



National Association of Choirs
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News & Views



The Sydney Male Choir

Photograph by Jann Eggins

The National Publication for all Choristers

Summer 2012

No 198



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Regulars

- 4 Crawford's Corner
Chairman's Chat
From the President
- 6 Forthcoming Events
- 26 Letters
- 31 New Members Directory
- 32 Back Page

Contents...

Conference 2012

- 10 This year's report



- 15 Basingstoke Ladies Choir
- 19 Glasgow Phoenix
Great Sutton MVC
- 20 Burry Port MVC
- 22 Hull Male Voice Choir
City of Truro Male Choir
- 23 Midlands West Group
- 25 Southport Lyric Singers



29
Elland MVC

Puzzle & Cwiz

- 21 Composer's Wordsearch
- 24 New Oddball Brewery

- 7 Dursley Male Voice Choir
- 8 Derbyshire Constabulary
Male Voice Choir
- 9 Bestwood MVC
- 14 Voices in Harmony
Wadebridge MVC



28
Luton MVC

Special Feature

- 12 Rudiments of Music



16
Elmbridge
Choir



26
Rowland
Singers

- 27 Thames South Group
- 28 Sonara Singers

Last date for submissions for Issue 199

Autumn 198 - 31 August

On your doorstep by 1 October

Advertising Index

8 Alan Simmons Music	17 John Trent Wallace	15 One Stage	27 Stage Systems
24 Barbershop	11 Lyn Oakes	5 Rayburn Tours	2 The Insurance Partnership
25 Conwy Council	13 Majestic Publications	30 Royal British Legion	
23 Duncan James	18 Mapac	20 Slaters Menswear	

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Crawford's Corner



Sumer Is Icumen In they sing. Well so far it seems to be a bit down tempo.

After the wettest April since who knows when. We had 164 mm in 22 days where I live. As Flanders and Swann sang, 'Farmers fear unkindly May, frost by night and hail by day'. I wonder whether June will 'bust out all over'?

Enough of this meteorological twaddle, here is the Summer edition of News & Views, which can be read and enjoyed rain or shine.

This time we have a special feature from my friend Linda Sankey who gives a few clues to those who sing without the benefit of having much of a musical education. David Lawrence told us at Conference that everyone can sight read. Yeah right.

I've written Conference report after a year off. Conference was fun in so many ways. If you didn't go this year please do think about going next year.

At conference I said I was working on a crossword. I still am but it's not ready yet so this time there is a wordsearch; we haven't had one for a while. We also offer an anagram cwiz. I found this neat website that creates anagrams from whatever you type in. So I typed in the titles of some

Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals for you to untangle.

There are nearly a dozen events listed in our forthcoming events diary, keep them coming in. Seventeen new choirs signed up since the Autumn issue. Have a look and see if any of them are near you. You will find an article from, Derbyshire Constabulary MVC, a recently joined member choir on page 8. How long has your choir been a member? Have we heard from you recently? Come on get writing.

Have a great summer and we'll see you when Autumn comes.

Crawford

Chairman's Chat



I normally try to open my Chat for News & Views with some comments about the time of year - but May/June doesn't seem to lend itself to anything particular. Late Spring? Early

Summer? Either way, as Crawford has said, it has been wet. Still, at least the farmers are beginning to be happier, except perhaps in East Anglia where I live, and where we are still officially in drought conditions, despite the overflowing rivers and flooding locally. I hope you are enjoying your singing, wherever you are and however many times you have to paddle to your concerts.

There does not seem to be a 'theme' in this edition of N&V, so here are some highlights which grabbed my attention:

Dursley MVC 'on the road' for one of their normal practice evenings, taking the choir out to meet local people. This has to be one of the more unusual ways of recruiting new members, but it appears to have worked.

A page on the Rudiments of Music. What a grand idea. How many choristers do we know (or do we suspect in our choir) who have had little or no grounding in the real basics of music, and who are too shy to ask for clarification? And conversely how many Musical Directors do we know who go blithely on with the rehearsal, oblivious to the fact that people may be completely puzzled by a point of interpretation in Italian, and who then get ratty because the choir members are not putting in the

crescendo (or whatever) in the right place? I recommend the 'no-blame culture' - if you want to know the answer to a question, then it is not a silly question.

Hull MVC Chairman underlining the benefits of staging a concert to raise money for charities. The NAC aims to encourage charitable giving by its member choirs, and if there is a further benefit where VAT is not charged, so much the better.

The Midlands West Group writing about their AGM, and the number of member choirs who were not represented at the meeting. Regrettably this is becoming the norm rather than the exception. We are aware that choirs join the NAC to take advantage of the insurance with TIP, but it is such a shame that they then completely disregard the fellowship and fun which emanate from the joining together with other choirs and staging joint concerts.

The Sonara Singers underlining the last point, telling of the links they have with NAC member choirs in all parts of the UK, and of the enjoyment they get out of both travelling to sing with other choirs, and of entertaining the choirs in their own area.

Congratulations to our Vice President Ken Hone, on attaining 90 years of age - and still working as MD of Luton MVC. James Ferrabee and I had the pleasure of attending the choir's annual dinner in January, at which Ken's birthday was well and truly celebrated...

And the Last Laugh - !

Do enjoy your summer singing, and may the weather be kind to you.

Celia Johns

From The President



It was wonderful to see so many old friends at Conference this year. Jan and I thank James for helping us to be there. Since the accident we have not been able to

get about and attend many concerts. The first one we managed to attend was a joint concert with the Gresley Male Voice choir and Alfreton Male Voice Choir at the Brewhouse Arts Centre.

We enjoyed a varied evening. Gresley opened the batting with Christur Salvator, The Silver Birch and Anthem from Chess. Alfreton then bowled us over with Let all Men Sing, Let it be me and My heart will go on.

Later Alfreton told us How to handle a woman and Gresley agreed that there was nothing like a dame. Everyone felt like joining in the chorus of The Hippopotamus Song.

Tanya Hilton, a pianist born in St Petersburg, who is Gresley's accompanist, played the first movement of Grieg's piano Concerto in her own arrangement for piano alone. This first time performance was well received.

As we are able to get around more we look forward to seeing and hearing our choral friends.

Eric Jackson

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Forthcoming Events

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

Let us know when your events are happening so that we can let everyone know.

Send your event to

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

JUNE 2012

50th Anniversary Concert

Burry Port Male Choir

Sat 23 June 2012

7:00

Venue: **Selwyn Samuel Centre, Llanelli**

Guest artistes Shân Cothi and John Owen Jones will perform with Burry Port Male Choir who are supported by Haverfordwest and Flint Male Choirs, Cor Meibion Cwmann and Cor Meibion Mynydd Mawr.

Tickets from: 01554 810442 or 834371 or any Burry Port choristers.

Ticket price: £20 and £15 reserved £12.50 unreserved.

City of Chester MVC Concert

Sat 30 June 2012

Venue: **Broughton Community Centre**

The City of Chester Male Voice Choir in Concert at Broughton Community Centre. Enquiries re tickets to 01244 349931. Also tickets will be available on the door on the night. Telephone: 01244 349931

JULY 2012

City of Chester MVC with the Laulajat Male Choir

Wed 4 July 2012

Venue: **St Francis Church, Chester**

The City of Chester Male Voice Choir hosts and shares a concert at St. Francis Church, Chester with the Laulajat Male Voice Choir from Tampere, Finland prior to the Finnish choir's appearance at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod

Enquiries for tickets to 01244 349931

Telephone: 01244 349931

Email: pam.millington@chestermalevoice.com

Website: http://www.mieskuorolaulajat.fi/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=61

AUGUST 2012

Edinburgh Festival of Spirituality and Peace

Fri 3 to Mon 27 Aug 2012

Venue: **Edinburgh**

This is a programme of around 300 activities in 200 events across 15 venues taking place in August each year. It features top-quality speakers, conversations, music, drama, dance, film, food, exhibitions, family activities, workshops, art, culture and much more. All of these events aim to promote peace, positive change and encourage audiences to engage with their own or other people's spirituality. We bring different belief communities together to discuss differences and find shared wisdoms using our events as catalysts for conversation. One of the key ways we do this is through musical performances which mainly consist of classical, folk and world music.

Our audiences have grown from a few hundred in the early days to in excess of 20,000 from across the globe. Such an increase shows that there is a clear role for such a festival. Our 2011 programme was our biggest yet with events across all genres, in venues around and beyond Edinburgh. The Festival is now looking forward to its twelfth year taking place on 3 August to 27 August.

FoSP is committed to the principles of creativity, inclusivity and dialogue and to modelling the dynamics of peace making: to sponsor the kind of conversations and encounters which need to happen in the wider world if there is to be peace and respect for all – and to garner wisdom wherever it is to be found. Therefore our programme creates opportunities for engagement for those who seek constructively to address the issues of our time, to promote dialogue and to build community in diversity.

For more information please visit our website www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk.

Festival of Spirituality and Peace
St John's Church (Venue 127)
Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4BJ

Scottish Registered Charity SC042638

07854322113

katherine@festivalofspirituality.org.uk

www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 2012

City of Chester MVC Concert

Sat 1 September 2012

Venue: **Gladstone Theatre Port Sunlight Wirral**

In concert with a 16 year old Counter Tenor Keiron Connor Valentine.

Tickets available from the Theatre Box office on 0151 643 8757

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

Tickets are £8 and under 16 £6.

Bestwood Male Voice Choir

Diamond Jubilee Concert

Sunday 23 September 2012

Venue: **The Albert Hall, Nottingham**

Tickets £10 per adult, £5 under 16, with a family ticket at £25 for two adults & two under 16 are available from telephone 01623 484091 or via the choir's website at www.bestwoodmvc.org.uk

Royal British Legion Gala Concert

Sat 29 September 2012 at 7:30

Venue: **Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, NG5 1ND**

Take the world renowned Band of the Lifeguards, mix in three male voice choirs and around 200 voices combined those elements with the Royal British Legion and together you have a Gala Concert on Saturday 29 September 2012.

The concert, in aid of the Royal British Legion - Nottinghamshire County, will

raise vital funds for the work of the Royal British Legion to continue to provide Welfare Support to service personnel, in Nottinghamshire, from past and current conflicts.

Feature the world renowned Band of the Life Guards in their first visit to Nottingham and the Royal Concert Hall alongside three of the finest Male Voice Choirs in the Midlands, Eastwood Collieries' Male Voice Choir, Chesterfield & District Male Voice Choir and The Orpheus Male Voice Choir (Grimsby and Cleethorpes). There is sure to be something for everyone.

The band is well known for its concert performances and can more usually be found located close to London, supporting events in the capital such as Trooping the Colour, Household Division Beating Retreat, Guard Mounts at Windsor Castle, St James' Palace and Buckingham Palace and Military Tattoos.

The choirs are no strangers to high profile events and venues either with performances as a combined massed choir of around 3,000 voices at the Royal Albert Hall in London and in 2010 at the Royal Concert Hall as part of the Sounds Sensational concert with Her Majesty's Band of the Blues and Royals to a sellout audience.

So whatever your tastes you're sure to be thrilled, excited and afforded a wonderful evening of pomp and circumstance, music and entertainment all under the expert eye of guest compere Dominic Heale – BBC East Midlands Today.

Tickets are priced at £17, £19 & £21 and are on sale now and are sure to sell out FAST!!

www.trch.co.uk

www.eastwoodcollieriesmvc.co.uk

www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/nottinghamshire

<http://www.chesterfieldmalevoicechoir.co.uk>

www.orpheus-online.org/

OCTOBER 2012

Festival Concert with Leyland Band Sat 6 Oct 2012

Venue: **Chester Cathedral**

The City of Chester Male Voice Choir Festival Concert with Leyland Band who

are Brass in Concert Champions 2011

Tickets available from the choir website www.chestermalevoice.com which has the link to the Cathedral Box Office. Tickets are £12 reserved and £10 unreserved and some restricted views.

DECEMBER 2012

World Choral Festival of Adults & Seniors Mon 3 to Wed 5 Dec 2012

Venue: **Vienna**

Further information is available under www.allchoir.com or senior-festival@hotmail.com.

MAY 2013

Cornwall International MVC Festival Thu 2 to Mon 6 May 2013

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

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



Harrogate Male Voice Choir

We are the process of reviewing and restocking our library of music, and would be interested in purchasing suitable music from any choir that has surplus copies or is in the process of disbanding.

The minimum requirement is fifty copies, please contact the secretary

ronald.wilkinson@ntlworld.com.

Dursley Male Voice Choir South West

When the choir toured south west Ireland in 2010 it met Colm 'Stride' O'Brien, the brilliant exponent of Scott Joplin and Ragtime. He asked that he might visit the choir and his performances at the two Annual Concerts in May were keenly anticipated. The Lister Hall was sold out well in advance. Colm took the audience by storm with his performances and witty asides. Even the social gathering after the second concert saw Colm on top form. The occasion will live long in the memory.

Concerts through the year have included Wotton-under-Edge, Cirencester and Dursley together with joint concerts with Gloucester Police MVC in Gloucester Cathedral and the Great Western Chorus in Thornbury. The latter was particularly memorable for the combined performance of Barrie Cooper's (Dursley's MD) arrangement of The Hallelujah Chorus which received a resounding standing ovation.

One innovation for the choir was to 'go on the road' for a normal practice evening. The first visit was to Wotton-under-Edge last October and in April this year a visit will be made to King's Stanley, near Stroud. New choristers have already arrived as a direct consequence.

The Christmas Concerts, two more full houses, saw the choir welcome 'The Six' as its guests. This very talented female a capella group of young singers based in Bristol, who still attend school or are at university, charmed the audiences. However 'The Six' became 'The Five' with one member weather bound at a Scottish University – not that this detracted from the performance in any way.

Most recently the choir was joined by Côr Meibion Dyffryn Tywi, returning an invitation Dursley made to south Wales. The timing of the visit turned out to be quite significant. Wales happened to beat England at Twickenham just before the concert and readers can well imagine the banter at the concert and the final social gathering.

Another joint concert saw the choir join Fascinating Rhythm – a ladies Barbershop group for another great concert.

The next annual concerts are rapidly approaching with the equivalent of almost half a concert of new music to be presented. Not only that, a part of the concert will have choristers completely mixed up and away from the comfort of sections. As those who have been this way will know, the sound is very different. No rest for the wicked.

Huw Jenkins

The Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir Midlands East

The Choir has recently joined the National Association of Choirs.



The choir began in 1956 and is recognised for raising money for good causes. The concert season runs from October to April each year and the choir performs three out of the four weeks in a month supporting local charities. The choir is made up of men from all walks of life and it is no longer a requirement of membership to be associated with the Police Force. New members always welcome.

The choir also has its own Annual Charity Concert. This year this was held on the

17 March at St Nicholas Church in Derby. It invited the Chapel-en-le-Frith Ladies Choir as its guests. The evening was a great success and a cheque for £500 was presented to Richard Wilson of Sight Support Derbyshire, the choir's chosen charity for the event. After a varied programme of songs, the choirs joined together to sing a beautiful arrangement of *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter.

The choir recently travelled to Millom in Cumbria as guests of the Rotary Club. The choir was asked to sing at a special concert to celebrate the Queen's birthday on 21 April. The concert was held at The Palladium in Millom raising money for the North West and the Great North Air Ambulances. So the choir sang on a 'Saturday night at the Palladium'. The choir performed a selection of favourites and evening was finished by a rousing rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory* and *The National Anthem*. The concert raised an amazing £1,500. This season the choir has helped to raise over £7,000 supporting charities near and far.

The choir has its first event with the National Association of Choirs' Midlands

East Group on 13 May in the Darwin Suite at the Assembly Rooms, Derby for a Charity Concert with The Greasley Singers, The Rolls Royce Ladies Choir, The Sonara Singers and Eastwood Collieries MVC.

The choir has been led by Musical Director Miss Christina A V Powell since 2009. Christina has a Bachelor of Music degree, a Masters degree in Sacred Music Studies and most recently a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. Anne Allen has accompanied the choir since 1974. Louise Cumpstone joined the choir in 2006 and is our second accompanist.

The choir is always keen to sing with other choirs so if you are organising a concert in the Midlands please contact us.

The choir can be found at <http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/About-us/Male-Voice-Choir/> and on Facebook. The programme for next season will be available later in the summer.

jj2@hotmail.co.uk

**Janet Ireland
Publicity Officer.**

NEW FROM ALAN SIMMONS MUSIC

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• Matt Monro Medley • Moonlight Serenade • My Way • New York, New York • Ob-la-di
Ob-la-da • Penny Lane • Strangers in the Night • They Can't Take That Away from Me •
Unforgettable • The Way We Were • The Way You Look Tonight • Walk Away

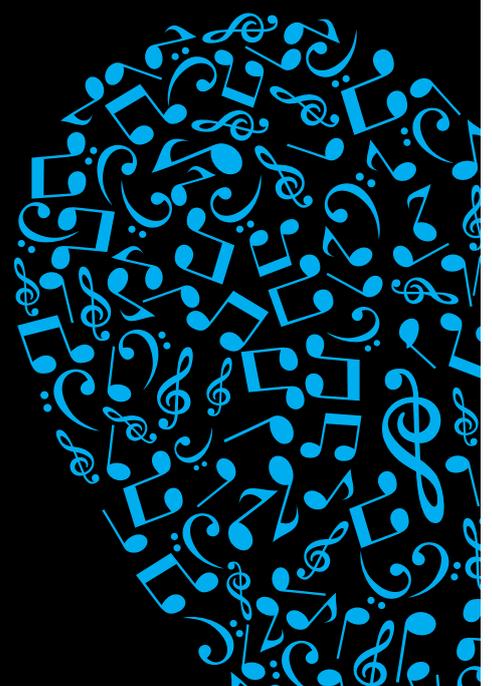
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Bestwood Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Len Hogg Memorial Concert 28 January 2012



A very enthusiastic audience enjoyed the annual Len Hogg Memorial Concert at Watnall Road Baptist Church in Hucknall, Nottinghamshire. Among the audience were Len's daughter, son-in-law and other

family members.

Proceeds from the concert went towards 'Under One Roof', the centre for voluntary work in Hucknall.

Under the direction of Mirek Rus, the choir's long standing Musical Director, the choir performed a full and varied programme which included individual solos and duets from Colin Pursglove, David Riley and Adrian Griffiths all of whom received rousing applause from the capacity audience.

John Pritchard, the choir's popular compere, once again entertained the audience with his musical knowledge and sharp wit.

Special mention was made of Bill Pilkington still proudly singing on the front row of the Bass section at the age of 95.

In celebration of its 60th year, the Bestwood Male Voice Choir is planning a commemorative concert at the Albert Hall, Nottingham, on Sunday 23 September 2012, commencing at 6.30.

The choir was founded in 1952 when Len Hogg, the newly appointed Manager at the highly productive Colliery in the village of Bestwood, in Nottinghamshire, took charge. With a life long interest in choral singing, Len formed a choir of some thirty

strong from amongst the miners working their shifts at the pit. It quickly became established, performing its first concert at Bestwood Village Hall on the 7 November 1953, and soon became one of the East Midlands premier male voice choirs.

Many years of competitive singing at musical festivals, around the country followed, including performing at the prestigious Llangollen Festival. The choir has sung internationally in Poland, France, Canada and, more recently, Germany. Over the years it has raised many thousands of pounds for charity.

The choir, with now over seventy members, is proud to present their commemorative concert with principal guests BeVox and featuring the magnificent Binns organ.

BeVox, the local contemporary 'people's choir', is a lively and inspirational group, with a varied repertoire. It performs in many ways, from large-scale sound-and-light extravaganzas, via unexpected impromptu concerts in shopping centres and fund-raising events in local community venues, through to small-scale private concerts in retirement homes. Its emphasis is on people finding their voices and enjoying singing, and then sharing that enjoyment with the wider public.

Of particular interest and appeal, at the concert, will be a rare opportunity to experience performances on the Binns organ, a feature of the Albert Hall, with David Butterworth playing both solo items and accompanying selected numbers with the choirs.

The instrument was built by James Jepson Binns (1855 – 1928) of Leeds and completed in 1909. A full restoration was undertaken in 1990-1993 by Messrs Harrison & Harrison, under the direction of consultant David Butterworth, who was subsequently appointed the organ's Custodian.

The organ is described as 'one of the finest town hall instruments in original unaltered state in the country' and carries the rare accolade of being awarded a Grade 1 Certificate of Merit by the British Institute of Organ Studies.

The choir continues its history of charitable work. Part of the proceeds from the concert will be donated to the charity Maggie's (Nottingham). This most worthwhile cause, which relies totally on public subscription, exists to assist both patients and relatives of cancer sufferers.

The choir's Musical Director, Mirek Rus, together with Timothy and David is currently preparing an exciting programme of musical entertainment for the concert, which should appeal to an audience of wide and varying tastes.

Tickets £10 per adult, £5 under 16, with a family ticket at £25 for two adults & two under 16 are available from telephone 01623 484091 or via the choir's website.



BeVox's Director, Timothy Allen, says, 'We are thrilled to have been invited to take part in Bestwood Male Voice Choir's special celebration and look forward to entertaining a capacity audience with them'.

www.bestwoodmvc.org.uk

David Riley
Publicity Officer



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services.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



NAC Annual Conference The Belsfield Hotel, Bowness on Windermere

It might be difficult to find a more idyllic spot to hold an annual conference than a hotel on the shores of Lake Windermere. This is Wordsworth country. I vaguely remember some of my A level English Lit covered Prelude Books 1 and 2 but I won't go there. It may be of interest to note that Wordsworth did his utmost to prevent the 1847 construction of the railway line from Kendal to Windermere. He stated that it would encourage too many tourists and part of a sonnet written by him urged the 'protest against the wrong'. I'm glad he wasn't successful because it really is beautiful country. The view from my window at the Belsfield Hotel was worth every penny.

Throughout a sunny Friday afternoon delegates began to arrive and settle in. It is always pleasant to greet friends old and new and the good weather made it even better.



At six o'clock the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Association was held. I always find the calling of the roll interesting. I like to see which group is best represented, Thames North won this year with Thames South and Lincolnshire not far behind. I also like to hear that our two doughty men of East Fife are with us.

The usual things happened; minutes approved, Officers' reports presented, clarified and commented on; officers elected and re-elected; all the paraphernalia of an AGM.

This year one of our long serving officers stood down from his position as Services Officer. Richard Bradley has been a servant of the Association for many years as PRO, Service Officer, which included being the man from the Pru, sorry TIP. He was Chairman for several extremely valuable years and his sage advice will be sorely missed. What do we do when a loyal and long serving officer steps down? We offer



him a Vice Presidency, and this we duly did. (I must remember to add Richard to the list on the back page).

One of the last Items on the agenda is Member's motions and this reminded me of one of the only Wordsworth quotes I can remember after forty odd years. He spoke of poetry as 'emotion recollected in tranquillity.' I'm afraid this year there was a great deal of emotion and very little tranquillity but I'll not go there either.

After the AGM we had a very nice buffet dinner to be followed by a quiz organised and presented by John Croft our PRO/ Services Officer. In my day I was regarded as quite a quiz buff but my quiz league days were twenty years ago and, I'm afraid, it showed. The final positions were 1st Rowland Rats, 2nd President's Selection and 3rd The Roses. I don't think we ever discovered where we came. I took my brains off to bed but I have little doubt that hardier souls made use of the keyboard provided by Roger's Music.

On Saturday after a splendid breakfast we strolled into the trade stands area. There were about a dozen stands and each was eagerly visited to collect samples and peruse wares. Roger's Music was selling and demonstrating keyboards and my wife was thinking of ways to persuade my son to buy with no success. I always like those stands that have music related things to buy, you know, Chopin boards, scarves and that sort of thing. Unfortunately it was a poor year for that sort of stall. Right, off to the first seminar, 'Developing the Ensemble'.

Liz Garnett was our presenter. We began with a warm up as all singers should. Good posture, feet apart shake the hands and arms, shake the feet, if you can do both at the same time, well done. Lift

your shoulders to your ears, not ears down, now she tells me. Then we were asked to close our eyes and listen. Listen outside the room, there's Roger on his keyboard, I think some rotten so and so had super glued him to his chair, he was there so long. Listen inside the room, listen inside yourself, Mmm! Then Liz asked us to hum any note softly, changing the note as and when we wished. I wish I could play everyone the recording that I made, the sound was quite amazing; some people she worked with called it the séance and I can believe it.

We began to sing with 'Hail Poetry' from Pirates of Penzance. She played it through first and we joined in as we could. Then we sang it through and then hummed it so we could concentrate on the notes. I rather enjoyed myself. We then discussed what ensemble was? There are three dimensions to this. One is mutual awareness the second is a balance of leading and following and the third is that sense of acting as one.

There were practical demonstrations using volunteers to explore these dimensions and a great deal of singing without written music, matching chords and sometimes singing with eyes closed. We also heard about mirror neurones and emotional contagion, wonderful stuff.



After coffee and cookies we were introduced to David Lawrence who was going to take the lion's share of the day's seminars.

David told us he was going to concentrate on up-skilling the amateur singer. David scours the world for really good ideas, soaks them up and presents them as his own, how honest. As he was speaking someone's phone went off and David, quite un-phased, told us of when he was conducting a workshop of Belshazzar's Feast with a large orchestra and chorus and came to a part where the choir shouts 'Slay' which is followed by a dramatic silence. In this silence a mobile rang and he had two thoughts. One was, I can't believe that phone should go off just at that point and the other thought was, that's my phone.

We began singing with 'Sometimes' by Sian Croose. It was eight bars which could be sung as a round in a wide number of ways. By the end of this section we knew the song by heart and had sung it in many different groupings. It was great fun. He encouraged us to sing a solo at the same time as everyone else thus accepting 100% responsibility.

He introduced us to 'Three Country Dances' by Thomas Ravenscroft which ended up fitting together when sung in groups simultaneously. He told us that conduc-

tors wave their arms about, not so people can watch the pulse but to introduce a pulse internally to the singers. We sang a number of rounds in different groupings. The time flew.

In the second and third of David's sessions he had chosen pieces from Mendelssohn, Bruckner and Brahms. At this point I started to get a little nervous, this might be heavy stuff and I took his words about everyone being a sight reader with a large pinch of sodium chloride. We had a great vocal workout.



Heck this report is getting out of hand, I'd better get on.

In the evening we have a wonderful dinner in the Moonwaters restaurant and entertainment from 'Serenata'. They were a group made up of two ladies a

flautist and a pianist. You may be asking yourself where was the Gala concert of local choirs? Well the best laid plans and all that. When you get into the north and into the less crowded areas of the Lake District one might say that choirs are few and far between. The problem was the 'far between' as it was not possible to get a numbers of choirs to travel the distances required to create a concert close enough for us to attend. Instead we had an evening of music from a group of singers and players, which I rather enjoyed. It was something different.

On Sunday we had the last of our seminars when Rayburn Tours led us on a journey to places far and wide. It was a pleasant journey and many thanks to Eleanor Harvey for braving an audience that had had a late night and was about 'seminared' out.

Conference usually ends with the open forum and this year was no exception. After this people set off into glorious sunshine to travel home.

Bob Swallow



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Voices In Harmony Midlands South West

Voices in Harmony Choir, previously 'The Sandwell Community Choir', was formed in 1996 by Cllr Margaret James who appointed Stephen Bradley as the Musical Director, for the BT Voices for Hospices-Worldwide 150th year of Handel's 'Messiah' productions. The first performance took place on 18 October 1997 in West Bromwich Town Hall with the Sandwell Youth Orchestra, local soloists and the choir under the baton of our Musical Director. Our Rehearsal and Concert pianist is Hilary Bradley, Stephen's wife. Stephen's father-in-law, Brian Lucas, is Deputy Musical Director and his wife Joan is our very much needed Tea Lady. Quite a family affair.

The choir is of mixed ability and gender and has some 70 voices. Our aim is to introduce all people to singing as a choir in both sacred and secular music. No audition is required, just a love and ability for singing. Our members meet to develop their knowledge, skills and techniques and sing for their own pleasure. The choir holds about six concerts a year and has taken part in many fund raising projects for charities and local good causes raising over £50,000.

The choir members have other talents; being our soloists; leading services; being a compère; participating in flower festivals; accompanying us on musical instruments and driving us to our destinations by coach.



Pure Harmony is our youth choir and was formed in 2007 under the leadership of Tracey Deeley. It is for boys and girls aged 6 to 16. They meet weekly on Mondays from 6.00-7.00 and their style is from pop, rap and show-tunes to semi-gospel and traditional. Their new leader, Eleanor Rushbury, has lots of experience leading school choirs and has recently completed Sing for Pleasure Conductor's qualifications, and hopes to use all these new found skills to develop Pure Harmony. Lis Round is their accompanist. Details on our website.

An invitation to be the Guests of the Chester Ladies Choir at All Saints Church, Hoole, Chester and joined with them in their spring concert with young musicians from Congleton High School.

The choir participated in the Massed Choirs at Birmingham Town Hall for the BBC's Songs of Praise conducted by Paul Ledington Wright; footage of which was used for three programmes, presented by Aled Jones interviewing Howard Goodall, Music Presenter and Thomas Trotter, town hall organist.

The choir sang at a lunchtime informal concert in Worcester Cathedral, given hospitality by St Andrew's Methodist Church and received a standing ovation in their evening concert!

In November, as the choir sang 'The Armed Man' by Karl Jenkins, in its entirety, a power-presentation depicted scenes of war. The choir wore white poppies for 'peace without violence'. It is a contemporary mass based on the fifteenth century French song 'L'Homme Arme'. Participants and audience were in awe of this work.

The choir occasionally participated in church worship services, which is also a blessing.

We sang at several St George's Day Concerts accompanied by The Staffordshire Band; the Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band and the Langley Band with Soloist Hilary Crowhurst. Compères for some of its Concerts are two BBC Midlands Today Presenters - Michael Collie and Sarah Falkland.

The choir can be seen 'in action' on YouTube in The Remembrance Festival 2011 at Cradley Heath Salvation Army.

The choir has a good following of supporters, who are greatly appreciated and who eagerly attend its concerts. Its first concert of 2012 was a Spring Proms at the Salvation Army, Cradley Heath with guests, Langley Band led by Musical Director Cliff Parker and soloist Caroline Lester. For forthcoming events see our website www.vihchoir.org.

The choir meets every Monday 7.30-9.30 at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church, Lawrence Lane, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 6EU. Further details can be obtained from, Stephen Bradley, our Musical Director on 0121 550 9976.

Jen Kerrison
(a Founder Member)

Wadebridge Male Voice Choir Cornwall

Moving with the times.

Wadebridge MVC's latest CD 'Then & Now' aptly named from traditional numbers like *Nessun Dorma* to contemporary modern pieces like *Angels*, has just been released. Naturally there is a strong Cornish flavour in the CD; including songs like *Cornish Hearts* composed for the International Male Voice Choral Festival 2007 by Gareth Churcher.



Musical Director Paul Mitchell said 'I am very pleased with the recording. We rehearsed every piece to the highest standard. This selection is representative of the choir's wide repertoire, whilst it will appeal to Male Voice Choir supporters there is something for everyone. I am sure some tracks will raise a smile.'

Also joining Wadebridge on the CD is 16 year old Maisie Tooley who reached the national finals of the top UK singing competition 'Open Mic' the Judges told Maisie her voice 'made their spines tingle' and 'she would go far'. To reach the finals in the O² Arena out of 20,000 entries speaks for itself.

Wadebridge recorded the CD in the remote St Ervan Parish Church Cornwall over two days with professional recording and mastering using the highest quality equipment.

Wadebridge Male Voice Choir was formed in 1920 at the instigation of Mr Harry Woolcock and is one of the oldest choirs in Cornwall. It celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2010. The current accompanists are Grahame Lee, Sheila Flower and Gill Gowan.

Each year the choir is in great demand to help raise funds for charities, both local and national. Last year the choir's concerts raised over £10,000 for worthy causes. The choir's repertoire includes traditional as well as contemporary

pieces. These prove very popular with audiences and choristers alike. The 'Then & Now' CD is a celebration of what the choir has achieved over several generations.

Paul Mitchell, a Cornish farmer, took up the position as Director of Music in 2008. He has had a lifelong love of music and song. In his youth he was Head Chorister in Truro Cathedral Choir. His dedication and personality definitely helps the choir achieve a high standard.

The CDs can be obtained from Bob Cronshaw. 01208 812349 www.wmvc.org.uk

Brian Wood

Basingstoke Ladies' Choir Southern Counties

I have, for my sins, just been appointed to the role of Publicity Officer for the Basingstoke Ladies' Choir after having been Concert Secretary for many years.

I would like to write about our experience having just auditioned for the *Choir of the Year competition* at The Anvil in Basingstoke. It was a wonderful

experience. In all, 7 children's choirs, 5 youth choirs and 14 choirs in the Open and Adult classes took part. Although we were not lucky enough to be chosen to go through to the semi finals in Manchester on 6 October, we received some wonderful comments from the adjudicators, Stuart Barr and Joanna Forbes L'Estrange. The Surrey Hills Chamber Choir and Harmony on Heels won through to the next round and it was well deserved. Both choirs were fabulous. Don't get disheartened by these big competitions, have a go, it will raise your standards and help you meet other choirs to exchange concerts. BLC have now decided to enter at least one competition each year to keep our standards high.

We are a 50-strong choir but are short of Sopranos at present - is anyone out there?

Our choir is thriving and growing in spirit and in standard but we have recently lost a couple of bookings to community choirs who do not have to charge for their appearances. Are any other choirs experiencing this? We, of course, and rightly so, have to pay our MD and Accompanist so cannot perform concerts

without charging a fee but some of the newer 'sing along' choirs can.

There is no doubt that The BBC's *Last Choir Standing* television programme and the various programmes with the wonderful Gareth Malone, initiated a lot of interest in choral singing. The established choirs already knew how great it is to belong to a choir. These new choirs have attracted large numbers throughout the country. Many of them, as new ventures, have attracted grants from their local councils which obviates the need for them to charge. Are we, established for 50 years, and with a good reputation, likely to be squeezed out of the equation? Locally, the community choirs do not seem to be generating recruits for BLC.

01256 325457

Margaret Allen

audition: the act of putting oneself under extreme duress to satisfy the sadistic intentions of someone who has already made up his mind.

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Elmbridge Choir

Thames South

Why does the alarm always go off when you've just fallen asleep? At 4.00 am I don't feel ready to get up although I did at 2.30 when I lay there trying to remember what I had forgotten to pack. But it's a special day. Today I am going, with my wife, to Krakow to compete in the city's 2011 International Advent Choral Festival. It is still dark and very cold (is Krakow going to be colder than this?) Yes, I have packed my thermals.



We are representing the UK - competing on an international stage. By 'we' I do not mean just my wife and I but all 135 of us in the Elmbridge Community Choir. Still, all those dreams of representing my country are coming true. I must admit that I never thought it would be as a singer - rugby or football, yes, but singing, no.

In 2005, Cliff Van Tonder, another man with Gareth Malone's dreams and visions came from South Africa to Cobham. Just like Gareth Malone was to do several years later he put an advert in the local paper to ask if anyone fancied joining a choir. One hundred people turned out and the Elmbridge Choir was born. Gradually, the numbers grew. In 2009 the Elmbridge Ladies Choir was formed and later in the year they were joined by the Elmbridge Big Band and the Elmbridge Young Musicians.



Now, a new choir has sprung out of the Society, the Elmbridge Community Choir a joining together of the Mixed and the Ladies Choir and we have been rehearsing once a week for just about 3 months for this huge challenge. You see most of us

are not really singers in the true sense of the word. The only requirement necessary for choir membership is an enjoyment of singing. No one in either choir has to face an audition or any sort of voice test. Most people when they arrive cannot read music and have very little, or no, musical history or knowledge. We cater for people who like other people and who enjoy singing in the shower. We are approaching this international competition with our enthusiasm and our smiles.

Will this be enough? We now have to compete on musical terms with some major choirs from the rest of Europe.

In the Krakowski Festiwal Pies'ni Adwentowych 1 Bozonarodzeniowych, there will be 6 categories, ours, the Adult Mixed, being the largest with 12 choirs from 6 countries: Poland, Italy, Norway, Ukraine, Hungary and ourselves. We have to perform 4 Christmas/Sacred songs (not our usual repertoire) in a programme lasting 15 minutes when we will be judged on intonation, voice emission, interpretation, diction and general artistic effect by 5 judges who, on paper, look extremely formidable as they are choral professionals from Italy, Wales, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Poland. We all feel quite convinced that we will come last.

Over the weekend we are singing four times. In addition to the competition and 2 Gala Concerts one in the huge St Mary's Basilica in the Krakow central square we are also going to be singing, for fun, in the Wieliczka Salt Mine. Much to our surprise we actually have our first performance in Luton Airport like a YouTube Flash Mob. Cliff is interviewed by phone for the Unsung Community Hero's Award run by BBC Radio Surrey and Sussex. We join in by singing one of our favourite songs, *Et in Terra Pax*, by John Purifoy from Knoxville, Tennessee. Gosh, it sounds beautiful. Maybe it's the acoustics but the sound fills our part of the terminal building and suddenly we realise that perhaps we are an international choir. Doesn't that sound exciting?

After the obligatory tour of the Jewish Quarter and a glimpse of Oskar Schindler's factory our first Krakow performance comes in the amazing Saint Kinga's Chapel, a vast cathedral-sized cavern carved out of salt 101 metres underground in the Wieliczka Salt Mine. As Cliff intended, it is a wonderful experience. The choir is bigger than the audience but that doesn't matter. To have the sound of 130 or so

voices filling this huge space was a joy for everyone; another confidence boost? It was touching to see and hear our guides singing along to the well-known Polish carol, *Wzlobe lezy*, which we sang in English and Polish. They even said they understood our Polish.

Saturday is competition day. We are all slightly nervous as we arrive at the St Peter and St Paul Church. We stream on to the stage; like the Keystone Cops coming out of that car, we keep coming. Great wreaths of smiles creep up the faces of the judges which make us smile, too. We sing our first song, the rousing *The Coming of the Lord*, by the young American, Pepper Choplin. Hey, that wasn't bad. Neither was our second, *Advent Peace Canon*, based upon Pachelbel's Canon.



Our third number, *Festival Sanctus*, by another American, John Leavitt, is not as good (or so it seemed to us - the judges must have noticed.) Was it just the tenors and basses or did we all slip up on the timing? Anyway, our last number, *The Man with Love in his Eyes*, composed especially for us by Leeds musician, Tim Knight, and with words by one of the choir members, Gillian La Haye, goes well. We breathe a sigh of relief. It was the song we worried about most because it was the most difficult. Did we make the right decision to keep our most difficult offering until last? We could have played safe but would there be extra marks for the challenge?

We watched the Judges throughout but they gave little away. One of them videoed us, one seemed to sleep all the way through and one, who seemed to sing along with us, began writing furiously after our third song.

And, then it was over. It all felt a bit flat but we were relieved that we hadn't disgraced ourselves. Later in the day we performed again for an hour to a full congregation and they, too, appreciated our Polish (that's not Polish.) We are watched from the wings by a Youth Choir

and we learn that they have been running a book on who will win which category (the youth of today, I don't know.) Much to our amazement they have made us favourites to win our group. Admittedly this is received with much ribald laughter but it does surprise us that people are taking us so seriously.

Our evening Christmas concert is a noisy but excited affair as we make contact via Skype with the alternative Christmas party back in the UK. The next day before the Gala concert and the results we take a sobering and emotional tour of Birkenau and Auschwitz. It was a much quieter Choir that walked to the Bazylice Mariackej for the final Gala concert where we were due to close the whole festival with 2 songs.

When we arrive a Mass, with a Cardinal in attendance, is in full swing and the church is packed to the door. It overruns by 45 minutes but at last the Gala Concert begins with the first of the 31 choirs to perform. With its huge, decorated pillars the Church is quite a magnificent venue for the choirs but terrible for the audience. If you sat in the middle or the back of the church it

was almost impossible to see anything of the choirs which was very sad because we wanted to see our competitors. The young Bloemfontein Children's Choir, too, sang and danced through their performances.



We are received rapturously. When we have finished *Et In Terra Pax* and the *Advent Peace Canon* the clapping would not stop as we walked back through a mass of smiling faces and raised thumbs as young and old mouthed, 'Well done.' It was another, highly charged, emotional moment.

Now the results are called - in Polish followed by an English translation. All the

conductors are called forward. We don't fully understand what is going on but we do gather that 5 choirs have been given Certificates of Participation, that is, for just turning up. We are not in this group. But we participated! Have we actually won something? A murmur of excitement goes through the group.

Now, the Bronze Diploma; marks first: 64 for a Polish Choir, 67 a Hungarian choir, 68 another Polish Choir, 72 an Italian Choir, 74 'The Elmbridge Community Choir.' We couldn't believe it. We were top of the Bronze category because the Silver Diploma started at 75.5. We were just 1.5 points off a Silver Diploma in our first competition. What a weekend it had been.

To cap it all Cliff has won his own Diploma for 'The conductor with the Best Emotion.' We all loved that because we all so agree. He does have the 'best emotion.' The party in the hotel went on and on into the night. It was one of the greatest weekends of our lives.

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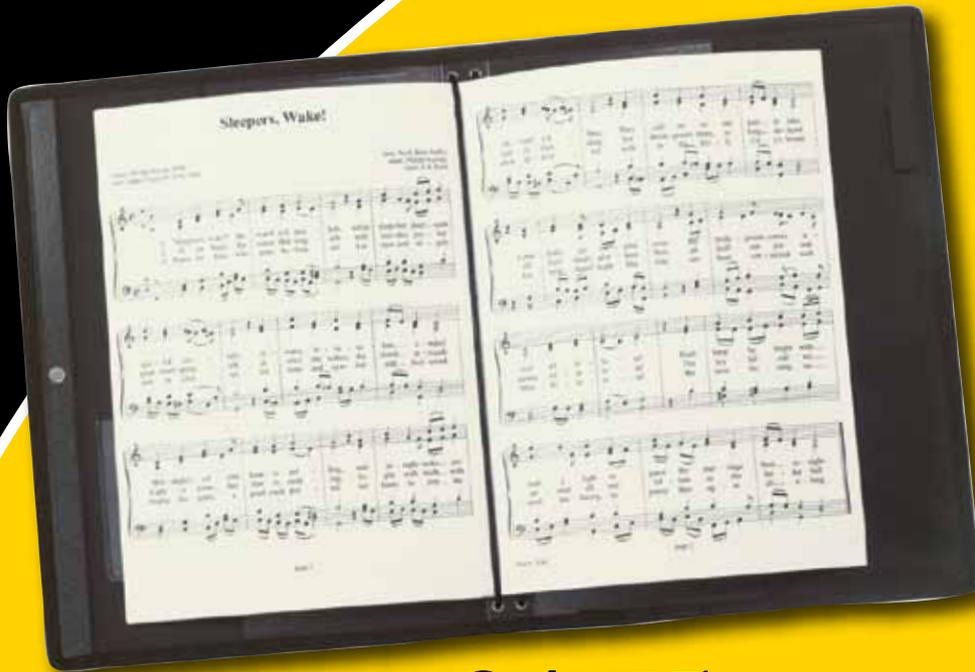


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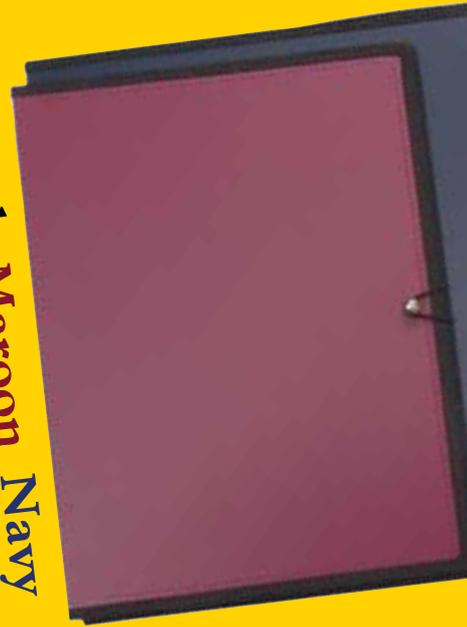
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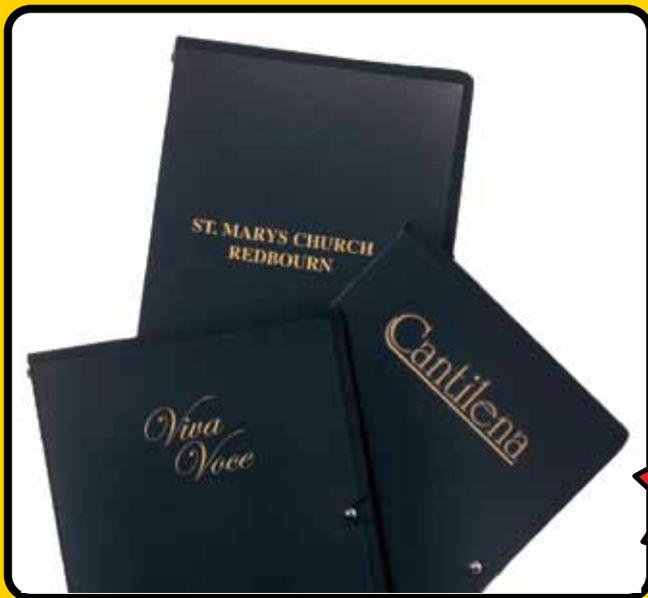


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The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

The culmination of the choir's Diamond Jubilee season finished with a Gala Concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, with special guests, Peter Morrison, the choir's Honorary President, whose TV programmes in the 70s were a blockbusting success; Dorothy Paul, one of Scotland's leading comedienne, a great raconteur and singer, and the multi-talented Gordon Cree, baritone and raconteur who has entertained audiences on a number of previous occasions with great success. To complete the guest list are the youthful voices of Dunfermline Junior Chorus Junior Choir, conducted by Mandy Miller.

This concert was the first major concert in Glasgow with Conductor Marilyn Smith at the helm since she was awarded the MBE, and turned out to be a marvellous night. The choir was especially pleased to have as guests, George Tinning, Managing Director of the choir's sponsors – The Co-operative Funeralcare together with a number of senior executives, and various leading representatives of Local Authorities from the City of Glasgow and surrounding councils present.

The April concert is always a bit harder to sell, largely due to the number of competing outside activities at this time of year, but the Phoenix was pleasantly surprised and delighted to have a full house of more than 2,000 present.

The concert was marked by a presentation of a beautiful piece of glass work presented to Conductor Marilyn Smith and the choir by George Tinning to mark the Diamond Jubilee and the happy association of the Company with the choir. The Phoenix reciprocated with mounted CD covers of the four recordings shortly to be released.

Much to his surprise, the choir's Business Manager – John Blue, who has guided and organised the Phoenix over the last 15 years to the position of excellence it now enjoys, was brought on to the platform and introduced to the audience by Choir President, Janette Walker, who gave a speech of praise for his accomplishments. John suitably replied and was given a great ovation by audience and choir members alike.

The diamond jubilee year was marked by four major concerts in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and since New Year, concerts were given in Greenock, Renfrew, Newton Mearns, Linlithgow and Coatbridge.

Future months will be no less busy, with a concert in Largs, followed by the laying down of another recording in May, and a much anticipated visit to Northampton, Hereford and Worcester where the choir will hook up with the Northampton Male Voice Choir at a concert in the Spinney Theatre in Northampton, and old friends Hereford Police Male Choir in Hereford Cathedral, followed by a concert in St George's R C Church in Worcester.

The association with Hereford Police Male Choir goes back a good number of years and the joining together of both choirs is greatly enjoyed. However Northampton Male Choir is new to the Phoenix and we are looking forward to a new association with the men of Northampton thus broadening the number and range of groups with whom the Phoenix has connections, both here in the UK and abroad in Europe and North America.

The Phoenix will not yet enjoy a break for the summer as further concerts have been arranged in Kirkcaldy and Bearsden. Only after these will the choir be in recess. The autumn and the new season will bring a number of concerts in various parts of Scotland, leading up to the Annual Christmas Concert 'The Glory of Christmas' in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall featuring The Co-operative Funeralcare Band – current Scottish Champions under Conductor – Alejandro de Palma Garrido who have been closely associated with the choir for a number of years and are always a great hit with our audiences.

In a new departure from the usual guest choirs, the Phoenix is delighted to welcome to the concert hall platform special guests, The Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, winners of many trophies in the Barbershop Chorus world, a first for the Phoenix.

www.phoenixchoir.org

J Lawson Purdie
Hon Vice-President

Great Sutton Male Voice Choir Wales and Chester.

2012 sees the choir celebrating 65 years of music making in the Ellesmere Port area and further afield.

Following the retirement of Emrys Williams, the choir's conductor for over 40 years, Neil Williams (no relation) who was until December 2011 the MD of Aughton Male Voice Choir, took up the baton.

As part of the choir's celebrations it will be holding a Celebration Dinner for members, wives and friends.

In April it is performing an Easter concert in St John's Church which will take the form of selected sacred items, solos and readings.

In July it is presenting 'Songs from the Musicals' along with a local soloist. This is the first time the choir has attempted this kind of concert for some time, but our MD did a similar one when he was with Aughton. Along with well known items from the musicals the choir has also been able to obtain copies of some less performed but well known items (if you are in the right age group).

Following a break in August the choir will prepare for the Celebrity Concert when its guest will be the Fireflies a local ladies choir (also members of the NAC) and the choir hopes that this will become a regular annual event and also hope that both choirs will perform other concerts in the future. The choir ends its year with its traditional Choir and Band Christmas Concert.

The choir is also a member of the Welsh Association of Male Choirs and has appeared at the Albert Hall on a number of occasions. In 2012 it is taking part in the massed choir at the MEN arena.

Along with concerts for local churches and charity groups the choir is hoping to return to Llandudno to sing in the 'Sunday at Eight' concerts.

The choir is always (like most choirs) looking to recruit and is in the process of organizing an Open Evening.

Neil Williams.

Burry Port Male Choir Wales South

50th Anniversary Year 2012

The rebirth of the Burry Port Male Choir took place in September 1962 when a meeting was called at the Memorial Hall inviting along any persons interested in reforming the choir to attend - thirty persons turned up. The meeting concluded with Mr Raymond Morris being appointed its first conductor. The objectives and aims of the present choir are still founded on the foundations set fifty years ago. This year is a special year being the 50th Anniversary of the choir formation and there will be various performances celebrating this through the year. We have already taken part in the Dedication ceremony of a new lifeboat and the 200th Anniversary service of Jerusalem chapel. There will be a 'black tie' dinner for all the choristers and guests in September on the actual 50th Anniversary day. The most important of this year's events is the 50th Anniversary concert on Saturday 23 June at the Selwyn Samuel Centre, Llanelli. Guest artistes are Shân Cothi and John Owen Jones (Les Miserable and Phantom, London and New York). Burry Port Male

choir will be supported by Haverfordwest and Flint Male Choirs, Cor Meibion Cwmann and Cor Meibion Mynydd Mawr. Ticket enquiries to choir secretary Illtyd Beynon on 01554 810442.

Mr Ryan Lee our present conductor is only the seventh in nearly fifty years. Born in Llangennech, a village situated approximately midway between the City of Swansea and the Town of Llanelli, he is now living in Burry Port. Ryan has arranged many of the songs sung by the choir. The music set to Psalm 121 was composed by him, and part of the current repertoire was arranged by him. Many other choirs have benefitted by receiving copies of his arrangements.

His immediate task on taking up the appointment was to guide and adapt the choir through the changes that were taking place within the modern era of male choirs, with his talent for arranging modern songs and by combining the modern with the traditional. The reputation of the Burry Port Male Choir extended under his leadership to many parts of the British Isles, Europe and the United States of America. Over the years the choir has supported local charitable events and donated the funds of



their traditional, annual community carol concerts to many good causes including local health centres and schools. They have competed at eisteddfodau within our area at both national and international levels. It has twice visited Holland, Canada once, and has been to America on three occasions. The choir has also visited and performed in Paris and at the Albert Hall, London and the MEN Arena, Manchester in the Thousand Voices Concerts.

Our main aim is to establish and ensure a future for the Male Choir in Burry Port. Combining the commitment of the present membership with the support shown in the town the choir can plan and look forward to many more successful years.

www.burryportmalechoir.co.uk

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SHOSTAKOVICH

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VIVALDI

WAGNER

Hull Male Voice Choir Yorkshire East

Oh ye of Little Faith!

Following on from the report of their 'Sounds of Celebration' centenary concert in the last News and Views Philip Ashworth, Chairman of the Hull MVC, recalls some of the financial aspects of promoting this one-off prestigious, and potentially expensive, concert.

It is autumn, 2010, and the Hull Male Voice Choir is debating how best to celebrate its centenary in 2011. The Committee is forced, against what it thinks is its better judgement, to consider promoting a very special concert in the 1200-seat Hull City Hall, with a well-known guest artist. To an organisation used to putting on concerts in village halls and churches with local amateur guest singers the thought of underwriting a potential hall hire charge of £2,000, and guest's fee of the order of £5,000, was truly daunting, but we were encouraged by the enthusiasm of some members, particularly our PRO and Assistant Musical Director, Terry Wallis.

It was decided to model our concert on the early, triennial, concerts in aid of Yorkshire Cancer Research in the Royal Albert Hall, with a massed male voice choir, brass band and organ accompaniment where appropriate. The City Hall was booked for a Saturday a year ahead in October, and the Brighthouse & Rastrick Band booked at a cost of £4000 + VAT. (We booked them before they won the Championship - they charge more now.) It was also decided that, in the event that we made a surplus, all would be divided between 2 charities - the local hospice and Help for Heroes. Consideration was then given to how we might fund this event.

A Funding sub-committee was formed, and approaches made to various potential sources of grants for musical events, the arts, etc, but to no avail. Early in 2011 the local newspaper ran an article listing some 40 firms which were at least 100 years old. I wrote to each of them suggesting that they may care to mark our succession to their 'Centurion's Club' by sponsoring our celebrity concert, £100 being suggested as appropriate. Only 3 responded, but that was a start. Financial fortune further favoured us when the Hull City Council kindly agreed to waive the hall hire charge in view of the charitable status of both the choir and the potential beneficiaries.

It was now time to draft a budget and, aided by a spreadsheet, assess the 'what ifs' of various ticket pricing strategies. We homed

in on £20, £16 and £12 for different areas, with no concessions - keep it simple. Seat allocation and booking was managed by the City Hall people, so as well as Performing Rights we had to make allowances for sales commission, credit card charges and the iniquitous VAT. Initial calculations indicated a break-even if we half filled the hall.

In January I obtained blocks of the best seats in each price band for choir members to sell on a 'book now, pay later' basis, which resulted in commitments to buy some 300 seats with a gross value of over £5000. Our PRO, a retired bank manager, personally contacted 3 or 4 locals known to be 'not short of a penny' and 3 sums of £1000 were pledged, anonymously. Suddenly we were moving towards financial security, and breathing again.

It remained to publicise the event and sell the other three-quarters of the house. This was done by word of mouth, posters (kindly provided free by our programme contractors, Majestic Publications, who also provided our Souvenir Programme at no charge - recommend them any time) and drip-feeding editorial matter to the local Press. The only advert we paid for was in 'News and Views'. I was concerned about the VAT, believing that we could be paying it on the Band's fee and on the ticket sales, and could not offset one against the other since the contract was between Band and choir, who are not VAT registered. It all smacked of double taxation, but an approach to HMR&C proved fruitless.

As October approached ticket sales by the City Hall box office were going strongly, with only a handful of seats left in the week before the concert, resulting in a full house on the night. Then came the final reckoning. The account from the City Hall contained a very pleasant surprise. Whilst, as expected, they had levied VAT on the various services provided, no VAT was levied on the basic ticket sales, the rationale being that the (non-VAT registered) choir were the promoters, with the Civic authorities acting as agents. Thus the surplus was several thousand pounds more than we had budgeted in our wildest dreams, and, contrary to our initial fears, we were able to donate over £8,500 to each worthy charity. Oh ye of little faith.

Oh, and the concert itself got a wow factor of 10 as well!

Philip Ashworth
Chairman

City of Truro Male Choir Cornwall

Carnon Vale- Chacewater-Truro

The reader can be forgiven if that reads like stops on a bus route. The above names are well-known locations in Cornwall and the names of three Cornish male choirs both past and present.



In 1942 four men, led by Mr Edgar Ham, formed the Carnon Vale Male Voice Choir and practised in Col Carey-Morgan's barn in the village of Calenick after their Home Guard duties. Mr Gordon Hall, the organist of Falmouth

Parish Church was their first musical director.

In 1945 at the end of the Second World War the choir expanded and moved to Kea School where the headmaster, Arnold Williams, became the second MD, a post he held for the next twenty-eight years. During that time they won the County Music Festival on several occasions and took sixty-five singers to Wrexham in 1978. Two years later eight singers from the choir represented Cornwall at the L' Orient Celtic Festival in Brittany. The choir continued until 1991.

In 1947 three men of the Chacewater Institute (including Denzil Oates who is still singing and the last of the remaining founder members) decided to form The Chacewater & District Male Voice Choir, and persuaded a former BBC bass, Foster Manley, to be the MD. Later that year 28 members of the choir gave their first concert (in Chacewater). Over the succeeding years the choir participated in local music festivals, winning the County MF in 1987 and Camborne MF in 1988 and 1989. During the same period they made three visits to Morlaix, Brittany as part of twinning celebrations.

Being only five miles apart, the two choirs enjoyed a friendly relationship over the years giving the occasional joint concert and even loaning each other singers when needed. By the early 1990s the membership of both choirs had fallen and the obvious solution was to amalgamate. The amalgamation occurred in 1991, and the Carnon Vale & Chacewater Male Choir was born with Ann

Birch as the MD. The choir was in much demand over the next 7 years performing concerts, competing in music festivals, both in Truro and Cheltenham where they not only won their section but also the gold cup for the best overall musical performance. They also completed a 10-day tour of Germany.

In 1998 the MD retired and Paul Triggs then took over at the helm. As a trained singer Paul focussed on the choir's vocal production techniques, which resulted in the choir beginning to develop its own distinctive tone and style. In 2008 the choir relocated their practice venue from Chacewater to Truro when the choir was renamed The City of Truro Male Choir. The same year Paul took the choir to the County Music Festival when they were awarded the Holman Cup (MVC Championship Class), The Everett Heath Cup (Best Adult Choir Performance) and The Jose Cup for the best overall performance.

Paul Triggs was MD for 13 years and during that time he undoubtedly raised the standard of the choir and gradually gained a good reputation both far and wide.

In 2011 Hannah Stephenson BMus (Hons) took over the reins. She was tutored in her early years by Martin Davies, the current accompanist of Truro's Male Choir, and attended Penair School and Truro College before leaving to study

music at University. She completed her music degree in vocals and composition at Leeds College of Music where she was also awarded The 'Friends Prize for Composition' as well as several other prestigious awards. Martin Davies inspired in Hannah a love of making music and she went on to further her career in Durham as a peripatetic music teacher as well as private vocal tutor. Whilst there, she was also a member of Palatinat Voices, a prestigious chamber choir associated with both Durham Cathedral and University. Having returned to her hometown of Truro Hannah was delighted to accept the invitation to become the new MD of Truro's Male Choir. As well as an accomplished singer and pianist Hannah has arranged modern choral pieces. With her in-depth knowledge of voice production techniques she aims to work with each member of the choir to enable them to fulfil their musical potential and to give singers and audience alike an exciting musical experience.

2012 embarks on a new chapter for the City of Truro Male Choir and with 70 men from all walks of life, with many varying experiences, Hannah has been set quite a challenge but one which she looks forward to meeting with great relish.

www.cityoftruromalechoir.co.uk

James Miller

Midlands West Group

The group had its AGM in February which was held at the home of the Willenhall Musical Society where Pam Proffitt welcomed us all. The ladies of the choir did us proud with the varied array of refreshments.

The meeting was good and positive with the members introducing their choirs and telling us all about what they are doing throughout the coming year.

And I would like to thank the MW Group executive committee for their hard work in the preparation for the AGM.

We had a very good workshop which was given by Mrs Dilek Boland and enjoyed by all.

It was sad however to see that yet again the attendance has fallen with only 7 choirs out of 19 being represented. If choirs choose not to attend we have no idea of any concerns that they may have and it also represents the loss of more ideas for the group to consider.

It is sad that our committee works so hard and yet the same old faces turn up at meetings.

The Midland West Group intends to hold a joint choir concert this year to boost the group funds.

*John Raybould
Chairman*

Duncan James

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This is, of course, an anagram of **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and here are the names of ten of his musicals. Can you sort them out.

Answers on page 31

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Event Diary

34th Annual Harmony College

Nottingham - 24th to 26th August 2012

A residential college open to men and women who wish to learn more about harmony singing.

Youth/College Quartet Contest

Birmingham - 18th November 2012

Open to all young men 25 years of age and under. Just sing two barbershop songs - Entry is Free!

39th Annual Barbershop Convention

Bournemouth - 3rd to 6th May 2013

A weekend of singing, competitions, shows and fun. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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The Southport Lyric Singers Lancashire North

The Southport Lyric Singers are pictured with their MD Edna Woodward and her 16 year old granddaughter, Sarah, who was the soloist at the two concerts we performed last June which raised £1,500 for the local branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The choir was formed in 1954. Our present MD, Edna Woodward, was a strong alto in the choir, and her skill has ensured that a very high standard continues. Our main concerts are a Christmas one in aid of Queenscourt Hospice and our Annual Concert in June in aid of another local charity. After the success of last year's two concerts we shall perform two this June and share the proceeds between the Heart of Southport Appeal and a local Breast Cancer Support Group. Our other concerts are given to rest homes, social groups and by invitation to birthdays, funerals and other

special occasions.

Our repertoire includes sacred music, music from the shows, modern and traditional SATB songs, J Michael Diack arrangements of nursery rhymes, John Rutter favourites, some classical and some religious. Our programmes also include amusing monologues by our 'resident poet' and solos from young musicians. Whatever we sing, we sing it with joy.



We try to incorporate music to mark special events. In 2008, Liverpool's Capital of Culture year, our programme was devoted to music associated with the city. We had fun with the Beatles and Ken Dodd, sailed down the Mersey, and paid tribute to the city's diverse communities.

This year, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we are including patriotic songs such as 'There'll always be an England', 'Cycling round Britain' (a compilation of regional folk songs), and Diack's 'Sing a Song of Sixpence'.

Like many amateur choirs, we are more than an enthusiastic group of singers; we are a family from whom we can derive support in good times and bad. What a wonderful tool is singing.

*Dorothy H Hughes
(Hon Sec)*

North Wales Choral Festival

26-28 October 2012
Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Friday 26 October *

Conwy Schools Competition and workshop; 8pm - Evening Concert

Saturday 27 October *

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

Sunday 28 October *

12pm - Mixed; 2pm - Barbershop style

* - All timings are provisional

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

www.northwaleschoralfestival.co.uk

For more information please call:

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northwaleschoralfestival@conwy.gov.uk

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Letter from NAC in Oz

This is being written just after Anzac Day when the military fallen of New Zealand and Australia are remembered.

The Sydney Male Choir sang at the Dawn Service in Sydney as they have done since this event was inaugurated in 1930. This is especially memorable as it means we are only a year away from making our trip to Europe in April and May 2013. This is to celebrate our centenary and will be marked by the choir representing Australia and singing at the Dawn Service in Villers-Bretonneux at the Anzac Memorial as well as other concerts in France.

We will then be moving to England where we are sharing a concert with the Croydon Male Voice Choir, singing in the Australian Embassy and then travelling to Cornwall to take part in the **6th Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival** to be held on the 2-6 May. The final part of the tour will lead us to Saltash where we will perform a concert for the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation before moving to Bristol where we have a joint concert with Bristol Male Voice Choir. The prospect of such a tour is very exciting and, I'm sure, will be one those travelling will never forget. We hope to see many of you while we are travelling around England.

This year we are well into our season with four events already under our belt



and many more still to come. We are just coming up to our busiest period of the year when we have concerts on five consecutive weekends, including a new one for us, singing at the Scone Horse Festival! I hope we don't frighten the horses.

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

Humberston Singers Lincolnshire Group

Dear Crawford

It is always interesting to read about other choirs in News and Views but we do not often hear about individual members. Jenny Clark from the Humberston Singers, Lincolnshire Group, is now literally 'running up' to a very exciting time.

She has been chosen to be an Olympic Torch Bearer in Cleethorpes on Tuesday 26 June - an honour of which she is extremely proud.

Jenny has been singing in choirs since childhood - school choirs and church choirs, even singing in the church choir where John Hurt's father was the vicar, followed by singing in local adult choirs and massed choirs in York Minster.

However, Jenny's other love is athletics; she has been a very loyal member of Cleethorpes Athletic Club as well as being a very courageous lady. She was even running six miles a day whilst undergoing radiotherapy for cancer which she has twice conquered. She also fought back after a serious skiing accident and was wheelchair bound for about two years. Eventually with specially adapted shoes Jenny returned to competing in off road marathon distant running for another three years before she retired to leisure running.

Jenny has also been instrumental in organising a ladies support group for cancer and also involved in fund raising

for the Breast Unit at the local hospital. Jenny would like to think that she has inspired people through her life, but she never intentionally went out to seek rewards (apart from through running!) The Humberston Singers are delighted that Jenny has the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch in Cleethorpes.

*Margo Bradley
Secretary*

In the last edition we heard about Marilyn Smith MBE now here we have Jenny Clark carrying the Olympic torch, please write to me with stories of your members and their triumphs and celebrations.

Crawford

Rowland Singers Choral Society Thames South

What a fantastic Spring term we've had! We started back on 4 January straight into our Easter programme with more new members and a very demanding repertoire to learn. On 11 February, 24 of the Rowland Singers went to a John Rutter workshop in Hove and had a freezing cold but most inspiring day with about 450 choristers. One of the items was his Requiem and we really made our presence felt as we were quite familiar with the work by now.

For the first time we engaged a chamber orchestra with organ continuo, string quartet, flute, oboe and percussion and Rose Setten, (a recent BBC Choir Girl of the Year) as our soprano soloist. The two concerts were terrific, even Helen was pleased and I feel sure that Russell Watson would have approved of the 'Wall of Sound.'

Now to the Summer term. We are busy rehearsing the second joint concert for the Thames South Group entitled 'Singin' by the Sea! 2012. The date is Saturday 19 May at the Assembly Hall, Worthing with five choirs from Gillingham, Crawley and Worthing taking part. Unfortunately, by the time this edition is published, the concert will already have happened but we then go into top gear for our two summer concerts 'Gold, Pomp & Sparkle!' Gold is for the Olympic gold medals we hope to win, Pomp is the patriotic songs from the Last Night of the Proms and Sparkle is to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Lots of razzmatazz, flag waving and fun for all. The dates are Thursday 12 and Tuesday





17 July. If you fancy a trip to the seaside, do give me a ring or email. We would love to see you.

As if that wasn't enough, about 25 of us are then taking a trip to Kington in Herefordshire to sing in Paul Emery's 70th Birthday Concert. He is Helen's dad and a co-founder of The Rowland Singers. Paul and I sang in the late Sir Malcolm Sargent's 70th Birthday Concert in the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Choral Society. We are performing the same works, excerpts from Elijah (Mendelsohn), Requiem (Fauré) and the Hallelujah Chorus (Handel). That should be good fun.

At the end of September, we are travelling to Horsham to sing with new NAC members the Pleasure Singers so we will have to learn the music for that too before the summer break. No time for boredom I can assure you but great fun.

Oh, I almost forgot, about twenty of the singers are also going to be singing in the pit for a production of Sweeney Todd (also in September) where Helen is the Musical Director.

Jacky Hetherington
Hon Life President and Secretary

Thames South Group

By the time you read this, the Thames South Group will have had their second joint concert, 'Singin' by the Sea' 2012. Five choirs participated and we were delighted to welcome the Pound Hill Junior School Choir for the first time. We were pleased that Celia and James were able to attend the concert giving us their usual loyal support.

We are already working on our next ventures, the first of which is a workshop to be given by Paul Robinson, MD of the Gillingham MVC on Saturday 27 October at Our Lady of the Angels Church, Gillingham. In this way we hope to get some of the choirs in Kent and East Sussex to join our 'active group'.

Paul is also organising the joint concert in 2013 which will take place on Saturday 22 June at the Central Theatre, Chatham. We would like to see some new faces there too. For more information on either of these events please call 01903 238792 or email mail@helen-emery.co.uk

We are, of course, beginning to think about the 2015 Annual Conference which will be held in our area for the first time with, we hope, some interesting and innovative ideas in the pipeline.

Twelve of the Rowland Singers went to the Conference in Cumbria and had an absolutely terrific time causing mayhem and laughter wherever we went (no change there then!) Our mission is to persuade some of the other TS choirs to come to conference too.



Helen Emery
Chairman

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Sonara Singers Midlands East

75th Anniversary

How many of us have sat with friends and thought 'what if' and didn't get any further. The three ladies who formed Alfreton Ladies Choir in 1936 could never have believed it would be thriving and growing 75 years later and after much discussion the choir moving into the 21 century by becoming Sonara Singers. One of the original trios, Cissy Wager, became its first conductor followed by Rachael Kennedy, Monica Wragg, and Frank Smith and in 1989 the present Musical Director, Liz Moulder.

Liz, a former student of the Royal College of Music at Manchester, has been involved with choirs from the age of seven, becoming a conductor at 14. Liz studied piano and singing as her main studies at The Royal Manchester College of Music (now the Royal Northern College of Music) studying singing with Caroline Crawshaw. On leaving college, she became a member of the Edinburgh Festival Choir, singing under such renowned names as Arthur Oldham, Daniel Barenboim, and Sir Adrian Boult. It is this positive experience that started Liz on her vision of trying to attain the highest possible performances for musicians at all times - not just in the competitive or exam situation but to enthuse in all the love of singing and performing which she still enjoys!

The choir is stronger than ever with over 50 members who continue to develop their technical vocal skills, musicality and performing techniques. This accounts for the unique tonal quality they produced whilst performing a wide range of music suitable for all venues and occasions. Songs by classical composers, folk tunes, musicals and contemporary music form only a part of the repertoire. The ladies choir also performs a range of unusual American and Canadian music specially chosen by the Music Director on her trips to these countries. Sonara Singers are one of the few choirs who have also had four pieces specially composed for them in the past 15 years by composers such as Michael Neaum; perhaps it is this that attracts younger members to the choir.

Since their first concert in 1938 the choir has continued a strong tradition of high profile charity concerts raising thousands of pounds for local and national charities. Breast Cancer UK, Sight Derbyshire,

NSPCC, the Asthma Society and the Jenny O'Neil Diabetic Unit at the Royal Derby Hospital are just a few causes that have received large sums of money to support their work. Over the years the choir has performed at Derby Cathedral, Boston Stump, and the Painted Hall Chatsworth House. They regularly travel to Bristol and Shrewsbury and have formed strong links with Bristol Ladies, Bristol Male Voice Choir, Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir and the Rowland Singers in West Sussex as well as local Midlands East choirs.

There are a further two specific areas which form part of the wider remit of the choir. Liz works hard to recognise and encourage young talent by providing performance opportunities within the Sonara Singers concert programme. Young performers such as James Wilson, Sam Barstow, and Asher Patel are just a few who have benefited from the experience. The choir is a member of the National Association of Choirs (NAC) organising group concerts and working closely with the local Association to further and support the development of choral singing in the area. The Chairman, Lorna Brooks, is Deputy Chairman and Liz the Assistant Treasurer of the Midlands East group.

The choir now looks forward to even more exciting challenges in the future. A fifth new commissioned piece is currently being written by a young composer studying at Dartington Hall Performing Arts College. Trips to Bristol, West Sussex and Shrewsbury are planned and negotiations with The British Legion and James Ferrabee of Eastwood Colliery Male Voice Choir for a massed female choir concert at the Royal Concert Hall Nottingham in 2014 led by Sonara Singers.

Sonara Singers celebrated their seventy-fifth birthday with a special concert held at the Postmill Centre, South Normanton, on April 21st 2012. It began at 6.30 with a tea-party that continued for an hour as their guests arrived. The concert started at 7.30 and contained pieces new and old as the choir look back on seventy five amazing years.

The choir meets to rehearse every Monday evening 7.15-9.00 at the Postmill Centre South Normanton, any female of 16 years and over would be assured of a warm welcome by this friendly choir. Contact details are available on the web site. www.sonarasingers.co.uk

Geraldine Stamp

Luton Male Voice Choir Thames North

The annual dinner of the Luton Male Voice Choir celebrated a special event this year, the 90th birthday of their Musical Director, Mr Ken Hone. This was a terrific evening enjoyed by more than 120 in attendance, including the Mayor of Luton, current and past Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Choir, Celia and James from the NAC and representatives from Stevenage Ladies, Churnet Valley MVC, Three Valleys MVC and Vauxhall MVC. During the evening a cake decorated with humorous figures depicting the choir in uniform was presented to Ken by Chairman John Croft.



Ken was born on Thursday 26th January 1922 at 9.30 am (he was reportedly singing by 9.31). He started music lessons at the age of seven, playing his first cornet solo at the age of eight. From the age of eleven his music master at school was the Musical Director of the Morrington United Male Voice Choir, later to become the famous Morrington Orpheus Choir. This gave Ken an early introduction to male voice music including "Comrades in Arms". He sang in the school choir on West of England radio in 1934 (no Wales in those days!); one of the first choirs ever to sing on radio. During this period he played cornet solo for the local Salvation Army band also.

Ken joined the RAFVR; it took him 10 minutes to get in and 6 years to get out. He played in a number of RAF bands before his overseas posting. He took his cornet in his kit bag – he still has his cornet but not his kit bag. On his return to Civvy Street he continued singing and playing in bands.

Ken moved to Bedfordshire in 1958 where he took over as Musical Director of a local works band in 1960 before becoming MD of Hitchin Town Band from 1965 to 1970. He was appointed MD of Vauxhall Motors Male Voice Choir in 1970, where he took charge of the Orchestra and Ladies Choir also for a short period. He had now found his passion and remained with the Vauxhall

MVC until 1990. During this period he was very active with the NAC, attending most steering Group meetings and eventually becoming the Chairman of Group 11. He was able to organise many massed concerts incorporating choirs from various groups within the NAC; many friendships were developed over the years from these events.



The Luton Male Voice Choir was founded in 1992 with Ken as Musical Director – he sees this as a fitting climax to his musical journey. He has received various awards from the Luton Council including the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011, and was very appreciative of being elected as a Vice President of the NAC.

Ken is still very active and is looking forward to leading the Luton MVC into another exciting year. As well as various local concerts, the choir will be visiting Wolverhampton MVC in June, Gresley MVC in November, participating in the Festival of Brass and Voices at the Royal Albert Hall in November, and is organising a massed male voice choir event for its Annual Concert on Saturday 13th October.

The whole choir is very proud to have Ken as its Musical Director and is looking forward to many more years with Ken at the helm.

John Croft
Chairman

Elland Male Voice Choir

Yorkshire West

The Choir started its life within the walls of Elland Working Men's Club either just before or just after the Second World War. The choir sang under the name of Elland WMC Choir they rehearsed and performed at the club until 1949. They then transferred to the Temperance Street Sunday School and renamed to become Elland Male Voice Choir, moving to the Bethesda Church in 1991.

The choir has always been local, but travel to all parts of Calderdale performing

concerts - it has also taken part in concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in London, being part of a massed choir of over 1000 voices, from all over the UK.

Concerts are usually held in churches, schools and local halls. Soloists and other performers have been invited along to perform, and at Christmas we have been joined by local school children.

Our aim is to provide good quality musical entertainment for all - making the performance a pleasure to both people who come to see and of course the choir.

Until 2006 there were two male voice choirs in Calderdale - the Halifax and Elland.

Halifax MVC ran into difficulties in 2006 and disbanded at the end of the year. In January the Halifax members had a meeting to decide what was to be done for the future. As a number wanted to go on singing, the majority of the choir asked if it was possible to join the Elland MVC. A spokesman went along to a rehearsal of the Elland choir with a proposal. In February 2007 some 18-20 members of the Halifax MVC joined Elland - making Elland MVC the only male voice choir left in Calderdale.

There is now a membership of 50+ singing members, our MD is Janet Revill ably assisted by Dr Eilidh Gunson and our accompanist is Maureen Davies. We are always on the lookout for new members.

We rehearse on a Monday evening 7.30 to 9.30 at Bethesda Church, Elland. We are currently raising the profile of the choir and looking for new venues to perform. The choir tries to do between 15 and 20 concerts per year and we always try to help charities raise money for their cause.

Janet Revill is our present Musical Director, following in her late father's footsteps.



She is the organist in her local church and teaches music at West Vale Primary School. She also teaches piano to students of all ages. Janet is an accomplished composer and has written and arranged several pieces for Elland MVC. She also writes songs for use in schools and worship and has penned a number of longer choral arrangements.

www.sonrisepublications.co.uk.

Eildith Gunson has been playing the piano since the age of six and uses music as a welcome distraction from her working life as a GP. She has played regularly for church services and events and conducts and produces backing tracks for a choir at her local church. She became the Deputy Musical Director of Elland Male Voice choir in 2001 and accompanies as well as conducts the choir during rehearsals and concerts.



Maureen Davies is a very accomplished music teacher, a past Mrs Sunderland medal winner along with pupils she has taught. Maureen joined the choir along with the members of Halifax MVC in 2006. Maureen brings with her vast musical experience playing for male voice choirs. For twenty-one years, she was the accompanist with Gledholt MVC, Huddersfield under the leadership of Malcolm Fairless, then five years with Halifax MVC and now she is a valued member of Elland MVC.

David Wrigley

music: a complex organization of sounds that is set down by the composer, incorrectly interpreted by the conductor, who is ignored by the musicians, the result of which is ignored by the audience.



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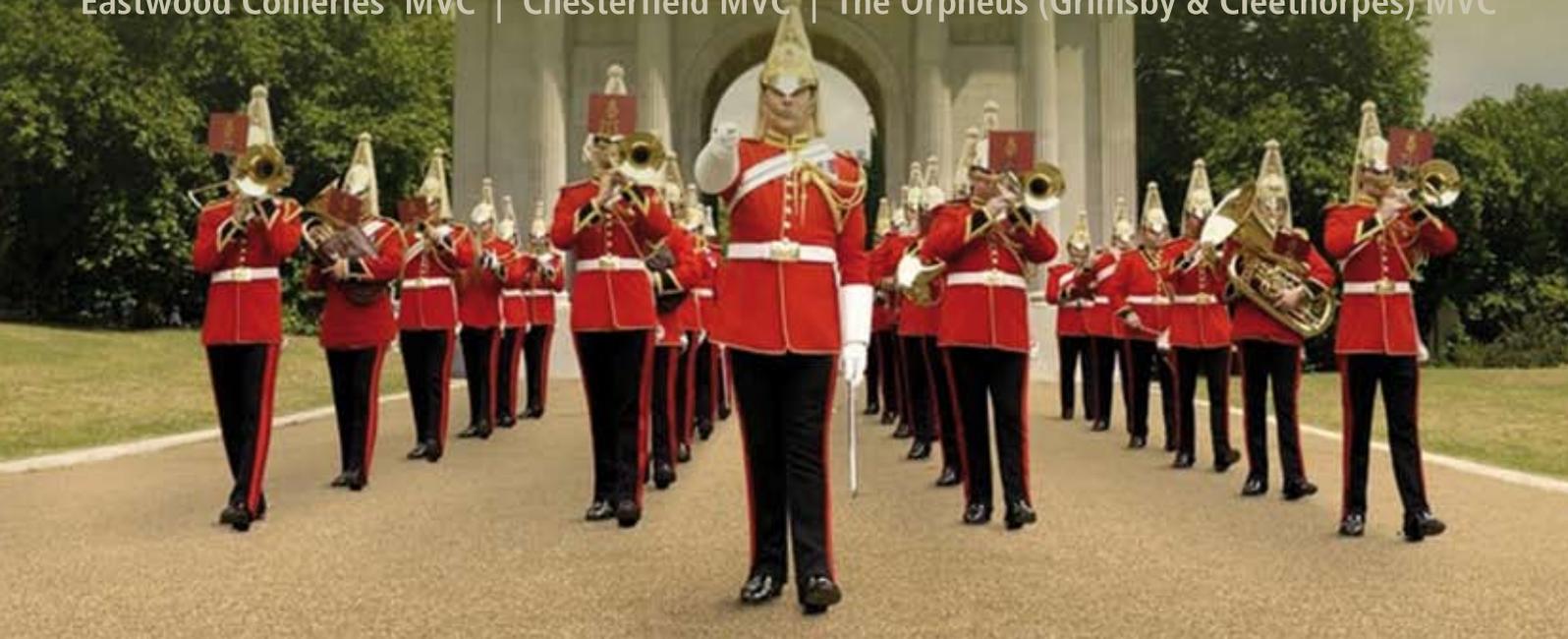
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New members since February. If they are in your group give them a call and say hello.

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 01782 729126 ryehill.farm@gmail.com

AYLSHAM SINGERS Anglia Mixed choir 24 voices
 Mr Clive Taylor Chelsworth House, Norwich Road, Tuttington, Norwich,
 NR11 6AG
 01263 732808 tuttington@hotmail.co.uk

BREAKAWAY SINGERS, THE Midlands East Mixed voices 33 choristers
 Mr Philip John Smith 33 Mount Pleasant Road, Castle Gresley, Swadlincote DE11 9JE
 01283 213363 smithphilip11@sky.com

BUTTSBURY CHOIR Thames North Ladies 30 choristers
 Jean Harrison 81 Knightsbridge Walk, Billericay, Essex CM11 2HH
 01277 657873

CHRISTCHURCH CANDLELIGHT SINGERS Southern counties
 Mixed voices 26 choristers
 Mrs Stella Jackson-Smith 35 Sandford, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3BT
 01425 472614 jackson-smith@macunlimited.net

DULWICH Chamber Choir Thames South Mixed voices 25 choristers
 Crispin Southgate 55 Calton Avenue, Dulwich, London SE21 7DF
 020 8693 2693 crispin_southgate@btinternet.com
www.dulwichchamberchoir.org.uk

FISHER SINGERS Yorkshire North Mixed choir 60 voices
 June Garbutt 7 Little Crossing, Littlethorpe, Ripon HG4 3LG
 01765 608057 junegarbutt@gmail.com

GOT 2 SING Midlands South West
 Jane Dunn Hill House, 61 Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcs, DY12 2HA

GWALIA MALE CHOIR Thames South 33 choristers
 Steve Davies 75 Vineyard Hill Road, London SW19 7JL
enquiries@gwaliafemalevoicechoir.org.uk

HYWEL Girls and Boys Wales South Youth choir 50 voices
 Mr Jeremy Hywel Williams c/o Manor Farm Barn, Chapel Street, Stretham,
 Cambridge CB6 3JG
 01353 648677 info@HywelChoir.com
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JOYBELLES Yorkshire West Ladies 25 choristers
 Mrs Rita Paskell 68 Stocks Way, Shepley, Huddersfield HD8 8D
 01484 603338 jrpaskell@hotmail.com

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K	O	N	W	Z	R	V	L	T	S	Z	T	H	K	Y	V	B	I	G	D
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E	C	B	U	S	R	F	A	E	I	Z	I	M	V	Y	I	J	N	H	P
C	Y	I	F	C	T	L	R	D	K	U	S	N	R	K	Q	V	I	C	Y
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P	T	G	U	E	I	N	H	T	C	A	J	Q	D	E	E	T	O	V	R
T	B	E	L	N	O	O	E	H	T	N	L	L	H	I	L	G	H	O	A
L	C	E	C	A	E	N	A	R	O	D	A	E	R	D	O	L	C	K	Z
L	X	K	E	L	X	I	T	N	X	V	N	B	P	U	J	J	Q	A	O
O	W	R	G	T	K	A	I	N	I	E	A	T	N	O	V	I	I	T	W
L	V	A	E	O	H	B	V	A	B	U	O	C	O	O	X	N	S	Q	
W	R	S	V	B	L	O	O	S	M	D	V	T	C	I	E	I	O	X	
U	F	S	A	A	R	N	V	A	C	T	H	X	L	A	U	Y	S	H	V
V	K	N	P	E	Q	A	B	E	R	Z	B	C	E	G	Y	P	S	S	X
V	W	U	I	M	L	T	B	B	W	H	C	N	A	S	Y	N	O	C	L
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The Last Laugh

A quartet was captured by the 'enemy' who condemned them to death by firing squad. The alto came up with a clever plan. 'Think of a disaster and yell it out right before the shoot!'

She was up first, yelled, 'Tornado!' In the ensuing chaos she made her daring escape.

The bass yelled, 'Earthquake!' and got away unscathed.

The tenor yelled, 'Flash flood!' and joined the other two in safety.

The soprano was the only one left. She bravely stepped up to the platform. The other three waited for her to earn her safety too.

The soprano yelled...



"FIRE!"