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*Joining the Nation in Choral Singing*

# News & Views

23-25 March Conference 2012  
The Belsfield Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere



Booking Form  
Inside

***The National Publication for all Choristers***

**Autumn 2011**

**No 196**



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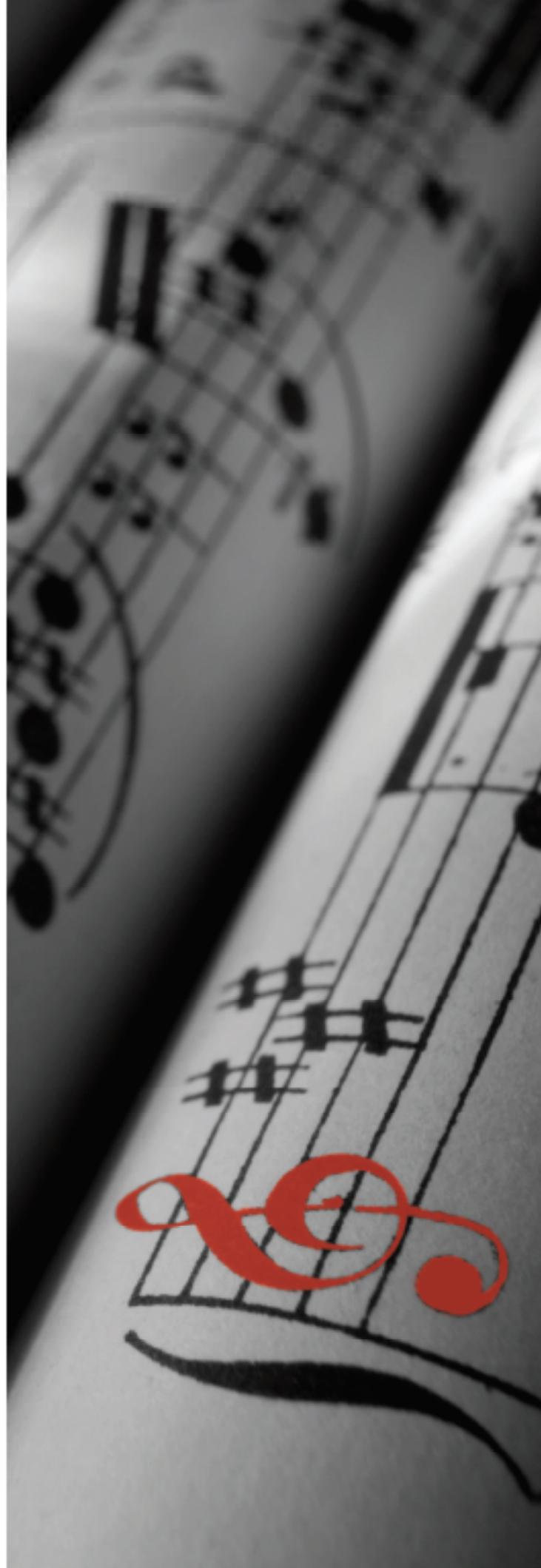
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## Crawford's Corner



*Welcome to the Autumn edition of News & Views. 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. I haven't noticed a misty day yet but I'm sure they'll be along soon.*

I must apologise to those people who were hoping to see the 'Simpleton's Guide to the Basses' and the 'top ten reasons for being a Bass' but there just wasn't room to fit them in this time. I'll get them in next time I promise.

One of the reasons for the tight space is that we have included two copies of

a booklet about the NAC extolling the virtues of membership. Please feel free to take out these pages and copy them to use in spreading the word. John Croft has worked hard to bring them up to date for us.

This issue also contains information about next year's Annual Conference in a hotel on the shore of Lake Windermere. It's a beautiful venue and we have a great weekend in store for you. Fill out the form as soon as you can and don't miss out.

I had a great time working out an Aria Kwiz for you. I hope you enjoy seeking out the answers. There's also a different puzzle for you. I keep managing to create a new one for you in each issue while I wait for one

of you to send me a marvellous crossword puzzle with musical clues. I am getting rather tired of waiting and racking my brains. Come on you people!

A new feature this time is a page of forthcoming events. You asked for this. Please send in your information well in advance so that everyone can have good notice of the fantastic concerts and events that you work so hard for.

Right then, time to dive into the rest of your 'News & Views. Enjoy!

*Crawford*

## Chairman's Chat



*As I write, the leaves are starting to drop in the first of the Autumn high winds, although the temperature is still quite promising, so thick jumpers can wait in the wardrobe for a little while longer!*

*But it won't be long before we are thinking about Christmas carols...*

I am very sad to report that Eric Cooper, our long-time and much valued Music and Festivals Officer, has resigned from his post recently. Our co-opted Officer, Jeff Goldthorpe, has also resigned. Unfortunately there was a basic disagreement within the Officer Team, and Eric and Jeff felt that they could not continue. We shall miss them both, but most particularly we shall miss Eric's expertise in PRS and Copyright matters, for which we thank him very sincerely. For the time being, until the post is filled, please address any queries on these matters initially to our General Secretary, James Ferrabee.

To happier subjects – and once again there is a theme running through the contributions from our member choirs in this issue. This time it is the number of years some choristers remain with the same choir. The commitment demonstrated is quite incredible. For instance – Margaret Pringle, MD of the Billingham Choral Society for 35 years; the Hadley Choir boasts James Mansell as a member for over 40 years and bass Peter Coile for 53 years; and the Lancaster & District Male Voice Choir's

President Norman Wilkinson has been associated with the Choir for a fantastic 60 years! I feel a positive newcomer, as I have only been with the Gildenburgh Choir in Peterborough for 31 years... It is wonderful for the newer members of choirs to see how long choristers can stay with choirs if the chemistry is right on both sides; it really gives them inspiration and encouragement to carry on. Yes, we know that choirs go through bad patches; like any other organisation they have their ups and downs over the years, but with the commitment of their members they can and do bounce back, pick themselves up, and carry on with renewed enthusiasm.

In this issue of News & Views you will find information about the Conference in 2012, together with a booking form. There are several new events for you – and we are so pleased to be able to introduce David Lawrence as our headline seminar presenter. I have attended one of his workshops in the past, and know that you will thoroughly enjoy his seminars. This time we have taken the decision to throw the Conference open to non-NAC choir members, basically dipping our toes in the water to see what bites! We may be able to attract them to join the Association, but in any event we hope it will strengthen the links between the NAC and other choral organisations, which can only be good. Do please have a good look at all the information, and booking early would be a good idea – we are right on the banks of Lake Windermere in a superb location, so non-singing attendees will have a wonderful time!

You will also find, in the middle pages, two copies of our new leaflet advertising the NAC and giving basic information about

the Association. Please feel free to take the copies out of the magazine, split them, and then photocopy and distribute as you may think fit. Other local choirs, libraries, doctors' and hospital waiting rooms, community centres; in fact anywhere you think people may be interested in finding out about the NAC. If you have your own choir advertising, you could include our leaflets with yours.

Have a most enjoyable Autumn's singing!

*Celia Johns*

## From the President



*The summer break is now passed and the Officer Team has met twice and we have lost two members of the Team due to disagreements. Our Chairman has now*

*been faced with the task of reorganising the work load.*

The next Open Forum meeting will take place in Chester and we look forward to good attendance from choirs following the excellent response we had there at the Conference in April 2006,

Currently I have invitations to concerts by the Hull MVC at the City Hall on Saturday 22 October and Tamworth MVC on 27 November,

I go with Gresley MVC on tour to France on 12 September with concerts in Pithivier and in Cathedrals in Orleans and Chartres.

*Eric Jackson*

## Beverley Male Voice Choir Yorkshire East

*The Choir is still conducted by their MD - Elizabeth Wilson and continues to thrive with numbers of around 60, and in the number of concerts we are performing.*

Not only do we sing in prestigious venues, eg Beverley and Howden Minsters, Selby Abbey etc, but in many small village churches throughout the East Riding; in addition to which we have sung at Beverley Armed Forces Day celebrations and at Leconfield Search & Rescue Station Open Day. The Choir also continues to be invited to sing at weddings; the next one being in September when we have been requested to sing three pieces in Welsh. It has also been a great pleasure to have been invited to sing in joint concerts with both Blackpool and Featherstone MVCs.

Recently several members of the Choir travelled to Lemgo, Germany, a town twinned with Beverley, to sing in the twinning celebrations and which was reported both in the German press and locally as having been a resounding success.

October sees the Choir joining Hull MVC

and Driffield MVC in the former's Centenary Concert in the City Hall, Kingston upon Hull.

We are looking forward with anticipation to the coming months as we have several more concerts in the pipeline culminating in late December with our final and very popular 'Prelude to Christmas Concert' in our home Toll Gavel United Church, Beverley.

**Don Sylvester PRO**

### If the worst should happen ... The Insurance Partnership

*Public Liability insurance is considered essential, especially in light of today's compensation culture. Cover is provided in the event of a claim made against a choir for property damage and/or injury by a third party.*

Although your risk may be low, claims can occur and the cover is worth having for legal defence costs alone.

If you use churches and external concert venues be aware that various authorities are looking to protect their property and the public by imposing substantial insurance limits. You may be obliged to have protection up to £10M. This may seem excessive but

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**Watch out in November for the e mail on your insurance cover for 2012 from The Insurance Partnership.**

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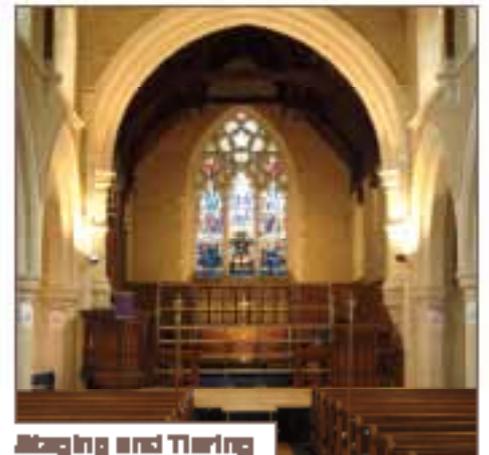
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## Crawford's Aria Kwiz

Here are fifteen famous arias from fourteen operas (two arias are from Rigoletto)

Can you put the two lists together whilst adding the composer for each?

I've done one for you. (You can see why)

11 Orfeo et Euridice: Act III

C Che faro senz Euridice

- Christoph Willibald Ritter von Gluck

I really enjoyed doing the research for this which included playing the arias on YouTube. I have no doubt some of you could answer these without resorting to Google but I assure you it's worth listening as you answer this quiz. All these arias appear on a CD available from Amazon. I'm not pushing the CD it's just where I found them after Googling top ten arias.

Enjoy!

1. Die Zauberflote: Act II
  2. La Boheme: Act I
  3. Lakme: Act II
  4. Il Barbiere Di Siviglia: Act I
  5. Aida: Act I
  6. Tosca: Act II
  7. Samson et Dalila: Act II
  8. Le nozze di Figaro: Act II
  9. Romeo et Juliette: Act I
  10. Madama Butterfly: Act III
  11. Orfeo et Euridice: Act III
  12. Carmen: Act I
  13. Gianni Schicchi
  14. Rigoletto: Act III
  15. Rigoletto: Act I
- A. Ah! je veux vivre
  - B. Caro nome
  - C. Che faro senz Euridice
  - D. Celeste Aida
  - E. Che gelida manina
  - F. Die Holle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen
  - G. Habanera
  - H. La donna e mobile
  - I. Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voix
  - J. Ou va la jeune indoue?
  - K. O mio babbino caro
  - L. Un bel di, vedremo
  - M. Una voce poco fa
  - N. Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore
  - O. Voi che sapete che cosa e amor

Answers on page 28

Do you have an idea for a Crawford's Kwiz? Crawford would love to hear from you.

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## Billingham Choral Society North East

*This Society was founded in 1951 making this year a celebration of 60 years.*

It now boasts in excess of 40 members who join together every Wednesday to share their love of music.

The Billingham Choral Society enjoys singing a wide range of music from the ever popular songs from the shows, to more challenging pieces like the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

To celebrate this 60th anniversary year, the society had the honour of hosting some members from the 'Love In Motion Signing Choir' from California.

'The Love In Motion Choir' deliver their own unique interpretation of music through mime, signing and dance. A joint concert was held earlier this year in Billingham in front of a packed house and honoured guests including the Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees.

I was particularly taken aback by the passion and emotion delivered by the 'Love In Motion' Choir that at times I was moved to tears.

It was a wonderful evening that we shall all remember for many years to come.

Not only does the choir celebrate 60 years this year, but it is the anniversary of Margaret Pringle becoming Musical Director some 35 years ago. As chairperson of the choir I extend my warmest congratulations for such an achievement and thank her for her continued commitment to the choir. Margaret is a true inspiration to us all.

The choir has produced a CD in celebration of 60 years singing together. The CD features Ben Thappa, a tenor soloist, who found fame in the group G4 when they became finalists in the X Factor a few years ago.

The Billingham Choral Society practices every Wednesday evening. It is always looking for new members. Details of contacts and concerts can be found on the choir's website.

[www.billinghamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.billinghamchoralsociety.org.uk)

**Jo Owen**  
Chairperson

## Coalville Male Voice Choir Midlands East

*Another successful year has drawn to a close for the choir with engagements as diverse as The National Brewery Museum in the presence of HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, and the Ibstock Palace Theatre in the presence of Eric Jackson, NAC President. We managed a total of 11 concerts, both large and small, throughout the year.*



One of the highlights of the year was the award of a grant from the East Midlands Airport Community Fund towards the cost of our new uniforms. We had put months of effort into attracting contributions to the cost of the uniforms only for our hopes to be repeatedly dashed. Thankfully, East Midlands Airport came to our rescue. Unfortunately, the grant only covered a small part of the total cost - consequently, we have our 'old' uniform for sale - approximately 35 jackets in various sizes in quite good nick as they are very good quality (R & J Handley of Leeds). Perhaps a 'new' choir trying to start-up would like to make a bid for them (you would only have to change the breast pocket badge). If you would like to make an offer, ring Mike Wilkinson on 01530 831840 who will forward a photo if required.

Like most male voice choirs today, we constantly struggle to attract new first tenors to our ranks - where have they all gone? Any first tenors out there in the Coalville area will be made most welcome.

The photo was taken at Snibston Discovery Park at Coalville. The choir was singing at a concert organised to commemorate the Whitwick Mining Disaster in 1898. We are looking forward to another busy year including at least two concerts with Ibstock Brick Brass Band and a concert with The Greasley Singers in December. We seem to get busier every year and it's becoming increasingly difficult to fit in a holiday.

**Mike Collins**

## Con Brio South West

*The choir reconvened at the end of August with a new Music Director in place. After 8 years as founder and leader of the group, Shirley Smith has retired. During her stay the choir has grown from a select group of ladies to a 40 strong mixed voice choir. They have travelled extensively throughout the west of England, performed in London and toured Latvia on two occasions.*

Thousands of pounds have been raised for charities both local and national, in June of this year two concerts in their local town of Bradford on Avon raised over nine hundred pounds for the local hospice and community care facilities.

Shirley will be sadly missed but the choir is delighted to welcome Lisa Clarke as their new Director. Lisa is well known to them having travelled to Latvia on their first tour as their accompanist. After living and working overseas for many years Lisa has returned to the UK and plans to become involved in the music scene in the Bradford on Avon area.

Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact Secretary Monica Johnson on 01225 868770 or visit the website [www.conbriovoices.org](http://www.conbriovoices.org), for more information, tenors and basses particularly welcome.

**Lesley Hunt**



## Marston Singers Mixed Voice Choir MD Required

The Marston Singers are seeking a Musical Director. We are 50 years old this year and want to continue singing. We are a mixed voice choir of 40 members. We enjoy a varied repertoire.

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## Forthcoming Events

At a recent Members Open Forum I was asked if it were possible to have forthcoming events printed in News & Views.

In response to that request I have taken from the NAC website all the events that you sent to our webmaster and I'm putting them into News & Views. I have not included events in October because this issue comes out at some point during this month and I don't want to put something in that has just past when you read this. The events taking place from November to February will be 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.

I hope this answers the request and will encourage people to let us know what is happening so that we can let you know.

### NOVEMBER 2011

#### Gala concert for Cots for Tots Appeal

Saturday 19 November 2011

Venue: **Colston Hall, Bristol**

Bristol Metropolitan Orchestra, together with 250 male voices and local rising star violinist Emil Huckle-Kleve, presents a spectacular fundraising concert of popular vocal and orchestral classics.

All profits from this concert go to the 2011 Cots for Tots Appeal, supporting the Special Care Baby Unit at St. Michael's Hospital, Bristol.

The gala performance will be presented by well-known Bristol actor John Telfer (vicar Alan Franks in BBC Radio 4's The Archers). The programme also features violinist Emil Huckle-Kleve in a performance of Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending. Other works to be performed include Ireland's Epic March, Sibelius' Finlandia, Saint Saens' Danse Macabre and popular songs such as Rhythm of Life, and American Trilogy.

The 250 male voices joining Bristol Metropolitan Orchestra for the evening are from five of the principal male voice choirs in the South and West, namely Bristol, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Cheddar, Basingstoke and Churchdown.

The concert has, as its rousing finale, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, when the whole auditorium joins the stage to sing Land of Hope and Glory!

This event is being conducted by Bristol-based composer, orchestrator and conductor William Goodchild and choral director Steve Daykin.

[www.colstonhall.org/whatson/Event2664](http://www.colstonhall.org/whatson/Event2664)

### DECEMBER 2011

#### Sounds of Christmas

Saturday 10 December 2011

7.00

Venue: **City Hall, Newcastle**

The Gibside Singers, Newcastle Male Chorus and Reg Vardy Band have had a musical association dating back to the

80's. They return to their favourite venue for their biennial "Sounds of Christmas", the Norman Williams Memorial Concert. Combining secular choral in varying styles for ladies, male and mixed voices, sparkling brass featuring talented soloists and "Christmas Sounds", promises a wonderful seasonal evening for everyone. The Compere is BBC Presenter Marian Foster.

Tickets are available from the City Hall Box Office: 0191 261 2606 or 01207 232 532 01207 542 777

### FEBRUARY 2012

#### Majestic Tours Open Choir Festival

Friday 24 - Sunday 26 Feb 2012

Venue: **Riviera International Centre**

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

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

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[www.majestictours.co.uk/choir2012\\_open.htm](http://www.majestictours.co.uk/choir2012_open.htm)

### MARCH 2012

#### Majestic Tours Strictly Male Voice Choirs

Friday 2 - Sunday 4 March 2012

Venue: Riviera International Centre

[www.majestictours.co.uk/choir2012\\_mv.htm](http://www.majestictours.co.uk/choir2012_mv.htm)

### APRIL 2012

#### Choral Spectacular

NAC Choirs in the North East

Saturday 28 April 2012

7.00

Venue: **The Sage, Gateshead**

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

### MAY 2012

#### Cork International Choral Festival

Wednesday 2 - Sunday 6 May 2012

Venue: **Cork, Rep of Ireland**

[www.corkchoral.ie](http://www.corkchoral.ie)

#### London Sangerstevne Choral Festival

Friday 11 - Sunday 13 May 2012

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

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

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

#### Mayo Choral Festival

Thursday 24 - Sunday 27 May 2012

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

[www.mayochoiral.com](http://www.mayochoiral.com)

[info@mayochoiral.com](mailto:info@mayochoiral.com)

### JUNE 2013

#### Musica Sacra Bratislava

Thu 13 to Sun 16 Jun 2013

Venue: Bratislava, Slovakia

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

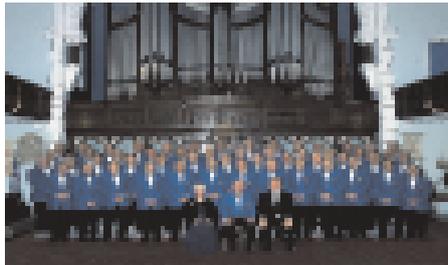
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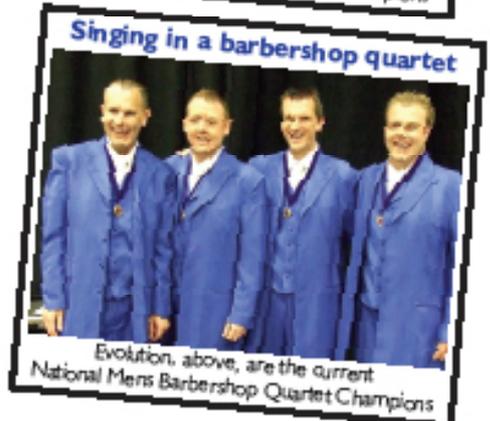
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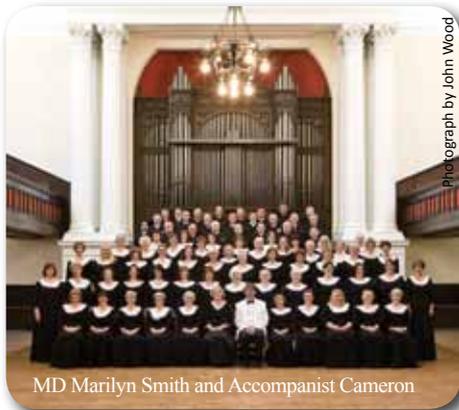


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The British Association of Barbershop Singers  
Druids Lea, Upper Stanton Drew,  
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Registered Charity No: 1080930

## The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare



MD Marilyn Smith and Accompanist Cameron

Continuing the Choir's Diamond Jubilee celebrations the Gala Concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday 17th September was packed out - the audience responding to the massed choirs and orchestra with great enthusiasm. The Choir's new organ (more about that later) nearly lifted the roof off the Concert Hall and will be of great benefit to the Phoenix in future concerts. A busy September finished with the Choir's second tour to Ullapool and the Isle of Lewis where concerts were given Ullapool Church of Scotland, An Lantair Centre in Stornoway and Martin's Memorial Church. The Choir later took part in the evening service at the church.

October was an equally busy month for the Phoenix with concerts in East Kilbride Parish Church, Orchard Park Church, Giffnock for the Order of St John, Queens Cross Church, Aberdeen in aid of church funds and St Andrew's Church Arbroath in aid of the Memorial Garden at RM Condor - the home of 45 Commando Royal Marines.

November saw concerts in Peebles Parish Church staged by Peebles Rotary Club, St Bridget's Church, Baillieston and Cadder Freestone Masonic Lodge in Bishopbriggs in a St Andrew's Night concert.

In December the Choir will be giving a charity concert in Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh and finishing the month with Christmas concerts in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Moncrieff Parish Church, East Kilbride.

As if all this were not enough the Phoenix still managed to fit in several recording sessions for the Choir's 35th album released later in the year.

Former stalwart of the alto section - Vivian Angus who sadly passed away earlier in the year, made a sizeable bequest to the Choir allowing us to purchase a new piano and the organ mentioned before. On both were placed memorial plaques. The bequest also assisted with concert tours and concerts for which the members were very grateful. The new organ is an especially invaluable addition to our equipment which, though portable, has two manuals and bass pedals allowing Accompanist and Deputy Conductor - Cameron Murdoch to show off his talents. Thanks to the bequest and the sponsorship from The Co-operative Funeralcare the Phoenix now has a very fine rehearsal piano, a touring piano and organ, portable staging, podium, and music stands together with a van supplied by our sponsors to ferry the equipment around the UK.

[www.phoenixchoir.org](http://www.phoenixchoir.org)

**J Lawson Purdie**

**Hon Vice-President**

## The Rowland Singers Choral Society Thames South

*What a manic Summer term we have just had! It started with a rerun of our Easter Programme (Poulenc's Gloria and Rutter's Magnificat) at the Brighton Fringe Festival in May.*

Next came the first joint concert of the newly activated Thames South Group at the Assembly Hall, Worthing on Saturday 18th June when we all had our own spots and then came together in a rousing joint

finale. We had a good house and a lot of fun was had by one and all. Then to our own two concerts in July, Spirit of Summer when we sang Ken Burton's Ready to Ride as well as an eclectic mix of choral favourites. Our soloist was clarinetist Fiona Cartmell, and she was absolutely outstanding. Three different programmes and an awful lot to learn but no chance of getting bored!

Now we come to this term and we are expecting about 14 new members. Of course they may not all stay but we hope so. By the time you read this report, we will have had a joint concert with the Pleasure Singers from Horsham in Worthing and a weekend away in Nottingham joining forces with Eastwood Collieries' MVC and the Sonara Singers (a ladies choir).

This Christmas we are delighted to welcome Worthing Youth Concert Band as our soloists at our Assembly Hall Carol Concert on Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm. With 45 in the band and 60+ Rowland Singers we should have an exciting evening. If anyone would like to come, we would love to see you.

Next Easter we are performing Rutter's Requiem and for the first time will have a Chamber ensemble accompaniment instead of just organ. Now all we have to do is sell enough tickets to pay for it! Then, of course, there is the NAC Conference in Windermere, an absolute must for some of us.

A very active choir chorally, we also have two social events this term, a Barn Dance and a Skittles Evening. Never a dull moment in Worthing!

**Jacky Hetherington (Secretary)**



The Rowland Singers, Worthing

[publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### Puzzle penseroso - Three Threes

I kept calling this section 'This Month's Puzzle', which is ridiculous since this periodical is three monthly. So I have decided to rename it musically. - Five composers whose names have nine letters have been randomly split into groups of three letters. Can you work out the five composers?

THO	INS	TTI	PAC	HAR
IZE	BEE	ADD	BEL	VEN
ACH	ELL	BAC	DON	HEL

If you would like a clue to these five composers, there is a cryptic sentence on page 23.

The answer is on page 28.

### Felling Male Voice Choir (Tyneside) North East

*This year the Felling Male Voice Choir is celebrating its 91<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. It is one of the longest standing music organisations in the North East of England.*

Over the years they have become well known nationally. The choir performs around fifteen concerts a year. They also enjoy competing chorally. In September they join their voices with other choirs at the Norton Music festival on Teesside. They exchange visits with other choirs in the UK and abroad. In the coming November the choir are singing at a wedding in Billingham. In October next year the choir will visit Stevenage Ladies Choir, Hertfordshire.

The choir meets every Friday evening from 7.00 until 9.30 and its large membership enjoy their singing under the direction of Shaun Turnbull with accompanists, Linda Craig and Chris Potts and associate Charlotte Butler.

For many years Shaun has been ably assisted by Colin Short but this year Colin has decided that it is time he returned to his place among the tenors and so the choir is eager to find a replacement.

The choir hopes that their new ADoM will be a skilled musician who is equally at home on the concert platform and in the rehearsal room; someone who will help build on, develop and extend the range and depth of choral presentations. This post would suit someone who is already musically qualified and is seeking further experience by working with a large choir.

If you would like to join this fine choir then contact Stuart Dearlove, Chair of Felling Male Voice Choir 07753 950462

[stuart.dearlove@virgin.net](mailto:stuart.dearlove@virgin.net)

*Michael Scott*

**Felling Male Voice Choir**

**WANTED**

**Assistant Director of Music**

**CV to Stuart Dearlove**



[stuart.dearlove@virgin.net](mailto:stuart.dearlove@virgin.net)











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The **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS (NAC)** was formed in 1920 by a dozen North of England choirs. At present there are over 550 member choirs operating in all areas of Great Britain. This represents a singing membership of over 26000. The Association is a registered charity with the objective -

**“Joining the Nation in Choral Music”**

To achieve this, the Association provides services to its members to assist in the enjoyment, general running and development of choirs. It organises events at national and regional levels, including an Annual General Meeting & Conference held each Spring in various centres in the UK, including a Gala Concert by the local group. All members are encouraged to attend to take advantage of the opportunity to meet their voluntary national Officers, network with member choirs and to attend seminars covering all aspects of interest to choirs. These range from singing workshops through presentations on charity status to advice on copyright and performing rights issues.

At a regional level the Association is divided into geographical groups that meet on a regular basis to organise workshops, courses, concerts, etc and actively encourage inter-choir and area links. Officers consult with representatives of choirs and Groups at least four times a year at Open Forum Meetings. This enables valuable feedback to the Officers and promotes healthy discussion on the development of further benefits to choirs.

Other services provided include a regular news magazine, a music advisory service, a music purchase discount scheme, a very competitive optional insurance scheme, Health & Safety advice, legal advice and a music loan scheme – all accessible via the website.

**Ten good reasons for joining the NAC**

1. **News & Views** – our in-house magazine is published three times per year. The perfect way to communicate with other choirs on a national basis.
2. **The NAC Year Book** - contains a full list of member choirs, contact addresses together with Officers’ annual reports and the minutes of the AGM.
3. **Choir Insurance** – specifically designed for choirs at a very competitive rate.
4. **Charity Status** - advice is available on its benefits and assistance is given with applications.
5. **Legal Advice** is always available through the NAC Legal Adviser. Includes your obligations to the Performing Rights Society and the copyright laws covering printed scores.
6. **Music Advisory Service** is offered on a wide range of musical issues including advice on new music.
7. **Festivals information** is researched by the Festival Officer, who is the link with the British Federation of Festivals, and is available for both UK and international festivals.
8. **Health & Safety** - advice is available for this increasingly important part of member choirs’ activities.
9. **Advice Sheets** – an expanding list of advice sheets covering topics ranging from choir constitution models through Taking Care of your Voice to PAT testing for your electrical equipment.
10. **Access to Website** – an up to date, interactive website, with the facility to show your Choir’s events.

For just £42 per year (2011) a choir can enjoy all of these benefits, and much more, by being a member of the **NAC**. Some regional Groups may make a small charge to cover administration expenses. Associate and Corporate Memberships are available also, contact our Membership Officer for details.



Application for membership  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS**

Please complete, detach and forward this portion to

**Brenda Wilkinson**  
**Andante**  
**23 Mendip Close**  
**Ashby de la Zouch**  
**Leicester**  
**LE65 1DZ**

together with your remittance made payable to **NAC**

Choir.....  
 Type Male/Ladies/Mixed/Youth/Other.....  
 (delete inappropriate type)  
 Contact\* .....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Post code.....Tel no.....  
 Email.....  
 Website.....

\*This should be the person designated to liaise with the **NAC** and be the first point of contact for the **NAC** and the local Group

Your personal information will only be used by the NAC to process your request or to contact you – full Privacy Statement can be found on the NAC website





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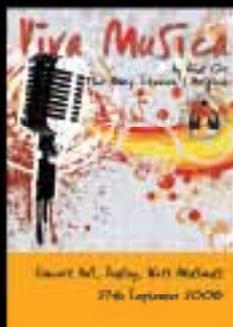
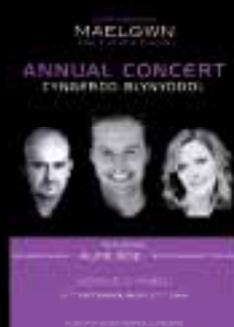
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## Annual Conference Weekend 23-25 March 2012

### 85th Annual General meeting

#### The Belsfield Hotel Bowness-on-Windermere

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

is varied in subject area, delivery style and level, from lectures in Musical Philosophies to practical workshops on Playing by Ear and one-to-one tutorials in Professional Development for Musicians.

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

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

is the founder-director of a female close-harmony choir called Magenta.

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

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

The entertainment on Saturday evening will be a change from the normal massed voice concert. We have arranged for the La Serenata Trio to perform for us. Formed

eight years ago by Charles Edmondson, who accompanies soprano Tracie Penwarden and flautist David Edmonds, this well known local trio have given over fifty concerts in churches and concert halls throughout South Cumbria and North Lancashire.

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

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

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

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# National Association of Choirs

## National Conference Booking Form 23 – 25 March 2012

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



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

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

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

Surname:.....

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

Address (Lead Name):.....

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

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

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

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

NAC Group:.....

Choir Name:.....

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

### Total Payment Required/Submitted:

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

Receipt Required? Y  N  (Please enclose a SAE)

Amount Submitted: £.....

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

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

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

## 'FULLY INCLUSIVE CONFERENCE COSTS'

### NAC Members

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

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

### NON NAC Members

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

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

Please return your completed form and deposit to:

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

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

## Hadley & District Orpheus Male Choir Midlands North

2011 began with a daunting prospect for this Shropshire-based choir as its committee met to arrange its 110th anniversary year programme but aware that, like many other choirs, its numbers were diminishing.



In past years, recruitment had been via the familiar church or chapel choirs, but with church congregations and music in decline that source was gradually diminishing.

But the Hadley committee then hit on a bold idea, an idea which was to cost a large sum and, admits choir chairman Albert Higgins, one which was something of a gamble.

Spurred by the success enjoyed by Gareth Malone on the BBC2 TV programmes *The Choir*, the Hadley choir decided to organise a musical workshop and billed it as a chance for would-be singers to try out their vocal chords.

Publicity was arranged in local newspapers and radio stations and a choir member with the right connections arranged for the delivery of attractive specially-designed leaflets to every home in the choir's catchment area of east Shropshire.

Saturday 5 March dawned like any other day, but not for musical director, Robyn Davies, who took the bold decision to persuade all existing members to attend for a full day session with music which would be entirely new for both newcomers and existing members.

Every member was told to bring packs of sandwiches and snacks, both for themselves and the would-be member... but how many would turn up? That would be the surprise.

Hadley's Castle Farm Community Centre, the choir's rehearsal venue, was opened and within a few minutes, it became apparent to all that the day would be a success, with no fewer than 12 newcomers swelling the choir to near on 45 voices.

Pieces from *Les Miserables* were rehearsed; led by Robyn Davies and accompanied by 32 year-old French-born Nykko-Mickael

Gregoire... the rehearsal room reverberated with that 'wall of sound' which had made the choir a firm local favourite for the past 110 years.

After all, it was the Welsh who had inspired the choir's formation in 1901 after a party of out-of-work miners from Penrryn had sung for their supper in a tour of the district and led four members of the audience to form a mini choir.

Their enthusiasm, led by conductor, Harry Jones, soon led to a boost in numbers, notably from a local car works and ironworks, and in an era before TV and film entertained the masses, the Hadley choir was soon engaged for concerts and 'smokers' (smoking concerts).

They were further encouraged when the ironworks boss, Colonel James Patchett, became the choir's first president and gave financial support and a status which they might not have otherwise achieved.

Conductor, Harry Jones, stayed for several years before handing over the baton to Raymond Lewis, an iconic figure who led to choir amazing success at the 1923 Welsh National Eisteddfod at Mold, swiftly followed in 1925 by a similar victory at the same event held at Pwlheli.

After the Hadley choir again won at the Welsh Eisteddfod in 1933 at Wrexham, the Eisteddfod organisers changed the rules, ensuring that in future, entry was restricted to Welsh choirs. It was a coincidence, of course!

Recruitment has been the keynote of the choir's programme during this anniversary year, with schools liaising in staging joint concerts with the Hadley choir in a bid for a renaissance of the joy of singing, now much depleted in many junior schools.

Obviously, longevity is a factor of the Hadley choir. Bass, Peter Cooile, has been with the choir for 53 years; James Mansell easily tops 40 years of service but the 'gamble' to organise a musical workshop had changed the choir's membership from being almost all pensioners to an average age of around 50.

But what of the 12 new 'recruits' who gathered for that musical workshop experiment in March? All have stayed and will be as proud as the older members when the 110th anniversary concert is staged in Wellington on Saturday 8 October.

*Terry Gilder*

## Lancaster & District Male Voice Choir Lancashire North

*On 27 May the choir held a concert/ buffet supper at Rowley Court in Lancaster to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of its Vice Presidents, Norman Wilkinson.*

Norman has been a dedicated member of the choir since he joined way back in 1951 and during that time, he has held the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman, and from 1993 onwards as Vice President.

It was in 1964 that he first became Chairman to the choir, and continued in this post until 1975 when, for personal reasons, he had to relinquish the position. Nevertheless, he still remained a singing member. In 1983 he became Vice Chairman for one year and was appointed Chairman once more in 1984 until in 1994 he felt that someone else should take on the position.

It was then that he was appointed as a Vice President and has remained so right up to the present time.

He continued singing with the choir until at the age of around 92, he declared that perhaps his singing days were more or less over!!!!

He is an active Vice President and takes an avid interest in what is happening inside the choir and is always willing to take on any task that may be requested of him.

And so we thank Norman for his unwavering support and wise counselling over the past sixty years and wish him all the very best of health and that he may continue to be our Vice President for many years to come.

On behalf of all the members of the choir.

*Roland Brooke (Welfare Officer)*



## The Middle's Lament March 2002

I used to be an alto, the lowest of the low.  
I knew my place, the bottom line, as low  
as I could go.  
An A or G or even F, a lovely deep brown  
note  
To give the Sops a solid base on which to  
soar and float.

But now I am a middle, the most difficult  
to be  
'Cos music comes in different kinds, two  
part or even three,

Or four or five. Which note to sing can be  
a proper riddle.

Just hesitate and surely I will fall flat in the  
middle.

She put me in the middle, so in two part I  
go down  
To join the Altos listening to me with  
puzzled frown.  
'Who is this voice that's joining us, we  
were OK before.  
If she just sings it wrong again, we'll show  
her to the door'.

When it's three part then I shuffle up  
towards the right,  
And squinting at the music, I try with all  
my might  
To fathom out which note to sing. It's not  
so clear you know,  
When you've been used to looking for the  
lowest of the low.

*The Holly and the Ivy*, now that's a lovely  
piece.  
Until at verses 3 and 4 we have to reach  
top Es.  
I'll have to mime, I'm good at that, just  
smile and look the part  
And the audience will think that I am  
singing from the heart.

Oh good, the men are here so I can hope  
that Maureen's deaf  
To ladies straying from their note and sing  
my deep brown F.  
And when the concert's over and inside  
my house I go,  
I'll sing the part that's easy. Yes, you've  
guessed, it's the Alto.

## Developments November 2003

I used to be an alto, the lowest of the low  
And then I was promoted to the middle of  
the row.

I did my best to reach those Es, they came  
out as a squeak.

And afterwards I whispered. I really  
couldn't speak.

But Maureen's had enough and she's put  
me down again.

She has much better voices to use in the

refrain.

My part is clear, no need to squint, now to  
the sound I bring

My deep brown F, the solid base, and with  
the Altos.

*Elizabeth Ross*

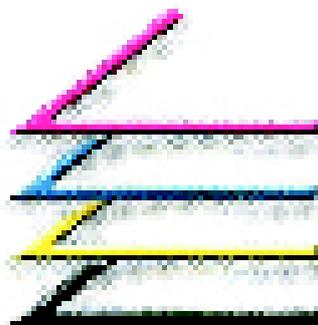
A while ago I said we didn't often get  
Poems. Just to prove me wrong, Elizabeth,  
of the Rowan Singers has sent a poem  
which is reminiscent of the Altos Lament.  
I like the way it has a good resolution with  
Elizabeth safely returned to the singing  
position she finds more comfortable.

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## Leadgate Gleemen Male Voice Choir

### North East

*The Leadgate Gleemen is a male voice choir based in Consett in North West Durham. 2011 is a special year for the Gleemen as we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

In the autumn of 1941 the choir, originally called the Leadgate Male Voice Choir, was formed by George Griffiths in response to an invitation to present a concert in aid of a wartime charity, the Leadgate Comfort Fund. The original sixteen members were drawn mainly from the choirs of the two Methodist churches in the village. Following a successful concert it was decided that the choir should continue but under the new name of the Leadgate Gleemen.

It was not long before the choir was reaching a wider audience. In January 1943 the choir appeared with Wilfred Pickles on BBC radio. Further radio performances followed and in 1966 the choir appeared on Tyne Tees Television with Owen Brannigan. In 2008 members of the choir, along with other choristers from the area, performed with Graeme Danby in a programme for Tyne Tees Television celebrating the centenary of Owen Brannigan's birth.

The choir has always attempted to maintain high standards in performance and this has been reflected in its many successes in musical festivals.

The Gleemen have been fortunate to have had talented musical directors. George Griffiths was followed by John Walton who was succeeded by Alan Marshall. In 1964 Bill Williams took over the baton and served for seventeen years. Our present Musical Director, Pat Boustead, has been with the choir for thirty years.

The Gleemen continue to support charities. From the wartime charities of the 1940s to the present we have followed the example of our founding fathers in supporting worthy causes including the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, the Great North Air Ambulance Service and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Since 1948 the highpoint of our choir year has been our celebrity concert. To celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the choir presented a combined 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Concert on Saturday 9 April 2011 in the Empire Theatre, Consett with guest artistes Rachel Orr (soprano) and Robert

Seaton (bass-baritone) accompanied by Ruth Armishaw. A most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

Seventy years on as the choir remembers its past and looks to the future we thank all who have supported us, and we hope to continue to entertain and bring pleasure to those who hear us.

**David Wilson**  
**Secretary**



## Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir

### Midlands West

*Walsall Harmonic Society was founded in 1897 '... for gentlemen to cultivate a taste in music'.*

For many years, the Walsall Harmonic Society met at the old Chuckery Mutual Sports & Social Club, in Walsall's Beacon Street. Sadly, the Harmonic Society disbanded in 2009.

A men's choir had been formed from that Society's membership in 1970, since when it has continued to perform in a range of musical styles. The Choir met at the Chuckery Working Men's Club in Lincoln Road, where good facilities were available for rehearsals and performances; it was located just around the corner from Beacon Street. Unfortunately, the Working Men's Club also struggled to survive and closed in April 2011, and a new home was needed for the Choir. Luckily, the Beacon Street club has been renovated and renamed 'The Chuckery Club'. The Choir has therefore decided to relocate to The Chuckery Club, in order that they can continue to develop their musical skills in comfort (and, incidentally, with a pint in hand). So, from May they returned to the newly-refurbished club in Beacon Street.

The Choir will offer some free concerts at the Club each year, as a way of thanking the management there for the hospitality, and a good rapport has already been established with the club's 'regulars'.

A significant advantage to the move is that now the rehearsals and performances will all be on the ground floor – some of the Choir members and guests struggle to negotiate the stairs. There is also plenty of local, dedicated parking available to the members and any guests that they may invite.

'The Choir has had a long association with the Chuckery area of Walsall,' Chairman Paul Smith said. 'Whilst we were sad to leave the rehearsal space that we grew very fond of over time, we are glad to have found somewhere so close. We hope to be able to continue to provide music in Walsall for many years to come.'

'Any men who can hold a tune are invited to join the Choir – we will find out where they will fit best into our line-up and encourage them to learn the music we sing. We meet at 8.00pm every Monday evening and will be thrilled to welcome you.'

A number of 'new' members have recently joined the Choir, partly as a result of the sad closure of two other men's choirs in the area. The Choir is still a relatively small one, led by one of the original members, Bryan Jeffreys, who returned as Musical Director in 2005. He is helping them to develop a good sense of harmonic singing – that's where we came in!

As a result of choir closures, a number of surplus copies (originals) are available. A list can be obtained from the secretary, Bob Share.

The choir's next appearance will be in September, at the premises of Chamberlin and Hill, a local engineering firm abutting Beacon Street, as part of the National Heritage Open Day. Shortly following that, they will be performing with youth members of Birmingham Conservatoire, in a special concert in the Methodist Central Hall, Walsall. Before then, in August, they spend a weekend in the city of Durham, where they appeared as guests of a local music group.

To contact the secretary 01543 480033 bob.share@talktalk.net.

**Bob Share**

## Clue for Three Threes puzzle

Firing a canon in the dangerous moonlight may make you become deaf when you are twenty-four hours from Lammermoor

## Thames South Group

*It gives me great pleasure to be able to report that our first joint concert at the prestigious Assembly Hall, Worthing on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June last was a resounding success both musically, aesthetically and financially.*

National Association of Choirs  
Thames South Group  
present

**Singin' by the Sea!**  
featuring  
Gillingham Male Voice Choir  
The Rowland Singers, Worthing  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus MVC  
Songbirds, Crawley  
Sussex Gruffs MVC, Worthing

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Five choirs from the Thames South area:- Gillingham MVC, The Rowland Singers (Worthing mixed voice choir), Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus MVC, Songbirds (Crawley ladies choir) and Sussex Gruffs MVC from Worthing all sang their own spot and then joined together for a truly rousing finale.

The Musical Directors, Paul Robinson, Helen Emery, Richard Walshaw, Jo Tyas and Peter Ramsey are to be congratulated on their choice of repertoire and their choir's excellent performances. Accompanists Matthew Whitworth, Kathryn Kay, Georgina Doswell-Truscott, Nick Cartledge and Jonathan Duncombe also need to be congratulated.

Compère for the evening was Percy Nowell and we were pleased to have the Mayor of Worthing, Cllr Ann Barlow and her husband Peter, Celia Johns (NAC Chairman), Lord James Ferrabee (NAC General Secretary) and Carl and from MacMillan Cancer Care, Sue Taylor. They were all looked after for the evening by Rowland Singers' two vice-presidents, Eric Mardell and Christine Brown.

At our subsequent Thames South meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August in Oxted, Surrey the consensus of opinion was that we repeat the concert next year so I have duly booked the Assembly Hall for Singin' by the Sea! 2012 on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We would welcome input from more of the TS choirs so please do get in touch and find out

what we are all about. We are at present working on two social events to be held in Crawley. The first to be a Quiz night (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011) and the second to be a BBQ shortly before next May's concert.

[Jacky@helen-emery.co.uk](mailto:Jacky@helen-emery.co.uk)

01903 238792

**Jacky Hetherington (TS Secretary)**

## Radcliffe Ladies Choir Midlands East

*Radcliffe Ladies Choir is celebrating twenty years of friendship through singing!*

It was an impromptu sing-song following a Radcliffe Male Voice Choir concert in May 1991 that sparked the idea of starting a ladies choir in Radcliffe. Following it, Vivienne Havery approached Pauline Howarth (wife of Richard, the then conductor of the Male Voice Choir) who agreed to lead the choir if enough people were willing and consequently a small group of 14 ladies met for the first time on 11 September 1991. Twenty years on and the choir continues to meet each Wednesday at 7.30 in St Mary's Church Hall in the village and regularly performs in and around the East Midlands region. Our most recent engagements have included the NAC East Midlands Group Concert in May and our highly successful 20th Anniversary Summer Concert in June.

In addition to our regular concerts and social events, each September I lead a Vocal Workshop in Radcliffe which is open to the public. This is an excellent opportunity for non-members to come and explore what we get up to in rehearsals and test-drive the choir but also allows me to develop the choirs singing technique – an ongoing component of our warm ups.

The choir library has varied over the years from classics such as 'Waltz of my Heart' and 'It's a Grand Night for Singing' through to medleys from shows like Les Misérables and The Sound of Music. Since starting as Musical Director in May 2010 I have tried to explore wider stretches of the repertoire, introducing part-songs by Edward Elgar and some more 'popular music' items, such as Tina Turner's 'Proud Mary'. As a composer myself, I like to champion music by contemporary composers and as such have introduced pieces by Karl Jenkins and Eric Whitacre. In the upcoming months we will also be learning my setting of 'Irish Blessing', commissioned by the Ripley Music Festival, and I will begin composing

a new piece especially for the choir in 2012. A musical director is lost without an accompanist and I feel blessed to be working with Judy Holborow, a fine pianist with an inspiring personality, who adds a certain je ne sais quoi to our rehearsals.

Like many choirs, Radcliffe Ladies Choir isn't just about the music. Our motto, 'Friendship through Singing' couldn't be more appropriate and the feeling of community has been one that I've constantly experienced since I started. We have regular social events (not including our post-rehearsal beverage each Wednesday) and are currently planning a choir tour to Wales in May 2012.

The upcoming months are building to be very exciting indeed for the choir. We will shortly be launching a particularly special 2012 calendar which we are preparing to raise money for charity. Our online presence is also growing to include a YouTube channel which we are developing ([www.youtube.com/radcliffeladieschoir](http://www.youtube.com/radcliffeladieschoir)). For those of you who tweet, you can now follow us [www.twitter.com/radcliffeladies](http://www.twitter.com/radcliffeladies). All other information and details about upcoming concerts and events can be found on our website [www.radcliffeladieschoir.co.uk](http://www.radcliffeladieschoir.co.uk).

**Alex Patterson**

**Musical Director**



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## Letter from NAC in Oz

*In the last epistle from the antipodes I was looking ahead to a trip to the UK which Jan & I really enjoyed. It was great to meet family and friends who we hadn't seen for 2 years.*



One of our ports of call was back to Glinton, a village, just north of Peterborough, where we lived for 20 years just prior to moving to Australia. While there I sat in on a rehearsal with the Peterborough Male Voice Choir, with whom I used to sing. They were fresh back from their trip to the Cornwall International Festival of Male Choirs where they scored a very creditable third place in their category and their Musical Director, Will Prideaux, was given a special award for his contribution to the success of the festival. I also had the pleasure of meeting Tony Slavin, Chairman

of Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir while staying with my brother near Taunton.

At the moment we are deep in preparation for our Annual City of Sydney concert due to take place at Sydney Town Hall on Father's Day, 4th September and soon after that we are embarking on a tour of the Riverina area of New South Wales starting at the wonderfully named Wagga Wagga! We will be performing 5 concerts and raising money for Can Assist, a charity which helps cancer sufferers to regain a normal life.

However the big news is that the Sydney Male Choir has been chosen to represent Australia at the annual Anzac Day Dawn Service in Villers-Bretonneux, northern France in 2013, our Centenary Year. The choir has performed at the Dawn Service in Martin Place, Sydney every year since the service was inaugurated and it is a great honour to be able to travel to France to carry out a similar service there. We will be performing other concerts in France and possibly Belgium before travelling to the UK to take part in the International Festival of Male Choirs in Cornwall. En route we will spend some time in London and would like to perform while there. If any choirs in

that area would like to organise an event we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email me if you are interested.

As always if you wish to contact me please do so via email at [petefig@optusnet.com.au](mailto:petefig@optusnet.com.au). I always look forward to contact from the UK.

*Peter Marshall*

## Holyhead Arts Festival Choir Anglesey

Well established mixed bi-lingual choir seeks a new conductor Autumn 2011

Prospective conductors contact

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## Worcester Male Voice Choir Midlands South West

*The period from January to August has been one of major success and enjoyment for the Choir but also one tinged with real shock and sadness with the death at Easter of two influential and humorous choristers, Gerry Attrill and Ieuan Morgan.*



Gerry joined the Choir in 2002 and his contribution during his years of membership will never be forgotten, particularly those when he was Stage Manager. He displayed both a firmness and gentle persuasion accompanied by his friendly smile. A lovely man who will be sadly missed.

Ieuan only joined the choir 3 years ago but this proud Welshman was no stranger to male voice singing. He was a very loyal member with a great sense of fun and commitment. In recent times his contribution of working on the design of tickets, posters and programmes was greatly appreciated.

In June the Choir hosted the eight choir, 250 choristers, English Association of Male Voice Choirs Annual Concert for the Midlands and South West, held in the wonderful surroundings of Worcester Cathedral. It was recognised as being the best ever and has set the standard for future concerts. Over £3000 was raised for local charity. The performance by the massed choir under the superb direction of the WMVChoir Musical Director Nicolas Wright was first class and Moon River moved many of the audience to tears. The WMVChoir sang a couple of pieces by themselves and the rendering of Climbing up the Mountain showed great feeling and understanding of the words and music. Add to this the outstanding contributions of all our guests, Claire Bessant (soloist), Darren Hogg (organist) and the unique Holborne Brass, you can appreciate what a great evening was had by all.

Two weeks later the choir joined

the Kidderminster Male Voice Choir, Kidderminster Ladies and the Malvern Singers for an excellent evening in the Kidderminster Town Hall for a National Association of Choirs Concert. Amongst the pieces sung were *Do You Hear the People Sing* and *What Would I Do Without My Music*. Members of the audience were particularly complimentary about the quality of the Choirs diction. The concert ended with all the choirs singing a very energetic version of *Rhythm of Life*.

Despite the busy programme of major concerts we still found time to support other local events and provided the music at another splendid wedding in Inkberrow Church.

At the end of July we continued our visits to National Trust properties visiting the extensive and beautiful Hidcote Gardens, Chipping Campden. On a lovely Summer afternoon we entertained the public visitors to a feast of light music to

complement the relaxing environment of the exquisite gardens.

In September we are looking forward to a major concert at Coventry Cathedral as part of the 90th Birthday Celebrations of the British Legion. Full report and photograph in the next Edition.

**Terry Dillingham**  
*Public Relations Officer*



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[president@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:president@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### **Celia Johns - Chairman & Webmaster**

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

**01733 840370**

[chairman@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### **Lord James Ferrabee - General Secretary**

35 Hawton Crescent, Wollaton Park,  
Nottingham NG8 1BZ

**0115 978 8847**

[general.secretary@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:general.secretary@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### **Paul Gailiunas - Treasurer**

25 Hedley Terrace, Gosforth,  
Newcastle, NE3 1DP

**0191 285 0654**

[treasurer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### **Lord James Ferrabee - Conference Co-ordinator**

35 Hawton Crescent, Wollaton Park,  
Nottingham NG8 1BZ

**0115 978 8847**

[conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### **Brenda E Wilkinson - Membership Officer**

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

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Grimsby DN36 4QQ

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[services.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:services.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

### **Bob Swallow - Publications Officer**

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**01472 500130**

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### **John Croft - Public Relations Officer**

52F Bushmead Avenue,  
Bedford MK40 3QW

**01234 311344**

[pro@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:pro@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

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## Crawford's Aria Kwiz Answers

1 F Mozart	2 E Puccini	3 J Delibes	4 M Rossini
5 D Verdi	6 N Puccini	7 I Saint-Saëns	8 O Mozart
9 A Gounod	10 L Puccini	11 C Gluck	12 G Bizet
13 K Puccini	14 H Verdi	15 B Verdi	

## Three Threes Puzzle - Answers

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