

NEWS & VIEWS

211

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

AUTUMN 2016



CHURCHDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR

Looking Forward To Nac Conference 2017

NEW CONTENTS

Now a double page spread



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Crawford's Corner



So, I had just put the labels on the front cover and thought to myself, 'right that's it I've finished it. I'll just glance through and make sure'. Then

I saw this page and realised I hadn't written my bit. Oh well here goes.

I like to try and tweak things to keep the magazine fresh and I have for some time wanted to improve the look of the contents page. I find having only one page a little limiting and it's difficult to make it look bright. There is never enough space for pictures if I'm going to get all the content information in.

My wife is always suggesting that I start to put News & Views together early (I do tend to be a last minute person) and this time I took her advice and had everything more or less in place by 31 August. Mistake. Of course at the last minute some more stuff arrived. Right, now is the time to go to a double page spread for the contents by adding another four page unit. I could do that and accommodate some extra advertising and a word search. I like to include a wordsearch occasionally.

I had a bit of a look around the internet and found some Contents pages from other magazines to see what I could use as a pattern. You can see the results on pages four and five. I hope you like it. Comments always welcome.

In this issue you will find a biography for our new Music and Festivals Officer, David Goodwin. He has also written about the price of sheet music which I have no doubt is something you all think about constantly. When music is expensive people think about the photocopier (naughty).

Kentwood, a choir in the South West Group, were determined to get their choir on the front page of News & Views so they sent me a couple of pictures which they thought would be suitable. Two of these appear on front cover and Contents page. If you would like to be on the front cover you need to send me high quality images of the right shape; that is portrait shaped. Most of the images I receive are landscape shaped. I am constantly worried that I won't receive a picture that will fit correctly and you might end up with a blank front cover. Oh dear.

Pages 14-17 in this issue contain all the information you need to make a booking for Conference 2017 at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel in Gloucester. Please get your bookings in as soon as you can. If you haven't

been to conference before make this your first year and I think it will be only the first of many. One of the choirs I sing with had a free raffle whose prize was £100 towards conference fees. I won. So I went to conference and I've been going ever since. I must add that, at that time, I was not an officer.

The Puzzle Page is two pages this time and I must ask forgiveness from those who do the Sudoku that I have not included one this time. At the time I was preparing the puzzles it was the beginning of the football season and my team, having been newly promoted, was on my mind. That is why there is a new puzzle with no clues. I have given the letters N, A and C and I believe you should be able to fill all the twenty Premiership teams in with just a little thought.

Each day I now do the Crusader crossword from the Daily Express. You can get it online. This serves several purposes. It helps exercise my brain, Alzheimer's avoidance, and helps me to improve my cruciverbalist skills when it comes to writing the clues for the cryptic crossword I create for this magazine. I want to make it the very best I can. Remember, if you want to do the puzzles you can print them out from a pdf of News & Views that may be found on our website.

Crawford

Chairman's Chat



It seems like no time at all since I was last here chatting to you, and here we are in the final quarter of yet another year!

I love reading about choirs and their activities, and have come to the conclusion that no matter what happens in this world, there is always appropriate music, and that it is the most inclusive language to grace us. This is evident when I see choirs who don't know each other getting together for joint concerts in areas of the country they perhaps would not probably visit and then create long lasting friendships and exchange concerts.

As you will see, information and booking details for our next conference are included in this issue. The Cheltenham Chase

Hotel is a wonderful venue. Our principal speaker will be Jonathan Willcocks who, for those not familiar with the name, is the son of Sir David Willcocks. Choirs from our South West Group will be singing for us in Gloucester Cathedral on the Saturday evening – again another wonderful venue. We always look forward to seeing our regular friends who come to conference, and last time we had some new faces too, so why not be a new face this coming Spring; if you read what was said by them you'll realise you're missing a treat.

Talking about time moving quickly, we are fast heading towards our centenary, and to this end I recently wrote to all musical directors to see if they would like to write a choral item which could be included in a proposed songbook celebrating this event. I am looking forward to a new repertoire evolving which has been created by us for everyone to sing.

As I said at the beginning, we are now in the final quarter of the year, and this is

the last issue of News & Views for 2016 so, even if it is a little early, may I take this opportunity of wishing you a lovely Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Brenda Wilkinson



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12 Churchdown Male Voice Choir

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13 Choir Of The Year 2016

The Choral Journey Continues

20 Worcester Male Voice Choir

Hosting the Victoria (Australian) Welsh Choir who were on tour in the UK. Then the English Association of Male Voice Choirs Annual Concert 2016 in Worcester Cathedral.

21 Tamworth Ladies' Choir

A new musical director, Gail Brindley who took over in August 2014, is constantly searching for new material to sing while also revamping old favourites.

22 Solent Male Voice Choir

All roads this year are leading to the Royal Albert Hall and the London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs on Saturday 15 October.

24 The Appledore Singers

In last autumn's edition of this magazine there was a letter from the Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir, in South Wales, asking for other choirs to get in touch, with a view to holding joint concerts. The Appledore Singers decided to respond, what a treat.

25 Newcastle-under-Lyme MVC

They played host to The Intermezzo Polyphonic Choir based in Limoges in central France.

26 Alfreton Male Voice Choir

This year Alfreton Male Voice Choir started their concert season by hosting the Six Choir Festival on behalf of the National Association of Choirs.

27 The Glasgow Phoenix

One of the choir's long-term patrons, Professor Sir Malcolm MacNaughton has died. Life goes on with a concert for St Andrew's Hospice.

Voices in Harmony

Formed for a one-off performance of Messiah, VIH will be celebrating 20 years of music making next year.

28 Mansfield and District MVC

Joint concert with Pye Hill & District Male Voice Choir at United Reformed Church, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire on 11 June 2016

29 Suffolk Constabulary MVC

The Choir is opening a new chapter in its long 48-year history in the appointment of Steven Blomfield as their new Musical Director.

Kentwood

'The Choir With A Difference.' So what is the difference?



Choir Of The Year 2016



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National Association of Choirs
Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

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**Last date for
submissions for Issue 212
SPRING 2016 - 31 December**

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Music & Festivals Officer

We introduce David Goodwin, one of our new officers and he offers some thoughts on the cost of that stuff which we need to keep us singing - sheet music



David was born in London and after studying at the Compass Arts School spent his formative years living and working in London. He met his future wife Rosemary in 1994 after deciding that he would rather like to meet the owner of the voice he has been ordering music from for the previous year!

He started at Banks Music Publications in 1995 as sheet music buyer, and in the following ten years became an authority on copyright, producing a pamphlet on the subject in 1998. He then left to follow a chosen career path in the theatre as an actor and singer enjoying ten years as a 'jobbing performer' which included three years (2009-2012) as dame in the pantomime at The Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond. And acting as producer for the Jake Thackeray musical 'Sister Josephine Kicks the Habit'.

In 2014 he and Rosemary bought Banks Music Publications from the then owner Margaret Silver, and returned to the fold.

The Power Of The Pound

We all know that as a general rule, music is expensive. We also know that we cannot avoid the purchase of it to keep our choirs afloat. But there are options here...

It is always worth chatting to your music supplier to get the best price possible. MusicRoom and SheetMusicPlus are not always the be all and end all.

As the new music officer of the NAC as well as a publisher and third party supplier I am always on the lookout for the best deal. We have recently taken up the cudgels on your behalf with certain publishers who set too high a price for music. Boosey and Hawkes currently charge an inflated price per copy for short order titles, where instead of putting a title out of print and very difficult to get hold of, they charge £6.50 each per copy, mainly due to the fact they only produce about 100 at a time, which is more expensive than to produce 5000 and sit on the stock. This is clearly wrong, £6.50 being a 'work' price and the kind of levy which pushes choirs to the photocopier, which as we all know is one of the biggest problems within our



David and Rosemary Goodwin

business. With the full cooperation of Boosey and Hawkes we have managed to get short order titles down from £6.50 to £3.50, which while I agree is still expensive is far better than previous.

We are currently in talks with Hal Leonard who distribute the Ricordi catalogue to do the same, £6.99 being a silly price for Speed Your Journey, as well as Funiculi Funicula, both titles which most choirs already have in the repertoire So far discussions have been ongoing for more than six months... Don't hold your breath.

David Goodwin



Millhouse Green Male Voice Choir

Vacancy: Musical Director

Due to the impending retirement of our current Musical Director, an exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and suitably qualified Musical Director to continue the musical development of a well-established male voice choir celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2017.

Millhouse Green MVC is highly regarded and under our current Musical Director, has gained an enviable reputation on the concert stage. We are looking for someone to work collaboratively with the Choir's Committee to maintain its high musical standards within an enjoyable atmosphere. Applicants should have suitable musical experience, sound communication skills, an ability to motivate and a good sense of humour.

The fifty-plus strong choir rehearses in the local Community Centre at Millhouse Green, near Penistone every Monday evening and usually participates in 8 to 10 events annually. An honorarium will be agreed with the Committee depending upon the experience and qualifications of the applicant. The position will become available from Monday 1 May, 2017.

For further information about the choir please visit our website at

www.mgmvc.co.uk

Applicants are invited to write or e-mail, in the first instance, citing relevant experience and giving the names of two referees to: Mr Derek Richards, Secretary, 140 Racecommon Road, Barnsley S70 6JY.

e-mail; derek.mail@blueyonder.co.uk Tel. 01226 287226

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Harwich, Tilbury, Falmouth, Liverpool, Newcastle, Rosyth (for Edinburgh), Greenock (for Glasgow) and Belfast – meaning it has never been easier to enjoy a Fred. Olsen cruise.



“We always appreciate opportunities to sing in unusual venues, so performing in the Balmoral ship's theatre was a special treat. Our fellow passengers enjoyed this formal performance as well as our occasional 'pop-up' choir sessions in various bars and lounges around the ship. In between times both choristers and wives enjoyed the excellent on-board catering and our on-shore visits to Honfleur and Guernsey.”

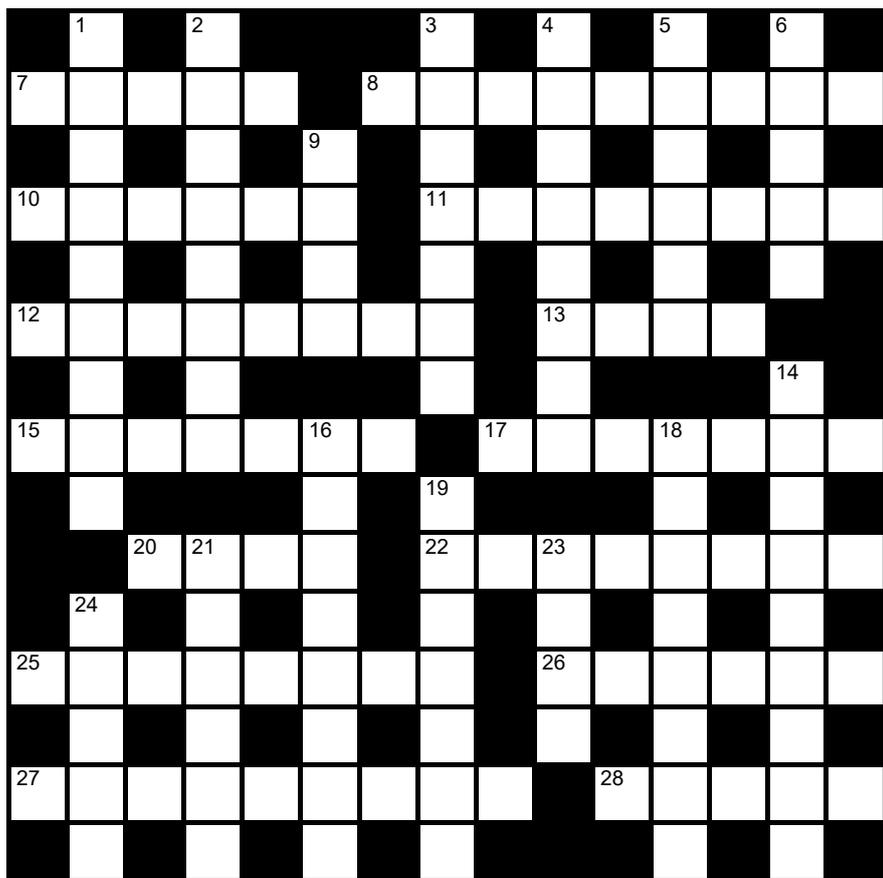
David Bowden-Smith Hart MVC-Baritone & PR
(The Hart Male Voice choir cruised on Balmoral to Honfleur and Guernsey).

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PUZZLE PAGE



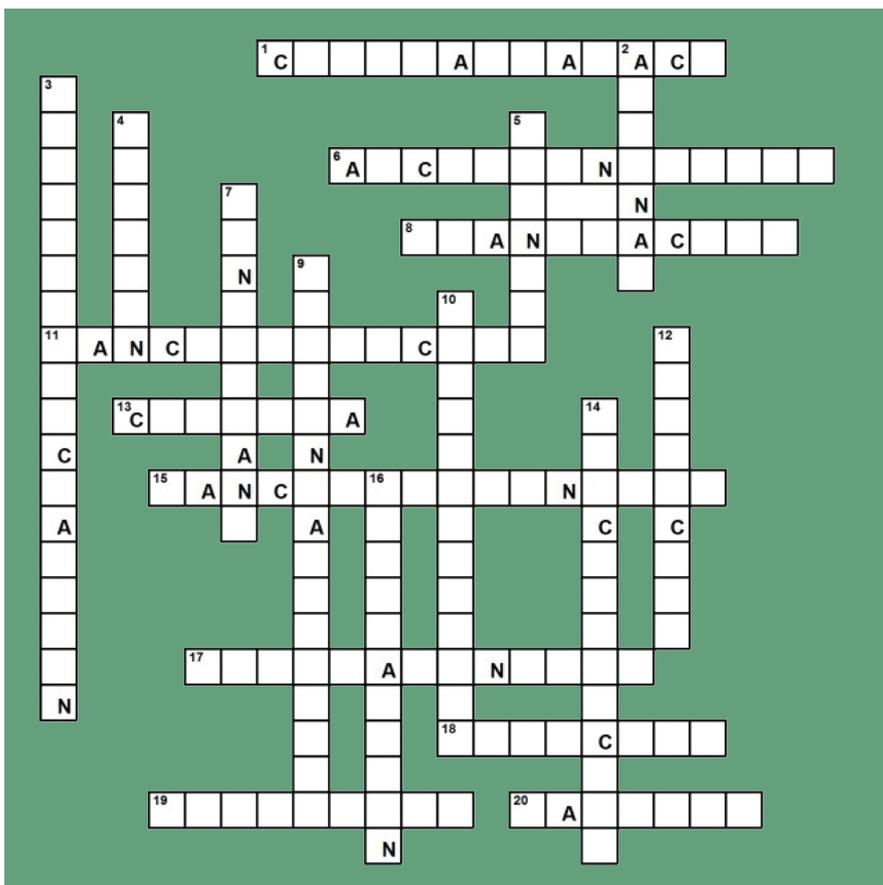
Across

- 7 Transport for a tongue twister (5)
- 8 Naughty April says she's not moving (9)
- 10 Sleep, sleep now initially with slime (6)
- 11 Cattle and toad? (8)
- 12 Correction in extreme dialogue (8)
- 13 Bile from an old french region I hear (4)
- 15 Loosely lapsing into a young person (7)
- 17 Moral and correct (7)
- 20 See the crushed cans (4)
- 22 Increase outcome of a sale etc (8)
- 25 Suggestive remindful (8)
- 26 Lawn left neglected (6)
- 27 Great heavenly teddy (4,5)
- 28 Sniff in all points north (5)

Down

- 1 Clumsy royal nude to dance in a circle (9)
- 2 Boar becomes an authentic tree (8)
- 3 In the rhubarb Ellen lifted (7)
- 4 Non electric illumination (8)
- 5 Heard it's a good view of the tower (6)
- 6 The cat don't bark (5)
- 9 Shop for cold meat and pickles (4)
- 14 Heart affected labour for a barricade (9)
- 16 Kind of lament no plastic (8)
- 18 Lighten our darkness (8)
- 19 Returning journalist gets wrong story to extirpate (7)
- 21 Evensong in Norwich or Alford (6)
- 23 Crucial core (4)
- 24 Possibly paler precious gem (5)

PREMIERSHIP PUZZLE



**FILL IN ALL
 THE PREMIERSHIP
 FOOTBALL TEAMS.
 I HAVE USED THE INITIALS
 OF THE **NAC** TO GIVE YOU A
 START**

WORD SEARCH

I have hidden all the choirs who have contributed to this issue of News & Views in the word search grid.

how many of them can you find?



ALFRETON

APPLEDORE

CHURCHDOWN

GLASGOW PHOENIX

KENTWOOD

MANSFIELD

MEVAGISSEY

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

ROCK-N-SOUL

SILVER RING

SOLENT

SUFFOLK

TAMWORTH

VIVA MUSICA

VOICES IN HARMONY

WORCESTER

The Viva Musica Choir Midlands South West

Viva Musica Choir celebrated the works of William Shakespeare in its spring concert on Saturday 21 May at St James Church, Wollaston, Stourbridge. A Gala Evening of Songs and Sonnets marked the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 1616.

The concert started with a beautiful arrangement of *Sigh No More Ladies* from the film 'Much Ado About Nothing' by Doyle. The choir performed the dramatic *Witches' Chorus* and the *Exiles' Chorus* from 'Macbeth' by Verdi. There was also music from 'Kiss Me Kate' by Cole Porter and 'West Side Story' by Leonard Bernstein.

David Blackburn, a member of the tenor section, arranged the readings for the concert. Sonnets and speeches were read by members of the choir, including a rousing speech by Adrian Durkin from 'Henry V'.

Ian Dyer performed *Division On The Car-mans' Whistle*, soprano Debbie Wright sang *Waltz Song* from 'Merrie England', alto Jo Welch sang Louis Armstrong's *It's A Wonderful World* and baritone Matthew Terrado sang *It Was A Lover And His Lass* from 'As You Like It', music by Finzi. The choir was led by Musical Director Rosemary Phillips and accompanied by Andrew Biggs.

In March the choir held a 'Come and Sing' event at New Road Methodist Church, Stourbridge. It was wonderful to see so many people join the choir for an afternoon of singing. Following the rehearsal, tea and cakes were served before a short concert of music from 'The Armed Man' and 'Les Miserables'. The choir is looking forward to hosting another 'Come and Sing' event in the near future.

The choir is holding an Open Evening for anyone interested in finding out more about Viva Musica on Tuesday 13 September at 7.30 at Ham Dingle Primary School, Pedmore, Stourbridge.

The choir will be performing at The Ruskin Centre, Amblecote, Stourbridge on Saturday 15 October.

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

New members are always welcome - please see our website for full details. Viva Musica is particularly looking for tenors and basses.

Lorraine Newman



Viva Musica - Sigh no more ladies

The Silver Ring Choir Of Bath South West

2016 sees SRC celebrating its 65th anniversary, thus making it one of the longest-established choirs in Bath. It was founded by Kelvin Thomas MBE, a young Welsh baritone. He still attends many of our performances and at the age of 96 recently sang an impromptu solo in Welsh, much to the delight of both audience and choir.

During these years we have travelled extensively, collaborating and performing with choirs in Canada, USA, New Zealand and many European countries. Most recently, this summer, we have paid a highly successful visit to the Schola Camille Jacquemin in the Belgian Ardennes, where we performed to a capacity audience in Forrieres and also had the honour of singing in the beautiful Abbaye de Montdesous. This autumn we are looking forward to hosting St Stythian's MVC from Cornwall. We are especially proud that for the past 55 years we have enjoyed numerous exchanges with the Herbetscher Chor from Hochst-im-Odenwald and we are delighted to be renewing our musical and social links with our German friends in 2017.

In the past ten years we have been privileged to perform with a number of famous people including Alfie Boe, Jamie Cullum, Katherine Jenkins, Aled Jones, Clare Teal and Hayley Westenra.

SRC is a mixed-voice choir of about 50 singers and we were delighted to welcome Phil Draisey as our Conductor at the beginning of 2015. This charismatic and inspirational young musician has proved to be a great asset for, in addition to being a talented choral and orchestral conductor, he is always encouraging, energetic and enthusiastic and although he makes us work hard, he never fails to make rehearsals great fun. Equally charismatic and talented is our Accompanist, John

Lowe, who moves between piano and organ with the greatest of ease.

Our choral repertoire is varied and diverse, ranging from madrigals to musicals and the great composers to those of the 21st Century, thus ensuring a range of choice for the audiences who support our regular concerts for both local and national charities. Many thousands of pounds have been raised over the years and our most recent donations have been to the Harmonie Rose Trust and the Great Western Air Ambulance. We are indebted to the David Medlock Trust from whom, two years ago, we received a substantial grant in order to provide musical entertainment for residents of local care homes.

SRC has a reputation for its friendliness and is always pleased to welcome singers of all ages. It actively encourages young singers through its bursary scheme for students of Bath Spa University. Not only do their young voices make a valuable contribution to the choir but it allows them to sing with more mature voice, while also giving them the experience of undertaking some solo work at concerts.

If you would like to learn more about our wonderful choir or indeed do an exchange with us we should be delighted. Please visit our website or email silver-ringsec@aol.com.

Ruth Bwye

Rock 'n' Soul Midlands East

Introducing, the Rock 'n' Soul Singers from Underwood, Nottinghamshire.

The Rock 'n' Soul Singers started as a fun choir in August 2012 with the idea of providing opportunities to sing mainly rock and pop music together, in a mixed choir in the rural Nottinghamshire area of Underwood, Bagthorpe and Brinsley.



Rock'n'Soul

The choir began with just eight members who just wanted to meet together to experience the joy of singing. Today we number 50 with a good balance of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses.

We meet weekly at our local church in Underwood. Our dedicated musical director, Dave Gibbon, has a wealth of experience and talent as well as a career as head of a music department in a local school before he retired. Dave also sings in two local male voice choirs, Bestwood and Pye Hill. We are also privileged to have a very experienced and talented accompanist in Teresa Mills who also plays for other local choirs.

Our repertoire at present is made up of a range of rock, pop and soul music. This includes songs from Take That, Elton John, The Beatles, Queen as well as pieces such as the theme tune to the Vicar of Dibley, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*. We always rehearse a range of traditional and modern songs for our Christmas performances. Our choice of music is generally selected by our MD who happily takes suggestions from all choir members, so we sing what we enjoy and enjoy what we sing.

We have been invited to sing at a number of local residential homes, performed outdoors at the Underwood Festival and presented a musical Easter Cabaret evening to raise money for charities. We always provide a local Christmas concert. We have performed to a variety of local groups, The Elderberries and Sutton Seniors, as well as a very gruelling but fun session in our local shopping centre in Nottingham. We also take delight in being asked to support other local groups in their fundraising efforts such as our performance at Wollaton Village and more recently at an event in Jacksdale which was celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and also raising funds for Kings Mill hospital breast cancer unit. Following our performances, we have received lots of positive feedback. We were thrilled recently to have raised £2,500 over a number of our own musical

events for our local Clic Sargent residential scheme, 'Billy's House', which helps support families whose child is undergoing treatment for cancer. It is such a thrill to be able to raise such worthwhile funds whilst doing something we all love so much.

We are always looking for new opportunities to perform, because we love to sing.

For further information, please contact: Ro Lynam - 01773 719807 (Treasurer) or Dave Gibbon - 01773 780192 (MD) www.rocknsoul.org.uk

Trudy Webster

Mevagissey Male Choir Cornwall

Bobbing and surging lazily across the bay, a pod of dolphins greeted our audience as they settled into their seats at the Minack Theatre in May. For those prepared to descend another score or more steps to the stage area (there are around 80 in all) and peer over the low wall, there was the added bonus of a family of seals basking on the rocks.

However, it is over 100 steps down from the car park and entrance to the stage, so some preferred to take no more than necessary. And yet our risers had to be carried by hand all the way down – along with the new back safety bars. To second tenor Graham Alee's horror one escaped from its bag on the way down and disappeared over the edge – fortunately to nestle on a grassy outcrop just below the path.

Carved out of the cliffs high above the golden sands of Porthcurno and the Atlantic Ocean, West Cornwall's unique outdoor auditorium was the venue for Mevagissey Male Choir's joint concert with the Culdrose Military Wives Choir, the only Cornish contingent among the now 80+ strong Military Wives movement.

The Minack is one of the world's most spectacular open-air theatres. It was conceived in 1931 by Rowena Cade, who lived at the top of the cliff and wanted somewhere for local

drama enthusiasts to perform Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. She built it herself, with her gardener, Billy Rawlings, over the winter of 1931 and into 1932, moving tons of earth and countless granite boulders to create the stage and the lower terraces. Over the years, this was expanded and developed into a breath-taking 750-seat auditorium.

Saturday 14 May saw Mevagissey Male Choir's third visit in five years and it was the second time we had been accompanied by a Military Wives Choir. In 2014 we welcomed the ladies from Plymouth, the first of the many inspired by Gareth Malone's TV series.

Just as when their sisters from Plymouth shared a concert with us there two years ago, the air was filled with 'ooh's' and 'aah's' as the Culdrose ladies caught their first glimpse of the magnificent setting where they were about to perform. And they produced a performance to match, with magnificent renditions of *Skyfall*; *True Colours*; *Lean on Me*; *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, and many more, including their own Military Wives prayer, the moving *Wherever You Are*.

Mevagissey performed a few of their more popular pieces, among them *Blue Moon*; *Hallelujah*; *Au Fond du Temple Saint*, from Bizet's 'Pearl Fishers', and *We Rise Again* and introduced another new piece, *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*. We were all entertained by Meva Cappella, our choir quartet, at one point, and Mevagissey and Culdrose joined forces for the conclusion, a powerful rendition of *Morte Christe*.

It was a special day for one member of the audience, Ed Barnicoat, a long-time admirer of the Choir who had been gifted a weekend in Porthcurno and tickets to the event by his family for his 70th birthday – duly acknowledged by compere Adrian Wilton – superb as ever – and by the choir in song, of course.

The verdict? 'We had such a wonderful night, it won't be forgotten', said Cul-



Mevagissey at The Minack

drose's Anna Oliver. 'The backdrop, the atmosphere, the dolphins. And your choir sang fantastically, we were very impressed indeed'. As we were with you, Anna.

On 10 September, Mevagissey will be renewing their acquaintance with the Plymouth Military Wives, who are just back from appearing at New York's Carnegie Hall. They have agreed to be our guests at Truro's Hall for Cornwall, where will be performing together for the fifth time. Tickets are available via www.hallforcornwall.co.uk. At the same time, we will be launching our long-awaited Christmas CD. A month later, we are off to Cyprus, to sing with the Akrotiri and Episkopi Military Wives Choirs.

Mike Tate

Churchdown Male Voice Choir South West

In December of last year, the choir celebrated its 50th anniversary; and it seems as though we have partying ever since then. In January of this year we had a glorious celebratory dinner at a local club and we were delighted to see former members of the choir and partners there and to see them all in good health.

We have had some very successful concerts since then; none more so than when we met up with Cirencester Male Voice Choir for a concert in Cirencester Parish Church and the more informal surroundings of the 'afterglow' following the concert, always an important ingredient of a successful evening out.

For our tour this year we will be travelling to Swansea, where we are delighted to be

taking part in concerts with two famous Welsh choirs - Morryston Orpheus and Dunvant MVC. Two concerts to definitely look forward to.

Looking further ahead, on 22 April 2017 we shall be hosting the NAC Conference massed choir concert in the historic surroundings of Gloucester Cathedral. The cathedral is now probably best known for the world's oldest choir festival - The Three Choirs Festival, which is held every three years in the cathedral, taking its turn with the cathedrals of Worcester and Hereford. On a lighter note, people will recognize parts of the building as the backdrop for films such as Harry Potter, Dr Who, Wolf Hall and many other productions. Every cathedral has its own share of gruesome history and Gloucester's is the story of Bishop Hooper who was burned at the stake for heresy. Unfortunately for Bishop Hooper, the fire was poorly laid with green sticks so his demise took longer than it should have done and the fire had to be re-lit three times.

It is said that the cathedral was saved by Henry VIII because it housed the canopied shrine of his ancestor Edward II, who was murdered in nearby Berkeley Castle. The Great East Window is the size of a tennis court and considered to be the largest ever seen and incorporates the 'Gloucester Gopher'. The windows of the cathedral contain stained glass from the 14th century to the present day, some of which is considered the most important of its kind in England.

There is an interesting connection with America in the history of the building. In 1750, John Stafford Smith was born the son of the cathedral organist. He went on to compose the music that is now the American national anthem - the Star Spangled Banner.

On behalf of the Gloucestershire choirs in the South West area we hope you have an enjoyable conference and enjoy the thrill of singing in such a historically important building.

Barry Woods



Choir Of The Year 2016 – The Choral Journey Continues

With 9 audition days hosted across the UK and over 150 choirs auditioning for the grand title, the Choir of the Year 2016 audition stage has come to a close. However, the choral journey continues as 16 choirs will be 'singing it out' at the Category Finals at Birmingham Symphony Hall in October, for a place in the Grand Final in December.

Celebrating choral music in all its forms, this inclusive competition has welcomed choirs from varying abilities and genres to its stages over the last six months, including acclaimed choirs of 100 singers, starting out choirs comprised of 8 jazz-scatters and 'we'll give it a go' choirs simply doing it for the love of it. From Bach's 'Mass in B minor' to Adele's 'Skyfall', we've witnessed an amazingly varied collective of choir-book classics and contemporary covers. All in all, it's been a mega-mix of choral magnificence.

As 'A Friend of Choir of the Year', we've travelled the length of the country over the last six months to join the 'choral parade'. Setting off in the city of Leeds on the 13 March, the Choir of the Year 'caravan' has stopped off in Warwick, Basingstoke, Truro, Cardiff, Cambridge, Gateshead, Portsmouth and Glasgow, finishing up in St Albans this June

and we've followed its journey every mile of the way.

It has been a privilege to be a part of this wonderful event, meeting with choirs from all over the UK and witnessing stunning auditions from some of the best choirs in the country. It has also been a great chance for us to talk to choirs about their plans to take the next step in their choral journey.

The ethos of this year's Choir of the Year has been all about progression and development, epitomised by Choir of the Year's partnership with ABCD, creating choral masterclass workshops for choirs looking to improve their sound. The competition is a way for choirs to pick up new performance and repertoire ideas, perform to a large audience and receive constructive criticism from their choral peers, all with a view to growing and progressing as a choir. This was emphasised by Choir of the Year Judge and Musical Director, Ken Burton, who drew on his own experiences of a slow and steady climb to the Choir of the Year title, after several entries to the competition with his own choir.

In light of this ethos, we recognise that a great way for choirs to build in confidence

and develop as a unit is to go on tour and with the opportunity to perform in iconic venues around the world whilst enjoying a great social time with your choir, an international concert tour could be the next step toward progression. Choirs often tell us how beneficial it is to have spent an intensive period of time together; not only from the viewpoint of group bonding but to have the opportunity to rehearse and perform together over the course of a concentrated week, as opposed to intermittent or weekly rehearsals.

Encouraging the ambitions of passionate musicians and providing them with special performance opportunities is at the heart of what we do which is why we are thrilled to be a part of the biggest choral event of the year for a second time. We are delighted that the Choir of the Year 2014 winners are touring with us to The Rhineland next year and we look forward to working with more choirs looking to take the next step in their choral journey!

For more information about Choir of the Year, or to purchase tickets for the Finals, visit <http://www.choiroftheyear.co.uk/category-finalists-announced-2016.htm>.

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A wonderful tour which gave us the opportunity to get to better know our choir members and to thoroughly enjoy singing in such fabulous surroundings.

Gill Stitt, Decibellas Women's Choir of Tarporley, Sorrento 2016

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Conference Co-ordinator



I have been busy since our last News and Views, working on future conference locations and sourcing hotels and concert venues. The information will come to you as soon as I have firmed up bookings and costings.

However, I am sure you all wish to know about our next conference in Gloucester.

Friday 21 April to Sunday 23 April 2017 are the dates to enter into your diary. At the members Open Forum on Sunday of our 2016 conference in Newcastle I was very pleased to have a host of constructive ideas from the floor. Some were not possible for 2017, however, there were a few ideas I thought I could act upon. The first was to make more use of the time on Friday between the arrival of delegates from 2.00 and the next scheduled item, being, gathering for dinner. In order to use this slot I have asked Celia Johns and Karl Harper to organise a session from 4.30 to 6.00 on Friday entitled 'Come and Sing' which will be a chance to get your voice in good order for Saturday. Any delegate can come along to join in a light-hearted sing which will be directed by two musical directors.

This year we are fortunate that the theatre style conference auditorium is huge. This enables me to arrange the trade stands in the same room as the seminar presentations. The coffee station, which acts as a catalyst for discussion and a chance to view the stands is also in the same room. I am always grateful to the trade stands for supporting us. Many are regular exhibitors at conference while others are new to the event. I picked up on the suggestion of a walk down fashion show. Expanding from this idea I have asked several stands if they would appreciate a fifteen minute spot in front of the delegates to present their company and its products. I have received an excellent response for this idea. We will have an hour or so of fifteen minute presentations on Saturday afternoon.

Another suggestion was to allow more time for the MOF. I have extended this to ninety minutes to enable all opinions and suggestions to be voiced.

Our main speaker in 2017 will be Jonathan Wilcocks. Jonathan is both a composer and conductor and has a plethora of

achievements to his credit. Go to www.jonathanwilcocks.com to view his resumé. Jonathan will be presenting three hour sessions on Saturday. The fourth slot will be filled by our own David Goodwin who tells me that the Performing Rights Society is a fascinating subject. He has entitled his talk 'Fun and Frolics with PRS. I can't wait to listen to his presentation.

We have one seminar on Sunday from Dr Douglas Coombes entitled 'What's the Score?' In which he intends to compose a piece of music using lyrics suggested by the delegates.

Saturday evening finds us in Gloucester Cathedral for our Conference Concert showcasing choirs from the surrounding area. Adrian Laws of Churchdown Male Voice Choir has been instrumental in organising what I am sure will be a fantastic evening of choral music. Of course, need you ask, bacon butties will be awaiting us at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel on our return.

The hotel is a four star establishment of superior standard offering comfortable accommodation and a wealth of amenities. It is spacious and stylish and is a fitting place to hold our National Conference. I am always mindful that the quality of our chosen venue reflects the standing of our society. I am sure you will agree this hotel fits the bill. The hotel is just one mile from the M5 motorway at Gloucester. It has a spacious free car park holding 200 plus vehicles and is secure.

I have been able to secure a competitive rate for the hotel both for full delegates and day delegates plus costings for meals etc.

Booking form and costings are in this News and Views together with a provisional time-line for conference. As you can see, prices are very similar to Newcastle this year. As usual there will be no single room supplement. Prices will be per delegate for the conference stay irrespective of room type.

Address: Shurdington Rd, Brockworth GL3 4PB

Phone: 01452 519988

Time goes past so quickly and particularly so when I have to look two years into the future to ensure we have the conference facilities we require in good hotels and first class venues for concerts. To this end I can tell you I have Norwich in my sights for 2018 with the Maids Hotel Norwich

Tombland, Norwich, NR3 1LB, being the conference venue and Norwich Cathedral being the fitting venue for our concert.

2019 and afterwards are on my desk as we near our centenary. I have already put some time and miles into looking at venues for these two years. More on this however in future publications of News and Views.

Looking forward to next year's conference, to renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. If it is not too soon (as the festive season is only fifteen weeks away) a premature Christmas greeting to you all.

Clive Lawton



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National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Booking Form 1 21-23 April 2017

Cheltenham Chase Hotel, Shurdington Rd, Brockworth GL3 4PB

Conference Costs

Full Conference Stay

The price quoted is **per person for the whole conference**

There are no single room supplements

Price per person for whole conference includes admission to all lectures

two nights bed breakfast and evening meal

refreshments and free admission to Saturday evening concert

per person £230

Stay an extra night - Single £85 BB - Double/Twin (two persons) £95 BB

Day Delegate [Saturday]

Please circle requirements

Refreshments and lunch included £40.00

Evening meal Saturday add £25.00

Concert ticket Saturday add £10.00

Gala Dinner add £35.00

Payments

Full Conference Stay

Deposit of £70 [non refundable] by 30 November 2016, balance by 28 February 2017

Final payment reminders will be sent

Day delegates

Payment in full when booking [non refundable]

Amount Submitted £ _____

Please return your completed forms and deposits to the address below

You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by 1 March 2016

[cancellations after this date will incur a charge of 50% of the total fee payable]

However substitute guests will be welcome

Cheques should be made payable to the National Association of Choirs

THE PERSONAL DETAILS OF EACH DELEGATE MUST BE ENTERED ON FORM 2

Please return your completed forms and deposits to

Clive Lawton - Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS

01283 569677 or 07939012458

conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



Reg'd. Charity No. 1014630

National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Booking Form 2 21-23 April 2017

Cheltenham Chase Hotel, Shurdington Rd, Brockworth GL3 4PB

The event is open to all who wish to attend on payment of the appropriate charges

Guest 1

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone Home.....Mobile.....

Email Address.....

Special Requirements

Diet [type].....

Disability [wheelchair user/handrails required etc.].....

NAC group.....

Choir Name.....

Guest 2

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone Home.....Mobile.....

Email Address.....

Special Requirements

Diet [type].....

Disability [wheelchair user/handrails required etc.].....

NAC group.....

Choir Name.....

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM FOR MORE GUESTS IF REQUIRED

Please return your completed forms and deposits to

Clive Lawton - Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS

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conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



Reg'd. Charity No. 1014630

National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Provisional Timetable 21-23 April 2017

Cheltenham Chase Hotel, Shurdington Rd, Brockworth GL3 4PB

Friday 21 April

- 2.00 Delegates arrive and register. Free Car Park - Coffee on arrival
- 4.00 National Officers' meeting
- 4.30-6.00 Come and Sing with Celia Johns and Karl Harper
- 7.30 Delegates and guests assemble for dinner
- 7.30 Reception National Officers and guests
- 8.00 Dinner is served
- 9.30 After dinner entertainment provided by Geoff Bourton and Pam Taverner
- 12.00 Bar closes

Saturday 22 April

- 7.00 Access to trade stands to set up
- 7.30-9.00 Breakfast in main dining room
- 9.30-10.30 Seminar 1 Jonathan Wilcocks covers the working relationship he had with his late father, Sir David Wilcocks, and his musical life and experiences
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee and trade stand viewing
- 11.00-12.00 Seminar 2 Jonathan Wilcocks introduces a session including some of his own compositions and an overview of some SATB repertoire
- 12.00-1.00 Trade stand presentations
(Four 15 minute presentations from trade stands present at conference)
- 1.00 Lunch and trade stand viewing (Lunch included in full delegate package)
- 2.00-3.00 Seminar 3 Jonathan Wilcocks will introduce delegates to a trilogy of songs entitled 'Sing for Africa' which requires a Tom Tom drum player
- 3.00-3.30 Coffee and trade stand viewing
- 3.30-4.30 Seminar 4 David Goodwin Fun and Frolics with PRS
- 5.00 Buffet meal before concert (included in full delegate Package)
- 6.45 Coaches to convey delegates to Cathedral depart hotel
- 7.30 Concert at Gloucester Cathedral - Choirs of Male and Female voices
- 10.00 approx Following concert, coaches will collect delegates to convey back to hotel where light refreshments will be provided
- 12.00 Bar closes

Sunday 23 April

- 7.30-9.00 Breakfast
For those delegates wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at hotel reception
- 9.30-10.30 Seminar 5 Dr Douglas Coombes. 'What's the score'
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee and trade stand viewing
- 11.00-11.30 Annual General Meeting
- 11.30-1.00 Members Open Forum
- 1.00 Conference closes (Lunch available in dining room at members' own expense)
- 1.00 National Officers' debrief meeting (guillotined after one hour)



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29th May 2017 - Bournemouth

The British Association of Barbershop Singers is inviting mixed voice Acappella groups to enter the second UK Mixed Voice Barbershop Choral Contest, which comes with a £500 first prize.

The open contest will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 2017, at the Bournemouth International Centre. Entrants need to perform two unaccompanied songs in four-part barbershop harmony.

Traditionally, barbershop has been exclusively single voice for either men or ladies, but now we are encouraging mixed SATB choirs to sing a different type of harmony!

Entries are welcome from choruses and choirs of between 18 and 80 mixed voice singers (min age 14). Start planning now!



Send for Details Today!

For full details, conditions of entry and guidance on song choice, please email:

mixedchoralcontest@singbarbershop.com

The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road, Warwick CV34 5HQ

Registered Charity No: 1080930

Worcester Male Voice Choir Midlands South West

This proved to be a remarkably busy and very successful quarter. No sooner had our previous visitors the Choir d'Annebault and the Vernon Conservatoire de Musique returned to France then we were hosting the Victoria (Australian) Welsh Choir who were on tour in the UK.

The original idea of a concert was initiated by Barbara Chapman, President of the Inner Wheel Club of Pershore who wanted to organise something which raised funds for Parkinsons UK. Barbara's late husband was a long serving member of our choir and had suffered from the illness. Musical Director Nicholas Wright took on the task of organising the musical programme and during that process was approached by the Australian choir to perform with us. It was very appropriate to invite them to guest at this concert as the late Derek Chapman had strong connections with Australia and New Zealand.

The venue for the concert was Pershore Abbey, a favourite with our choir, and which accommodated the large number

of choristers, a full audience and provided refreshments within the building. The acoustics in this venue are excellent and the tourists' choice of music and different sound to the host choir complemented very nicely. Initially the Australians sang one of our favourites *What Would I Do Without My Music* but then followed with quite a serious set of pieces and in fact changed a number from their original programme after the interval, showing great versatility, and the audience loved it.

Our choir performed a number of recent additions to the Worcester repertoire including *Cavatina*, *Benedictus*, and *The Holy City*. The joint choirs sang *Gwahoddiad* and *Rachie* with the tourists proving they were Welsh and the home choir showing once more their linguistic skills.

Following the concert a traditional afterglow took place in a local hotel and cemented the excellent spirit engendered despite having only met a couple of hours before the concert began. The next day the Australians gave a free lunchtime concert in Worcester Cathedral. A fitting end to a tour which had included two major concerts in Cardiff. The opportunity to sing

with other choirs is an important part of male voice choral singing and when this involves those from overseas it is an additional pleasure.

Just three weeks later and the choir hosted the English Association of Male Voice Choirs Annual Concert 2016 in Worcester Cathedral, quite a challenge in its own right but coming quickly after the previous concert might have been too much for some. The planning of the musical programme and organising all the logistics of a major concert demanded a great deal of time and effort but the individual contributions of key members of the choir - Nicholas Wright MD, Les Janes Stage Manager and myself (so I am told) in the capacity of Chairman of the EAMVC, meant that through a great team effort we had an outstanding concert.

Over 200 choristers from seven choirs based in the Midlands region, the Birmingham Horn Sound (19 horn players), our ever present guest organist Keith Hearnshaw and talented soloist Claire Bessent provided the ingredients. Over 600 people packed the Cathedral and the compère for the evening, Lord Digby Jones, entertained

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and moved the concert through in a seamless manner. The tradition of the EAMVC is for the host choir to sing several pieces by itself and we sang *Oh, Virgin Of The Angel Host, For The Beauty Of The Earth* and *Irish Blessing*. Also it is a tradition for the MD of the host choir for the following year to conduct several pieces and Steve Roach from Birmingham Icknield MVC assisted by Chris Walk fulfilled that with - amongst other pieces - *Yesterday* and *Sailing*. Much of the work was once again completed superbly by Nicholas Wright our MD and our two other musical team members, accompanist Sheila Leatherland and assistant accompanist, Scott Wolfendon. Nicholas had included *Gwahoddiaid* - in English this time of course - and Cohen's *Hallelujah* as part of the contribution of the EAMVC massed choirs.

A wonderful evening which ended with the traditional *Morte Christe* once more sending everyone home elated. Not forgetting of course that all this effort also provides much needed funds for local and regional charities and on this occasion St Richards Hospice and Acorns Children's Hospice both received £3000.

Follow that (as they say) and we did. Strangely enough three events in the rural west of the county in the Martley area. First we were invited to sing in what would have been a very different venue - a beautiful walled garden which was provided for the Teme Valley Geological Group. Unfortunately the British weather let us down and we retreated to the local village hall for the actual concert; having said that outside performances can be very challenging without an effective external sound system.

Second we were invited to perform at the Malvern based international motor company Morgan Motors annual 'Thrill on the Hill' event held at the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb. It was a wonderful setting in the heart of the Worcestershire countryside. A suitable setting for one of the UK's largest gatherings of Morgan motor cars. This was an open air event but we obviously impressed having already been engaged for a further event by the company. The final concert of this period was a return to the Martley Village Hall. This time we were raising funds for the Nora Parsons Day Centre - a centre for the elderly and lonely from twenty-one surrounding villages. It may not have been The Royal Albert Hall or Symphony Hall but it proved to be a simply wonderful evening enjoyed by a responsive audience and a relaxed choir. Drinks, sandwiches, raffle, a cricket match in the adjacent field and a glorious summer evening. A great concert with a good performance by the choristers and a wonderful guest soloist, David Coulson, whose renditions of *Maderia M'Dear* and *Joyce the Librarian* received rapturous applause as did the choristers Welsh singing of *Gwahoddiaid*.

All work and no play is not good so we have squeezed in a couple of social events. The Ladies' Committee organising another splendid BBQ and our MD invited us to a Picnic by the Pool where some choristers showed off their Olympic skills. The summer continues with new additions to the repertoire, dusting down of Christmas carols, chorister recruitment efforts and preparation for the Annual Concert in September when there will be a Scottish flavour. More next time. Bagpipes and all

Terry Dillingham

Tamworth Ladies' Choir Midlands West NAC Group

Tamworth Ladies' Choir has a new musical director, Gail Brindley, who took over in August 2014, and she is constantly searching for new material for us to sing while also revamping old favourites. Our repertoire is very varied and is designed to cater for all types of audience and choir member tastes. The most popular songs in our repertoire at present include Whistle Down the Wind from the Andrew Lloyd Webber West End musical of the same name, When You Believe, a Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey classic from the 2000 film Prince of Egypt, and All That Jazz from the musical Chicago. Our favourite fun song is an entertaining version of This Old Man which requires much concentration.



Gail Brindley

New songs are added regularly in order to retain the freshness and vocal stimulation required to keep the choir improving. We also have videos of several of our songs made at various concerts and these can be found on YouTube by searching for Tamworth Ladies' Choir.

One of the main highlights for Tamworth Ladies' Choir in 2015 was to be invited to participate in the Motionhouse Production Tigress Project which was staged in Tamworth Castle Grounds on 9 and 10 May 2015. This was part of the 'I am Tamworth' initiative. Together with other local choirs, we sang several unique songs written especially for the project which was based on the life of Æthelfleda 'A Warrior Queen - Lady of the Mercians' who was closely associated with Tamworth in the early 10th Century. The whole performance was directed by Artistic Director Kevin Finnan MBE who devised the choreography for the London 2012 Paralympics opening ceremony. This was a very successful event and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part.



Worcester MVC In The Cathedral



The Ladies enjoying the sunshine in Falmouth before their concert with Treverra Male Voice Choir, May 2016

Whilst in Cornwall over the bank holiday weekend of 30 April to 2 May 2016, the ladies performed a joint concert with the Treverra Male Voice Choir on the Saturday evening. The following evening, we were fortunate enough to be able to have another concert with the Cudrose Military Wives Choir in Helston. This was a concert to remember. The finale, sung by both choirs, was the Military Wives Prayer, the very poignant *Wherever You Are* which, when released, was the second fastest selling single ever. Again, this can be viewed on Youtube. It's a weekend away that will be talked about for months to come. As can be seen from the photographs attached, the musical director, who manages both choirs, is very passionate about singing and it thoroughly showed through the entire performance.

We are a community choir that performs and raises funds for local charities to include Tamworth First Aiders, Guide Dogs for the Blind, St Giles Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support, Multiple Sclerosis and many more.

After one of our events, we had the following testimonial sent to us, which boosted us no end:

'Gail, you and your entire choir are to be congratulated on a magnificent series of pieces in tonight's concert at the Assembly Rooms. Each song was perfectly sung and unison abounded. I especially enjoyed *This Old Man* which was a brave choice and one which keeps English traditions

very much alive. Please can you tell all the ladies how proud they should be of their performance, which I thought was worthy of a professional production. You are also very fortunate indeed to have such a great accompanist. Keep up the great work'.

New members are always welcome. We rehearse at the Central Methodist Church, Aldergate, Tamworth B79 7DJ on Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30. If anyone is interested, the first step is to contact the choir by telephoning Judith Bowen on 01827 280167 or e-mail gail.brindley@btinternet.com Come along, you won't regret it.

Lesley Tempest - Secretary

Solent Male Voice Choir Southern Counties

All roads this year are leading to the Royal Albert Hall and the London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs on Saturday 15 October. For Solent MVC based in Havant, near Portsmouth, it has been the heartbeat of our singing lives with the commitment and practice required to overcome the challenge of singing many songs written in the language of the valleys.

There have been extra practices and one of our enthusiastic basses, John Snowling, has emerged as chief 'physio' to the team's fitness by spending hours producing phonetic versions of the Welsh which

choristers have then hand written into their books. 'I've quite enjoyed doing it,' said John, 'because it makes all the difference to the choir's ability to learn these pieces quickly.'

He has held the extra practices in his studio at home, where he has room for ten singers per session. Geoff Porter started the year sharing the conducting with former DoM Howard Wilkie, but in early summer the latter departed for pastures new and Geoff – after some persuasion from Chairman Charles McAndrew – agreed to step up, at least until Christmas. And Geoff has emphasized to the choir that they must do their 'homework' every week if Solent is to impress in October.

It's not been all work and no play, however. The choir enjoyed a weekend tour to the Cotswolds in early June with concerts at Cheltenham and Tewksbury. At Cheltenham we were the guests of Churchdown MVC and their conductor Ralph Barnes.

Highlights were undoubtedly the joint choir's rendition of *An American Trilogy* – the great sound of some sixty voices in the modestly-sized St Andrew's Church, Montpellier – and the star quality of Ralph's tenor voice singing *Nella Fantasia*.

In Tewksbury our audience showed appreciation for a different format - numbers from our repertoire of show songs, spirituals and modern favourites, plus the sharing of a three-part narrative journey with cancer survivor Anne Careless. Macmillan Cancer Support were on the receiving end of a tidy cheque.

We returned to home ground for the last show of the summer, singing to a packed house at St Faith's Church, Havant, in aid of the church restoration fund, where appropriately the star turn was the vicar, Canon Tom Kennar.

As befits the President of our choir, Tom possesses a fine tenor voice and put it to good use with two solos, including the big hit of the evening, a highly animated performance of a Richard Stilgoe favourite *Mrs Beamish* about a parishioner battling to come to terms with modern liturgy.

The evening marked the farewell concert for conductor, Howard Wilkie, after five successful years.

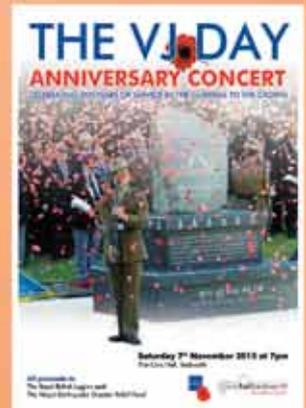
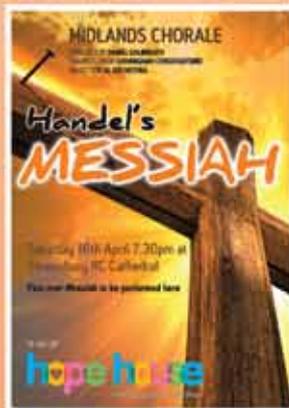
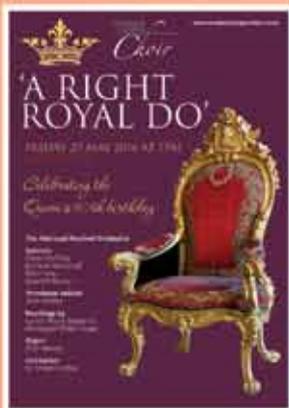
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The Appledore Singers Devon

In last autumn's edition of this magazine there was a letter from the Abertillery Ladies Orpheus Choir, in South Wales, asking for other choirs to get in touch, with a view to holding joint concerts. Little did we know, when the committee of The Appledore Singers saw the letter and decided to respond, what a treat we were in for.

The result, on Saturday 11 June, saw the performance of a 'Super Summer Concert' at Lavington Church, Bideford, North Devon, by both choirs.

The ladies from Abertillery had travelled down from Wales the previous day, staying in Lynton - a beautiful place on the North Devon coast - from where they came to the church on the Saturday afternoon. This was not only the opportunity to rehearse, but to have a wonderful buffet tea together - all home-made and provided by the Appledore Singers. This sort of opportunity comes rarely and it was so nice to chat to each other's choir members.

Soon it was time to open the doors to the public. Would we get a decent audience? We needn't have worried: the place was packed. The two choirs chose different,



Appledore Singers Super Summer Concert

enjoyable, arrangements of songs in each of their 'slots'. The Abertillery Ladies sang lustily and joyfully, in both Welsh and English, under the guidance of their conductor, Steve Bard, and their accompanist, Penny Hughes - who also played two piano solos, which were very well-received.

We, Appledore Singers, sang our hearts out, under our Musical Director, Pam Beechey and our accompanist, (her husband) Chris, and the 'Pips', our small chamber choir, harmonised beautifully. The last two items of the concert: *The Lord Bless You And Keep You* and *Thank You For*

The Music (both, I'm sure, very familiar to choirs) were sung jointly by both choirs and everyone - choirs and audience alike - joined in with the Welsh and English National Anthems, in honour of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. The singing raised the roof!

We all felt that we'd given of our best to a very appreciative audience and, as we said 'goodbye' to the Abertillery Ladies, we looked forward to further collaboration in the future.

**Viv Zussman
Publicity**



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Newcastle-under-Lyme Male Voice Choir Midlands North

The weekend of 6/8 May heralded a long awaited special occasion for North Staffordshire when Newcastle-under-Lyme Male Voice Choir played hosts to The Intermezzo Polyphonic Choir based in Limoges in central France. The event had taken many months of planning by the Newcastle choir's Musical Director, Hannah Mead, aided by friends, family and choir members.

Following a visit to Lichfield Cathedral 'Intermezzo' arrived in Newcastle to an enthusiastic reception from NMVC and the evening commenced with an informal meal and social where choir members and partners overcame difficulties with the language barrier and were soon sharing experiences with their French guests. The evening ended with a short, light hearted and entertaining performance by both choirs.

'Intermezzo' is a mixed choir which performs (usually a cappella) a varied repertoire of songs ranging from French Renaissance to contemporary pieces, not to mention folk, negro spirituals and sacred music under the direction of Françoise Delicq, who has been its musical director for 25 years. Formed in 1983 the choir regularly performs around Limoges but the visit to Newcastle was its first venture abroad.

The highlight of the visit took place on Saturday evening when NMVC and Intermezzo were joined by two local ladies' choirs, The Daleian Ladies Choir under the direc-



tion of Janet Jowett and The Audley Ladies Choir directed by Margaret Nicol. The programme was opened by a joint and very moving rendition of *Amazing Grace* by all four choirs. This was followed by contributions from each of the choirs individually and included a total of twenty-four pieces from a wide range of genres. The evening was brought to a conclusion with all four choirs performing an arrangement of *Greensleeves*.

The concert was followed by a sumptuous buffet with more *entente cordiale* and an invitation to NMVC to visit France for a reciprocal event. The whole weekend was voted a huge success by both audience and choir members alike and well worth the hard work which was put into its organisation.

Here is the letter of thanks sent by 'Intermezzo' after the visit.

Good morning David,

In the name of the Choir, I wish to thank you warmly for the way you made us feel welcome during the Social Evening with the friendly exchanges with the choir members, the buffet which enabled us to appreciate to their full value the quality of all the different cooks (everything was delicious) and above all your singing. We were just fascinated, captivated, by your vocal delivery... Two words to describe your group: friendly and talented.

The concert was also a marvellous opportunity to discover the range of your repertoire and the great involvement of an English audience. It has been an unforgettable experience for us!

I renew our invitation to the Newcastle Male Voice Choir to come and visit the Limousin region and unite their voices with ours in another concert.

Coming back home, the sunshine that accompanied us throughout our stay in England left us and we found a cloudy and windy weather... It made us wish all the more we were still in Staffordshire.

Thank you again to all of you and see you very soon. Hopefully.

Isabelle

for Roseline :this time, my translation is fairly faithful, I promise.

Michael Brookes
Choir Committee Member



Alfreton Male Voice Choir The Midlands East

This year Alfreton Male Voice Choir started their concert season by hosting the Six Choir Festival on behalf of the National Association of Choirs. This was held at the Grange Arts Academy in Alfreton on Saturday the twenty first of May. The choirs taking part were Alfreton Male Voice Choir, Boundary Singers, Eastwood Collieries Male Voice Choir, Leaside Singers, Rolls Royce Ladies Choir and Take Note.



Eastwood Collieries MVC

Our chairman Derrick Hesketh wrote an introduction to the program which included the following text 'Why do we sing? Well for one thing we enjoy it. Singing some of the best music ever composed, either in a rehearsal or at a concert, is an uplifting experience. You only have to look at the faces of a choir after a successful concert to see its effect. Not only that, it is a healthy exercise - singing is good for you.' That really sums up why we do it, very well, but I might add that to see the smiles and expressions of goodwill and enjoyment on the faces of the audience will also bring a feeling of satisfaction.



Rolls Royce Ladies Choir

The concert started with Eastwood Collieries Male Voice Choir. Musical Director - Liz Moulder and accompanist Teresa Mills. They sang *De Battle Of Jericho, For The Beauty Of The Earth, What Would I Do Without My Music, My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose* and *Anthem From Chess*.

The second choir of the night was Take Note, Musical Director - Jean Holmes and accompanist Margaret Cook. They sang *Cantata Domino, Angels Through The Night, I Hear The Music In Me, Light A Candle, The Water Of Tyne* and *Psalm 151*.



Alfreton Male Voice Choir

The last choir before the interval was the Rolls-Royce Ladies Choir, Musical Director - Christine Hunt and accompanist John Lord. They sang *Let's Face The Music And Dance, We'll Gather Lilacs, Let The River Run, Just The Way You Are* and *I Believe*.

The second half was kicked off by the Leaside Singers, Musical Director - Alan Wilton and accompanist Christine Chandler. They sang *O What A Beautiful Morning, Can You Feel The Love Tonight, Dancing Queen, You Raise Me Up* and *As Long As I Have Music*.



Leaside Singers

They were followed by the Boundary Singers - Musical Director John Wesker and accompanist Ian Coles. They sang *I Am A Small Part Of The World, Farewell My Friend, Come To The Fair, Dream A Little Dream Of Me, The Bare Necessities* and *What A Wonderful world*.

To finalise the concert the hosts Alfreton Male Voice Choir, Musical Director - Terry Clay and Accompanist Lisa Smith. They sang *Let All Men Sing, White Rose, The Song Of The Jolly Roger, Love Could I Only*

Tell Thee, You'll Never Walk Alone and *The Fishermen Of England*. The concert finally came to end by everybody, including the audience, singing *Morte Criste*.

The Alfreton Male Voice Choir has a very busy schedule for this year including concerts at:

Alfreton Church Hall on the 17 June at 7.30

Stonebroom Church on the 30 June.

Belper River Gardens on the 3 Jul at 2.00.

All Saints Church in Ripley for the Ripley musical festival on 14 July at 7.30.

Heanor Town Hall on 7 October.

The annual concert at Grange School, Alfreton on 15 Oct at 7.00

Swanwick Church on 21 October plus other engagements as they arrive.

Anyone interested in joining us please ring Les on 07773 399913.

Les Dorey



The Boundary Singers

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

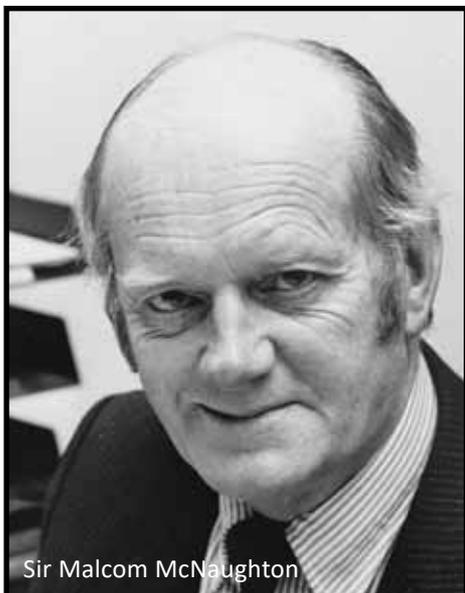
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Conductor and Director of Music – Marilyn J Smith, MBE, LRAM

Where has the summer gone? I say 'summer' but up here in the west of Scotland, we've not seen much sunshine! Our last season ended with good news and sad news. The good news was that, to the great delight of all concerned, our spring concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall raised almost £10,000 for Erskine. The sad news was that one of our long-term patrons, Professor Sir Malcolm MacNaughton, had died. Sir Malcolm, who was 91, was Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Glasgow University and had a long and distinguished career in medicine and academia. The choir sends condolences to his wife, Margaret-Ann, and their children and grand-children.

And so we start a new season and a busy time lies ahead. We're kicking off our year by recording a postcard CD of Scottish songs in aid of St Andrew's Hospice, Lanarkshire. The current hospice building has been in use since 1986 and, after 40 years, requires reconfiguration and refurbishment to meet the ongoing needs of the community. The aim of the current appeal is to raise £9,000,000. Glasgow Phoenix Choir will contribute to this by performing a concert in October at which the new CD, to be recorded in St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, will be released. All proceeds of these two ventures will go towards the fund. At least it's a start.

We're off on our travels again, heading north to perform concerts in Strathpeffer,



Sir Malcom McNaughton

Elgin and the Isle of Skye. The choir looks forward to this kind of tour as we have the great opportunity of singing in different venues, meeting up with old friends, making new ones and getting to know one another better over the odd glass or two of wine. What more could you ask?

In addition, we're celebrating a special anniversary with a special lady. Our conductor, Marilyn J Smith, has been with the choir for 25 years. Marilyn trained at the Royal Academy of Music and gained her Professional Certificate in Singing before moving to Scotland in 1973. She sang professionally as a soloist, and with Scottish Opera, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus, and the John Currie Singers. Choirs have always played a significant part in Marilyn's career. She first conducted a very successful junior choir in London, and in Scotland, trained and conducted children's and adult choirs before her appointment to the Glasgow Phoenix Choir. With the GPC she has made many recordings and toured Europe, the UK and USA. Marilyn teaches singing at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the University of Glasgow and is in great demand as a vocal trainer. She gives regular vocal workshops and masterclasses and adjudicates at music festivals throughout the UK, and at the National Gaelic Mod in Scotland. Marilyn is proud that many of her students are now performing, teaching and conducting professionally themselves, keeping the tradition of choral singing alive. Marilyn was awarded an MBE in the 2012 UK Honours List in recognition of her services to music.

A wee soprano bird tells me that Marilyn's audition for the post of conductor was impressive in the levels of energy and drive she demonstrated. Everyone enjoyed the rehearsal and were delighted to welcome Marilyn to the choir. I'm told, however, that there were doubts about her ability to keep up the high energy levels displayed at the audition. Twenty-five years later and people are still wondering when she's going to flag. Congratulations, Marilyn, 'Lang may yer lum reek' or in English, if you prefer, long may your association with the choir continue.

**Anne Kay
Publicity Officer**

Voices in Harmony Midlands South West

Formed for a one-off performance of Messiah, VIH will be celebrating 20 years of music making next year. A seventy strong



Marilyn J Smith

SATB choir, it has been led by Stephen Bradley from the outset, and performs a broad range of music, often summarised as The Beatles to Beethoven. Its aim is to introduce all people to the joys of singing as a choir both sacred and secular compositions. The members, male and female of all ages, meet to develop their knowledge, skills and techniques and sing for their own pleasure. VIH is fortunate to have several excellent soloists in each section to add colour and dimension to programmes in solo items as well as duets and quartets. At the same time, some members are not music readers, yet are willing and able to learn difficult pieces. We hold 6-8 concerts a year, the majority of which we do to raise funds for charities and local good causes. To date, the choir has raised approximately £80,000.

VIH has had another successful year so far, the highlight being guests of Sing For Four Community Choir in Cricklade, Wiltshire. As the coach approached the town, it was met by the Town Crier, to make us feel welcome and started the day on the right note (no pun intended). VIH's contribution to an excellent programme included Abba's *Dancing Queen*, *The Chorus Of The Hebrew Slaves* (sung in English albeit with a Black Country accent), Karl Jenkins' *Healing Light* from *The Peacemakers*, and *Phantom Of The Opera*. Helen Pysanczyn brought further variety in the form of delightful clarinet solos.

At Easter, Stainer's *Crucifixion* presented in Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill provided a well received focus for Holy Week.

For a number of years, the choir has joined with Cradley Heath Salvation Army and the

Festival Brass (brought together for the occasion) to hold a Remembrance Festival on the Saturday preceding Armistice Day, featuring in recent years an arrangement of *For Those in Peril on the Sea* by the choir's chairman and an arrangement for brass band and choir of *Hymn to the Fallen* by David Bishop-Rowe, MD of Festival Brass. The festival always attracts a capacity audience, with local MPs and other dignitaries, along with representatives of the Armed Forces and other services, to ensure that those who bought our freedom with their lives are not forgotten. The choir will commence rehearsals for this poignant occasion again very soon.

Another feature in the local area is the annual Christmas Concert, again attracting a capacity audience, supporting a couple of charities, always one being local to the choir's catchment area. The last couple of concerts have featured an ensemble from The Flowers Band of Gloucestershire, currently ranked number five in the world.

In recent times, the choir has twice performed Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* with orchestral ensemble to enthusiastic audiences, and reviews by those attending have compared the standard of music more than favourably with 'professional' performances in nearby Symphony Hall in Birmingham - an achievement which has spurred on the VIHers in their pursuit of ever higher standards.

Whilst always glad to sing in larger venues, the choir is keen to support the smaller places around the West Midlands, especially where charities benefit from ticket sales, and at Christmas will again be found at a local elderly residents home and a garden centre.

Voices in Harmony is justifiably proud of its junior choir, Pure Harmony, for youngsters aged 8 to 16, and the quality of sound and variety of repertoire belies the average age of the membership.

All in all, the choir goes from strength to strength, 2017 being already fully booked, and will include an Easter Meditation programme at Holy Trinity Church during Holy Week. Plans are also in hand for events in 2018. www.vihchoir.org

Robert Snaith
Chairman

Mansfield and District Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Joint concert with Pye Hill & District Male Voice Choir at United Reformed Church, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire on 11 June 2016

We must give credit at the outset for those who assembled the 'nuts and bolts' and worked tirelessly to ensure that the event ran so well. Geoff Mansfield, as efficient and meticulous as ever, and his counterpart from Pye Hill, Malcolm Hill, were the men behind the scenes, planning and organising in service of their colleagues and the event itself.

To the members of the URC, Sutton in Ashfield and their minister, Reverend Colin Bones, we express our appreciation in allowing the use of their fine building for the evening and to those who bought their ticket and turned out to watch and listen; you were a fantastic audience - we hope you enjoyed our 'Summer Harmony'.

Male Voice Choirs throughout the country work in service of their communities, providing entertainment, bringing folk together and fund raising. I think that I speak for all my fellow choristers in expressing that

be; 'mellow and stirring' (as described recently in an article in The Daily Telegraph). This male voice is also an invitation to *Let All Men Sing* and proclaims that we are *Stout Hearted Men* but also reveals that true masculinity is tender enough to sing the *Lullaby* and compassionate enough to plead that God will hear the estranged father's prayer to *Bring Him Home*. The male voice choir tradition is distinctly and unashamedly masculine and we don't have to be coal miners or rugby players to feel and express that masculinity. In our choirs and in our music we celebrate the male voice in harmony and, you know what, the world needs to hear that voice. Well done to all of my fellow choristers from both choirs.

Credit to the two musical directors Meryl Chambers from Mansfield and Christine Buxton from Pye Hill and to our accompanists, Margaret Ball (Mansfield) and Rosemary Jones (Pye Hill). Without the ladies, these guys can't do their singing so thanks and appreciation to them. Thanks also to Dave Braithwaite, Chairman of Pye Hill MVC and compère for the evening who did a great job. Well done Dave. We also have to give a special mention to our very own Dave Gee, member of both male voice choirs.

Soloists were Colin Smith from Pye Hill whose soaring rich bass carried the old Mario Lanza classic, *I'll Walk with God* and



it was a special privilege and pleasure on this occasion to have supported such a valuable and respected local charity, The John Eastwood Hospice Trust. We all, as local residents, have much to be grateful for the existence and work of the Hospice in our community. We were delighted that Mr David Wilson, Vice Chairman of the John Eastwood Hospice Trust, and a number of his colleagues were able to join us and we hope that they too enjoyed the evening. This event was about two local male voice choirs coming together to make music. So it was great to do the joint choir pieces together. In that magnificent room you could hear the sound that the choir was creating even as a participant (which is not the case in all venues). The singer could hear that the sound was as a male voice choir should

from Mansfield Ian Grice's sweet but piercing tenor can lift the music in many of our pieces *I'm Goin' Up-a-Yonder* for example. Well done guys. I have to mention the soloists and duetists, John Wakeland and Phil Robinson (both basses) from Mansfield hamming it up for all they were worth with their rendition of *The Bold Gendarmes* and especially John, working the audience for comic effect and 'accidentally' allowing his fake moustache to fall off throughout the number. You can't fool me, John. We went from the ridiculous to the sublime with such a moving piece from Colin Dutton (first tenor) and Matt Dobney (bass) who carried such sweet expression in their spiritual medley, *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*.



Mansfield & District Male Voice Choir

One of the highlights of the evening were the 'choir within a choir'; a capella specialists, can't help but love 'em; The Gentlemen. I really enjoyed *And So It Goes*. As explained in the song introduction this is one of Billy Joel's less well-known songs and one I'd never heard before but one I think you need to listen to many times to fully appreciate. Great songs always draw you in like that; terrific performance from the guys - really polished.

I've been a member for very nearly a year now and this was my first concert, can you believe it? Shame.

What a wonderful event the Afterglow was. This was about taking your tie off and your jacket and unbuttoning some buttons on your shirt. It was about getting some beer down 'yer' neck and having a right sing-song. What this was really all about, for me, was when the lads were harmonising that wonderful old Welsh hymn *Calon Lan* (in Welsh of course), the title of which is translated in English as 'A Pure Heart'. What a song that is. The rendition at the afterglow was so moving that I had to leave the room - I was so upset that I couldn't sing it myself. Before I left, Keith Turner, my fellow chorister reminded me that we will be singing that wonderful song at the Royal Albert Hall in 2018 and that I will be learning it in the choir. What a fantastic prospect.

I have never felt like an outsider since joining the choir - I have been welcomed with such grace by everyone but it won't be until you see Nick with his jacket and tie off, at least two top buttons open on his shirt and singing *Calon Lan* with true feeling like the rest will you see someone who can really fly as a chorister and be awarded his 'choral wings'. Hopefully not too far off.

Nick Shelley

Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir Anglia

The Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir is opening a new chapter in its long 48-year history in the appointment of Steven Blomfield as their new Musical Director. In a sequence of events that, as their Chairman Dougie Paine said, 'Could not have been scripted', he has taken over from Colin Edgar BEM who was the choir's Musical Director for 46 years. Colin, a former teacher at Kesgrave High School, retired and the choir began their search for a new Musical Director.

Many years earlier Colin had inspired a love of music in one of his pupils, a young Steven Blomfield. Steven went on to study Music Theatre at Mountview Academy and Music at Colchester Institute returning to Suffolk to take up his own career as a music teacher. Steven had always felt a great debt of gratitude to Colin and he decided to seek him out to just say 'thank you'. He remembered Colin often talking about his involvement with a male voice

choir. Through the website of the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir he tracked Colin down. It was then he learnt the choir was seeking a new Musical Director. He needed little persuading to accept the role. He has said 'I feel honoured to be given the opportunity to take over from Colin and carry on the proud traditions of the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir'.

Under Steven's leadership the choir is once again buzzing and looking for new members.

Members of the choir are drawn from male serving or retired Police Officers, serving or retired Support staff or none of those, but people who are just happy to be a friend of the Suffolk Constabulary and support the choir. No previous experience of singing or music is required, and no one is auditioned. Everyone can sing and it is never too late to learn. The choir meets every Tuesday 7.00-9.00 at Suffolk Police Headquarters, Portal Avenue, Martlesham Heath IP5 3QS and usually performs one concert per month. (There are short summer and Christmas breaks).

For further information, the choir secretary Stephen Wade can be contacted on 01449 672600

scmvc@scwade.eclipse.co.uk

Stephen Wade
Secretary

Kentwood South West

Kentwood has a strapline which announces that it is 'The choir with a difference'. So what is the difference? Well, really it is a number of differences, which together define Kentwood and perhaps even make Kentwood unique. I would be glad to hear from any choristers who recognise them all



Suffolk Constabulary MVC

and with this in mind I have put them in order of importance to the singers, as this is my perspective.

We do not use music when we are performing and with very few exceptions we do not know in advance what we are going to perform. This adds a little spice to the adrenaline factor and means that you are not only very well-rehearsed but you get very good at knowing opening bars. Sometimes our Musical Director, Sheila Harrod, will introduce a group of songs for the audience and I remember when I was training that she introduced 'a set of beautiful songs by Rutter'. The question was which ones and did I know them? Thankfully I did but I'll never forget that anxious feeling.

Of course, there is some limit to the songs our MD will choose from. The repertoire changes every year but generally holds around 100 songs. I have been in Kentwood 13 years and have learned hundreds of songs (I stopped counting at 400), around a quarter of which have been written or arranged especially for us. We sing every kind of music, generally SATB but specially arranged pieces can be up to 8 parts. If I had to choose the genre that is most prevalent it would be Musical Theatre but this by no means defines the choir.



Kentwood 'The Choir With A Difference'

Kentwood has been going for 51 years, which in itself may not be unusual, but it has done so under the same Musical Director. Some of the founding members are even still part of the choir. There are around 35 of us at the moment and the average attendance is about 25 years!

Having said that, we are mixed ability choir (by that I mean that some are not able to sight read) and new people do join each year. I'll grant that it is a hard group to join, and that there are a lot of songs to learn before you can perform. From experience it takes about 3 years to fully take part and even then there are often song requests that we may not have sung for many years.

Everyone has lessons with the MD who teaches the Estelle Technique and we meet every Sunday and Monday - around 4 hours rehearsal each week. There is no coffee or chat, it is all business!

We have raised over £1million for charity with Rotary and Macmillan Nurses our greatest single beneficiaries. We have sung for large audiences of over a thousand to one person in hospital bed and from local supermarkets to The Royal Albert Hall with our wonderful President, Dame Cleo Lane and her late husband John Dankworth.

And finally, and I doubt this is a unique trait at least I hope not, every Kentwoodian loves to perform. There is a camarade-

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rie that is hard to beat and a love of music that is palpable every time we sing.

If you live in the South West and would like to hear us there are plenty of opportunities. Look at the Concert Diary on <http://www.kentwoodshowchoir.org>. You can buy tickets for our concerts at Swindon's Wyvern Theatre every May and November online from <https://swindontheatres.co.uk/Online/>. Come for a little Christmas magic on Sunday 27 November. We have 2 show-times at 2.30 and 6.30. Tickets are £15 in aid of Parkinsons UK and a jolly good time.

Penrose Shackel
Lady Bass

New Members' Directory

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

ABERDEEN CORO PICCOLO ScotE Youth choir 10 choristers
Mrs Morag Simpson 3 Crombie Circle, Westhill, Aberdeen AB32 6PY
01224 743205 moggie50@aol.com

CITY OF LINCOLN MVC Lincs 24 choristers
Brian Cropley 27 Mellows Close, Reepham, Lincoln LN3 4DT
craftford@cthomson-music.co.uk www.cityoflincolnmvc.org.uk

GENTLEMEN (THE) MidsE 9 choristers
Mario Curtis 5 Bransdale Avenue, Mansfield, Nottingham NG19 0LZ
01623 484907 mario.curtis@hotmail.co.uk

KILLINGWORTH COMMUNITY CHOIR NE Mixed voices 36 choristers
Mrs Jennifer Kennell 7 Linhope Avenue, Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne NE32AQ
0191 2844 2160 killingworthcommunitychoir@outlook.com

KNOTANOTHERCHOIR Yorks NandE Mixed voices 31 choristers
Julie Bradbury-Sharp 125 Manor Road, Knaresborough HG5 0BB
01423 868321 info@knotanotherchoir.org www.knotanotherchoir.org

LYTHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR LancsN Mixed voices 190 choristers
David Riding 190 choristers Sherwood House, Division lane, Blackpool FY4 5DZ
01523 765678 divisionlane@hotmail.com

MIDDLETON MUSICAL SOCIETY NW Mixed voices 25 choristers
Alan Mellor 4 Cecil Street, Royton, Lancs OL2 5NE
0161 620 6657 mellor4a@btinternet.com www.via.rochdaleonline.co.uk

MORVEN SINGERS ScotE Mixed voices 45 choristers
Lesley Findlay 43 Thorngrove Place, Aberdeen AB15 7FJ
01224 315079 l.findlay@btinternet.com

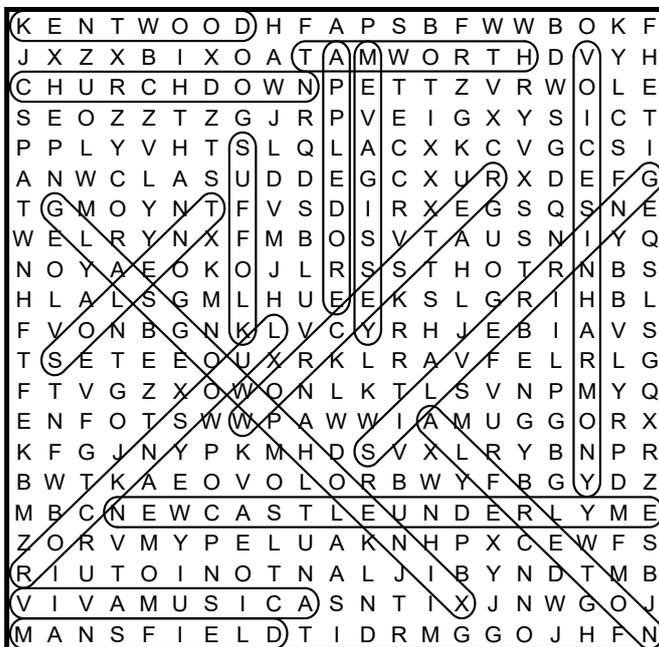
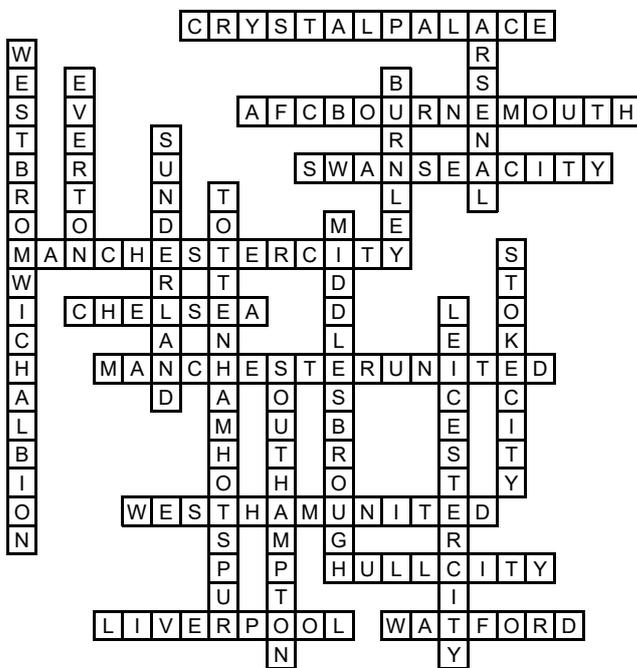
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Marianne Gifford 14 Kitts, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9AX
01823 664409 member@sgifford.wanadoo.co.uk www.newhorizonsingers.com

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Mrs Morag Simpson 3 Crombie Circle, Westhill, Aberdeen AB32 6PY
01224 743205 moggie50@aol.com

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Mr David Gibbon Brook House, 44 School Road, Bagthorpe, Nottingham NG16 5HB
01773 719807 dave.gibbon@icloud.com www.rocknsoul.org.uk

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Mrs S Williams 108 Kenilworth Road, St Annes, Lancs FY8 1LD
01253 714058

SUTTON COLDFIELD TUNELESS CHOIR MidsW Mixed voices 100 choristers
Lisa Martin 1a Roughley Drive, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PW
07969 436059 sutton@tunelesschoir.com www.tunelesschoir.com



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How I like to receive articles for News & Views.

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

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

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

HOUSE STYLE

We use Calibri 10pt in News & Views. (If you don't have this, don't worry I can soon change the one you use.)

Set your paragraphs to single space with no spacing before or after paragraphs.

Start with the name of your choir.

Then say the NAC group your choir is in.

Write your article.

Say who has written it.

Quotes use single speech marks (same key as @ but without the shift).

Dates do not include ^{st nd rd} or th

Abbreviations do not have full stops.

Song titles are shown in *italics*.

Do not put photos in the text.

Don't use am or pm in times.

Unless the word 'choir' is part of a title it should **NOT** have a capital letter.

Your choir is singular so 'the choir is' not 'the choir are'.

Send me pictures as high res .jpegs of between 1 and 5Mb or more, minimum 300 dpi.

Attach them to an email.

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

01472 500130

PLEASE DO WRITE IN

Crawford