

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION FOR ALL CHORISTERS

# NEWS & VIEWS

203

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

SPRING 2014

*Presentation of The British Empire Medal*

to DAVID SCOTT

*by The Lord Lieutenant of Newcastle*

NIGEL SHERLOCK



**CONFERENCE 2014**

Booking Forms Inside



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**Last date for submissions for Issue 204**

**SUMMER 2014 - 30 APRIL**

**On your doorstep by 1 June**

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## Crawford's Corner



*Now that Christmas carol concerts and the New Year are out of the way we can all get on with the business of 2014.*

That means we must make sure we have our places booked at Conference in Scarborough. Turn to pages 12 - 14 for

the Conference Programme and Booking forms. We have tried to make the layout of the form more straightforward this year so we needed two pages rather than getting you to scribble on the back of one.

I know it says that you need to have a deposit in by 31 December 2013 but I feel sure that there will still be a few places left if you get on with it now, today, immediately.

Please remember that this is your magazine so let's have some submissions about your choir, especially if you've not sent us anything before. And don't forget the lovely pictures. (See back page for how to send stuff).

Right then, on with the motley. I had a good Christmas so I might have to let it out a bit.

*Crawford*

## Chairman's Chat



*By the time the magazine reaches you it will be a distant memory but, as it's the first issue of 2014, I feel it is right to wish everyone a happy new year.*

Our association has been blessed with a number of members being bestowed with accolades, from Northern Ireland down to London and, as you can see from the front cover, another one has joined the ranks. Our hearty congratulations go to David Scott on being bestowed the BEM.

From the choir reports, everyone has had a very busy time in the run up to Christmas. Let's hope your voices are rested enough now to begin another year of joyful music making. I also see that a number of choirs are changing MDs and that has prompted me to let you know about my own choir. When I became Chairman, my choir lost its MD but I'm very happy to report that we are now back in business, working very hard and having much fun along the way.

Now that all the festivities are over, our sights are now set on finalising the preparations for Conference. I went into detail in my last report so won't repeat myself, except to say that I look forward

to seeing you there and welcoming any newcomers who haven't been to one before.

As you can see, there is no message from our President. This is because he and Jan are still very poorly and haven't been out and about on NAC business. We are in constant touch with them and they say they have missed being an active part of our business, and all we can do is wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back with us very soon.

*Brenda Wilkinson*

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## Music & Festivals



A little different this issue as I want to cover the American composer, Craig Courtney, some music sent to me by Banks and also some reflections on touring, action packed!

### Creations Hymn Sanctus

When my choir were last on tour in the USA a copy of Craig Courtney's *Sanctus* was thrust into my hand at one of the venues we sang at. Craig is one of those composers that writes immediately audience appealing and accessible music which some people may turn their noses up at but certainly not the audiences!

The Creations Hymn, (see Youtube for many recordings of this) is a simple but undeniably effective piece suitable for all mixed choirs, currently 88p on Sheetmusicplus it's undeniably a bargain!

His setting of Sanctus, in Latin, is a different animal. It's still relatively simple though in SATB with divisions, and requiring Sopranos that can soar to top A. The melody weaves between the parts and creates a wall of sound that, though careful attention to balance is needed, enralls audiences. It's a piece we have often performed in a circle, and again popping onto Sheetmusicplus this morning it is available at a very acceptable price.

Why not take a look at these pieces on Youtube where you will find many other examples of his music

### A Medley of first world war songs *Stop the Cavalry*

Banks Publications have sent me a variety of pieces in their popular choral series, the most useful will surely be *A Medley Of Songs From The First World War* arranged by Alwyn Humphreys. Banks sent SATB and TTBB versions of this attractive medley featuring *It's A Long Way To Tipperary*, *Roses Of Picardy*, *Over There*, *Keep The Home Fires Burning* and *Pack Up Your Troubles*. In a year which marks many World War 1 concerts these pieces, which present no real challenges or choral problems, will fill a useful section in

programme planning.

*Stop The Cavalry* (also from Banks and also for SATB or TTBB) is an interesting piece with the tune and words in the Basses throughout, whilst the rest of the choir Hoo Hoo Ta Da and Brr their way through the piece. I think it, not only a good concert piece but, an excellent rhythmic training tool and great fun for choir and audience.

### Touring

Many choirs tell me that they are on the brink of planning tours but never get around to it because of all the perceived difficulties. Well, as a veteran of many choir tours which my choirs have always planned themselves, we decided last year to take the Masterworks Chorale on a mini tour of Belgium and use the services of a tour company, one who regularly advertises within these pages - Rayburn Tours. I have to say that all went extremely well and that the transport, accommodation and all arrangements were extremely well planned and the tour went off without a hitch. We would commend touring to any choir whether to a Festival or just for the fun of it, the immense benefits to a choir aside of making and strengthening friendships is that sense of working together which brings benefits in terms of blend, quality of performance and better ensemble performance.

### Festivals coming up

Not much to report in this section. This is the only time of year when emails from festivals seems to slow down but here are early details of the Prague summer choral meeting and Advent choral festivals

These are not competitive events but do attract many choirs because of the beauty of the city and the vast variety of musical events going on all the time.

Deadlines for the Summer events (July 16-19) is May 15, and for the Advent events (November and December) September 30.

Festival details from

[www.pragueadvent.cz](http://www.pragueadvent.cz)

and

[praguefestival.cz](http://praguefestival.cz)

That's it for this issue, but hope to see many of you at conference this year.

**Tim Knight**



Benslow Music have asked that we draw your attention to our call for audition for Benslow Baroque Opera 2014.

HANDEL: THEODORA

The Baroque Opera course takes place from 21 to 27 April, with pre-course coaching offered over the immediately preceding period in London by David Roblou. The course climaxes in a fully-staged public performance, with a chorus and orchestra of amateurs, on 26 April. The Director is Emma Rivlin and the Music Directors Julian Perkins and Judy Tarling. We perform at A=415.

Auditions in all voice ranges for principal roles will be held at Benslow Music in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, early in February. Successful auditionees will be fully coached and will be housed and fed during the course at no cost.

<http://benslowmusic.org/index.asp?PageID=766>

**CALL FOR AUDITION  
HANDEL: THEODORA**

DIRECTOR: EMMA RIVLIN  
MUSIC DIRECTORS: JULIAN PERKINS, JUDY TARLING  
VOCAL COACH: DAVID ROBLOU

Benslow Music invites advanced singers to audition for solo roles (all registers) for our renowned baroque opera course (21 - 27 April 2014), ending with a fully-staged public performance of Handel's Theodora.

Auditions will be held at our home in Hitchin early in February 2014. Successful auditionees will be given expert coaching in London immediately prior to the course and will be offered full board and lodging at Benslow Music during it.

WWW.BENSILOWMUSIC.ORG  
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BENSILOW MUSIC, HITCHIN, HERTS SG4 9RB

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## Forthcoming Events

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

Send your event to

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

### Europa Cantat - European Choral Festival

Friday 24 July to Sunday 2 August 2015

Venue: **Pecs, Hungary**

EUROPA CANTAT XIX - Pécs 2015 > Europa Cantat > Festival history

Festival history

EUROPA CANTAT is the biggest event of the European Choral Association – Europa Cantat organised every three years in a

different country.

The EUROPA CANTAT Festival first began in 1961 in Passau (Germany), and since then, every three years it is hosted by a different European country.

This great musical event brings together, for one week, more than 3,000 singers from across Europe and several countries in the world. It wants to offer its participants the opportunity to meet each other, make important educational experiences, sing

their repertoire, learn new music, tighten relationships, understand choral and vocal traditions of the hosting country and also of the participating countries, as well as the latest news, innovations, perspectives of the international panorama.

This is preliminary information only - please watch their website!

<http://ecpecs2015.hu/>



## Every Song Matters



*Leicester-Shire 'Every Song Matters' Project Shows Exemplary Partnership Work*

The 'Every Song Matters' Project was set up and is led by a partnership of Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service, Bullfrog Arts and Leicester City Council Looked After Children's service. Its aims are to embed music in the lives of Looked After Children and work to improve their creative skills and ability, and to work holistically, making a real impact on emotional wellbeing and resilience.

This innovative collaboration has brought together social care, education and creative professionals from the voluntary and statutory sectors to create inspirational musical experiences of exceptional quality for some of Leicester's most vulnerable children.

Rehearsing at the spectacular, state of the art Curve theatre- a truly inspirational setting, a group of looked after children experience 3 x 10 weekly creative sessions followed by a performance to their foster carers, social workers and in some cases parents and family members. These sessions give children aged 7-11 the opportunity to express themselves through singing and develop their creativity through composing original material. The children experience focused work that features a range of instrumentation and musical styles with the final artistic outcome being driven by the young people.

Over the last two years the creative delivery team from Bullfrog Arts have developed a specialism of working with Looked After Children. During which time they've gained a deeper understanding of the issues, informing their practice. Activities are meticulously planned, fast paced and varied to ensure children stay engaged. Environments are safe and secure, promoting positivity and wellbeing. All children involved in the project are signposted to musical activities and opportunities organised by Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service and Curve Theatre.

Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service, Bullfrog Arts and Leicester City Council Looked After Children Service have built a strong partnership based on complementary skills and the sharing of effective practice. Together they are able to provide high quality teachers, musicians and singers who are guided by the knowledge and expertise of social work staff. There is a shared commitment to create a safe, inspiring and creative project in which every child and adult can participate and achieve. Funding for the project was awarded by Youth Music who have since said that the partnership working in this project is 'exemplary' and should be shared on a national level.

The partnership's last piece of work with Looked After Children won a national Children and Young People Now Award. Phil

Mullen, Sing Up National Advisor said: 'this is one of the most well thought through and innovative projects in the country in the area of working with hard to reach children and looked after children in particular. The team bring both a range of musical and creative skills and also a great sensitivity and warmth of communication to the work ensuring that all the children get a high quality creative learning experience.' A looked after child who participated in the project said: 'There ain't no words to describe it -- you just feel great, you just feel in heaven'

For more information on Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub please visit

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

**Sarah Barton**  
Singing Development Manager  
Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service

Out to lunch.  
Bach at 12:30  
Offenbach sooner.

## New Harmony Ladies Choir Bristol South West Group

*The choir has had a very eventful year with the appointment of our new Musical Director, David Whitehead, in January and our new accompanist, John Lowe, in May.*

David studied at the Royal College of Music in London and has taught in a wide variety of schools. His conducting career has included involvement with church choirs, RSCM and other choral courses, chamber choirs and choral societies. Alongside his teaching he has worked as an established recitalist and répétiteur and has acted as accompanist with many choirs. John grew up in Shropshire and began playing the piano at the age of six, achieving the Advanced Certificate just before going to university to study chemistry. He is currently working in the Chemistry Department at the University of Bath and has accompanied various choirs and soloists in all of the places he has lived, performing in many concerts across the country and beyond.

Our first outing under David's leadership was in January at St Barnabas Church, Warmley, South Gloucestershire, where we were joined by Oldand Brass. This was a very enjoyable event as it was a Farewell Concert for the Vicar of St Barnabas so it was well attended by the parishioners. After a Skittles Evening in February and a Farewell event for our accompanist since 2005, Matthew Goh, in March, our next concert was in June. This was our Annual Concert held at St Alban's, Westbury Park, Bristol, our first with John as accompanist.

Our guest soloists were soprano Catriona Pollard, and baritone Samuel Oram.

In September we sang at St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, as part of a very entertaining evening with St Stephen's Drama Group. We took part in the Bristol Festival of Song in October, singing in the Colston Hall Foyer as one of the 'Voices in the Hall' choirs. Also in October we had a concert at St Mary's Church, Shirehampton, where one of our choristers, Alto Diane Bean, was the soloist. Our last concert of the year was on 13 December at Holy Trinity Church, Kingswood, Bristol, and our guests on this occasion were Duo Recado playing mandolin and guitar. The mince-pies in the interval were also very welcome! The next day we sang carols at Bitton Railway Station while the children were boarding the Santa Specials run by Avon Valley Steam Railway.

Now, after reflecting on the past year, with Christmas just a few days away, it's time to look forward to the coming year. This will be our twentieth anniversary year so it will be very special. The choir was formed in 1994 by the late Morris Pearson who was the husband of our current Chairman, Margaret Pearson. Our Anniversary Concert will be held on 17 October 2014 at St Teresa's Church, Filton, Bristol. We are hoping to have Julia Hwang, Violinist, as our soloist and we would welcome all choristers who have sung with us over the years to attend and join us in this celebration.

**Joan Lovell**  
*Secretary*

## Haydock Male Voice Choir North West Group

### *Isle of Man Festival of Choirs*

Following a 1<sup>st</sup> place in 2007 in The Ashcroft Cup Competition in the Isle of Man, Haydock Male Voice Choir returned to the island in September and were again victorious, this time in the Isle of Man Festival of Choirs held over the weekend of 18 - 21 October 2013, winning against quality opposition in the shape of Bolsterstone MVC from Yorkshire, Bridgend MVC from South Wales, Froncysyllte MVC from North Wales, and Lon Dhoo MVC from the Isle of Man.

In summing up, the adjudicator, Mr Robert T Elliott, praised Haydock for selecting pieces which both covered a wide time span and were not usually sung by male choirs and said that this gave an advantage over the traditional programmes selected by their opponents. The four pieces were *Amor de Mi Alma*, sung in Spanish, *Seal Lullaby*, *My Bonnie Lass* and *Wade in the Water*. Our success was particularly pleasing since of the choir's 48 singers on stage in the competition 9 have joined the choir in the last 12 months, with little or no experience of choral singing.

At the end of the weekend our Conductor, Mr Alan Herbert, announced that he would be retiring from conducting and so the search is on to find a worthy successor to him. See elsewhere in 'News and Views' for our advert. For further information please visit [www.haydockmvc.com](http://www.haydockmvc.com) or contact Alan Gaskell, the choir secretary, on 01744 734176

**Derek Parr**

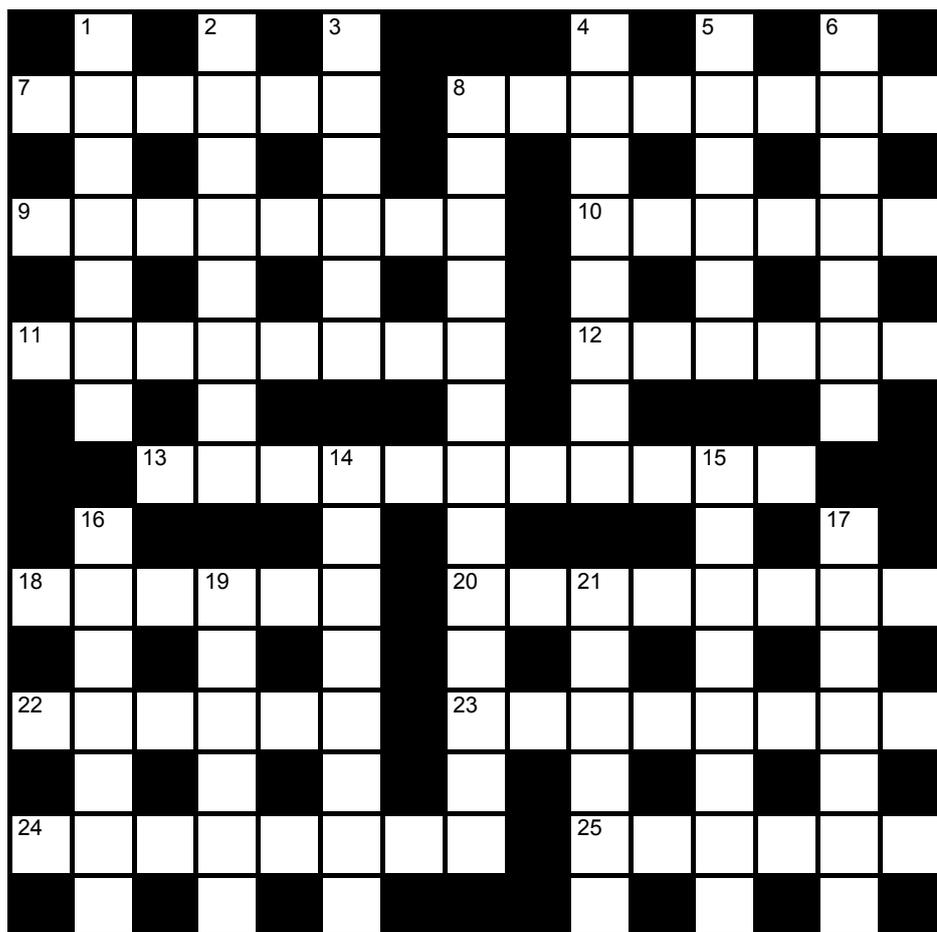


**How wonderful  
opera would be if there  
were no singers.**

*Gioacchino Antonio Rossini*

Send Your Submissions To Crawford At  
[publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk](mailto:publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk)

# PUZZLE PAGE



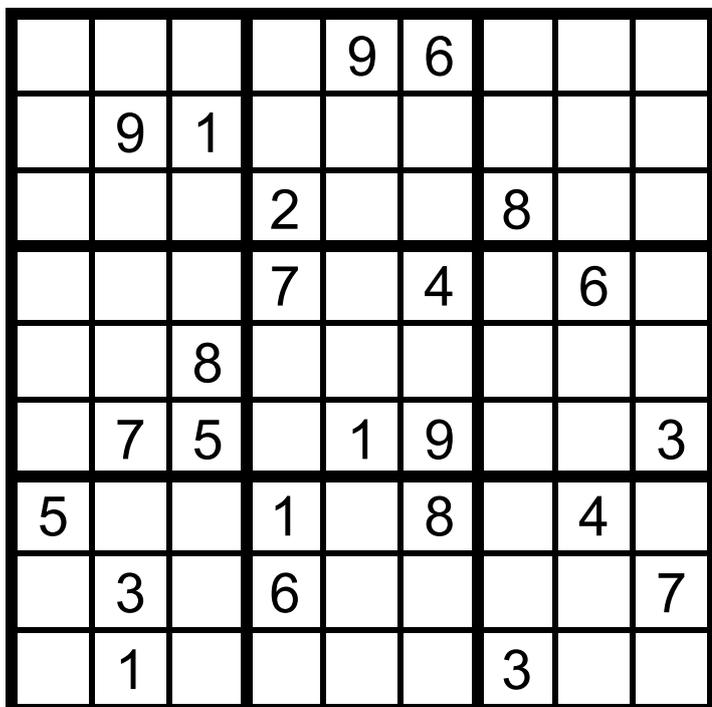
**Across**

- 7 Electrically excitable. (6)
- 8 Hi Benson, damaged your tibia? (8)
- 9 Alternative whiff-whaff. (4-4)
- 10 Altogether exposed (6)
- 11 A little backbone is needed (8)
- 12 'All that glisters is not gold' or is it? (6)
- 13 Implying Tunisian gin blended. (11)
- 18 Damned funny forceful request (6)
- 20 A good end to the day (8)
- 22 Professionally disagreeable? (6)
- 23 Undone steel nut may disturb our composure (8)
- 24 Balderdash, baloney and bilge (8)
- 25 Natural nibbler (6)

**Down**

- 1 A Persian fairy and half a horse join at the closest point (7)
- 2 Accidental fathering not at the beginning of April can cause fear. (8)
- 3 Then Tom Bombadil is buried herein. (6)
- 4 Blending stops gin showing the way. (8)
- 5 In the same place originally when in Rome. (6)
- 6 Posh singular (7)
- 8 Autograph adjustment (9,4)
- 14 Inappropriate I think (8)
- 15 Alternative diet no no in the middle of the day (8)
- 16 A crate for my stuff (7)
- 17 Soothing fears (7)
- 19 What part is this demonstrating such skill (6)
- 21 Position inside (6)

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Solutions on page 23

Comments And Suggestions To Crawford At

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

## Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir Midlands East

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir was formed some 57 years ago but it started life under a different name. The original choir consisted of 19 members of the former Derby Borough Police and met in the library of Full Street Police Station. At that time it was referred to as the Derby Police Choir.

Throughout its history the choir has never had a huge membership and today it continues to operate with around 30 choristers. Some people believe that our association with the police may dissuade potential members from joining although we have just experienced our most successful period of recruitment ever. It has been proposed by some members and other commentators that we should modernise by changing our name and dropping our link with the Derbyshire Constabulary. The 'Derbyshire MVC' or the 'Derby Community MVC' has been mooted as more modern alternatives.

Whilst we still perform concerts in police uniform, there is no doubt that over the years our links with the Derbyshire Constabulary has been tested as the number of members who are serving officers has diminished and any financial support received from the Force has long since disappeared.

The pressure to modernise to appeal to new members and new audiences is therefore a very real opportunity and has caused choir members to question and re-evaluate our *raison d'être*. As an exercise



in soul searching however, it didn't take long and we didn't have to look very far to find our answers.

Our constitution contains two clear objectives; to raise funds for local charities within the county and help to maintain good relations between the public and police force.

Over the years we have raised many tens of thousands of pounds for local good causes and this season will be no different with 24 charity concerts planned between this autumn and the spring of 2014.

Promoting good relations between the police and the public is also taken very seriously. At most of this season's concerts we will be supported by a serving officer from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, who will, along with members of the choir, hand out leaflets and information to the audience on Crime Prevention. We will also support the Constabulary during a number of ceremonial events throughout the year.

On 20 September the choir participated in a service of Remembrance at the Memorial Garden, Police Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley. The service was held to honour those officers who have died whilst in service and particularly the five officers who have died within the past twelve months. The choir led the congregation in the singing of two hymns and sang *Softly As I Leave You* while family members laid floral tributes around the memorial.

We will also perform at the Constabulary's Annual Carol Service in December and support a number of award evenings as required throughout the year.

Any doubting Thomas who maintained doubts as to our name were finally

vanquished by the kind words of Alan Charles, Crime and Police Commissioner for Derbyshire who wrote the foreword in this year's Members' Handbook.

He wrote *'Earlier this year I was delighted to be both entertained and moved by one of Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir's concerts. ...The whole team puts in much enthusiasm and hard work into making the choir a success.'*

*From the singers, musical director and accompanists to the front of house and backstage stalwarts, you all clearly devote much time and energy into supporting our communities by raising funds for good causes. In so doing, you not only promote the joy of music in Derbyshire, but you also serve as fine Ambassadors for our police force. Making music the Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir way means more than sharing the magic of song. Your choir and your supporters do wonderful work in helping to bring our communities closer together.*

*For nigh on 57 years, your choir has sung its heart out for Derbyshire Police all over our beautiful county. Long may your valuable contribution to Derbyshire life continue.'*

So with those fine words ringing in our ears it looks as though we'll remain as the Derbyshire Constabulary Male Voice Choir for a while longer.

For further information on the choir please visit [www.derbyshire.police.uk/About-us/Male-Voice-Choir/About-the-Choir.aspx](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/About-us/Male-Voice-Choir/About-the-Choir.aspx)

Or contact Kevin Griffiths, Publicity Officer  
[DCMVCenquiry@virginmedia.com](mailto:DCMVCenquiry@virginmedia.com)  
01332 606356

**Kevin Griffiths**  
Publicity Officer

## Letter from NAC in Oz



*I am writing this on the penultimate day of 2013, the sun is shining, the sea is a vibrant blue, little yachts are racing in the distance and the world seems good, except for the state of the Ashes that is! Although I now feel that I am a fully-fledged Aussie, my heart drops when England perform badly against the old enemy! No doubt those of you who are cricket fans will be in mourning so I won't stir up more bad memories. Maybe it will be better in the Sydney Test over the New Year but I'm not holding my breath!*

As far as my wife and I are concerned Aussie Christmases on the beach are a myth! In the 7 years we have been here only 1 would have qualified, and this year was not it! There was not quite as much rain as the year before but it must have been a close thing. Boxing Day was better and the conditions for the start of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race were perfect and what a magnificent spectacle it was as almost a 100 yachts jostled for position, soon to be lead out of the harbour by the 100 foot maxis.

The Centenary Year of the Sydney Male



Choir is almost over. What a great one it has been with the wonderful European Tour, a great Annual City of Sydney Concert (including, for the first time, a choir made up of the ladies of the choir, see picture) and finally a magnificent Centenary Dinner. This last event was attended by most of the current membership, many ex members, partners and friends of the choir, including our Vice President, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, KStJ, who made an apt and touching address in honour of the choir. Awards were made to current and ex members recognising their major contributions to the outstanding success of this great choir. We now look forward to the next 100 years and especially to the exciting prospect of 2014. One of the last concerts of this year was to launch our involvement with one of the iconic organisations in Australia, the Royal Flying

Doctor Service of Australia, and this will be developed from next year onwards. We are proud of this new arrangement and hope that both organisations will profit from it.

I was interested to read the report in the last issue of News & Views from Cannock Chase Orpheus Male Choir, as this was where I was born and lived until I was about 11. If we manage to get back to Staffordshire I will try to look in on the choir.

As usual 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*



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## Dursley Male Voice Choir South West

*The choir has continued to be busy since its last report when the visit of Mark Llewelyn Evans was being keenly anticipated for the two Annual Concerts in May. Mark, with his outstanding baritone voice, enthralled the audiences with his performances.*

Some of the review comments included – 'Mark has a glittering international career which takes him to opera houses all over the world - and a wicked wit, which has everyone rolling in the aisles.'

'...but as always, the Dursley Choir definitely held its own beside the superstar, performing immaculately to the high standard which regularly fills halls, churches and theatres throughout Gloucestershire and beyond.'

The audiences were offered *As Long as I Have Music*, a *Les Misérables* Medley, selections from the toe-tapping *Kings of Swing* Medley as well as *The Pilgrims' Chorus*. In contrast *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother* and the Presley standard *Can't Help Falling in Love* were included.

Mark's solos included *And Her Mother Came Too* (complete with actions),

*Oklahoma* and *Tell My Father*, the song from the musical 'The Civil War' that he recorded with the Welsh Guards. All were interspersed with hilarious self-deprecating comments. Additionally, two items from Flanders and Swan – *The Eisteddfod* and *The Hippopotamus Song* were also performed, with choir and audiences joining in the chorus to great effect.

Mark also joined the choir for several of the songs and his contribution (as a baritone) was recognised at the end of the concert when amongst his presentations was a Section bow tie.

As the year progressed the choir has performed in a number of local churches, an abbey and several festivals, with the culmination being a contribution to a recent concert at Gloucester Cathedral in aid of the local Samaritans group. All 'bread and butter' to the male voice choir.

The Christmas concerts to be held on 20 and 21 December have been sold out for over two weeks – a tribute to the huge support the choir gets from its community. The choir's guests on this occasion will be the Cotswold Youth Singers - an outstanding local group.

The 5 April next year will see another exciting concert presented when the choir once again will perform with the renowned tenor, Wynne Evans. Readers of 'News & Views' may recall that the concert with Wynne in Cheltenham Town Hall last April raised over £13,000 for 'Hope for Tomorrow'. This time the concert will be held in the Victoria Rooms in Bristol in aid of the local RNLI. Tickets for this concert are available through the choristers or a link on the choir's website [www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk](http://www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk).

As reported previously, the choir's website was replaced and updated at the start of the year and continues to draw favourable comments. All constructive comments are welcomed from readers.

**Huw Jenkins**



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# National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

## National Conference Provisional Timetable 4-6 April 2014

The Crown Spa Hotel, Esplanade, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2AG

### Friday 4 April

- 2.00 - Delegates arrive and register
- 4.30 National Officers' Meeting
- 7.30 Delegates and guests assemble for dinner
- 7.30 Entertainment
- 7.30 Reception NAC officers and their guests
- 8.00 Dinner is served
- 9.30 After dinner entertainment
- 12.30 Bar closes

### Saturday 5 April

- 7.00 Breakfast
- 7.00 Access for trade stands to set up
- 9.00 Trade stand viewing *music, staging, uniforms, tours, instruments, signs and banners, silks, gems*
- 10.00 Seminar 1 - Manvinder Rattan - Sing For Pleasure and John Lewis Partnership
- 11.00 Coffee *included in price* trade stand viewing
- 11.30 Seminar 2 - Manvinder Rattan - Delegate Choir
- 12.30 Lunch *included in price for resident delegates* trade stand viewing
- 2.00 Seminar 3 - Manvinder Rattan - Delegate Choir
- 3.00 Tea/coffee *included in price* trade stand viewing
- 3.30 Seminar 4 - Tim Knight - Performing Rights Society and Copyright Law
- 4.45 AGM
- 5.30 Buffet meal before concert *included in price for resident delegates* last trade stand viewing
- 6.30 Concert-goers depart under their own steam for Westborough Church, Scarborough
- 7.00 Concert at Westborough Church, Scarborough *Yorkshire East & North Groups* Massed Choir Concert
- 10.00 Return from concert - afterglow - light cold buffet *included for residents*
- 11.00 Keyboard available for residents' own entertainment

### Sunday 6 April

- 7.30 Breakfast
- For those wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at reception
- 9.00 Trade stands available for viewing
- 10.00 Demonstration of musical instruments - Roger Hagarty - Rogers Music
- 11.00 Tea/Coffee *included in price* last viewing of trade stands
- 11.30 Members' Open Forum.
- 1.00 Conference close *lunch available in hotel at member's own expense*
- 1.00 National Officers debrief Meeting - *quillotined after one hour*



Reg'd. Charity No. 1014630

# National Association of Choirs

*Joining the Nation in Choral Singing*

## National Conference Booking Form 1 4-6 April 2014

The Crown Spa Hotel, Esplanade, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2AG

### Conference Costs

#### Full Conference Stay

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE BOOKING FORM FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

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 £185**

Stay the extra night B&B for two in double or twin room Sunday night £99 for one in single room £80

#### Day Delegate [Saturday]

Please circle requirements

Friday evening Gala Dinner	£35.00
Saturday Refreshments (includes lunch)	£30.00
Evening meal Saturday add	£32.50
Concert ticket Saturday add	£ 8.00

### Payments

#### Full Conference Stay

Deposit of **£70** [non refundable] by 31 December 2013, balance by 28 February 2014

#### Day delegates

Payment in full when booking [non refundable]

Amount Submitted £ \_\_\_\_\_

You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by Saturday 1 March 2014  
[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

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 4-6 April 2014

The Crown Spa Hotel, Esplanade, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2AG

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**

**07939012458**

**conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk**

## The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

*Sponsored by Co-operative Funeralcare*

Regular readers will be puzzled by the change of author of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir's contribution. I am Anne Kay and I became publicity officer for the choir at our AGM in June. Due to an increase in work hours the previous incumbent, Wilma McLaughlin, felt that she could no longer devote the time required by the role. Both Wilma and I have had to step into the rather large and, as it turns out, quite old shoes of Lawson Purdie.



Lawson and his wife Ellen joined Glasgow Phoenix Choir in May 1983. Both were former members of the Clydebank Lyric Choir but a move of home also led to a change of choir. Lawson is now the elder statesman of the second tenors while Ellen is a stalwart of the first sopranos and former soprano soloist. In addition, their daughter, Elizabeth Dingwall, currently performs in our first soprano section and as one of our excellent soloists. While in the Clydebank choir Lawson had acted as their publicity officer, a role which, in 1983, did not exist in the GPC. Lawson helped the choir to see the need for the role and volunteered to become publicity officer, a post he subsequently held for 24 years. An architect by profession, Lawson has a love of the spoken (and the sung) word and is a natural and gifted story-teller who enjoys the art of performance. When he decided to step down as publicity officer, he was keen to continue submitting articles to 'News & Views' to 'keep his hand in'. Sadly, he has recently been very ill and unable to undertake this task. I will keep readers informed of his progress in due course. Needless to say, the thoughts and prayers

of the Glasgow Phoenix family are with Lawson, Ellen and Liz at this time.

Since Lawson's last report, the choir has been very busy. We held a very successful 'Open Rehearsal' in September and were astounded by the turn out at the event. We succeeded in recruiting a total of 17 new singers (6 ladies and 11 gentlemen). They were offered the challenge of preparing to undertake our Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Christmas Concert as their first performance with us and all of them are to be congratulated on achieving this.

Choir members and friends enjoyed a trip to Ireland in September. We were privileged to perform in the Great Hall at Stormont Castle with the Donaghadee Male Voice choir and this, and our concert in Newtonards, raised funds for the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education. Our Dublin concert involved meeting a new choir – the Dublin Airport Singers – and helped raise funds for education in Tanzania. We hope that it will not be too long until we meet with both choirs again. Back at home, other charity events have included a concert in memory of a former member, Ian MacDonald Snr, which raised money for Haig House, part of Erskine Home; we've helped to build a church, or at least added to the building fund, for the Milton of Campsie Church. This concert took place in St David's, Kirkintilloch and parts of it are available to view on the choir's new YouTube site. We have also helped raise funds for the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice in Clydebank and performed concerts in Bishopbriggs and Edinburgh, which were in support of Masonic charities. Our final three concerts of this part of the season were our very enjoyable Christmas concerts. The first of these took place in Edinburgh where we enjoyed the spectacle of the audience attempting a variation on a Mexican wave as we sang *Schneewalzer*; we then performed to one of our largest audiences in the Royal Concert Hall, which was filled to nearly capacity (2,500 seats) with our guests Les Sirènes (Choir of the Year 2012) and our great friends, the Co-operative Funeralcare Band, who have had a most successful year winning various competitions; and our final Christmas concert took place in East Kilbride's Moncrieff Parish Church, where we are always made most welcome.

Our Glasgow Royal Concert Hall performance coincided with the release of our 36th recording 'Songs of Comfort', a follow-up and companion to our gold

disc recording 'Songs of Solace'. The new CD includes songs suggested by our Co-operative Funeralcare sponsors, as well as material from our current repertoire. We were, once again, joined by our friends of the Co-operative Funeralcare Band.

We had some sad news, late in the year, with the death of David Meek Snr, a former member; and, current members were also saddened to hear that we would be losing Julie Taylor, a member of our first sopranos who has been with the choir for 15 years. She will be missed and all in the choir wish her the very best for the future.

Looking forward to 2014 – we should be in for an exciting time. Amongst other things, we will be singing Burns' concerts, then, literally, 'In at the deep end' in the Western Baths in Glasgow; we have two sets of concerts lined up with guests from the Northampton Male Voice Choir and the Dingwall Gaelic Choir; and we will be taking part in concerts to celebrate the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. I feel exhausted already!

**Anne Kay**  
**Publicity Officer**

## Churchdown Male Voice Choir South West

*The choir was on cracking form for its three annual Christmas Concerts at Churchdown Community Centre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 16/17/18 December.*

The concerts began with a spirited rendering of the African Prayer which was sung in tribute to the late Nelson Mandela, and then Musical Director, Ralph Barnes, with James Quinn at the piano led the choir through a programme of carols and Christmas songs by the choir, community carols for choir and audience, soloists and comedy items. The usual mixture of fun and audience participation was there. Particularly appreciated was the amount of effort some of the choir had done to dress up their music folders. Some were festooned with bells and tinsel, others with a Christmas tree complete with lights and one with a Teddy Bear.

In the first half the choir sang *Servant King* by Graham Kendrick but with an arrangement specially written by local musician Paul Collacott. (At the Wednesday concert Paul was in the audience and seemed to be pleased to hear our performance of his arrangement)

The soloists in the first half for the three nights were Jeff Bourton and, stepping down from the rostrum, Ralph Barnes. Jeff sang a mixture of songs, including *Cowboy Carol*, a gentle rocking song, which was delightfully accompanied by pianist Pam Taverner. Ralph, accompanied by James Quinn, sang amongst others, *Nella Fantasia*, based on *Gabriel's Oboe* from the film the 'Mission'.

After an excellent supper, served by the Ladies Committee, Jeff Bourton led the choir and audience in a medley of Christmas songs and then the choir sang *Mistletoe and Wine* and *Saviour's Day*. Mike Haines was then introduced as the guest soloist. Mike was the choir's accompanist for some time and really made his mark as both a pianist and a singer. To the delight of the full audiences on all three nights he performed some Elton John songs and then launched into rocking R&B. It was interesting to see many of the audience, young and not-so young, singing along with the songs and apparently knowing all the words.

The concert concluded with a piece



written by choir member Ken Shaw, with music by James Quinn. Ken explained to the audience that *Ring, Ring* is a song about the role of bells at Christmas time. Not only are they used to ring out a joyous message to announce the birth of a Christ child, but also they are rung as a death knell for those people suffering from war, disease or famine. Closer to home the mobile phone is sometimes the only connection that old people have with the world. However, the song ends on a note of hope with a call to 'make the world a better place'.

Choir President, Ian Mean, gave a vote of thanks to the choir and congratulated them for raising £5000 for charity in the Mass Choir concert that it organised in

Tewkesbury Abbey this year. Ian also proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies of the choir whose support throughout the year is invaluable to the smooth running of the choir.

Immediately after Christmas the choir will begin rehearsing for the new programme of concerts. This will include a concert in Pittville Pump Room Cheltenham in support of LINC (Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy). This charity is one that the choir has been supporting for many years and has raised many thousands through its efforts. Appearing as guest soloist will be local soprano, Kate Bennett, who has sung with the choir on many occasions and whose charm and lovely voice are always a great hit with audiences. The concert is on Friday 11 April beginning at 7.30. Tickets are £10 from 0300 422 4422, from [linc@glos.nhs.uk](mailto:linc@glos.nhs.uk), from Colin Acton on 01452 714360 or on the door.

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## Worcester Male Voice Choir Midlands South West

### *Angels of the North*

In early September 80 members of the choir, families and friends set off for a tour of the North East of England and whilst they have been called many names it was only when they had a tourist stop that Angels of the North was thought to be an appropriate name, at least for this visit. The first performance was in York, at the National Railway Museum, and was held in the heart of the museum amongst the locomotives and carriages.

The following day the choir arrived for their next concert, in the beautiful setting of Durham Cathedral. The choir had a central position in the nave and performed before a good number of visitors to the Cathedral. In the evening the traditional choir tour dinner was held and retiring Chairman, Mark Membery, standing down after 4 years was given a standing ovation, a rousing three cheers and a rendition of *For He's A Jolly Good Fellow*. All justified for such a committed person who, working closely with the musical team of Nicolas Wright our Musical Director, Sheila Leatherland, Accompanist and Haydn Thomas, Deputy Conductor, took the choir to new heights during his period in office.

The next day a lunchtime concert was followed in the evening with a joint concert with Shiny Row MVC in Chester Le Street. One of our newer choir members Jack Hindmarsh was Chairman of Shiny Row for many years. On the return journey to Worcester the choir stopped at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas and sang in the Memorial Chapel. Another memorable tour for the choir which enabled it to perform a good selection from its repertoire

In October the choir held its Annual Concert in St. George's RC Church in



the heart of Worcester. A full capacity audience was treated to a superb evening of singing from the choir and the outstanding Tenby Male Voice Choir. Both the National and the Welsh Anthems were sung plus twenty four other songs individually or jointly by the choirs. The diction of the Tenby Choir was a lesson in precision and the Worcester contribution in Welsh with *Ar Hyd y Nos* illustrated the excellent linguistic skills it has developed. The traditional afterglow was superbly organised by the Ladies Committee and proved very popular, with both choirs and their supporters continuing the singing till late. The reputation of the choir continues to grow and an invitation was accepted to join a number of mainly Welsh choirs at the Armistice Day Concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff in November with part of the programme involving backing Russell



Watson. A few days after the event he was interviewed on the BBC 1 Breakfast Show and they played a clip of his performance at Cardiff with our baritone section well and truly in the act.

Following our traditional involvement in the Victorian Fayre in Worcester where we try out some of our Christmas repertoire December arrived with great excitement. This year by popular demand the choir put on two Christmas concerts in the majestic Pershore Abbey with its great acoustics. Both the Friday and Saturday evenings achieved their target audience and the choir performed, for the first time, *The Hallelujah Chorus*. The performance of this piece received a great reception and the choir was rightly proud of its achievement following a great deal of rehearsal time over the past few months.

The night before the first concert Nelson Mandella passed away and the choir did its own tribute with a resounding version of African Prayer. The concert nights involved

a mixture of singing from the choir with support and individual contributions from our guests. We were pleased to have invited back that wonderful organist Keith Hearnshaw, Elizabeth MacDonald soprano and Rebecca Waite on the trumpet. The concert culminated with Christmas Carols including some audience participation. *The Twelve Days of Christmas* remains very popular with all audiences.

The choir has an excellent relationship with BBC Hereford and Worcester local radio and was invited to lead the singing at their Christmas concert held in Malvern Theatre. The live concert was recorded and broadcast on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The choir was joined by Holborne Brass and the The Chamber Choir of the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School. The concert was hosted by Michael Collie BBC West Midlands TV News and BBC Hereford and Worcester radio presenter, with readings by other members of the radio station. All profits from this popular concert were donated to the Children in Need Appeal. The next day whilst the congratulations on an excellent concert were still being reported on the radio the choir headed for the Worcester Royal Hospital where they participated in the Hospital Christmas Service and followed that by giving a concert for the very important volunteers of the Hospital who give their time and expertise week in and week

out throughout the year. Both the Chief Officer and Chairman of the Hospital Trust spoke of the immense contribution made by the volunteers who include several of our choristers.

The rest of December saw a series of performances in the north of the county in Redditch, then on the last Saturday before Christmas our traditional carol singing in the main Worcester Shopping Centre. A visit to a local nursing home was also organised which was very special as one of our former choristers Derrick Chapman is now resident there and he was very pleased to see us and to join in. In between all of this the choir held its Christmas party organised by the Ladies Committee who as always put on a splendid spread. Entertainment was provided by choristers and the show was compered brilliantly by our esteemed 2<sup>nd</sup> Tenor, Dave Lumsden

**Terry Dillingham**  
Public Relations Officer

Official Partner of the National Association of Hospice Fundraisers

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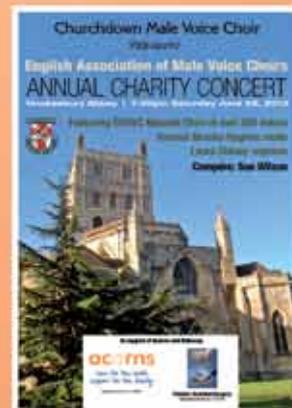
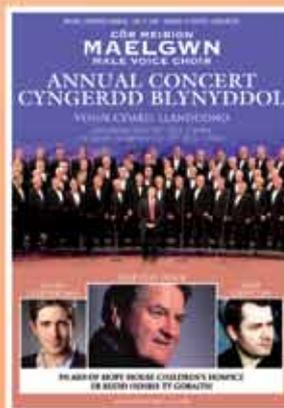
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## Got 2 Sing Midlands South West

All the Got 2 Sing choirs from Stourbridge, Bewdley, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Hereford and Ludlow joined together in a sell-out concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and not only raised the roof, but raised over £50,000 for the Midlands' based 'Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer' charity.

The concert of popular classics and songs from the shows culminating in a proms finale was compered by ITV presenter Bob Warman and Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham who highlighted the importance of the LFBC charity as they work towards their second Million Pound Appeal for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Beth Dunn, founder of Got 2 Sing, couldn't have been happier with the outcome of the evening,

'It was a monumentally successful concert. We have been absolutely overwhelmed with messages praising the professionalism of the performance and, with a number of choir ladies



actually fighting the disease, it was such a relevant charity for us to support. It was an amazing experience for everyone and we are stunned by the amount of money raised. For 350 choir members to perform on stage in front of 2000 people for such a wonderful cause was absolutely fantastic.'

As our membership is expanding it is becoming increasingly difficult to find venues that can accommodate us all but the Symphony Hall was just perfect. We're expanding and looking for more

choir leaders around the Midlands area so I'd say to anyone who thinks they might be interested in running a choir to get in touch. With a few more choirs on board, who knows? The next concert might be at the Albert Hall!

For more information about Got 2 Sing check out our website

[www.got2sing.co.uk](http://www.got2sing.co.uk)

*Jane Dunn*

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## Banchory Singers Scotland East

*Banchory Singers are in their 29<sup>th</sup> year and the last few seasons have seen a lot of singing under the direction of Doctor Tara Leiper and pianist Shona Elliott. Banchory Singers are no strangers to foreign exchanges having previously twinned with Norwegian and German choirs.*

This summer the choir was delighted to welcome MGV Liederkrantz Telf, a male voice choir from the Tyrol, Austria, and was entertained with old and new traditional songs from their region, quartets and instrumental dancing music. An exceptional buffet was supplied by Banchory Singers and after the event singing, drinking and dancing continued into the night. It is hoped to have a return visit to the Tyrol in the coming months.



Banchory Singers have grown considerably over the past few years. An SATB choir exceeding 70 in membership, they learn music by rote in rehearsals, with music, words and audio files provided for home use. This restricts the kinds of repertoire attempted, as it takes a long time to memorise, and retain for future use, any piece of music, but Tara has persevered and we now have a fairly large repertoire of music that we regularly sing from memory from traditional, classical, spirituals and popular items.

Each season sees new music to learn and some of these are retained for future performances. Last season we veered away from these shorter pieces and performed Faure's *Requiem* (from



score) and Handel's *Zadok the Priest* from memory – no mean feat given the repetition of words and phrases and the abundance of semi quavers. Tara devises symbols and gestures to help the choir remember words, and these actions were as much fun to observe as the joyous singing of *Amens!* Last season also saw us record some of our favourite tracks for CD, the proceeds of which will go to local charities.

This season will have us out in the community spreading goodwill to all during the festive season and having us perform our main Christmas concert on the 14 December. During the first ten years of the choir's existence under Marion Jenkins Banchory Singers performed Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* and we hope to mirror her efforts with a concert performance of *Pirates of Penzance* in March 2014 as we approach our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am very much looking forward to seeing the pirates in their costumes! You can follow Banchory Singers on facebook and on their website at [banchorysingers.co.uk](http://banchorysingers.co.uk) or contact their MD Tara at

[leipertara@gmail.com](mailto:leipertara@gmail.com).

**Tara Leiper**

## The Viva Musica Choir Midlands South West

*Since its formation in 1989, Viva Musica has established itself as one of the leading choirs in the West Midlands. With around 70 mixed voices it has earned an enviable reputation for performing a wide range of classical, religious, modern and popular choral music in a variety of venues across the Midlands and beyond.*

The Choir is always looking for new challenges, it has performed in both Symphony Hall and Town Hall Birmingham and Worcester Cathedral together with choirs visiting from South Africa and Australia. It has also performed at various venues in mainland Europe .

Musical director, Rosemary Phillips, brings a wealth of experience and accomplishments as does, Andrew Biggs, accompanist whose expertise, versatility and passion for music never fades.

On a wet evening in October 2013, Viva was proud to welcome, as their special guests, the operatic quartet, Amore. They have a growing reputation for outstanding singing, performing on the river for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, at the Cup Final and The Festival Of Remembrance to name but a few.

A near capacity audience at Dudley Town Hall were captivated by the youthful enthusiasm of the group, who sang varied items such as *Ave Maria*, *Funiculi Funicula*,



*O, What A Beautiful Morning* and *Bella Figlia* from *Rigoletto*. Joint items included *Haberna* from *Carmen* and *Nessun Dorma*.

Thank you Amore for bringing your love of music, sharing it and lifting the spirits in the Black Country!

New members are always welcome, visit our website

[www.viva-musica.co.uk](http://www.viva-musica.co.uk)

or visit our Facebook page for details.

**Barbara French**

## Humberston Singers Lincolnshire Group

**WANTED** someone to host a concert.

The Humberston Singers (40 plus mixed voice choir) would like an "away" concert within 200 miles of Grimsby.

No fee / expenses required. A return visit will be possible but not necessary. Any offers?

**Contact the Secretary  
Margo Bradley 01472 822417**

## Saddleworth Male Voice Choir North West

To conclude another year of concerts and competitions, on Saturday 21 December the Saddleworth Male Voice Choir with an augmented ladies chorus, the Pennine Orchestra and four young soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music gave their 51<sup>st</sup> performance of Handel's Messiah.

The first year's performance in March 1964 was repeated in the December of that year which made 2013 the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saddleworth Messiah. Many young soloists have appeared over the years, the most celebrated being Sir Thomas Allan who sang the bass part from 1966 to 1969.

The choir will celebrate St. David's Day this year with a Gala Concert in Huddersfield Town Hall. Their special guest, choir vice-president Aled Jones will add a particular Welsh element to the proceedings and the choir's programme will include several Welsh favourites. Aled has maintained his



popularity through his presentation of BBC TV's Songs of Praise, and various other TV and radio programmes. The concert will be compered by Gordon Stewart, the Songs of Praise musical director and Kirklees Organist in Residence. Gordon's humour will no doubt set the mood for an enjoyable occasion and his accompaniment of joint pieces on the town hall's magnificent Father Willis

organ will add a whole new dimension to the choir's sound. The concert takes place on Saturday 1 March at 7.30 and tickets are available from David Davies 01457 873182 or from the Huddersfield Town Hall Box Office.

*John Watts – Chairman/PRO*



## Saddleworth Male Voice Choir Vacancy : Musical Director

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic, dynamic and suitably qualified Musical Director to continue the musical development of one of the north-west's leading male voice choirs.

Saddleworth Male Voice Choir is highly regarded and under our current Musical Director, has gained an enviable reputation on both the concert stage and in competition. 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, excellent communication skills, an ability to motivate and a good sense of humour.

The fifty strong Choir rehearses in Uppermill, Oldham every Wednesday evening and usually participate in 12-15 events annually. An honorarium will be agreed with the Committee depending on experience and qualifications. The position will become available from Sat 1 March 2014. For further information about the Choir, please visit [www.saddleworthmvc.org](http://www.saddleworthmvc.org)

Applicants are invited to write or email, in the first instance, citing relevant experience and giving the names of two referees to:

**Mr Ceri Davies, Hon. Secretary SMVC, 20 Bowler Street, Shaw, Oldham OL2 7SL**

[saddleworth.mvc@virginmedia.com](mailto:saddleworth.mvc@virginmedia.com)

Closing date Monday 10 February 2014

## New Member's Directory

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

### ALLSORTS South West Mixed voices 40 choristers

Mrs Sara Taylor 4 Aintree Drive, Chippenham SN14 0FA  
01249 463695 [allsortschippenham@gmail.com](mailto:allsortschippenham@gmail.com) [www.allsortschippenham.co.uk](http://www.allsortschippenham.co.uk)

### CLOUGHMORE MVC N Ireland 16 choristers

Noel McCune 11 Ardfreelin, Newry, Co Down BT34 1JG  
02830 251519 [noelmccune@gmail.com](mailto:noelmccune@gmail.com) [www.cloughmoremvchoir.co.uk](http://www.cloughmoremvchoir.co.uk)

### DEE-SIGN Wales North/Cheshire West Mixed voices 65 choristers

Mrs Anne Hesketh 55 Highfield Road, Blacon, Chester CH1 5AX  
01244 375392 [ahesketh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ahesketh@tiscali.co.uk) [www.deesignchoir.co.uk](http://www.deesignchoir.co.uk)

### EPSOM MVC Thames South 63 choristers

John Maslin 20 Dundela Gardens, Worcester Park KT4 8UB  
020 8393 8621 [epsommvc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:epsommvc@hotmail.co.uk) [www.epsommalevoicechoir.org.uk](http://www.epsommalevoicechoir.org.uk)

### EXULTATE SINGERS South West Mixed choir 45 choristers

Dr Ian Carpenter 28 Alma Court, Alma Vale Road, Bristol BS8 2HH  
07816 330675 [info@exultatesingers.org](mailto:info@exultatesingers.org) [www.exultatesingers.org](http://www.exultatesingers.org)

### EYNHAM CHORAL SOCIETY South West Mixed choir 78 choristers

Charles Bridge 15 Newland Street, Eynsham, Witney, Oxon OX29 4LB  
01865 604262 [webmaster@eynshamchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@eynshamchoralsociety.org.uk)  
[www.eynshamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.eynshamchoralsociety.org.uk)

### HADLEIGH COMMUNITY CHOIR Anglia Mixed voices 58 choristers

Peter Finch 16 Aylward Close, Hadleigh, Suffolk IP7 5SJ  
01473 834033 [hadleighchoir@talktalk.net](mailto:hadleighchoir@talktalk.net)  
[www.hadscommunitychoir.onesuffolk.net/welcome](http://www.hadscommunitychoir.onesuffolk.net/welcome)

### KINGSLEY CHORAL GROUP Thames North Mixed voices 25 choristers

Tom Johnson 5 Elmbridge, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0JU  
01279 417534 [tj.tomjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:tj.tomjohnson@gmail.com) [www.kcg-dagenham.weebly.com](http://www.kcg-dagenham.weebly.com)

### LINCOLN CHORAL SOCIETY Lincs Mixed voices 120 choristers

Mr G F N Brown 21 Daniel Crescent, Heighington, Lincoln LN4 1QT  
01522 790422 [gfnbrown@btinternet.com](mailto:gfnbrown@btinternet.com) [www.lincoln-choral-society.org](http://www.lincoln-choral-society.org)

### LISKERRET MVC Cornwall 46 choristers

Mike White Gate Cottage, Rosecraddock, Liskeard PL14 5DY  
01579 346880 [mwhitebuilder@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mwhitebuilder@yahoo.co.uk) [www.liskerretmvc.org](http://www.liskerretmvc.org)

### MELODEES AND HARMONIX Cornwall Youth choir 30 choristers

Tracey Bailey 8 Acorn Drive, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 3GU  
01726 63937 [mhsingingclub@gmail.com](mailto:mhsingingclub@gmail.com)

### RADCLIFFE ON TRENT MVC Midlands East 65 choristers

Ritchie Davies 10 Oaktree Avenue, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham NG12 1AD  
0115 933 4121 [ritchie.davies@gmail.com](mailto:ritchie.davies@gmail.com)

### SIRENS OF TITAN ScotW Mixed choir 50 choristers

Linsey Denholm 107 Wilton Street, Glasgow G20 6RD  
07705 190603 [administration@sirenssoftitan.org.uk](mailto:administration@sirenssoftitan.org.uk) [www.sirenssoftitan.org.uk](http://www.sirenssoftitan.org.uk)

### TAKE NOTE Midlands East Mixed voices 20 choristers

Madeleine Johnson 8 School Close, Stonbroom, Derbyshire DE55 6LP  
01773 872725 [madeleine@madeleinejohnson.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:madeleine@madeleinejohnson.orangehome.co.uk)

## 40th Anniversary Barbershop Convention

# Unmissable

Join us in harmony for an unmissable experience!

# Unforgettable

Come away from Harrogate with unforgettable memories!

Our 40th Annual Convention takes place at the Harrogate International Centre from the 23rd to 26th May. Over 2700 visitors are expected to attend this celebration of barbershop harmony.

Come along for a weekend of friendship and song. Join us for an exciting weekend of harmony - it's an experience not to be missed!



The weekend registration is only £60 and offers access to all events, including quartet & chorus contests, masterclasses, singing sessions and much more. You can also buy tickets for three fabulous shows featuring the very best of barbershop harmony. If you can't make the whole weekend, one and two day registrations are available.



**Register Now for the 40th Anniversary Convention**  
**23rd to 26th May 2014 Harrogate International Centre**

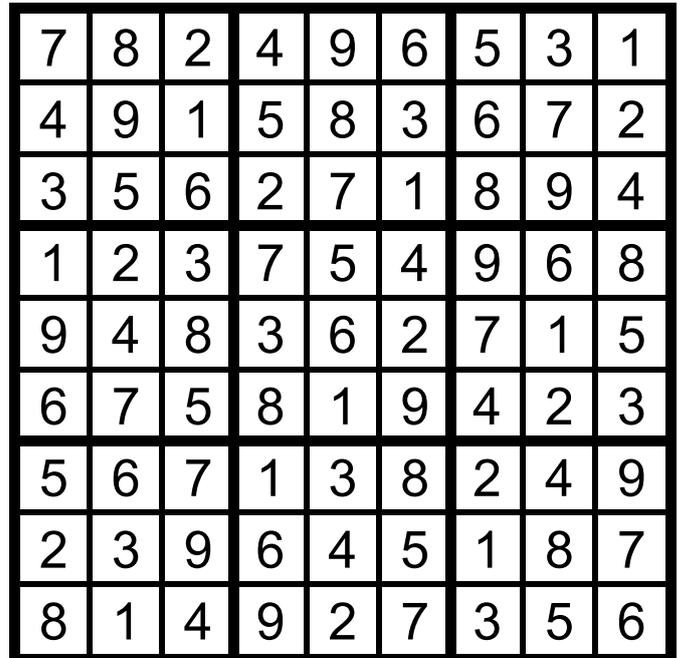
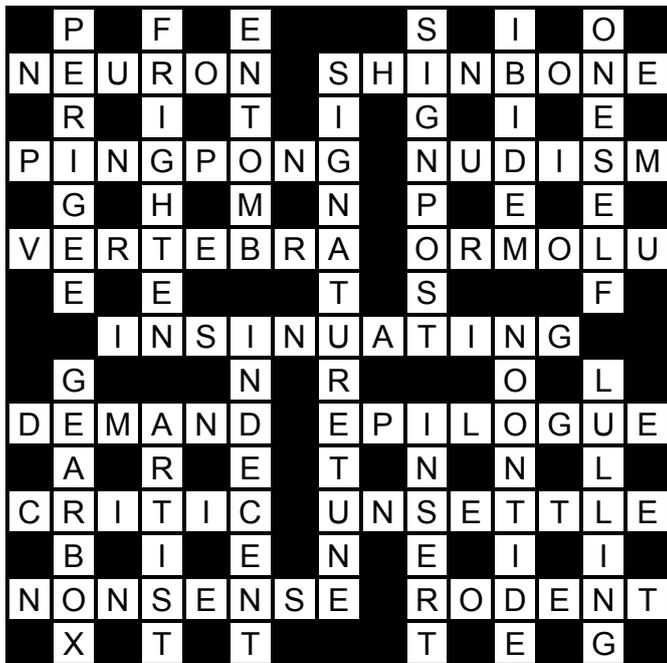
[www.singbarbershop.com](http://www.singbarbershop.com)

email [getinvolved@singbarbershop.com](mailto:getinvolved@singbarbershop.com)

The British Association of Barbershop Singers

Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road, Warwick CV34 5HQ Registered Charity No: 1080930





A tourist is sightseeing in a European city. She comes upon the tomb of Beethoven, and begins reading the commemorative plaque, only to be distracted by a low scratching noise, as if something was rubbing against a piece of paper.

She collars a passing native and asks what the scratching sound is.

The local person replies, "Oh, that is Beethoven. He's decomposing."

## HAYDOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

(St Helens Merseyside)

...is looking for a Conductor

Haydock Male Voice Choir, formed in 1923, and with a current membership of 70 choristers, is looking to appoint a new Conductor following the retirement of the present incumbent, Alan Herbert, after eight years service.

The choir considers itself as both a competition choir and a touring choir. It has a formidable record in competition and is renowned on the concert stage.

The choir recently won the Male Voice section of the Isle of Man Festival of Choirs and was commended for developing its repertoire to include modern, challenging music in addition to the traditional male voice programme.

The person appointed will be enthusiastic, and committed to leading the choir in furthering its development, working with two excellent professional accompanists. The conductor is responsible for all musical matters, including the purchase of new music, concert programmes and repertoire development etc.

The administration of the choir is overseen by an elected committee.

The choir is enthusiastic, committed and a good "social" group.

Ideally, rehearsals are held twice per week, on Tuesday and Friday, between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm, but with some possible flexibility for a suitable candidate.

A suitable honorarium is payable subject to negotiation.

For further information and details of the post see our website [www.haydockmvc.com](http://www.haydockmvc.com) or contact **Alan Gaskell, 41, Lawrence Road, Windle, St Helens WA10 6HY 01744 734176**  
[alan.gaskell@talktalk.net](mailto:alan.gaskell@talktalk.net)

Should you feel able to meet this challenge, please forward your cv to the above.

We are looking for the new appointment to take up the baton in March 2014

## The Officers

**Eric Jackson** - *President*

'The Croft', 86 Main Street, Linton,  
Swadlincote DE12 6QA

**01283 760961**

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

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*Vice Presidents*

**Bob Barratt** - *Music Publisher*

**Richard Bradley** - *ret Chairman, PRO, Services Officer*

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**Alan Simmons** - *Music Publisher*

**Des Statham** - *ret Chairman*

**Doris Williams** - *Music and Festivals Consultant*

**0844 504 2000**

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## How I like to receive articles for News & Views.

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

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

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

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

## HOUSE STYLE

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

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

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

**Attach them to an email.**

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

**01472 500130**

**PLEASE DO WRITE IN**

*Crawford*