ladybrook Singers North West

The Ladybrook Singers have been an active ladies choir since it was formed over 82 years ago.



We have an average membership of around 40 ladies of various ages and from all walks of life. We sing a wide and varied repertoire of music and rehearse every Thursday evening from 7.15 - 9.45pm

The name Ladybrook is taken from the name of a stream which runs between Hazel Grove and Bramhall, in Stockport, close to where the choir is based.

Many of the ladies have been members for several years and a few of them for

over 40 years. The choir has had many successes in the past years attaining first place at several music festivals throughout the UK.

We perform in several concerts and festivals each year. Our present MD, Alison Bletcher joined us in 2009 and is proving to be an inspirational and enthusiastic leader. Alison also teaches singing, piano, recorder and brass. We are very fortunate to have Celia Maylor as our accompanist; she joined us in 2004. Ruth Teague is our deputy conductor and has been with us since 2005.

Over the years the choir has supported several charities including Macmillan Nurses, Marie Curie, Francis House Children's Hospice and Stockport Mind. The charities we are supporting this year are Beechwood Butterfly appeal and Christian Relief Uganda.

We have a busy few months ahead, as well as our planned festivals and concerts the choir is very excited and looking forward to our trip to Bruges in the spring of 2011 when we hope to perform at several venues in and around the city.

In the near future we have plans to record a CD and possibly acquire new uniforms.

If any choir is interested we have 30 used ladies uniforms of various sizes available (offers invited) Terracotta colour. Photo available on request. Enquires 07886198640

For further information about our choir please visit our website

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Pat Bertenshaw

Ladybrook Singers

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Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir Midlands East

One of the area's leading amateur male voice choirs is pleased to announce the appointment of Ian Morton to the role of Principal Accompanist.



Ian (66) from Bramcote, Nottingham is the choir's fifteenth accompanist since the choir began in 1920 and has a wealth of experience and expertise

under his belt. Ian was introduced to the piano at age 7, which led to Ian participating successfully in music festivals, and further studying to Grade 7, achieving distinction. Over the last forty years or so he has had a varied role in music, playing church organ at the age of 12, setting up annual pantomimes at age 17, taking on the role of Organist & Choirmaster during the 1970s, and prepared choirs throughout the East Midlands for performances at De Montfort Hall, Leicester, and the Royal Albert Hall in London, as well as scores of local venues!!

I'm always astounded at how wonderfully this choir can sing

William Jones, Chairman

From small beginnings back in 1920, Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir has gone on to achieve great success: in various choral competitions, appearing on both television and radio with equal acclaim; appearing both locally and nationally as well as appearing on stage at the Royal Albert Hall in London twice, and culminating last year in a fantastic sell-out concert at the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham with the award-winning, championship Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Over the years, Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir, a vibrant and dynamic team of choristers from Eastwood and the surrounding areas have often dared to go beyond the boundaries of the familiar choral world. As well as conquering many different languages and having scores of music specially arranged for the choir their eclectic programmes cover a wide genre which enables the choir to keep its music-making fresh and in demand by

audiences near and far.

Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir is celebrating its 90th anniversary year and is pleased to welcome Ian Morton to the choir.

William Jones the choir's Honorary Chairman said 'I'm always astounded at how wonderfully this choir can sing, and it feels like such a triumph to have reached 90 years of music making and song and having achieved so much - and we're still getting better. Ian's appointment to the role of Principal Accompanist will help to strengthen the choir and we are all looking forward to working together. It just goes to show what you can achieve if you are truly passionate about what you do...'

Sounds Sensational

October 30, 2010 saw Sounds Sensational return to the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham in another blaze of glory! Pride and passion played its part in this scintillating brass and voices concert which was billed as 'Sounds Sensational', and lived up to its title.

Hosted by Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir and supporting both Cancer Research UK and the Royal British Legion, this feast of music and song, with charismatic compere Dominic Heale at the helm, thrilled a packed audience. The host choir, teaming up with six others, Bestwood, Carlton, Chesterfield, Dalesmen, Melbourne, and Orpheus MVC (Grimsby and Cleethorpes), under the baton of Principal Conductor Liz Moulder, and accompanied by Ian Morton, provided sterling support to Her Majesty's Band.

The massed ranks, around 250 singers, shone with their theme from *Titanic*, raised the bar with a stirring rendition of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, hit the heights with *Nessun Dorma* and earned rapturous applause for *You Raise Me Up*. Two feature soloists from the massed choir surprised the audience with *African*



Trilogy accompanied by the massed choir and topped off the piece with authentic Zulu drums. The highlight of the choir's performance was their interpretation of *An Evening's Pastorale* dedicated to the two charities' work. Accompanied by the band this simple moving tribute had flair, depth and passion, with the choir and band wearing twinkling lights signifying the lives of all persons suffering, touched by or who had lost their lives in conflict and from cancer.

Serving up a master class in instrumental playing in a mesmerising programme was the world renowned Band of the Blues and Royals whose repertoire ranged from familiar classics, and regimental themes to stirring marches and timeless favourites. Conducted by Major Tim Cooper, the 30-strong Blues and Royals won over its audience with a stunning delivery of Strauss' *Radetsky March* and proceeded to impress with a quirky version of *Grandfather's Clock*, and a dazzling interpretation of Sousa's *Stars and Stripes* combined with band soloists who made impressive contributions.



The Sounds Sensational concert ended on a high note with a glorious flag waving finale number, Elgar's *Land of Hope and Glory*, which set the seal on a concert programme that made you proud to be British.

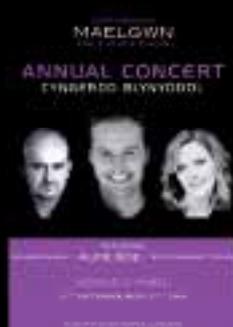
Early indications from the concert box office show that a considerable amount of money has been raised for the two charities from the concert proceeds, with a CD recording the event to be issued in the New Year and excellent feedback, plans are already underway for Sounds Sensational 3. Exactly how to top Grimethorpe Colliery Band (2008) and Her Majesty's Band of the Blues and Royals (2010) will be extremely difficult but the choir is looking forward to the challenge.

James Ferrabbee

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Letter from NAC in Oz

Summer is well and truly with us, this morning the temperature at 7.30am was 25°C and now it is nudging 30°C and humid with it. However we are getting away with it lightly while our friends in Queensland are, as they say here, doing it tough, and this is an understatement. It is difficult to imagine the devastation being caused by the horrendous floods that they are experiencing.

Jan & I spent Christmas in Brisbane and it rained every day. Our son said that it had rained every day for the month before and after we left it was still raining every day! Even when we drove back to Sydney we had to check with radio bulletins because roads and bridges were being flooded even then. At the moment over 75% of Queensland is under water, this is an area roughly equivalent to the area from the north England to the south of Italy! Now there are floods in Victoria too while in Western Australia there are bush fires. What a crazy weather!

The Sydney Male Choir is on its annual summer break and we are having a few weeks of relaxation before rehearsals



commence in early February. We now have our new Musical Director firmly in place and what a baptism of fire he has had. Our retiring MD, Alan Thrift was expected to conduct the choir for the last time at the Annual City of Sydney Concert in September but a couple of days before the event he was rushed into hospital with heart problems. This pitchforked Huston

Dunleavy, our new MD, into the limelight. Didn't he do well? It was a great concert and it was pleasing that Alan was able to hear at least part of the concert in his hospital bed via a mobile phone. Luckily Alan, now MD Emeritus, recovered well enough to be able to step in for Houston on our visit to Dubbo & Dunedoo a couple of weeks later.

So the year came to an end with our last performance being on the steps of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney with a programme of Christmas songs as part of an event featuring lightshows on several of Sydney's grand buildings. It was a spectacular evening but was brought to an early end by – guess what – the rain, of course.

All best wishes for 2011 from Down Under.

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

petefig@optusnet.com.au

I always look forward to contact from the UK.

Peter Marshall

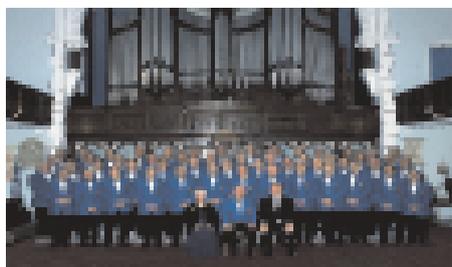
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Churchdown Male Voice Choir
South West

The three Christmas concerts given by the choir were a glorious ending to the year. Given in Churchdown Community Centre, the three sell-out concerts were the usual mixture of carols by the choir, by choir and audience, some excellent soloists and a lot of fun.



Jeff Bourton, accompanied by pianist, Pam Taverner, sang three lovely songs about Christmas in the first half, showing different aspects of the celebrations. 11 year old Josh Cottell was one of the soloists and his strong, pure voice carried well in the hall in the first verse of In the Bleak Mid-Winter. Following this he sang two pieces, a song in German and the very lively Rise up Shepherds; clearly a boy with a great future in music.

The Ladies Committee performed one of their now traditional acts: a comic poem in which all four ladies were asking for a man - of any sort. In the second half the soloists were the Musical Team. Musical Director Ralph Barnes sang *Bridge over Troubled Water* from his latest CD, 'Reflections'. Ralph explained that he had sung in a concert in support of Winston's Wish, the charity set up to help bereaved children. As a result of this he made the CD and would be giving £1 from the sale of each copy to the charity.

Ralph then introduced Mike Haines at the piano. Mike is known to most of the choir as an excellent pianist and considerable inspiration to us. It came as a most thrilling surprise to most then to hear that he was a beautiful singer, and his performance of Elton John's *This Is My Song* was electrifying.

Malcolm Webb was the soloist on the other night and his strong baritone voice in songs such as *I've Got Plenty Of Nothing* from 'Porgy and Bess' was a nice contrast with the tenors who had performed at the other concerts.

Choir Chairman, Pete Wilson, thanked everyone for such a brilliant effort, both

during the year and for the three excellent Christmas concerts. He also congratulated Ralph on his recent appointment as MD and pledged the choir's 100% support for him. On the Wednesday night he introduced the Choir President, Ian Mean, who reflected on the choir's year and who said that he saw the choir as a great family and he looked forward to the year ahead.

Barry Woods
Publicity Officer

'I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork.'

It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.'

Paul McCartney

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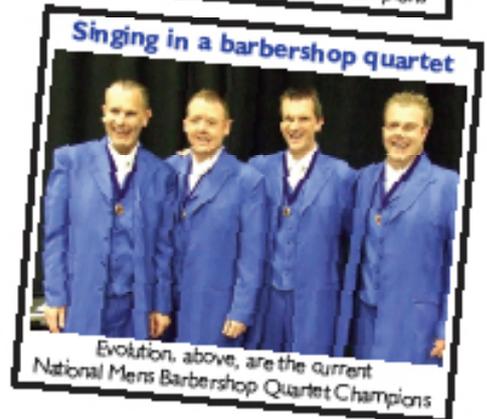
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Hull Male Voice Choir Yorkshire East

Not many Choirs can boast that they have achieved their 100th Anniversary but in 2011 the Hull Male Voice Choir will be an exception, proudly celebrating its Centenary. Established in 1911 when thirteen members of Holy Trinity Church Choir formed The Choristers' Glee Party, it later changed its name to Hull Male Voice Choir in 1922 and became a Registered Charity in 2008.

Today, Hull Male Voice Choir is a strong and vibrant choir currently comprising some 53 members, with a unique sound that provides a rich tone expertly blended together by its long established Musical Director Julian Savory B Mus, ATCL, who has been with the Choir now for more than 25 years, and accompanied by the choir's versatile pianist Dorcas Leather.

For 100 years now, Hull MVC has given immense pleasure and entertainment to the citizens of Kingston upon Hull, East Yorkshire in the UK and overseas. The late Edgar Sales took the conductor's post in 1922 having been a Holy Trinity Church choirboy from 1887 - and possibly a founder member of the Hull MVC. Between the two World Wars, the Choir gained numerous awards at festivals as well as a fine reputation in the North of England. Edgar Sales succeeded in maintaining the choir during the Second World War before retiring in 1952 and many famous artists who sang in the City of Kingston upon Hull came at the invitation of the choir.

W Salkield had been the first conductor (1912-1913) then HE Thom (1919-1921). After Edgar Sales retired in 1952 there followed Peter Goodman, Geoffrey Heald-Smith, William Branton, Geoffrey Floater (who re-joined the choir in 2009 as a chorister), Ernest Riley and currently, Julian Savory.

Apart from many visits to Holland and Germany, the choir was renowned for bringing prominent vocalists to its Hull concerts, including Kathleen Ferrier, Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth with the Stollwerkscher Männerchor of Cologne in March 1938, Gwen Catley, Robert Easton, Roy Henderson, Ada Alsop and the Nashes, father and son.

The 'Hull Times' of 19 November 1971 reports a story about 'Lord Haw-Haw', a notorious broadcaster from Germany during the Second World War, using a gramophone recoding of the Hull Male Voice Choir during his radio talks. The Choir had made a record during its week long very successful 1938 concert tour to Cologne and other venues in Germany

under the baton of the late Edgar Sales - where the choir became 'a decided rage' sending the Germans 'into raptures' the press reported - and from it Lord Haw-Haw played 'Hey, Rob, Jolly Robin'

Whilst Hull MVC has also ventured overseas in recent years - including a visit to Genep in Holland in 2000 to participate in celebrations of the town's 55th Anniversary since its liberation by British troops in the Second World War - it now mostly directs its efforts towards performing concerts, including the hosting of guest choirs, particularly in support of local charities and institutions, although a new innovation has been the choir's availability to sing at functions and weddings, having been invited to provide the music for more than one local celebrity.



Photo courtesy of Ivor Innes Ltd

In October 2010, the choir accepted an invitation to support Demelza Stafford at her charity concert in Selby Abbey where it gave an impressive performance to a capacity audience. The choir participates in approximately 10 concerts each year which all help to raise much needed funds for a wide variety of charitable causes. The most popular concert is always its 'Prelude to Christmas' event held in the impressive setting of the Banqueting Hall within Hull's Guildhall, usually filled to capacity for a feast of festive music and community carols - for many, the beginning of their Christmas celebrations! Since the advent of the series of 'Festival of Yorkshire Voices and Music'



concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall in 1987, the choir has always been represented.

To mark its Centenary, the Choir has recorded a CD released for Christmas 2010 '100 Not Out!'

Three special concerts are planned to celebrate its Centenary, all to commence at 7.30pm.

The first concert will be held in the original home of choir at Holy Trinity Church in Kingston upon Hull on Saturday 2 April when its guests will be Hull Ladies Choir.

Another concert is planned for Saturday 4 June at The Guildhall in Kingston upon Hull - when the Humberside Police Concert Band will be its Guest Artists.

The climax of Hull Male Voice Choir's celebrations will be an exciting major concert to mark its achievement of '100 years not out' when it will proudly present a concert of Yorkshire Men and Brass in 'Sounds of Celebration' at the City Hall on Saturday 22 October, featuring three of the greatest male voice choirs in East Yorkshire as the Hull Male Voice Choir is joined by Beverley Male Voice Choir and Driffield Male Voice Choir to form a Mass Male Voice Choir to be conducted by Julian Savory. For this concert the guest artists will be the world famous Brighouse and Rastrick Band who are the current holders of the National Brass Band Championship. Tickets for the concert - to be compered by Terry Wallis - will be on sale from the City Hall Box Office 01482 226655 from 1 January 2011 onwards price £20, £16 and £12 - no concessions. The concert is in aid of Help for Heroes and Dove House Hospice (both Registered Charities).

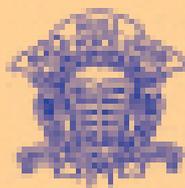
Says Hull Male Voice Choir's Public Relations Officer and Assistant Musical Director, Terry Wallis 'The Hull Male Voice Choir - 100 years not out and sadly the last male voice choir that still remains standing in Hull - is highly proud of its achievement of being able to celebrate its Centenary in 2011 and we hope that the folks of East Yorkshire and the surrounding districts as well as our fellow chorister members of the National Association of Choirs will wish to join with us to share the joy of this magnificent milestone in the history of Hull Male Voice Choir by supporting our concerts and especially the 'Sounds of Celebration' event featuring the fabulous Brighouse and Rastrick Band - the National champions of Brass - and three first class male voice choirs.'

Information regarding tickets etc can be obtained from our Hon Choir Secretary, Reuben Hird,

hullmalevoicechoir@live.com

01482656869

Terry Wallis



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CONCERT IN AID OF



Wednesday 22nd

The Low Fell Singers North East

The choir was formed in 1941 as the Low Fell Ladies Choir and changed its name to the Low Fell Singers in 2000.



Over the years, the choir has won prizes at many major music festivals throughout the country.

The highlight of the choir's year is the Annual Concert with guest artists and in the past the choir has brought many now nationally and internationally known singers to the North East. This year the choir will be celebrating its 70th anniversary with a special concert in May. A dinner is also being arranged for October to celebrate the Anniversary, to which

husbands, partners, friends and former choir members will be invited.

The choir gives concerts throughout the year for charities, choir organisations and other organisations and supports at least one local charity each year by raising money from raffles and member's donations. It has also sung at many weddings, wedding anniversary parties, a christening and a 100th birthday party.

In 2007 the choir was invited to the Mayor of Gateshead's garden party at which the Mayor presented the choir with a Community Award and every member received a medal.

In 2006 and 2009 the choir was invited to take part in the Festival of Bass and Voices in the Royal Albert Hall, London, organised by Cancer Research UK and has been invited to take part again in 2012.

In September this year the choir will be travelling to Chester to sing in concert with the City of Chester Male Voice Choir who is also celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

The longest serving member of the choir is its Musical Director, Jean Stevenson, who

joined in 1955 and has been its MD since 1986. The choir secretary, Joan Wilson, joined in 1957 and has been secretary since 1979.

In its 70 years the choir has only had two musical directors, two secretaries and four accompanists. Is this a record?

Joan Wilson

Answers to G & S Cwiz

1. The Mikado
2. The Gondoliers
3. HMS Pinafore
4. The Pirates Of Penzance
5. Iolanthe
6. Patience
7. Ruddigore
8. Trial By Jury
9. The Sorcerer
10. Princess Ida.



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Swansea Excelsior Ladies Choir Wales South

This year is the choir's 70th anniversary and in September they will be holding an anniversary dinner for past and present members. The choir was formed in 1941 from the nucleus of the old Swansea Ladies Choir which disbanded. Today the choir is a fifty strong group of like minded ladies who enjoy singing and who, by giving many concerts, support a wide variety of charities and other organisations.



The choir is proud to have one of the world's greatest lyric tenors, Stuart Burrows OBE, as their president. In 1999 the choir launched a patronage scheme and is currently supported by almost 200 patrons from all over the World, including France, Texas USA and Australia.

2004 saw the inauguration of the Swansea Excelsior Ladies Choir Student Award (SELCSA) and each year the choir awards a bursary to a student whose intention is to go on to further education to study music. The winner is also given the opportunity to perform at the choir's annual concert held in June.

The choir has performed at many venues in England and Wales, including singing before the Prince of Wales in Cardiff. As part of the Welsh Association of Ladies Choirs in 2000 they were also fortunate to sing with Bryn Terfel, Cliff Richard and Daniel O'Donnell at the BBC's Millennium Songs of Praise.

Each year, in December, the choir holds its Annual Charity Concert. Since 1990 the choir has donated some £30,000 to worthwhile local charities. It is due to the ladies of the choir, their families, friends and Patrons that they have been able to achieve so much.

www.swanseaelchoir.btck.co.uk

Fred Kelly
Choir Publicity Officer

Worcester Male Voice Choir Midlands South West

For the Bank Holiday weekend In May the Choir took a party of 75, including 40 Choristers, to North Wales.

On the evening of Saturday 1 May, we had the great privilege of singing with Trelawnyd Male Choir at the United Reform Church in Rhos-on-Sea. Trelawnyd is one of the top Welsh Male Choirs in North Wales and we have had a close association with them over a number of years through one of their choristers, Doug Jones, who spent some time with the Worcester Choir when he was working in the area. The concert was a sell out and much enjoyed by everyone and it was followed by an equally enjoyable afterglow at a local hostelry.

On Sunday morning, we sang Gounod's *Messe Breve* at Colwyn Bay Catholic Church, which was well received by the congregation. In the afternoon we sang at an informal concert at the railway station in Betwys Y Coed, of which the locals and visitors alike were very appreciative. Following a short coach trip around the Capel Curig area, we returned to our hotel, where in the evening, we held our traditional end of tour dinner, followed by entertainment from members of the choir, which as always was a 'hoot'.

Finally, on the Bank Holiday Monday, we sang to a very appreciate audience at Bodnant Gardens, which is a National Trust property and gardens in the lovely Conway Valley – a truly splendid venue to end our short tour to North Wales.

The August Bank Holiday saw another visit. The choir stayed in Burnley. A major concert was held on the Saturday evening in Skipton where we sang with Steeton Male Voice Choir. A full weekend of music was suitably concluded when we performed for the Bank Holiday visitors at the splendid National Trust property, Gawthorpe Hall, Padikam near Burnley.



In September and October the choir was engaged to sing at two weddings. Such engagements are increasing given

the demise of many church choirs. They were both excellent occasions and the guests were all genuinely pleased with our contribution to the day. Welsh visitors were especially appreciative of some of our Welsh repertoire. One of the weddings was held in Inkberrow Church with the choir retiring to the Bull Inn, yes the location of what is reputed to be the famous Bull Inn, Ambridge of BBC Radio series 'The Archers'.

Also in October the choir was invited to a Trafalgar Day dinner at the Guildhall Worcester and their pieces included appropriate songs such as the Song of the Jolly Roger and Sailing.

Membership of the choir has now reached 70 and attendance at twice weekly rehearsals is very high. As we report preparations are being made for two of our most important concerts. The choir Annual Concert and its Christmas Concert. These will be quickly followed by a busy Christmas calendar; details in our next report.

Terry Dillingham
Choir Public Relations Officer
Bob Saunders
Choir Tour Manager

I was playing in a night club, and getting few requests and small tips. Towards the end of the night, a man walked up with a wad of bills in his hand and asked me to play a jazz chord. I played an Amaj7.

He said, 'No, no. A jazz chord.'

I did a little improvisational thing, but he didn't like that either.

'No, no, no! A jazz chord. You know, 'A jazz chord, to say, ah love you.'



Caerwys Male Voice Choir Wales North/Cheshire West

The choir, one of the newest male voice choirs in Wales, was founded in 1999. As the new millennium approached the people of Caerwys wanted to make it a memorable occasion.



A small male voice choir was formed to sing on a makeshift stage and to perform at the striking of the hour of the new millennium. That event was filmed by an international news team and by means of a satellite link, as the choristers sang traditional Welsh songs the performance was broadcast live throughout the world.

The choir members called a meeting in February 2000 and decided to continue the choir. There were only 8 members originally, with Robert Goodby as the conductor and lead tenor. However, with enthusiasm and good singing the word got around the area and members of other choirs joined Caerwys Choir.

Bob Goodby, who laid the foundations of the choir, was succeeded by Islwyn Jones, a much respected and experienced member and conductor of choirs in the area for over 45 years. It was he who improved the choir to a very high standard.

In 2007 Islwyn retired to become a member of our first bass section and we elected him to become our President. Elizabeth Hughes, a musician and composer in her own right, took over as Musical Director and has continued the trend with her musical expertise. Margaret Williams is our most talented and experienced accompanist.

From an initial group of 8 members, the choir is now up to 34 members, with regular concerts and trips organised for the future.

They are members of the National Association of Male Voice Choirs and the

Welsh Amateur Music Federation. At the Treuddyn Gadeiriol Eisteddfod in February 2006 they won the choir competition.

The choir appeared on the National Eisteddfod stage at Mold in 2007 and in Bala in 2009. With only a third of the choir being Welsh speakers which was recognized by the adjudicators, Côr Meibion Caerwys gave a very good account of themselves in front of a large audience and live television cameras. Also at Bala, our chairman Stuart Davies won the 'Can Unigol' solo competition singing Elen Fwyn, with our MD Elizabeth Hughes accompanying him on the piano.

The choir has also appeared at the Powys Eisteddfod at Corwen in 2009.

The choir has been to Ireland to appear at the Kilkenny Music Festival in 2007 and

at the Donegal Pan Celtic Festival in 2009.

Our committee member, Arthur Pierce, organises an annual Young Musician's Competition, with competitors ranging from 10 to 17 years taking part from the counties of Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham. The most recent winner was aged 14 and received a prize of £200.

The choir has recorded a CD and has sold over 1,000 copies.

www.corcaerwys.org.uk

Choir practices are held every Monday night from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in St Michael's Church, Caerwys and new members are most welcome.

Roger Jenkins

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Honley Male Voice Choir Yorkshire West

Honley Male Voice Choir is determined to make 2011 a year to remember.



The choir's 75th anniversary will be marked with a number of events which include a gala concert starring international opera star Lesley Garrett, the launch of a super prize draw

and the growing of a rose that is unique to the choir – truly, the sweet smell of success.

On 26 February the choir will be competing in the local Mrs Sunderland Musical Festival and will be travelling to Cornwall at the end of April to take part in the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival and will also be singing in a variety of different locations during their five day stay.

Before that some of the choir's soloists and guest singers will be taking part in a variety concert organised by Chairman, Norman Mellor, in Honley's Southgate Theatre on 5 March and a week later the choir will be putting on a free concert at the local parish church as a 'thank-you' to their subscribers who have now been renamed 'Friends of Honley MVC'.

The choir, which was formed in October, 1936, were delighted Lesley Garrett accepted an invitation to join them at their gala concert on 24 September at the Huddersfield Town Hall. Apart from performing as a soloist for twenty minutes in each half, she will also sing several numbers with the choir which as you can imagine will be a great thrill for them.

It is also hoped that booking Lesley will boost the choir's recruitment campaign which it is launching this year.

The choir has set a £10,000 target for its super prize draw which is the brainchild of its energetic Social Committee Chairman, Brian Winterbottom. The first prize is a luxury cruise for two worth £3,000 donated anonymously by a choir supporter.

Baritone, Ronnie Rawlins, who joined the choir a year ago, came up with the idea of producing the Honley Male Voice Choir rose, which is unique to the choir. Ronnie is an expert rose grower who has bred many new roses which have been named and

are in various trade catalogues. Ronnie had developed a primrose coloured rose that turns pink as it ages and has the perfume of grapefruit.

So far between 80 and 90 plants have been grafted which will be sold to choir members, supporters and the public later this year. If more plants are needed they will be ready for the following year. The rose has been registered with the American Rose Society which is the registration authority for the whole world.

Explained Ronnie, 'I thought it would be a nice way to commemorate the anniversary and at the same time raise a bit of cash for the choir. The plant will flower each year for forty years and so will be a permanent reminder of the choir.'

Sadly the choir's popular MD, Keith Roberts who only joined two years ago has decided to hand in his notice and will be leaving in May. He feels that his increasing work load as Choral Director for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds is preventing him carrying out his job at Honley to the high standards he demands of himself.



His decision means that the choir is now searching for a replacement and anyone interested in applying can call the choir's general secretary, Steve Hepworth on 01484 608963.

Stan Solomons

Huddersfield U3A Mixed Voice Choir Yorkshire West

We continue to go from strength to strength.

While other choirs often struggle to increase their numbers, new members keep turning up at the U3A choir's Monday morning rehearsals at the Gledholt Methodist Church in Huddersfield.

At the last count there were 106 men and women on the books. Admittedly they don't all turn up at the same time but more than seventy sang at the well-

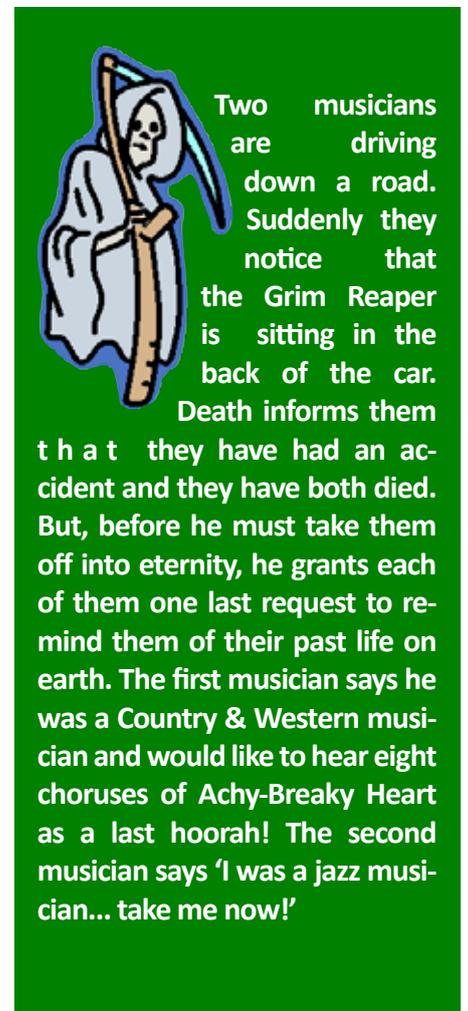
attended Christmas concert in December at the Parish Church in Almondbury in Huddersfield.

And joint Musical Directors Eric Cooper and Malcolm Fairless are hoping for an even bigger turn-out at the annual concert on 8 April at the Holy Trinity Church in Huddersfield when their guest singers will be soprano, Sarah Ogden and baritone, Thom Meredith.

Sarah, who recently won a major competition at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester where she is studying, is also MD of the Denby Dale Ladies Choir and Hade Edge Community Choir and also finds time to do some teaching at the Huddersfield-based Kirklees Music School which is headed by Thom who is MD of the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

Before that the U34A choir will be staging a concert with a local band at the Moldgreen United Reformed Church in Huddersfield on 26 March and on 3 April they will be joining 19 other choirs in a concert of massed choirs at the Huddersfield Town Hall in aid of the Mayor of Kirklees' charity.

Stan Solomons



Dalston Male Voice Choir Cumbria / Isle of Man

How many British male voice choirs feature a New Zealand war chant or haka amongst their repertoire?



Dalston MVC in Cumbria spent part of a legacy from former member Joe Watson on commissioning Gwyn Arch to arrange a medley of Maori songs. Gwyn produced *Songs from the Land of the Long White Cloud*, featuring a lullaby, a love song and a hymn, and threw in a haka for good measure. The choir's accompanist, Lorraine Gash, hails from New Zealand, so this was meat and drink to her, and selected members of the choir now project even more revolting grimaces than usual as they terrify audiences with their bloodcurdling rendition of the haka.

What we would like to know, now that the Maori medley is available to anyone who wants to perform it, is: are the valleys of Wales also echoing with the noise more readily associated with the All-Blacks?

Dalston MVC celebrated its Silver Jubilee in February 2010. Founded in 1985 after a few residents of the north Cumbrian village gathered round a piano on New Year's Eve for a sing-song, it has become a popular part of the local scene. It operates chiefly within Cumbria, with an occasional foray into Scotland or Northumberland, and performs about ten concerts a year, mostly for local churches and charities. The objects of the choir are to advance male voice singing by presentation of public concerts, to help charitable causes and to give encouragement to young musicians. It has the inestimable benefit of having had the same Musical Director throughout the whole of its existence. Hilary Hodgson is a former schoolteacher, so keeping about 34 ageing juvenile delinquents in order is child's play to her. She sang for many years with local choirs so knows the job inside out and is keen to have plenty of light and shade in the choir's performances.

The choir members do not take themselves too seriously and there is plenty of laughter when they meet - but they do take their singing seriously and look forward to another 25 years of musicmaking. It would be nice, though, to have a few more younger members coming on...

Michael Williams.

Tamworth Ladies Choir

has SSA music

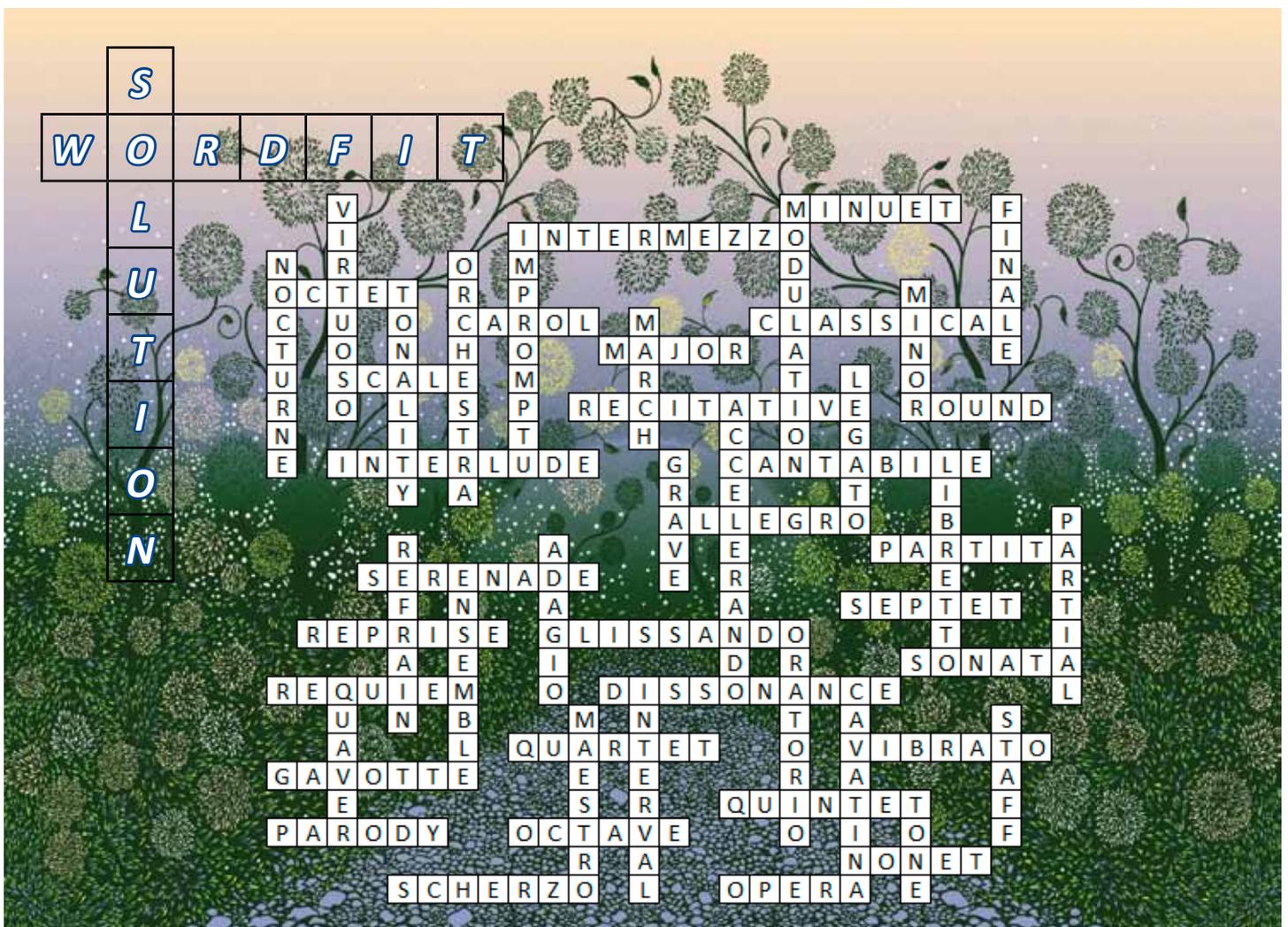
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The Officers

Eric Jackson - *President*

"The Croft", 86 Main St, Linton,
Swadlincote DE12 6QA

01283 760961

president@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Celia Johns - *Chairman*

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

01733 840370

chairman@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Lord James Ferrabbee - *General Secretary*

35 Hawton Crescent, Wollaton Park,
Nottingham NG8 1BZ

0115 978 8847

general.secretary@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Paul Gailiunas - *Treasurer*

25 Hedley Terrace, Gosforth,
Newcastle, NE3 1DP

0191 285 0654

treasurer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Lord James Ferrabbee - *Conference Co-ordinator*

35 Hawton Crescent, Wollaton Park,
Nottingham NG8 1BZ

0115 978 8847

conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Brenda E Wilkinson - *Membership Officer*

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

01530 411178

membership.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Eric Cooper - *Music and Festivals Officer*

7 Imperial Road, Edgerton,
Huddersfield HD3 3AF

01484 543982

musical.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Richard Bradley - *Public Relations Officer*

292 Station Road, New Waltham,
Grimsby DN36 4QQ

01472 822417

pro@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Bob Swallow - *Publications Officer*

8 Charles Avenue, Laceby,
Grimsby DN37 7HA

01472 500130

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Position vacant *Services Officer*

services.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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8 April 2011 – Albrighton Hall Hotel, Shrewsbury

10 April 2011 – Albrighton Hall Hotel, Shrewsbury

7 June 2011 – Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire S44 6UZ

16 September 2011 – Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton,
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15 November 2011 – Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire S44 6UZ

17 January 2012 – Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton,
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Members Open Forum

10 April 2011 – Albrighton Hall Hotel, Shrewsbury

11 June 2011 – venue to be confirmed

3 September 2011 – venue to be confirmed

28 January 2012 – Twin Oaks Hotel, Palterton,
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