

NEWS & VIEWS

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SPRING 2013

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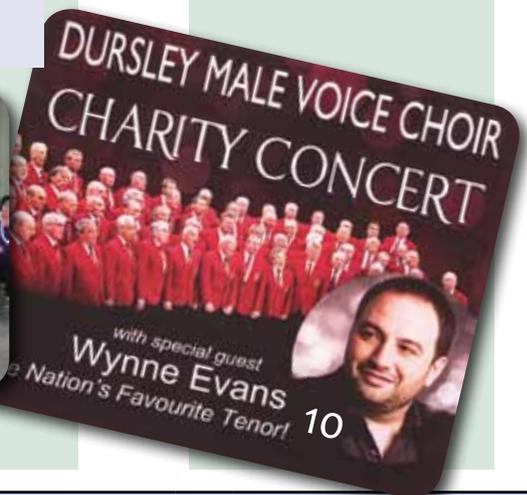
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Last date for submissions for Issue 201
SUMMER 2013 - 30 April
On your doorstep by 1 June

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Crawford's Corner



On the cold but sunny January morning that I write this I suppose A Happy New Year greeting is in order.

The busy Christmas activities are becoming a distant memory and will be more so when you read this in February. Choirs will be looking forward to another year of singing, entertaining and fund raising, plus ça change...

Well then, what do we have for you in this issue of News & Views? We have some very busy male voice choirs. There are at least nine articles from male voice choirs and one or two from mixed or ladies choirs. Why is that do you think? Perhaps

the ladies are less inclined to blow their own trumpets. Come on mixed choirs and ladies choirs send me your news. Let me know well in advance about that fabulous concert you have planned.

This issue contains the second cryptic crossword I have attempted. My friend Bill Sedgwick tests them for me and then I make any alterations required. He was stuck on two clues so I changed one and he kindly suggested a better clue for the other. Thanks Bill. I hope you attempt these puzzles. Don't be put off by the fact that your choir only get a few copies and they need to be shared around. If you want to do the crossword then go to the NAC website and download the electronic copy of News & Views, go to the right page (20 this time) and right click on it. Select print and choose to

print page 20. You should now have your own copy to ponder.

I've just inserted a page with the provisional programme for NAC Conference and so I am reminded that I must get my booking done straight away. Have you noticed that the address of our General Secretary and Conference Co-ordinator has changed. It will make things ever so much quicker if you don't send things like your booking form to the wrong address.

**NAC Conference Co-ordinator
James Ferrabee
159 Summerwood Lane,
Nottingham, NG11 9FT**

Crawford

Chairman's Chat



A very Happy New Year to all choristers everywhere!

I find it hard to believe that this will be my last contribution to News & Views as the NAC Chairman. Having been Chairman since the AGM in 2009, I have completed my allotted four years and must hand over to a newly elected person at this year's AGM. (This will of course be during the Conference weekend in April - full details in this magazine, and I do hope to see many of you there). I wish my successor good fortune and a smooth ride, and must here put on record my thanks to the NAC Officers for their support and time, both given unstintingly, over the past four years.

As always, I get a sneak preview of the magazine so that I can write my 'bit'. Equally as always, it is wonderful to read about the various activities, concerts, visits... You name it, and at least one of our member choirs has done it!

Let's start with the wonderful picture of the Falkirk Wheel on the front cover. What has that to do with singing? That would be the Dalesmen MVC, having a boat trip on the Wheel - a fantastic experience, I can say, as I went on it in August 2011 - and then entertaining the staff and customers to a short concert in the reception area.

All part of a trip round Scotland, taking in the Kelvingrove Museum as another unusual concert venue!

Before moving on I must mention the Dalesmen MVC's co-founder Rev Reg Dean who, before he sadly passed away in early January was Britain's oldest man, aged 110 years. Quite an achievement. We extend our sympathy to the choir and to Reg's family and friends.

Finding more startling venues to sing in were Dursley MVC (Westonburt Arboretum and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge), Churchdown MVC (the touch line at Twickenham), and Mendip MVC (Glastonbury Abbey) to name but three. How many more can you find?

I've said it before but it bears repeating - while we love to hear what you have been doing and are always interested in your activities, it is always worth while sending an article to Crawford in advance of your event, for extra publicity. Time and again I hear comments like 'if we had only known that this concert was on, we would love to have attended!' No choir can afford to turn down possible audience members, so please do keep N&V in mind when planning your forward publicity. Don't forget that N&V has a potential audience of around 30,000 readers, and some of them will be living in your area and can attend your concert!

My best wishes to you all for continued happy singing.

Celia Johns

From the President



Gresley MVC and Luton MVC gave a joint concert at Stretton Parish Church aimed at me to thank me for the work I had done on behalf of the NAC.

During the interval the President of Gresley MVC and Luton MVC presented me with a super Waterman fountain pen and to Jan a great bouquet of flowers.

Celia and Brenda spoke about my role in the NAC and their words were very much appreciated. The singing was excellent from both choirs and afterwards Gresley provided refreshments at the local hotel.

On 19 January we were invited by Luton MVC to their annual dinner.

Over the last few weeks of 2012 we attended concerts by Tamworth and Coalville Male Voice Choirs. The Coalville concert was great, their guests were a super children's choir. It was something to remember for 2012. On Friday prior to Christmas Gresley MVC put on a concert in the Kiln Museum Theatre at Swadlincote.

May I wish you all the very best for the New Year and hope that you will benefit from your membership within the NAC.

Eric Jackson

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Forthcoming Events

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

Send your event to

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

MARCH 2013

Inaugural Barnardo's UK Adult Choir Competition

Saturday 23 March 2013

Venue: **Birmingham Symphony Hall**

Come and join Barnardo's for this very special Event. The Inaugural Barnardo's UK Adult Choir Competition will take place on Saturday 23 March at the prestigious Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Whether you are a male, female, a capella or barbershop choir all are invited to take part. The 4 categories in the competition will be:

- Male Choirs under 40 Choristers on stage
- Male Choirs over 40 Choristers on stage
- Female Choirs under 40 Choristers on stage
- Female Choirs over 40 Choristers on stage

The competition will consist of a maximum of 28 choirs adjudged to be the best from all of the recordings sent. The final amount of competitors in each group will be determined by the number of successful entries in each category.

Trophies will be awarded to First place in each of the 4 categories, and all 8 choirs will compete again later in the day for the 'Choir of Choirs' trophy. The four winning choirs above will also win the honour of either singing at the Royal Albert Hall in June 2013 or Westminster Cathedral in December 2013. Very few choirs ever get the chance to do this as a stand-alone choir.

The closing date for this competition was 5 December 2012.

APRIL 2013

Bangor International Choral Festival

Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 April 2013

Venue: **Bangor, nr Belfast, Northern Ireland**

Competitions showcasing choirs from the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and a fantastic Festival Concert on the Friday evening. This is the 20th year of the Festival and it promises to be the best yet!

Booking forms available on the Festival website.

www.bicf.co.uk/

MAY 2013

Cornwall International MVC Festival

Thursday 2 to Monday 6 May 2013

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

Every two years, Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival organises a six day Festival in which over 60 male voice choirs from across the UK and the rest of the world participate. In 2011, 50 different singing events were organised in 40 different locations across the county. The Festival also organises the largest international male voice choir competition in Europe. In 2011 23 adult male choirs participated.

The Festival involves over 3000 singers and brings over £0.75m into the Cornish economy over the six day festival. Concerts are organised in every major town across Cornwall. International Gala concerts and the International Competitions are organised in Truro Cathedral, the Hall for Cornwall, Truro and other large venues.

In 2013, the NAC is delighted to say that their only overseas member choir, Sydney Male Choir, will be attending the Festival during a tour of the UK.

Administration and organisation is carried out by Festival Director, Peter Davies, 47 Deeping St James Road, Northborough, Peterborough. Cambs. PE6 9BT 01778 347381.

peter@cimvcf.org.uk

<http://www.cimvcf.org.uk/>

JUNE 2013

Musica Sacra Bratislava

Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 June 2013

Venue: **Bratislava, Slovakia**

Deadline for sending in applications for the festival is 1 March 2013

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

Thames South Group's 3rd Joint Concert

Saturday 22nd June 2013

Venue: **The Central Theatre, Chatham, 7.00**

Five choirs from the region join together for another spectacular evening of choral singing. More details to follow.

Serenade! Washington, DC Choral Festival

- Thu 27 Jun to Mon 1 Jul 2013

Venue: **Washington, DC, USA**

Join the festival that The Washington Post calls a 'True Harmonic Convergence!' and that critics have reviewed, saying, '... the whole bunch sang, danced, clapped and whooped it up in a joyful noise that brought the audience to its feet cheering.' Youth and adult choirs enjoy concerts in prestigious venues all over the Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia area and spread the joy of choral singing along with choirs from around the world. Experience workshops with notable choral conductors, musical exchanges with many national and international festival choirs, and explore the nation's capital, including sites such as the Smithsonian Museums, the national monuments, and the White House. A great new addition to the American choral scene.

<http://classicalmovements.org/dc.htm>

Future Dates:

2013: June 27 – July 1

2014: June 26 – 30

Contact: Yarina Connors, Classical Movements, Inc., 319 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314, USA.

Phone: +1 (800) 882-0025

Fax: +1 703-683-6045

Email: Yarina@classicalmovements.com

Web site: www.ClassicalMovements.com

July 2013

Ihlonbe! South African Choral Festival

Thursday 11 to Sunday 21 July 2013

Venue: **Venues in South Africa**

Producer: Classical Movements, Inc.

Location: Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Soweto & Safari

Participate in what South Africa's leading newspaper, the Cape Times, calls 'The Largest International Choral Gathering in South Africa' and 'Singing That Nourishes Body and Soul.' The Ihlombe! South African Choral Festival offers a one-of-a-kind choral experience in dynamic settings such as Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Soweto as well as at a scenic wildlife safari park. Perform with several excellent South African choirs and participate in workshops with dynamic South African choral conductors. Ihlombe! annually features a diverse representation of international touring choirs from all over the world in extraordinary venues with enthusiastic audiences. Experience African rhythms, dancing, and wonderful, unique singing. Open to all choirs, each conducted by their own music director.

Come away with a love for this extraordinary country and its high standards of choral singing. Ihlombe! is a high value, low priced tour with South Africa's most famous iconic sights such as the Cradle of Humankind, Table Mountain, and Cape Point, as well as various outreach opportunities and what The Citizen newspaper calls 'More Than Just Music.'

Visit for More Information:

http://classicalmovements.org/s_af.htm

Future Dates:

2013: July 11 – 21
2014: July 17 – 26
2015: July 16 – 25

Contact: Jayci Thomas, Classical Movements, Inc., 319 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314, USA.
Phone: +1 (800) 882-0025
Fax: +1 703-683-6045

jayci@classicalmovements.com

www.ClassicalMovements.com

Rhapsody! Children's Music Festival Thursday 11 to Sunday 21 July 2013

Venues: **Vienna, Salzburg & Prague**

In 2011, the Prague Post hailed the Rhapsody Children's Music Festival Vienna, Salzburg and Prague as 'The summer of young musical brilliance.' Festival choirs perform individually in three of Europe's most historical and musical cities as well as in a combined

grand finale conducted by select attending choir directors. Past venues have included the landmark St Stephen's Cathedral and the Haydn Church in Vienna, St. Andrä Church in Salzburg, and Smetana Hall, Dvorak Hall, and St. Simon and Judah Church in Prague. Participants will enjoy workshops with Viennese and Czech choral experts, cultural exchanges, and musical and sightseeing tours in the birthplace of classical music. Come share in this 'richly rewarding experience' (Prague Post).

Visit for More Information:

<http://classicalmovements.org/rhap.htm>

Future Dates:

2013: July 11 – 21
2014: July 3 – 13

Contact: Christopher Harris, Classical Movements, Inc., 319 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA, 22314, USA
Phone: +1 (800) 882-0025
Fax: +1 703-683-6045

Christopher@classicalmovements.com

www.ClassicalMovements.com

Melodia! South American Music Festival

Sun 14 to Wed 24 Jul 2013

Venues: **Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires**

Featured in the newspapers and television channels of Brazil's leading press conglomerate, O Globo, as well as in all of Argentina's major newspapers from La Nación to Clarín, the Melodia! South American Music Festival is a celebration of the two most important countries in South America. The festival features performances by individual choirs with their own directors as well as combined choir performances conducted by a guest conductor in some of Argentina's and Brazil's top venues. Outreach, participation in a samba school, tango shows, a real Argentinean gaucho ranch, cultural exchanges with local students and music ensembles, a Latin American music workshop, and exceptional sightseeing and outreach opportunities make this festival a unique and exciting experience. Open to all choirs.

Visit for More Information:

http://classicalmovements.org/s_am.htm

Future Dates:

2013: Brazil only – July 14-24; Argentina only – July 18-26; Combined Brazil & Argentina – July 14-24

2014: Argentina only – July 17-25; Brazil only – July 24-Aug. 1; Combined Argentina & Brazil – July 20-30

Contact: Laura Smith, Classical Movements, Inc., 319 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Phone: +1 (800) 882-0025
Fax: +1 703-683-6045

Laura@classicalmovements.com

www.ClassicalMovements.com

Highfield Male Voice Choir Wales North / Cheshire West

Based in Runcorn, Highfield Male Voice Choir was formed in 1911. The name comes from the original Highfield Tanning Company and our choir emblem shows three figures carrying 'bends' of leather – each 'bend' consisting of half an animal hide after tanning. Of course the Tannery has been closed for many years but the choir survived and last year celebrated being in existence for 100 years.

Being based in Runcorn, the choir mainly performs around the Runcorn / Widnes and North Cheshire area but concerts have been performed further afield and the choir has performed on tours in France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Spain and Malta.

In the UK the choir would typically perform 12-15 concerts per year. Over the years the choir has performed at some very distinguished venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, Glasgow's City Hall and Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall.

In 2012 the choir celebrated its centenary year with a number of special events including joint concerts with Port Talbot MVC and Warrington MVC. Also in 2012 the choir appointed new Musical Director, Gary Hill. Gary had previously sung with and subsequently conducted the Haydock Male Voice Choir. His appointment has given the choir new impetus and certainly audience reaction to our concerts with Gary conducting have been very encouraging.

In 2013 the choir has its annual Spring and Autumn concerts at Runcorn's Brindley Theatre, as well as appearing at Liverpool's St. George's Hall.

Peter Hobson

The Dalesmen Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Scotland September 2012

For those of us who went to Scotland, Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow will always stay in our memories. What a venue to sing in! I think none of us quite expected what an experience it would be, as the acoustics and the sound of the accompanying organ were truly awe inspiring. It was very emotional. The organ was indeed 'a mighty beast', perhaps the biggest I have ever seen and Richard's daughter, Lizzie, appeared to be perched on a high cliff waiting for her Dad's instructions from below. I shall never forget the rousing finale to 'American Trilogy'.

Well, I'll go back to the beginning of the trip. Slacks Coaches did us proud and we sailed up to Scotland in style driven by two brothers, the Wright brothers, aboard two luxury coaches with all on-board facilities. We seemed to arrive in no time with a couple of stops, most notable, Moffat, where we had lunch and did some shopping. On Coach B I sat behind Arnold and was fascinated to notice that Arnold's hand went up in greeting as we passed each Eddie Stobart truck – was this a secret sign? I asked Arnold 'What's all that about then?' – 'Well yer see they all's gorra different name thou knows. I'm looking fer one they call the Messiah'.

We settled into the Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling - quite an old historical building in the centre of the town. We then enjoyed our first evening meal together and were not disappointed. There was a good choice of menu and the standard was excellent.

The next day, Friday, off we went to visit the Falkirk Wheel. This was well worth a visit as the size of the boat lift was quite amazing. We outnumbered the other visitors considerably on the barge and a loud cheer went up when the comment 'made in Ripley by the Butterley Company'



was made by the tour guide. After the boat trip we had the opportunity to entertain the other visitors with a short concert in the reception area. This went down a real treat and was a good warm up for what was to come.

The evening saw us making our way to Bo'ness on the Firth of Forth to sing at St Andrew's Church. We were greeted by our hosts, the Falkirk Caledonian Choir, which was a large mixed choir. Our joint concert was enjoyed by a very appreciative audience and we had time after the concert to mix together with the choir, to share ideas and friendship, whilst we were enjoying an excellent buffet (scotch pancakes with butter!). An open invitation was made for them to visit Derbyshire to sing with us at some future date - so watch this space!

Back to the hotel, and it was a rather late night for some of us, but the company was great and everyone was in excellent humour. There were some guests staying in the hotel who were attending a wedding the following day, and as some of us had already sung to them in the bar, the possibility of singing at their evening 'do' cropped up!

Now back to Saturday, after leaving Kelvingrove, and having the opportunity to look round the most amazing Museum and Art Gallery, we made our way to St Mary's Cathedral for our evening concert. There we were again greeted by our old friend and ex-Dalesman, Cedric Blakey, (now a high clergyman in the kirk) who we had just met at Kelvingrove. Cedric was quite thrilled to sing with us and renew old acquaintances. Once again we had a very large appreciative audience who thoroughly enjoyed our singing. We were joined for this concert by two young musicians from the Glasgow Conservatoire, a brilliant young female pianist and an amazing young tenor. We had the pleasure of listening to the Cathedral organist who gave a recital during the concert. The icing on the cake for the Dalesmen was Lizzie accompanying us with such gusto at the end of our most rousing pieces. Thank you Lizzie and for making the trip from London.

For all our performances we were extremely lucky to have both Patricia and Bill playing for us so competently and for that we thank them sincerely.

Back to the hotel and in true Dalesmen



tradition we all rushed to the bar - well all that singing does make one very thirsty!

It was then, after a couple of drinks, I remembered the wedding and off to the ballroom I rushed to keep my promise and to see if the bride and groom still wished the choir to sing. Of course they did and after prising the lads from the bar at about 11.30 we assembled in front of an expectant audience of at least a hundred guests and under Richard's direction proceeded to sing, unaccompanied, *The Rose* and, very apt for the occasion, *You Raise Me Up*. These pieces were received with rapturous applause but we had to leave them wanting more. The bride truly had tears in her eyes and was so emotional some of us received a kiss and afterwards I was able to write in the wedding book a message of love and happiness for the future.

On Sunday morning, after consuming another gargantuan breakfast, we sadly had to say goodbye to Stirling and wend our weary way back to Belper.

As a choir I think that the trip has given us all the confidence and experience that all the hard work in our rehearsals has deserved. It was a fantastic experience for us all, not only the singing but the opportunity to get to know our fellow Dalesmen, wives and partners, much better. For those of you who missed this trip can I strongly recommend that you make a note of our next tour to St David's 26 - 30 September 2013.

Finally can I thank our Musical Director, Richard, for all his hard work and inspiration (keep stretching us Richard!) and hopefully with more practise we can go from strength to strength. Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks to our secretary, Stuart Crosskill, for his untiring efforts in making all the arrangements to enable us to enjoy this successful and memorable tour.

John England
Chairman



Letter from NAC in Oz

This is being written on the last day of 2012 so Christmas is over - we had what now seems to be the typical Sydney Christmas weather, wet, windy and cold. Don't believe the stories of Aussies having Christmas lunch on the beach! More likely wrapped up indoors and perhaps dashing out to the barbeque to cook the turkey. That's what we did with my son performing the cooking duties and getting soaked in the process. Still the turkey was good.

This year has not been a good one from a personal point and I am going out of it with a bout of sciatica, so hope that 2013 will be an improvement.

The Sydney Male Choir is now in summer recess having completed the usual full programme of events. The Annual City of Sydney Concert went well with an enthusiastic and appreciative audience enjoying the choir's singing and the performance of our jazz duo guests. As mentioned last time we launched our latest CD at this concert and sales of it were brisk.

We re-start rehearsals again in mid-January when those of the choir who will be taking part in the 2013 European Tour will be concentrating on the repertoire for France and England. We hope our attempts at French will pass muster! All of the events for the tour now seem to be sorted out including appearing at the L'église Sainte-Marie-Madeleine and the l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris before travelling to Amiens to take part in the Anzac Dawn Service at Villers-Brettoneux with two Australia school bands and choirs. We have a final concert in France at Douai with Le Chorale des Mineurs Pollonaise before travelling to England where we have arranged concerts with Croydon MVC and Leigh Orpheus MVC. A train journey to Cornwall is next, to take part in the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival where we will take part in the competition and sing at many venues in Cornwall. We sing in a concert at Saltash in aid of the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation before travelling to Bristol for a joint concert with the Bristol MVC. The last concert is with the Kidderminster MVC before travelling to Heathrow for the journey back to Australia. An exciting and, no doubt, exhausting schedule!

If you are interested in seeing the detail of where we will be it is shown on our website - <http://sydneymalechoir.com.au/touritinerary.html>

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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Dursley Male Voice Choir Souht West

Christmas is just a few days away as this report is being produced and, as with many choirs, the recent weeks have been a busy time for us. Singing at residential homes and local hostelrys are all grist to the mill for Dursley MVC but in addition to this we sang in the Westonbirt Arboretum and the Regent Arcade, Cheltenham.

All of this, of course, prior to the two concerts the choir traditionally holds the weekend before Christmas. The latter were a huge success being a total sell out on both evenings with well over 600 tickets sold. This is very reassuring in constrained times but in reality normal for the occasion. The people of Dursley and the surrounding area are superb supporters of the choir. The guests for these concerts were the Cotswold Youth Singers - a very talented local group aged 10 to 19 - who were very warmly applauded by the audiences for their varied and superbly performed programme. *O Holy Night* is a traditional 'closer' for the choir and for this the guests joined the choir - creating an interesting and enjoyable contrast to their individual performance of the song earlier in the programme.



One surprise for the audiences was that the choir discarded their normal concert dress for the second half of each concert to adopt a far more casual appearance and this was met with great applause from the audience.

When we have recovered from the festive spirit, the Choir visits the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust Centre at Slimbridge in mid January to entertain the visitors as they arrive. A sharp cold spell at the time will be all that's needed to liven up the choristers!

The other major venture in hand is the complete redesign of the choir's website which it is hoped will be online in late January/February. Why not visit us at www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk to learn more about us and what we do. You could even compare it with the current version and tell us whether we have made an improvement.

Undoubtedly the highlight of 2013 is the major charity concert that the choir will present in Cheltenham Town Hall on 23 March when our special guest will be

SING 2013

A Weekend of Harmony, Singing and Fun!

We invite you to attend SING2013 our 39th Annual Convention which takes place at the BIC in Bournemouth from the 3rd to 6th May. If you like barbershop harmony then this really is the weekend for you.

The full weekend registration fee is only £55 and offers access to all events, including the Quartet and Chorus contests and a lot, lot more! One and two day registrations available.

There are also three fabulous shows featuring the very best of barbershop. Ticket prices are just £18!

Over 2300 visitors are expected and you are sure of a warm welcome. There is plenty of opportunity to sing and sing some more!

Come along for a weekend of fun, friendship and song, it's an experience not to be missed! Visit our web site for full details.

Barbershop Conventions are Brilliant

- Quartet Contests
- Chorus Contest
- Three Great Shows
- Award-winning Quartets
- Top Quality Guests
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Wynne Evans - the Nation's Favourite Tenor.

As many of you are aware Wynne is one of the UK's leading tenors who has sung as a principal with all the major opera houses and orchestras, including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Welsh National Opera and the English National Opera. www.wynneevans.co.uk. Indeed, he will return to the UK for this concert having spent a week singing opera in Norway.

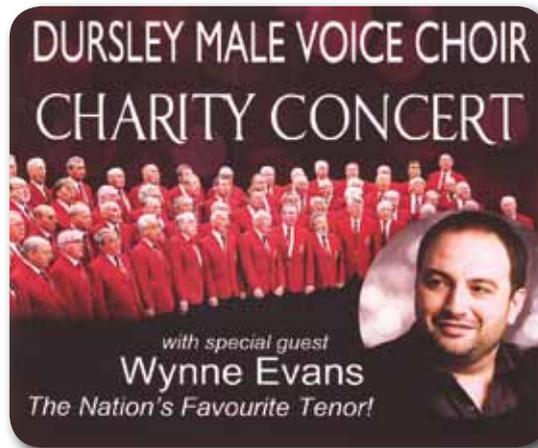
We wonder what other stressful ventures he will have to survive as his alter ego, the flamboyant character Gio Compario. In 2009 Wynne became the face and voice in the multi-million pound advertising campaign for one of the UK's leading comparison websites, Go-Compare.com. Wynne has gone on to make dozens of adverts for the company both on radio and TV.

He signed a six album deal with Warner Bros in 2010, and his first album 'A Song In My Heart' went straight to number one in the Classical Charts.

The concert is in aid of the cancer charity, 'Hope for Tomorrow', and will be held in the

splendid Main Hall of the Cheltenham Town Hall complex which seats up to 850 people.

their mobile chemotherapy units to rural areas throughout the county.



'Hope for Tomorrow',

www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk is a national cancer charity, based in Gloucestershire, dedicated to 'bringing cancer treatment closer to home'. The Mobile Chemotherapy Units bring vital treatment nearer to patients' homes, reducing long distances of travel, waiting times and helping to avoid the stresses and strains of travel and a busy Oncology Centre. The profit from the event will aid the charity to continue to provide

Dursley Male Voice Choir aims to achieve a very significant profit for the charity from ticket sales and this will be enhanced by money already received from sponsorship and advertising. Offering buckets to passing people who stop to listen to the choir at such venues as the Regent Arcade in Cheltenham has already raised a significant sum of money for the charity.

If you read this article and live within reach of Cheltenham, why not join us and support a charity that is doing superb work in the area. Tickets are available from the Town Hall website.

Just over half the tickets are sold at the time of writing so don't delay if you want to be sure to attend.

If, as a chorister, you travel to our area, why not visit us. We practise each Wednesday between 7.30 and 9.30 at the Chantry Centre - GL11 4JB (formerly the Lister Hall), where you are assured of a warm welcome.

Huw Jenkins

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So what songs do today's audiences want to listen to?

Audiences have always wanted to hear songs with good tunes that they can identify with. Keeping things fresh and vibrant is fun for both choir and audience, and I believe that means embracing songs from different genres.

I'm amused by a view that I believe is unfounded and fundamentally a wrong, that 'lighter' music is not of the same quality as the more 'serious' classical/traditional repertoire. To sing a pop or musical theatre song well can be just as difficult, in technical terms as well as interpretation, as singing a more 'classical' piece.

A dynamic repertoire also encourages new members to join a choir and creates bigger audiences, so avoiding new songs and sticking to the traditional may be very worthy, but unless change is embraced, there will be nothing to pass on to the next generation.

Dynamic and engaging performances are paramount to the continuation of choral singing. Indeed that should really read, the continuation of any form of musical performance. How many concerts have you sat through wishing the choristers would communicate the meaning of the song and their enjoyment of singing. It's a shame but many choral performances can be very self indulgent.

With the exposure TV is giving choral singing, we are all being judged. Are we smiling? Are we communicating? Your audience is expecting to be entertained with engaging performances, so whatever your song choice, be prepared to reach out with your music!

A blog from John Trent Wallace
www.johntrentwallace.com

Bestwood Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Maggie's Cheque Handover

The photograph shows Angela Kehoe, Fundraising Organiser for Maggie's Nottingham, receiving a cheque from Colin Pursglove, Chair of Bestwood MVC on Tuesday, 27 November 2012.

The £1,500 is half of the proceeds from the choir's Diamond Jubilee Concert held on 23 September 2012. Also in the photograph are Peter Fletcher, Vice Chairman and Publicity Officer and Mick Carlisle, Treasurer, together with other staff from Maggie's. Having just celebrated its first anniversary, Angela was delighted to receive the donation, which will enable the centre, located at the City Hospital, to support anyone affected by cancer. It is a place where people are welcome whenever they need help, from just being diagnosed, or undergoing treatment, to post-treatment, recurrence, end of life or in bereavement.

In the choir's special year, it was very fitting that such a special place should benefit from its Diamond Concert.

Bestwood Male Voice Choir's Diamond Jubilee year drew to a close with a very successful run of high profile concerts. On 5 December, the choir was invited to the magnificent Southwell Minster to take part in the Age Concern and Age UK Support Group's 'A Christmas Celebration' for a second year, along with Nottingham Trent University Chamber Choir. Soloists included Maryla Mondszejn, with *Panis Angelicus* and *Christmas Lullaby* and Charlotte Hacking from the Minster Choir, with *Walking in the Air*. Traditional congregational carols were interspersed with readings by Colin Slater MBE JP, Col Roger Merryweather TD DL and Mrs Janet Richardson MBE DL.

The following evening saw the choir performing at St Leonard's Church, Wollaton for the Rotary Club of Wollaton Park's Christmas Music Concert. Singing to a capacity audience, the first half of the programme included pieces from the choir's concert repertoire, with the second half devoted to carols. Proceeds from the concert were divided between St Leonard's Church and Community Projects.

On 12 December the choir returned to Southwell Minster, where it had been invited to take part in the Emergency Services Carol Service, along with the Nottinghamshire Police Band. This very uplifting service included Bible readings by children of the Emergency Services and the Deputy



Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Mr Michael Rowen, as well as a seasonal address by the Right Rev Paul Butler, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. The offertory donations were in aid of 'The Fire Fighters Charity'.

St John's Church, Mansfield was the setting for the next concert on 13 December, the BBC Radio Nottingham's Christmas Carol Service, led by Sunday Breakfast Show Presenter, Sarah Julian. The large audience enjoyed a full programme of carols, readings, prayers, an address by the Vicar, Rev Mark Adams, and a final blessing by the Right Rev Paul Butler, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. As well as Bestwood MVC, contributions were included from St John's Music Group, The Brunts Academy Acoustic Group, Thoresby Colliery Band and organist John Dunn. The proceeds of a leaving collection were split between the 'BBC Children in Need Appeal' and St John's Church. The service was broadcast on BBC Radio Nottingham on Christmas Eve at 6.00 and Christmas Day at noon.

The choir's final contribution of the year was at St Mark's Church, Bestwood Village on Sunday 16 December, joining in the Service of Lessons and Carols and singing two carols alone. Lessons were read by members of the congregation, supporting the sermon theme of 'Angels'.

A very fitting end to a very exciting and rewarding Diamond Anniversary Year.

Peter Fletcher
Vice Chair & Publicity Officer

Airedale Male Voice Choir Yorkshire West

The Airedale Male Voice Choir was formed in March 1997 when its conductor and accompanist, John Smith and Ken Brook, respectively, decided once again to weave their magic together. The choir is intentionally small, with a maximum of 50 members, but is of high quality and produces a beautiful yet resonant tone. Music critics have acclaimed its musicality and tender tonal qualities. It has taken tremendous strides in a relatively short time, and is in great demand for concerts not only in its native West Yorkshire, but also in North Yorkshire and East Yorkshire.

Every year the choir holds its charity concert



John Smith

in aid of the local hospice 'Manorlands' which is part of the Sue Ryder Foundation and Michael Binns the community fundraiser, for the organisation says 'We are extremely grateful for the choir's support every year as we need to raise over £1 million in voluntary contributions every year'. The choir has produced

a CD called 'Music for Manorlands' in honour of the hospice and all of the proceeds goes to support the work. John Smith the choir leader comes from a



Ken Brook

family where music was a 'way of life'. He was first introduced to choral music as a young boy when he was taken, along with his two brothers, to Wesley Place Church in Keighley, where the choir is now based, to listen to such oratorios as the Messiah, Elijah and The Creation. At 17 John joined the Keighley Vocal Union and, under the baton of his father, sang in such festivals as the world famous Llangollen Eisteddfod. John picked up the baton in 1976 and after some early nerves, conducting has given him great pleasure. His obvious love and understanding of music has inspired and encouraged all those under his leadership.

Their repertoire is constantly growing and is as diverse in its choice as it is in expression and performance – Mozart and McCartney, Porter and Puccini, operatic choruses, folk songs, spirituals, hymn tunes and songs from the shows, from the rousing sounds of *Nessun Dorma* to the sensitive yet equally thrilling *Sanctus* from Schubert's German Mass, and the poignant message in *You Raise Me Up*.

Ken Brook was born in Leeds, but quickly realised his mistake and insisted, at 18 months of age, that the family moved to Huddersfield, a town with a long established choral tradition. From the age of eight he dutifully attended piano lessons each Saturday morning, and it was not long before he was appointed to the position of Hon Pianist at Dalton St Paul's Methodist Sunday School. In his teens he played for a local teacher of singing, where he obtained a thorough grounding in the art of accompanying and has played for male voice choirs, ladies choirs, girls choirs, children's choirs, amateur operatic societies, a dance band and numerous solo artistes.

The choir's priority is to raise money for local charities and other causes. It has been successful in raising nearly £100,000

in the first 12 years of its existence.

The choir has something to offer music lovers of all kinds. It will try to stir your emotions, entertain you and send you home from every concert feeling better for having heard it.

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Anston Male Voice Choir Yorkshire South 40 years of community singing

2012 will be remembered by most for the London Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee but for many of the inhabitants of Anston in South Yorkshire it will be remembered also for the 40th anniversary of Anston Male Voice Choir.

It all started in October 1971 when David Ward, a young music teacher and recent local inhabitant, enticed a small group of singers to an inaugural meeting and in due course Anston Male Voice Choir, with his wife Lesley as the accompanist, became a reality. When David and Lesley left the district Ben Burgess, another local music teacher, became the new Musical Director accompanied on piano by his wife Winifred Pierce. It is known that Ben commented to Winifred 'I don't know what I'm going to do with that lot', predicting that he would need seven years to knock them into a singing unit worthy of carrying the name. But their hard work, dedication and perseverance paid off. Subsequently, James Thompson followed by Wilf Clarke took up the baton until Howard Thomas became the choir's present MD in 1989 supported by Cynthia Herrington its very gifted accompanist.

40 years on the choir is as strong as ever with around 35 singing members, including one of the original line-up, drawn from the immediate environs as well as Worksop, Retford, Sheffield, Doncaster and Rossington. During an average year it takes part in up to 20

concerts and has performed at around 80 local and distant venues including Sheffield City Hall, York Minster, Liverpool Cathedral, The G Mex Centre, Free Trade Hall in Manchester and The Royal Albert Hall in London, providing much needed support to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice in the process. It has even ventured to foreign parts including St Quentin, Rotherham's twin town in France and has now made four visits to Germany.

In September this year, the choir held its 40th Annual Concert at The Crossing in Worksop with special guests, Steeton Male Voice Choir from Skipton. It was a sell-out event that everyone felt privileged to be a part of, and included musical interludes by local soprano, Honor Whitfield, a category winner at the 2012 Worksop Music and Drama Festival, and guest organist Simon Corner. The choir's 2013 concert programme is already looking busy, and one special date eagerly anticipated is 16 November, when Anston Male Voice Choir will join with seven other regional choirs and the Band of the Royal Marines, in the 'Sounds Sensational' concert at The Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham.

The Choir holds its rehearsals on Thursday evenings at Anston Parish Hall, between 7.00 and 9.00. New members are always welcome and each is given a settling-in period of two or more months before full membership is decided. Being a community choir there is no audition and the enjoyment of singing to a reasonable standard is considered more important than an

ability to read or understand music. Contact Barrie Kirby on 01909 564273 or visit www.anstonmvc.co.uk

Mark Langrick
Promotion Officer

Rowland Singers Choral Society Thames South

After an extremely busy and exciting Autumn term culminating with our very successful carol concerts and carol singing around the town, we are now looking forward to our Easter concerts where our main work will be the Mozart Requiem. We will be using a chamber orchestra again after last year's success. However, on 1 March, we have decided to enter the Worthing Music and Arts Festival so will have to hone the appropriate songs for that event. The singers will be sending twelve people to conference in April and then in May we are travelling to Stevenage for a joint concert with Stevenage Ladies.

On Saturday, 22 June we have the third Thames South Joint Concert, Medway Melodies at the Central Theatre, Chatham and the Rowland Singers will be singing but are very pleased that this is being organised by Paul Robinson and Friends from Gillingham MVC. Returning home we will end the year with two fun concerts, Sounds of Summer.

Plans are afoot for a trip to France in 2014 and of course a lot of work needs to be done for that. We have visiting choirs coming to us and others who want us to visit them. All good fun.

Jacky Hetherington
Hon Life President and Secretary

Churchdown Male Voice Choir South West

Members of Churchdown Male Voice Choir in Gloucester can never be accused of not showing initiative. Appearances on BBC Radio, singing on the touchline at Twickenham before the EDF final between the Cherry and Whites and Cardiff Blues, and singing at the Morgan Cars Centenary Celebrations at Cheltenham Race Course are examples of forward thinking by the committee.

Now, not to be outdone by the Olympic celebrations the choir came up with an appropriate song, *Aiming Higher*. We're



Anston MVC (rear) with Steeton MVC and guests at The Crossing, Worksop, 2012



aiming higher, higher higher, five rings inspire us on our way. Written by choir member Ken Shaw and with music by the choir's former accompanist Mike Haines the song had its debut at a concert at Churchdown Community Centre in May 2012 to great acclaim. Having been encouraged by the success of the song, some of the more active members of the choir then made a video of their interpretation of a Geriatric Olympics and posted this on YouTube, so everyone could share in the fun. Suffice to say that in the high - jump David Hier used a

stepladder. The video was made at Chosen Hill School by Mike Stratford and Simon Carter and the choir is grateful to them and to the school. Log on to www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sf86lmaK9-M

In October 2009 in Gloucester Cathedral the choir launched a £400,000 appeal by LINC, a Cheltenham based charity, to up-grade the Jenner Wing at Gloucester Hospital. LINC (Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund) is an important local healthcare charity that works to improve

the cancer care in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and South Worcestershire. In March 2012 the choir, with accompanist, James Quinn, and with Ralph Barnes on the stand, performed in Gloucester Cathedral once again, this time to celebrate the successful conclusion of the appeal, which had reached its target.

LINC has now launched 'Make a Difference Campaign' to improve the Clinical Psychology service to its haematology, and the choir has been invited once again to hold a concert in support of this campaign. The concert will be in Pittville Pump Rooms, Cheltenham on Friday 22 March, 2013 beginning at 7.30. The fabulous soprano, Sue Black, will be the guest soloist in the event, which promises to be a spectacular occasion. Sue is well known to many choirs for the master-class she ran at the NAC National Conference in Bristol some years ago. She has a beautiful voice and a sparkling personality and would grace any stage. Tickets for the concert are £10 and are available from 03004422 or online at

www.lincfund.org.

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2013 'provisional' Conference Timetable

Friday 19 April 2013

Llyndir Hall Hotel

14h00 onwards Delegates arrive and register	- Hotel Reception
16h30 National Officers' Meeting	- Blue Lounge Room
19h00 Delegates and guests assemble for Gala Dinner	- Hotel Bar
19h30 Gala Dinner is served	- Hotel Restaurant
21h30 After dinner entertainment (quiz night etc)	- Bar
22h30 Keyboard available for guests own entertainment	- Bar
00h30 Bar closes	

Saturday 20 April 2013

Llyndir Hall Hotel

07h00 Breakfast	- Hotel Restaurant
07h00 Access for Trade Stand holders to install	- Llyndir Suite/????
09h00 Trade Stands (Music, travel, staging, recording and more!)	- Llyndir Suite/????
09h30 Seminar One – Patrick Hawes	- Llyndir Suite
10h30 Tea/Coffee & cookies (included in price)	- Conservatory
11h00 Seminar Two – Rogers Music	- Llyndir Suite
11h00 Seminar Two 'A' – Annette Woods – Vocal Techniques (Part 1)	- TBC
12h00 Sandwich lunch	- Conservatory /Restaurant
13h00 Seminar Three – Patrick Hawes	- Llyndir Suite
13h00 Seminar Three 'A' – Liz Moulder – Vocal Techniques (Part 2)	- TBC
14h00 Tea/Coffee & cakes (included in price)	- Conservatory
14h30 Seminar Four – Patrick Hawes	- Llyndir Suite
15h30 EGM & Annual General Meeting	- Llyndir Suite
16h30 Visits to Trade stands	- Llyndir Suite/???
17h00 Delegates and guests assemble for buffet	- Restaurant
18h15 Coaches depart for Group Concert	- Hotel Entrance
19h30 Grand Concert – Wales North/Cheshire West NAC Group	- William Aston Hall, Wrexham
22h30 Afterglow, sandwiches (included for residents)	- Conservatory
00h00 Bar Closes (Keyboard available for guests own entertainment)	- Bar

Sunday 21 April 2013

Llyndir Hall Hotel

07h30 Breakfast	- Restaurant
(for those wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at reception)	
10h00 Singing Session/Workshop with Saturday's hosts – Annette Woods & Liz Moulder	- Llyndir Suite
11h30 Tea/Coffee & cookies (included in price for resident/day delegates)	- Conservatory
12h00 Members Open Forum	- Llyndir Suite
13h00 Conference closed - Lunch available at guests' own cost	- Restaurant
13h00 Officers' meeting – guillotined after one hour	- Blue Lounge Room

Please note the change of address for **James Ferrabee**
159 Summerwood Lane, Nottingham, NG11 9FT

85th Annual General Meeting 25th Annual Conference Weekend 19-21 April 2013

The National Association of Choirs is pleased to be able to announce details of its forthcoming National Conference for 2013. This year sees the continuation of the National Conference being open to all - non-members included!

The National Association of Choirs will be holding its National Conference at the beautiful Llyndir Hall Hotel. This magnificent country house hotel near Chester on the border of North Wales promises to provide an experience to remember. Set in 5 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, offering peace and tranquillity, with the backdrop of the glorious Welsh countryside and yet only minutes from the Roman city of Chester, the Llyndir Hall Hotel & Spa, North Wales is an ideal venue for our National Conference.

Inside the Llyndir Hall Hotel guests will find recently renovated elegant and classic decor, within spacious and comfortable rooms which command stunning views of the local area including the gardens. The hotel offers 48 deluxe bedrooms, a fabulously designed restaurant, bar and lounge, and a majestic ballroom, (the Llyndir Suite and conservatory) overlooking the Italian terrace and gardens. All of the bedrooms offer en-suite facilities in a variety of styles, equipped with satellite television and radio, hairdryers, trouser press and a hospitality tray,

combined with free Wi-Fi internet and an indoor heated swimming pool, gym and sauna facilities, (perfect for resting and unwinding after a day of workshops and seminars) the hotel is well equipped to look after you, our delegates. In the evening delegates can indulge in fine food, fine wine and beautiful views in a variety of comfortable communal rooms. The hotel has a relaxed atmosphere which is the perfect way to end a busy day of seminars and workshops.

The National Conference is undergoing some interesting changes this time and will feature as always our Headline Workshop Presenter, along with a variety of other seminars and workshops for you to benefit from and enjoy. Plans are almost completed and agreed but until then you'll just have to take our word for it.

There have been some major changes to the format as well for the 2013 National Conference which will be released early next year along with the exact timetable; keep watching this space for developments. This year the host Group will provide the entertainment on Saturday evening, the Wales North/Cheshire West NAC Group have everything in hand, a variety of choirs will entertain us at the fabulous William Aston Hall in Wrexham and so far it promises to be an exciting evening.

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

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

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

Make a date in your diaries and remember places are strictly limited and are sure to go fast!





National Association of Choirs

National Conference Booking Form 19 – 21 April 2013



The Lyndir Hall Hotel, Lyndir Lane, Rossett, Chester, LL12 0AY

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

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

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

Surname:.....

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

Address (Lead Name):.....

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

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

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

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

NAC Group:.....

Choir Name:.....

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

Total Payment Required/Submitted:

- Resident Delegates £70 per person **non-refundable** deposit due by **11 January, 2013**
- Day/Dinner Delegates **FULL non-refundable** payment per person required at time of booking

Receipt Required? Y N (Please enclose a SAE)

Amount Submitted: £.....

Balance outstanding is due by Friday 29 March 2013 please.

You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by Friday 29 March 2013.

(Cancellations will incur a fee of 50% of the total delegate fee payable).

No refunds will be given after Friday 15 February 2013; however substitute delegates will be welcome.

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NAC Members

Room Requirements:-	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) Dinner, B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type.	Double	<input type="text"/> @ £160.00	<input type="text"/> @ £160.00	<input type="text"/> @ £90.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
Single delegates please be aware that a £20 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room.	Twin	<input type="text"/> @ £160.00	<input type="text"/> @ £160.00	<input type="text"/> @ £90.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
	Single	<input type="text"/> @ £93.00	<input type="text"/> @ £93.00	<input type="text"/> @ £45.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

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

NON NAC Members

Room Requirements:-	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) Dinner, B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type.	Double	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £100.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
Single delegates please be aware that a £20 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room.	Twin	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £180.00	<input type="text"/> @ £100.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
	Single	<input type="text"/> @ £105.00	<input type="text"/> @ £105.00	<input type="text"/> @ £50.00	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

*Dinner for non-resident delegates including wine with your meal only	<input type="text"/> @ £37.50	= £ <input type="text"/> .00
**Saturday/Sunday non-resident delegates conference fee includes lunch and refreshments	<input type="text"/> @ £37.50	= £ <input type="text"/> .00

Please return your completed form and deposit to:

James Ferrabee – Conference Co - ordinator, 159 Summerwood Lane, Nottingham, NG11 9FT

Email: conference.co-ordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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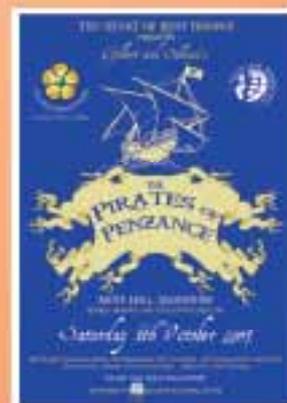
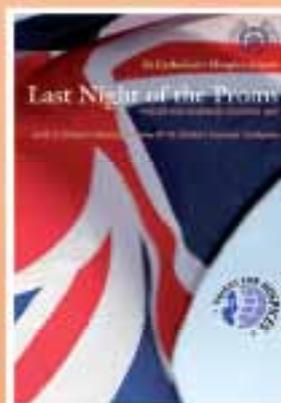
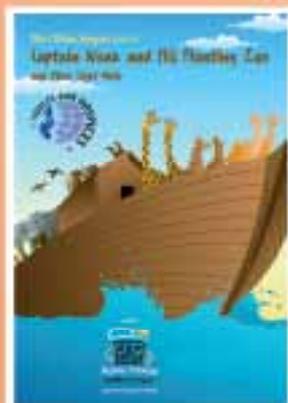


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Thames South Group

The Thames South Group had their first workshop in September, run by Paul Robinson, MD of Gillingham MVC, and about 40 members from Kent and Sussex converged on St Fidelis Church, Gillingham for a most enjoyable day. New friends were made and we are very much looking forward to the 3rd Joint Concert for the TS Group which will be held on Saturday 22 June at the Central Theatre, Chatham and entitled 'Medway Melodies'. As before, five choirs will be taking part but this time, apart from the Rowland Singers, they will be from Kent and East Sussex. This is exactly what we wanted.

We are looking to find a choir and venue in Mid Sussex/Surrey for the 2014 joint concert so please do contact me if you have any ideas. 2015 sees the Thames South Group hosting the National Conference and we can't wait. We aim to make it fun and accessible for all and would love to see you all there. The South Coast is a lovely part of the country and worth a visit and the singing isn't bad either!

Now we have some exciting events lined up in the Spring.

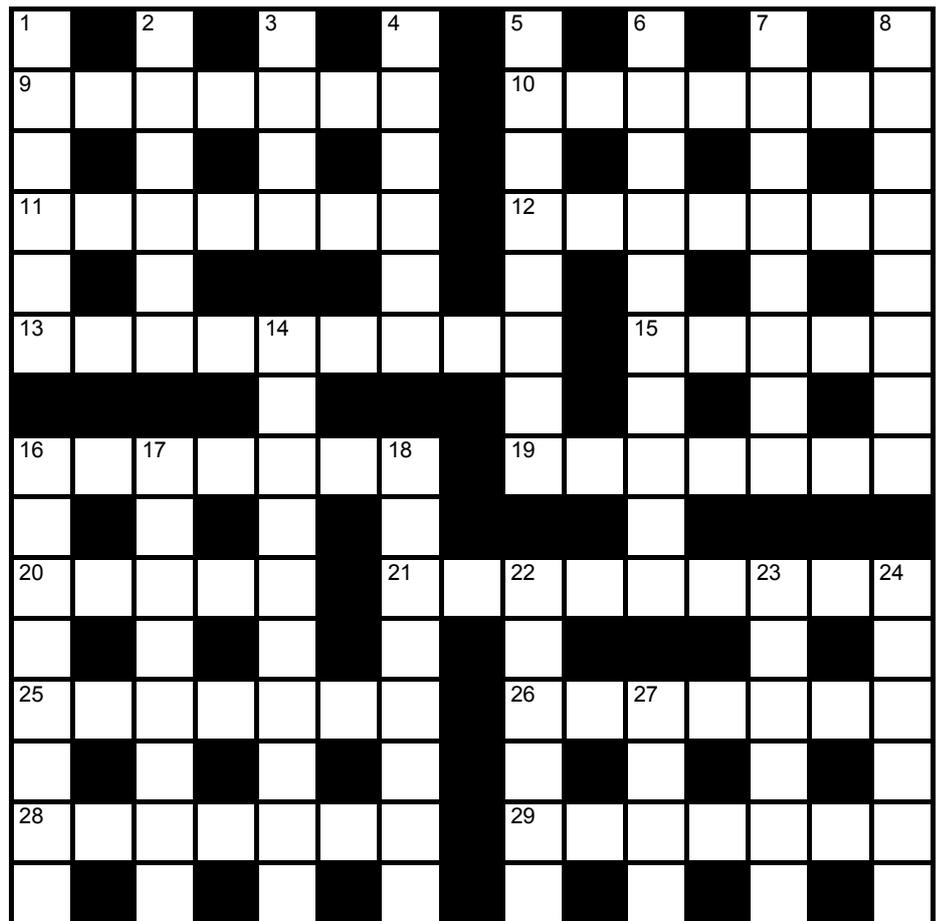
1. Christ's Hospital Choral Society is putting on a performance of *Zimbe*, a new and exciting work inspired by the music of Africa. Written by *Alexander L'Estrange* an ex Christ's Hospital Jazz teacher. Date is Sunday 17 March at 7.00. For tickets and info 01403 247434.

2. Jo Eames (Songbirds MD) is also putting on a performance of amongst other things, *Zimbe*. The date is Wednesday 19 June 2013 at the Hawth in Crawley and she would love both SATB singers and people in the audience. For details, contact Jo on 01403 595002 or email her at songbirds@hotmail.co.uk. She will be running some rehearsals just before the event. Songbirds, Pound Hill Junior School Choir and others will be taking part and hopefully Alexander L'Estrange will be there too.

3. There are several combined concerts planned for TS members which is great news - watch this space and, of course, the afore-mentioned Medway Melodies Concert on 22 June in Chatham.

Jacky Hetherington
TS Secretary

Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 9 Discover its OK in a way. (7)
 10 Not to be repeated. (7)
 11 Concealing a bed has me deeply blushing. (7)
 12 Rival happy content for Shah of Persia and his writing the other way round. (7)
 13 The way it was heated. (9)
 15 Befuddled nun is Muslim. (5)
 16 Moderately slow. (7)
 19 Burned and eaten at Christmas? (4,3)
 20 Do copiously and with hearty enjoyment. (5)
 21 Let the oven be cooked, Ludvig. (9)
 25 Fruit from a little bed after an endless month. (7)
 26 Small parent? (7)
 28 Trifling in comparison. (7)
 29 My nephew mixes polenta. (7)

Down

- 1 On his own Liszt is no drunken cockney composer. (6)
 2 Closer. (6)
 3 Sounds worse than his bite. (4)
 4 Sounds like a door knob in the chandelier. (6)
 5 Greek rock the colour of royalty. (8)
 6 The old man loves plenty of bubbly. (10)
 7 Modify the nonindustrial nitro to leave it void. (8)
 8 Confused, I ring her for work again. (8)
 14 Becomes a generous UNICEF mint. (10)
 16 Get to know the attractively unusual air conditioning. (8)
 17 Sounds a good way to colour a light weight blueprint. (8)
 18 Adjust your belt mate and prepare for combat. (8)
 22 I find a stoat determined. (6)
 23 Ejects. (6)
 24 Spritely fingers need no thimble. (6)
 27 Hold an ape by the scruff of his neck. (4)

Solution on page 27

Sudoku

This is supposed to be very easy. Write and tell me if you agree.

Want to solve this but don't want to spoil News & Views. Go to the NAC website and download the electronic version. Print off the Sudoku and away you go.

Solution on page 27

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

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Mendip Male Voice Choir South West

Mendip Male Voice Choir came into existence just 6 years ago, but it has a history of 93 years.

On 12 September 1919 a group of men met in the Temperance Hall in the Somerset Village of Timsbury with the purpose of forming a new male voice choir. The choir would be called Timsbury Male Voice Choir. They starting meeting once a week on Fridays in the Church rooms and charged a fee of 2d (old pence) per week. It is unknown exactly how many members there were in those days, but the minute books name at least 17. Oliver Janes was elected as the conductor, starting an association with the choir that lasted over 60 years and two generations.

The first performance was in St Mary's Church, Timsbury on 10 April 1920 and they gave 18 performances in their first year, mostly in local churches and chapels.

The choir grew in reputation and numbers throughout the next three decades with a break of a few years during the 1940s as many members went to help their country. Resuming in 1944, the choir continued under the direction of Oliver Janes until 1951 when he retired and his son, Ken, took over. Ken led the choir for another 34 years. Then Brian Attwood, one of the baritones, was elected to the post in 1985. Brian was still in charge up until 2003. Numbers during that time varied between 30 and 40 members and concerts were performed in many local venues, not only in churches as had been the case before. As well as this, the repertoire had widened during this time and besides singing many of the older male voice pieces the choir sang more modern pieces such as the medley *Back to the sixties* which included *House of the Rising Sun* and *He ain't heavy he's my brother*.

After 18 years conducting, Brian decided to retire to the Baritone section and handed over to Kate Courage on 1 Sept 2003. At the time the membership had dwindled to 28, Kate set several targets for the choir and herself in terms of performance standard, range of venues and, vitally, increased membership. In the last nine years she has met all her targets and now the choir boasts nearly 80 members, quite a few of whom are still at school or university. The choir has instituted a regular annual weekend trip away to perform somewhere in England or

Wales and has sung in Bath Abbey, Clifton Cathedral, Glastonbury Abbey supporting Katherine Jenkins, the Albert Hall and many other prestigious venues.

Kate is musically trained and brought with her lots of contacts from the local music scene, first introducing the choir to some of her young students who delighted the audience by performing solos with us at Bishops Lydeard, (the village at the start of the West Somerset Railway). Subsequently one of her young soloists was adopted by the choir and Hannah Lockwood, at the time a student at Bath Spa University, has been the regular soloist for nearly 8 years. In 2006, when Margaret Russell, the accompanist, decided it was time to retire, Kate brought another Bath Spa student into the choir and Carl Speck joined as the accompanist. Carl is a virtuoso performer with a wicked sense of fun; he is also a hard task master when taking on the mantle of assistant conductor and leading separate section rehearsals. When Carl graduated, he made the decision to apply for teaching posts locally so that he could continue playing for the choir.

The really big change came in 2006; with member numbers now approaching 50 drawn from a much wider area it was decided to change the name of the choir to reflect this catchment and the Timsbury Male Voice Choir became the Mendip Male Voice Choir. Shortly afterwards the choir had its first website www.mendipmen.co.uk

Numbers continued to grow and the choice of music became more catholic, including quite a few of Kate's own compositions or arrangements. One piece, *Shining*, she composed specifically to support the local Children's Hospice South West. The choir recorded a CD with this piece and all profits from the sale of the CD go to support the work of the Hospice. In addition the piece was published by BaBa Productions in three arrangements for male, female and mixed choirs; again all royalties going to the charity. Audiences at the choir's concerts were also growing during this time so many of the choir's formerly regular venues became unavailable as the choir needed bigger concert halls.

During 2010 the choir celebrated its 90th year with a year of special events, the highlight of which was a concert with three Welsh choirs in Bath Abbey. The following year the choir was invited to support Katherine Jenkins at the Glastonbury Extravaganza held in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey. The evening was

notable for the heavy downpour which somehow did not deter the audience under their umbrellas! Of course the choir was under cover on the stage and thus did not suffer at all, they just had the best experience singing to this large audience and then when the rain had stopped they had the pleasure of hearing Katherine singing. Bringing readers up to date the 2012 Diamond Jubilee year included many patriotic pieces and culminated in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in November with over 1500 voices as part of the Festival of Brass and Voice in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Next summer the choir has chosen the theme 'A Summer Of Love' which will be enjoyed with all their usual enthusiasm even though it will sadly be the last year under the baton of Kate Courage. After 9 years with the choir Kate has decided to move on to pastures new and will be leaving on 30 Aug 2013, the tenth anniversary of her appointment. Sportingly she has given the choir 12 months notice so they are now advertising for a replacement with the musical knowledge and charisma to take up the gauntlet left by Kate. The position will be advertised in the press, locally and nationally in January. The choir is always recruiting new members and any readers in the South West region who would like to join are invited to come along to one of the choir's rehearsals on a Monday evening at St Mary's School Timsbury.

Bryn Hawkins

Mendip Male Voice Choir has a vacancy for a Musical Director from 1 September 2013. The choir is now 80 strong with a balance in all four sections; the age range is 16 to 80. The choir rehearses on Monday evenings in the village of Timsbury which is 7 miles south of Bath.

The new Musical Director will be given complete control over the musical content and will work closely with our talented accompanist.

The successful candidate for the post will be a qualified musician able to control an 80 strong choir, capable of arranging pieces for four part male choir and perhaps composing pieces specifically for the choir. The job specification will be negotiable on appointment.

Please contact the secretary for application pack.

secretary@mendipmen.co.uk

07946 461305

The Dalesmen Male Voice Choir Midlands East

*A Superb Sing-Out Swing-Out Sell-Out!
25th Anniversary Concert*

On Saturday 3 November in the Derby Assembly Rooms a sell-out audience of around one thousand people from all over the East Midlands and as far away as the North East of England enjoyed a wonderful musical night of scintillating singing and playing. 'The best night's entertainment I've had in years'; 'I couldn't stop clapping' and 'Just superb, I can't wait for the next time this show comes to town' were just a few of the enthusiastic audience reactions after the concert. The singing came from 160 men from the Dalesmen Male Voice Choir and four invited choirs from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The music was courtesy of the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, led by Chris Dean and accomplished accompanists to the Dalesmen Male Voice Choir.

This superb Anniversary Charity Concert, compered by James Roberson of BBC TV (and recorded with a clip broadcast to millions on national and local BBC TV), was held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Dalesmen Male Voice Choir in 1987, now based in Belper, Derbyshire, also to celebrate the 110th Birthday of the UK's oldest man and co-founder of the Dalesmen, the Rev Reg Dean, who was born on the 4 November 1902 in Staffordshire. The charity concert also helped raise much needed funds in support of that most worthwhile of charities Derby and Derbyshire AGE-UK (formed from Age Concern and Help the Aged in 2009)

The voices supporting the Dalesmen were from our friends in Chesterfield, Eastwood, Mansfield and Melbourne Male Voice



Choirs, conducted by Richard Hayward, MD of the Dalesmen. The accompanists were Bill Templeman on piano and Lizzie Hayward on organ.

The Syd Lawrence Orchestra, led by Chris Dean, the son of Dalesmen President Reg Dean, played a wonderful foot-tapping selection of favourites from the 'Big Band' era and 'the joint was jumping' as they would have said in that era!

The massed choirs started the concert with the powerful *Let All Men Sing* which got the concert off with a bang - so appropriate on Bonfire weekend. Two songs followed with an American flavour; the spiritual *My Lord What a Morning* and a favourite of America's Deep South with Confederacy tones *An American Trilogy*. All songs were acclaimed by rapturous applause from an appreciative audience which continued when Chris Dean's musicians played their big band sound. Chris then played us all a recorded message from his father saying that he hoped we were enjoying the concert. The SLO continued with *In the Mood*, a Glenn Miller classic, and *Peanut Vendor*. Chris and his vocalist Angie Mills sang several numbers including a Lionel Richie song *Truly*. There were several great solos from the orchestra amongst them Colin Skinner on lead alto sax.

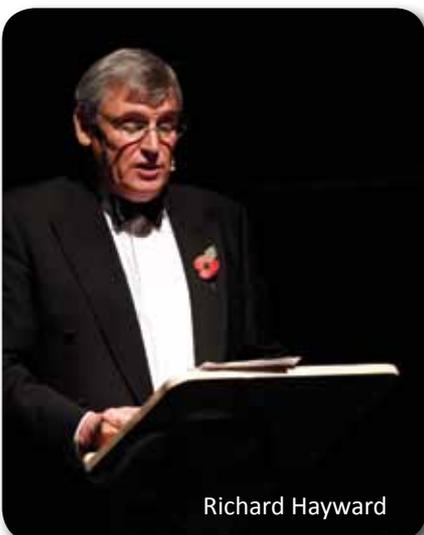
We were entertained by two faultless piano solos from Eleanor Kornas. Eleanor is the worthy winner of the Dalesmen Student Award 2012. This award helps music students with financial support (this year £500) in higher education. Eleanor is 18 years old and now reading music at Trinity College Cambridge as their Junior Music Scholar. Eleanor wishes to pursue a career in the music profession, which judging by her performance she should surely

be able to follow with aplomb. Eleanor played *Adagio Cantabile-Op 13 Pathetique* by Beethoven and *My Favourite Things* by Richard Rodgers to great applause. She was then presented with the Dalesmen Student Award Trophy and a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Chris Dean.

The audience then sang Happy Birthday to Reg on his 110th Birthday and to the Dalesmen on our 25th.

We then heard more from the 160 male voices. *All in the April Evening* our President's favourite; *Gwahoddiad* a Welsh hymn and *You'll Never Walk Alone* by Rodgers and Hammerstein from *Carousel*, now a modern anthem.

After a short Interval the massed choirs sang, amongst others, another favourite Welsh hymn *Llanfair* and *You raise me up* a modern classic ballad also performed by Westlife. This was followed by The Syd Lawrence Orchestra entertaining us with swing-era standards such as *Moonlight Serenade*, *The Midnight Sun Never Sets* and *Begin the Beguine* including solos from Angie Mills. The finale rounded the concert off with the massed choirs being accompanied by the Syd Lawrence Orchestra for renditions of *Unchained Melody*, *Softly as I Leave You* and *The Nearness of You* all of which were rapturously received by the one thousand people in the Assembly Rooms. Chris then played another wonderful recording he had obtained earlier of his father Reg Dean wishing us all best and saying he hoped to be around to see us on his 111th birthday. This playing and the message warmed-up the still very enthusiastic audience for the fantastic final number. Everyone joined in a truly show stopping rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory* which was rapturously applauded.



Richard Hayward

Richard Hayward, Musical Director of The Dalesmen, who conducted the massed choirs, said 'This superb concert tonight was the culmination of my aims for The Dalesmen when I became MD 20 months ago. It was superb and is recognition of all the hard work put in by all The Dalesmen. I see our progress as a journey and tonight's wonderful concert is just one milestone amongst many more that I am sure we will reach if we continue practising as hard as we have been doing'. Fortunately for all concerned, the audience as well as performers, a DVD will soon be available from The Dalesmen so we can all re-live such a wonderful and truly enjoyable night.

Our thanks go to all those in the Dalesmen who worked so hard to make this such a successful event; the Dalesmen Committee members, John England, Stuart Crosskill, Paul Sheward and Rod Straw; also to our sponsors for the evening, Morrisons supermarkets in Belper and Derby. Thanks also to Dalesman David Weston who initiated the sponsorship with Morrisons and many gained other supporting sponsors, as well as some great raffle prizes and Paul Wilde who made an important contribution on sponsorship. Thanks of



course must go to Richard Hayward our Musical Director and conductor for the night as well as to John Lloyd our Assistant MD, our accompanists on the night Bill Templeman on piano and his wife Mary and Lizzie Hayward on the organ as well as to our regular accompanist Patricia Affleck and not forgetting the 'Dalesmen Ladies' who worked so hard selling programmes and raffle tickets. Our appreciation of course must also go to Chris Dean for bringing his wonderful orchestra and adding a real swing and spice to the evening. Lastly our thanks go to all The Dalesmen who sang on the night and all our fellow choristers from the four invited choirs all contributing to making our 25th Anniversary Concert such a success.

R. George Newton

Shortly before going to press we heard the sad news of the death of
Rev Reg Dean
cofounder of the
Dalesmen Male Voice Choir.
News & Views extends its condolences to the choir and Reg's family at this sad time.

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

Conductor and Director of Music – Marilyn J Smith, MBE, LRAM

Like the Queen's jubilee and the great summer of sport we have all enjoyed, the choir's year ended with a great degree of satisfaction and pleasure. As in previous years The Phoenix was heavily involved in Christmas celebrations. As a prelude to the Christmas season, the choir performed at Cadder Freestone Masonic Lodge in Bishopbriggs with a St Andrew's Night concert, which was very well received by the audience. Almost immediately after we launched into three Christmas concerts - in Moncrieff Parish Church, East Kilbride; Freemasons' Hall in Edinburgh (both of which concerts are now annual events by request) and finally our annual Christmas Concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall all three of which were staged within a week.

The culmination of 2012's events was no less thrilling than on previous occasions, where we were joined by the Co-operative Funeralcare Band (formerly the Scottish Wholesale Cooperative Society Band) and the Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines International. The band (current holders of the Scottish Open Championship) which like us are sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare are firm favourites of choir and audience alike and performed two brilliant sets of wonderful music including Prokofiev favourite *Troika* and two rousing pieces by Paul Ovatt Cooper, *You've Been Warned* and an up-tempo version of *Three Kings* - appropriately entitled *Three Kings Swing*.

In a new departure from our usual Christmas guests, we were delighted to host fifty ladies of The Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines International whose sonorous tones as they performed their barber-shop routines delighted our audience. Their beautiful scarlet gowns were set off against the white jackets and black dresses of the choir together with

the band's making a great splash of colour over the packed platform.

Accompanist, Cameron Murdoch, was surprised and thrilled to receive a gift from the choir celebrating his twenty five years of faithful service to the Phoenix. Choir President - Janette Walker called him forward to receive a silver Quaich (a Scottish two-handed drinking vessel) and a twenty-five year old bottle of a Highland Park, a special single malt whisky. The President praised his dedication to which he suitably replied. Conductor - Marilyn Smith then invited Cameron - Accompanist and Deputy Conductor to conduct choir and audience in *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*. With a quiet smile, he commanded the audience - 'Stand'.

The Phoenix's 35th recording *The Glory of Christmas* was released at the concert and is expected to sell well.

Being the end of 2012, Marilyn Smith thanked the members for their dedication and commitment throughout the year which had been one of the busiest years in the choir's sixty one years. Many members are far travelled to rehearsals. Fourteen have round trips of over 40 miles whilst one Alto - Louise McCormack has a round trip of 180 miles travelling from Angus in the East. She drives to Dundee rail station and takes the train to Glasgow (around one and a half hours). Accompanist Cameron Murdoch travels from Kilcreggan on the Firth of Clyde - a round trip of 88 miles and Marie Graham (Soprano) who lives in Dunoon (also on the Firth of Clyde), although only 66 miles, includes a half hour sea trip. In stormy weather she wouldn't be able to make it to the rehearsal. The total mileage clocked up by the top fourteen farthest travelled amounts to 1,046 miles. That really is dedication.

The new year will bring more challenges for the members with concerts scheduled for Erskine Rotary, Kirkintilloch, Ayr, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Arran, a tour to the north and Orkney which includes concerts in Dornoch, St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, the Italian Chapel and Thurso West Parish and finishing the season with a proposed visit from Northampton Male Voice Choir with joint concerts in East Kilbride, Glasgow and Largs. Phew!

www.phoenixchoir.org

J Lawson Purdie
Hon Vice-President

Thanet Male Voice Choir Thames South

The Thanet Male Voice Choir had a busy, but enjoyable, few weeks in the summer which saw them perform their usual 'Proms by the Sea' just a few meters from the beach at Broadstairs in Kent.

Some traditional Male voice songs were augmented by audience participation in a

unique rendition of *What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor* (including actions!) and concluded with enthusiastic singing of *Land of Hope and Glory*, accompanied by much flag-waving. As usual each of the two performances was played out in front of a packed house and choir-members finished both evenings tired, but happy.

The mood changed somewhat when 49 choristers and many supporters travelled

to Ypres in Belgium shortly afterwards to perform at The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. A visit early in the day to the Tyne Cot Cemetery focussed the mind somewhat and although only two pieces were performed in the evening the journey was very worthwhile. *Mansions of the Lord* was followed by *Abide With Me* and the crowd of about 800 proved to be very appreciative. This was the first visit of Thanet MVC to the Menin Gate, but undoubtedly will not be the last.

Neil Armstrong



'We cannot expect you to be with us all the time, but perhaps you could be good enough to keep in touch now and again.'

Sir Thomas Beecham to a musician during a rehearsal



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New Member's Directory

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Ian Muddle 19 West Street, Banbury OX16 3HA
07722 131874
akemanvoices@tiscali.co.uk
www.akemanvoices.org.uk

ALLEGRA LADIES' CHOIR Wales South 50 choristers

Mrs Jane Rowland Longbourn, Old Chepstow Road, Langstone, Newport NP18 2ND
01633 411005
em-dawson@hotmail.co.uk
www.allegraladieschoir.weebly.com

ASHBOURNE SINGERS Midlands East Mixed voices 70 choristers

Dawn Moran Cherry Cottage, Hulland Village, Ashbourne, Derby DE6 3EP
01335 370367
ashbournesingers@aol.co.uk
www.ashbournesingers.org.uk

ASHFORD (KENT) CHORAL SOCIETY Thames South Mixed voices 140 choristers

Hugh Cooper Little Coombe, Pilgrims Way, Charing, Ashford, Kent TN27 0NA
01233 712237
hughmary@btinternet.com
www.ashfordchoral.org.uk

BARNSTAPLE LADIES CHOIR Devon

Mrs Pam Hernaman Sandown, 42 Cleave Road, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 2DU
01271 345596
pam.hernaman@gmail.com
www.barnstapleladieschoir.ceubbz.com

BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY Southern Counties Mixed voices 170 choristers

Neville Bacon 29 Green Birch Close, Basingstoke RG22 5JL
01256 323515
neville_bacon@hotmail.com

BELVOIR WASSAILERS Lincolnshire Male 20 choristers

Mr G Ward 2 Sedgebrook Road, Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir Lincs
rjedwards@sky.com

BROADBEAT CHOIR Anglia Mixed voices 28 choristers

Sandra Edwards The Croft, The Street, Neatishead, Norfolk NR12 8XG
01692 630012
sandraedwards.nch@live.co.uk
www.sandraedwards.co.uk/broadbentchoir

BURLEY IN WHARFEDALE COMMUNITY CHOIR Yorkshire West

Mixed voices 30 choristers

Mrs Vivien Wriglesworth Holme House, 18 Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale LS29 7OT
01943 865840
v.wriglesworth@btinternet.com

CADENZA CHOIR Southern Counties Mixed voices 35 choristers

Mrs Linda Welham 46 Jumpers Avenue, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2ER
01202 479126
lwelham@sky.com

COR Y WIBER Wales South Ladies 30 choristers

Angharad Mair Thomas 25 Lime Grove Avenue, Carmarthen SA31 1SW
corywiber@gmail.com
www.corywiber.org.uk

CROYDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR/SOCIETY ThamesS Mixed voices 90 choristers

Alan Partridge 48 Fairdene Road, Coulsden, CR5 1RE
01737 552926
alanpartridge.cpc@gmail.com

www.philharmonic.org.uk

ELATION COMMUNITY VOICES Anglia mixed voices 90 choristers

Mrs Sarah Collins The Leys, Long Buckby, Northants NN6 7YF
01327 843299
pr@elationchoir.co.uk
www.elationchoir.co.uk

FERRY ROCKS Wales North/Cheshire West 30 choristers Ladies

Sarah Spoor 34 Stanley Road, New Ferry, Wirral CH62 5AS
07941 894730
NewFerry@hotmail.co.uk

GIPPESWYK SINGERS Anglia Group Mixed voices 38 choristers

Teresa Booth 11 Berkeley Close, Ipswich IP4 2TS
01473 280918
teresabooth7@btinternet.com
www.gippeswysingers.co.uk

GOT 2 SING Bewdley Midlands SW, Worcester Midlands SW, Wolverhampton Midlands N 35, 35, 40 Mixed voices

Elizabeth Dunn Hill House, 61 Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcester DY12 2HA
01299 401749
sing@got2sing.co.uk
www.got2sing.co.uk

HARMONY Thames North Mixed voices 26 choristers

Mrs Helen Tuck 5 Sutherlands, Newbury, Berks RG14 7RL
01635 45978
rituck@newburyweb.net

HULL CHORAL UNION Yorkshire East Mixed voices 100 choristers

Mrs Helen Farrall 26 Riplingham Road, Kirkella, East Yorkshire HU10 7TP
01482 657510
feedback@hullchoralunion.org
www.hullchoralunion.org

MILLHOUSES Community Choir Yorkshire South Mixed voices 70 choristers

Graham Pratt 244 Bradway Road, Sheffield S17 4PE
0114 236 1213
g_pratt2001@yahoo.co.uk
www.grahamandeileenpratt.co.uk

PENRHYN MVC Wales North/Cheshire West 55 choristers

Wyn Roberts Bryn Awel, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy LL33 0SE
01248 680471
corypenrhyn@gmail.com
www.corypenrhyn.org

THE PORTSMOUTH CHORUS Southern Counties Mixed voices 80 choristers

Ian Goke 19 Malin Close, Stubbington, Hants
01329 310876
contact@theportsmouthchorus.com
www.theportsmouthchorus.com

THE RAUCOUS CHORUS Southern Counties Mixed voices 190 choristers

Dr Elaine Hendrickson 12 Windy Ridge, Beaminster DT8 3SR
01308 861746
raucouschorus@gmail.com

SHAKTI SINGS Thames South Mixed voices 120 choristers

Alexander Hay The Beacon, 42B Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5EE
07500 808 788
laura@shaktisings.org www.shaktisings.org

SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY MVC Anglia 30 choristers

Mr S Wade 35 Lowry Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1UE
01449 672600
scmvc@scwade.eclipse.co.uk
www.suffolkconstabularymalevoicechoir.co.uk

ST MARY'S SINGERS MUSIC SOCIETY Cornwall Mixed voices
32 choristers

Dr Claire
01872 552960
Glen Cottage, Wheal Butson, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0PU
claire.harries@btinternet.com
www.stmaryssingers.org.uk

THANET BIG SING COMMUNITY CHOIR Thames South Mixed voices

Mr Geoffrey Turner
01843 867332
21 Gladstone Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2HY
geoffturner44@btinternet.com

VILLAGE VOICES Southern Counties Mixed voices 60 choristers

Kevin Bunting
01243 378505
The Ark, 25A Kings Road, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7HN

WAVERTON SINGERS Wales North/Cheshire West Mixed voices 40 choristers

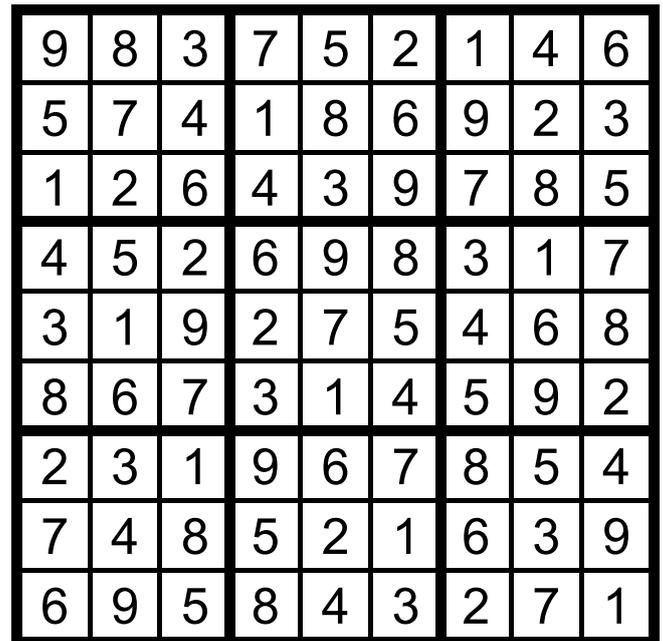
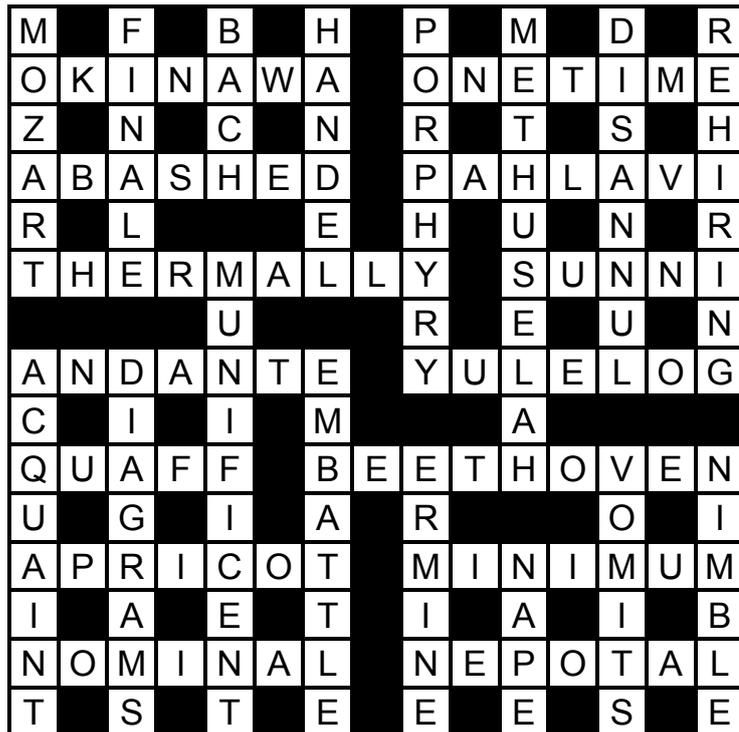
Marian Evans
01244 300053
Two Oaks, Wicker Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7EL
hobson_peter@sky.com

WOMEN OF NOTE Anglia Ladies 27 choristers

Jane Brookes
01223 351973
45 Kingston street, Cambridge CB1 2NU
janesspam@hotmail.co.uk

New Associate Member

Herbert Doney from Torquay



FUN Finale

Golden Rules for Ensemble Singing

1. Everyone should sing the same piece.
2. Take your time turning pages.
3. Do not worry if you do not have perfect pitch - you may find singing less stressful without it!
4. The right note at the wrong time is the wrong note.
5. The wrong note at the right time is still a wrong note.
6. A wrong note sung timidly is still a wrong note.
7. A wrong note sung with authority is an interpretation.
8. A true interpretation is realized when not one note of the original remains.
9. If you happen to sing a wrong note, give a nasty look to one of your neighbours.
10. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who get lost.
11. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and start an argument about repeat marks.
12. Strive to achieve the maximum notes per second - that way you at least gain the admiration of the totally incompetent.
13. If a passage is difficult, slow it down. If it is easy, speed it up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
14. Markings for slurs, dynamics, ornaments and breathing should be ignored. They are only there to embellish the score.
15. When everyone else has finished singing, you should not sing any notes you may still have left.

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How I like to receive articles for News & Views.

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

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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

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

HOUSE STYLE

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

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

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

Attach them to an email.

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

01472 500130

PLEASE DO WRITE IN

Crawford