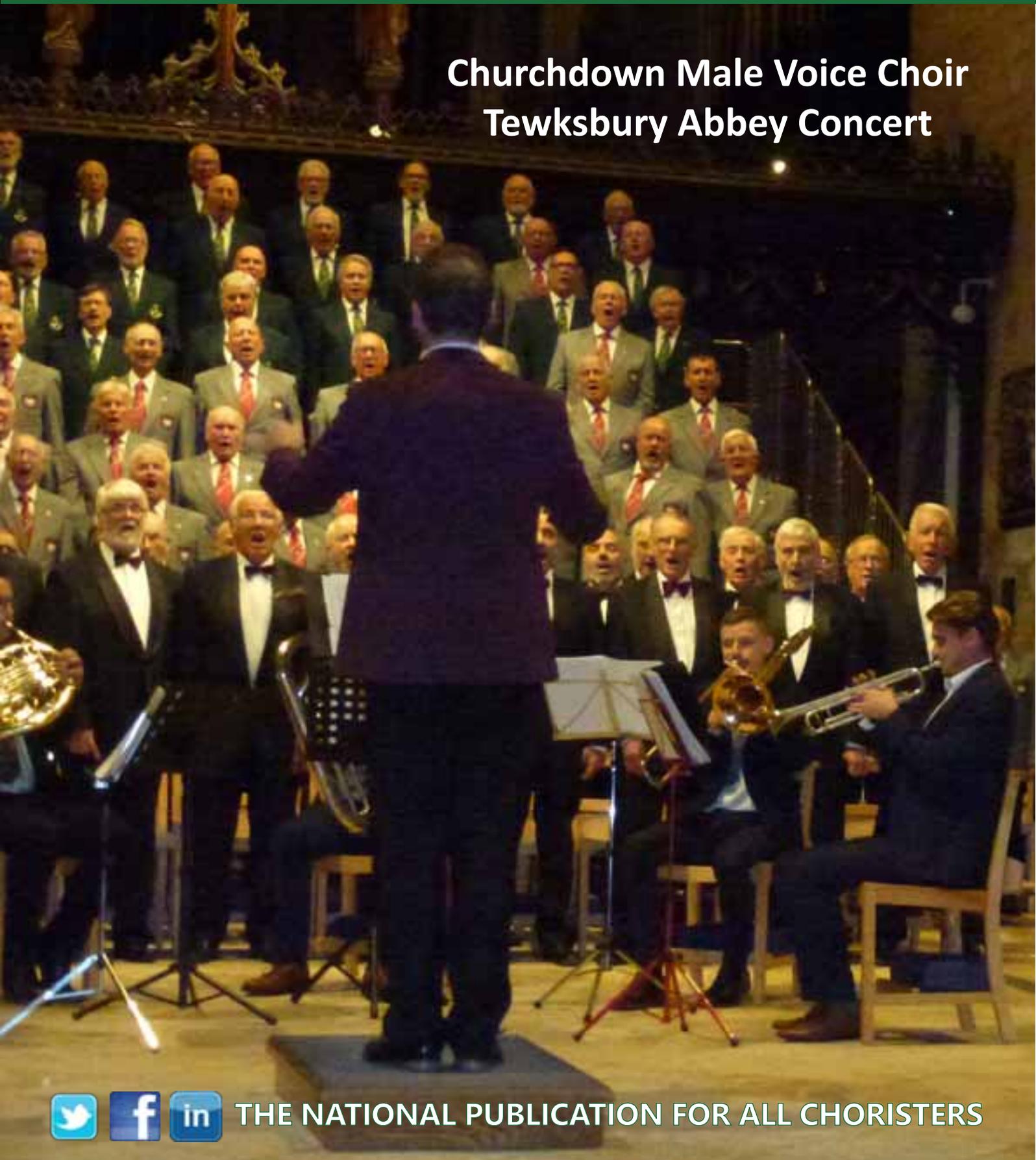


NEWS & VIEWS



226 SPRING 2022

Churchdown Male Voice Choir Tewksbury Abbey Concert



THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION FOR ALL CHORISTERS

From only
£71.84
per choir

Insurance that is in tune with your needs

As a member of the National Association of Choirs we can offer you an insurance package from only £71.84 per choir, which includes:

- Money cover – up to a limit of £1,000
- Public and products liability – limit of indemnity £5 million
- Employers liability – legal liability up to the limit of indemnity of £10 million
- Higher limits can be provided and are subject to additional premiums.

Additional cover can be arranged on an optional basis for a number of risks including:

- All risks on general choir property
- Personal effects of members
- Cancellation and postponement of productions
- Personal accident
- Public liability top up to £10 million.

To obtain a quotation or proposal form please contact our dedicated NAC insurance team:

Tel **01482 388513**

Email **elaine.blakeston@marshcommercial.co.uk**

Visit **marshcommercial.co.uk**

Partnership House, Priory Park East, Kingston-upon-Hull, HU4 7DY

Visit **marshcommercial.co.uk** to find out more

This is a marketing communication.

Marsh Commercial is a trading name of Jelf Insurance Brokers Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Not all products and services offered are regulated by the FCA (for details see marshcommercial.co.uk/info/regulation). Registered in England and Wales number 0837227. Registered Office: 1 Tower Place West, London EC3R 5BU. FP20.019

CONTENTS

226
SPRING 2022

4 Crawford's Corner
Chairman's Chat

5 Webmaster
Music Review

7 Puzzle Page

8 Singing in the stand

East Fife Male Voice Choir - Finding places to rehearse

Opening will open

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir - New piece to be performed

9 Tewkesbury Triple Triumph

Churchdown Male Voice Choir - It was a three choir festival

11 Briskly back to singing

Allegra - Celebrating 10 years

12 Leonora Lion doesn't
sleep tonight...

Alfreton Male Voice Choir - Our lion makes an appearance

Zooming back to rehearsal

Cor Meibion Colwyn - From virtual to actual

14 Conference Update

15 Conference Booking Form 1

16 Conference Booking Form 2

17 Conference Timetable

19 Puzzle Solutions
How to send stuff

20 Officer details
Meeting dates

Advertisers

2 Marsh Insurance

6 Majestic

10 SoundEscapes

13 PossesionFriend.uk

18 Banks

18 Lyn Oakes

227 SUMMER 2022

**Last date for copy
30 April**

Views expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policy, or opinions of the National Association of Choirs.
Manuscripts submitted to the Editor for consideration must be the original work of the author and not under consideration by any other publication.
Advertisements or other inserted material are accepted subject to current terms and conditions.
Acceptance of an advertisement does not signify endorsement of the products or services by NAC.

Crawford's Corner

Publications Officer - Bob Swallow



Here we are in another new year. I hope your year starts well and goes on to be far better than the last couple of years have been.

This issue of News & Views is a little smaller than previous issues because none of our choirs has been really busy doing lots of wonderful concerts and raising thousands for charity and touring the country and the world singing.

We are all looking at this new year and thinking, when can we get back to normal? What is 'normal'? Normal at the moment is being very conscious of our place in the world in relation to all those around us and trying not to get too close to anyone and staying safe. All we can do at the moment is keep striving to make the best of our situations and keep singing when and where we can.

At the beginning of April we have the opportunity to meet fellow singers to share ideas and learn new things and tell others about the things we enjoy that others might also enjoy.

If you would like to join us then get in touch with our Conference Co-ordinator, Clive Lawton, and book a place for Annual Conference in Kendal. Bring your partner with you because, even if they don't sing in a choir there is lots to do in Kendal that they would enjoy.

Why not go to pages 14-17 and read what is on offer. It is worthwhile.

You might notice that on the next page to this there is a new face. Pete is our new Webmaster. Please read his article and make sure that your choir is making the most of what Pete has to offer on our website.

If you are looking for something new to sing, glance below the webmaster piece and see if what our Music Review Officer

has to say is helpful.

A friend of mine said to me recently, 'Is there room in the Spring issue for an advert?' I had to say, 'No but send me your advert and it can go in the next issue.' As a member choir you can send me adverts for music you have for sale, for uniforms that are surplus to requirements or even, as my friend has, staging that his choir no longer needs. Such adverts are free to your choir.

Well, I think that my ramblings have just about filled the space I needed to fill and I've shared some advice and ideas so I think it might be a good idea for you to stop reading my stuff and start to read something more interesting like how choirs are getting back to rehearsing and singing and are having real concerts, Wow! real concerts, what a great idea.



Chairman's Chat

NAC Chairman - Brenda Wilkinson



Happy new year to you all. Yes, I'm back having been voted back into this position at the AGM which we finally managed to hold after many postponements. Considering the hesi-

tancy this pandemic has instilled in us it was a very well attended event, and I'm sure that everyone who did will agree with me that it was so good to meet with people we hadn't seen for such a long time.

Because it was held so late in the year we have no sooner got our breath back and we'll be travelling to Kendal for the 2022 conference and I hope even more of you will come and enjoy a musical weekend with us in a beautiful part of the world.

I feel that it is going to be a very long, slow road back to normality but, from reports in this magazine and comments from choirs when paying their subs, their determination to sing together and entertain their audiences is stronger than ever. I am very pleased to hear this, but implore you all to take good care of yourselves while

mixing with others – we have come this far and we really must look forward. Having said that, this pandemic has given choirs the opportunity of being creative with rehearsals and has enabled everyone to still be connected, and it has also probably strengthened friendships. Or is that just me seeing a positive in a very negative situation.

And on that note let's hope this year will continue to be enjoyable for all of our music making.

With my best wishes.



webmaster@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Webmaster - Pete Carlyon



Hello. I'm Pete Carlyon and I have recently started looking after the website. What a great time to begin that task, just as everyone is updating their details.

I thought it would be a good idea to look through the choir entries to see what a wide variation of choirs we have sharing the Association.

Clicking on the Choirs tab (shown above) I had the choice to look at the different areas of the country and so started on the first one, that happens to be the Anglia NAC group.

The great news is that all of these choir lists are open to the public to see, making it easier for anyone wanting to join a choir to find something in their area.

For each choir, there are 10 pieces of information to be seen...

- a) The name of the choir
- b) The type of choir

- c) How many in the choir
- d) A link to the choir website
- e) The contact name
- f) A contact telephone number
- g) An email link
- h) The place where they rehearse
- i) The day(s) they rehearse
- j) A logo or photo

Most of that information you provide to the Membership Officer and I pick it up for use on the website. The picture or logo is sent direct to me by the choir. A few choirs prefer for some of those details not to be published and so the relevant details can be omitted on the web at your request. I wanted to look at their websites and so started to work my way through the choirs. I was soon disappointed to realise that for whatever reason, some of the links did not lead to gloriously colourful websites but to error messages. I realised that choirs were not grabbing the attention that they wanted. It was also apparent that the entry for a choir that was

accompanied by a logo or a photograph stood out much better than those without and there were many without.

It occurred to me that here was a chance to remind choirs of the wonderful opportunity they have for some easy advertising. Did you realise, for instance, that as a member of the Association, you can advertise for free on our website for your new MD or accompanist? You can also let everyone know about your upcoming event, also for free. All you have to do is contact me with the details.

I invite you to look at your entry on the website and check that the information is up to date and that the links to your website and email work. If you want to add a logo or photo to your entry, send it to me. I will edit the sizes to get them to fit. Let the Membership Officer know of any changes to your choir details but between us we will sort out any problems with you. One last reminder is that any National Association of Choirs member can have access to the member part of our website. You will need an ID and password so just let me know your name and your choir details and I will set you up.

I'm Still Standing

Karl Harper - Music Review Officer



***I'm Still Standing* – Elton John**

Available in SAB, SATB TTB from Hal Leonard Arranged by Pete Schmutte.

In this time of choirs blossoming again from this pandemic what better statement *I'm still Standing*

This piece moves from 2 part to 3 or 4 part and back again with only minimal difficulty in harmony.

The great thing is most audiences will hear the original as they hear the choir, and this arrangement keeps the excitement of the piece whilst still giving the choristers something to do.

This is not a classical piece, but it may be a vehicle to bring new audiences in!

BPiF
member



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



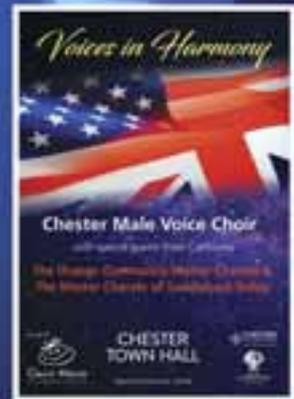
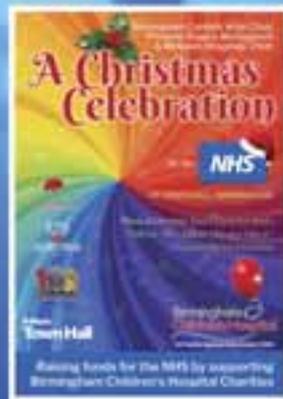
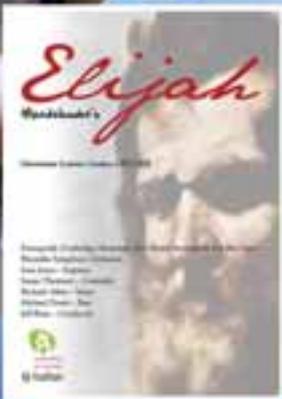
HOSPICE
INCOME
GENERATION
NETWORK

YOUR HOSPICE NEEDS YOU

ARE YOU ORGANISING A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR YOUR LOCAL CHARITY?

Will you be holding an event for your local Hospice to raise funds and celebrate their valuable work in the community?

We can provide **free of charge** complimentary programmes for your event.



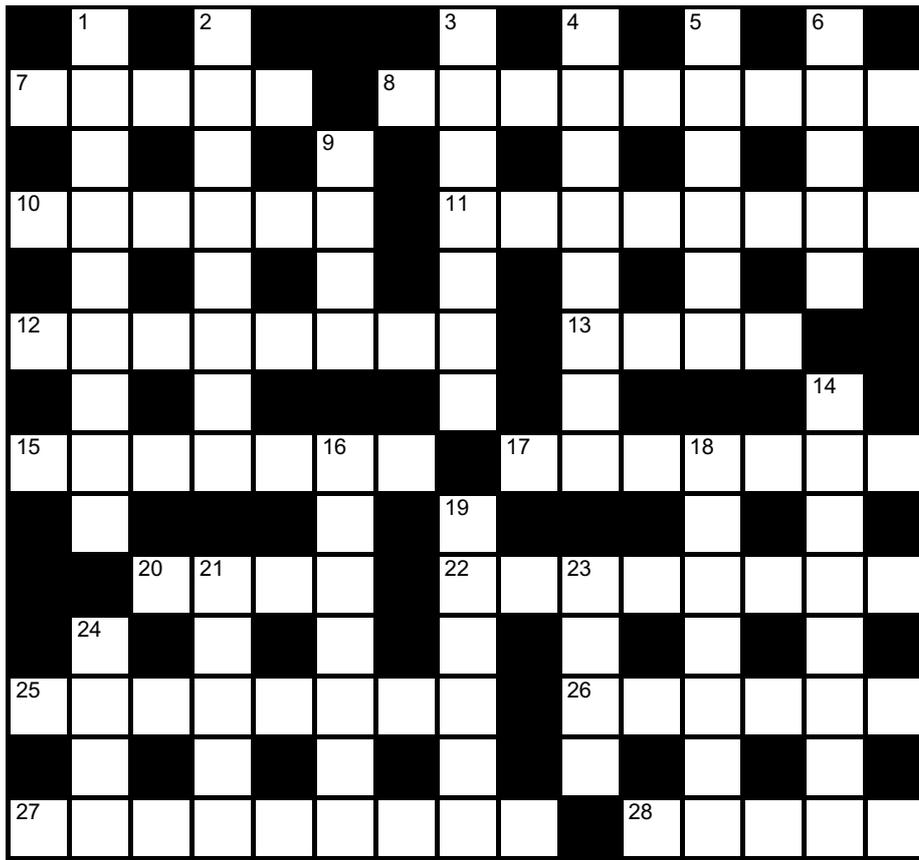
PUBLICATIONS LTD



5 minerva court | chester west employment park | chester CH1 4QT
tel » 01244 852360 | fax » 01244 852361

email » jane.montague@majesticpublications.co.uk | www.majesticpublications.co.uk

PUZZLE PAGE

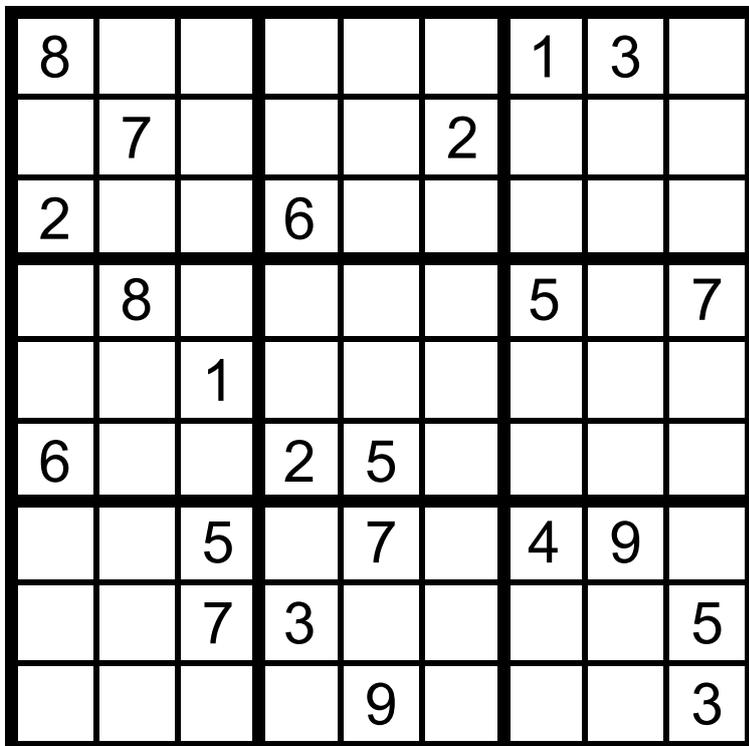


Across

- 7 Haggard writer (5)
- 8 The act of being a tenant (9)
- 10 Cape Verde monetary unit (6)
- 11 Cuter pup shattered blow to the chin (8)
- 12 The States personified (5,3)
- 13 Not very hard (4)
- 15 Moronic variant is sickening (7)
- 17 Goes with 15 Across unfortunately (7)
- 20 Skin disorder about cane (4)
- 22 Close to a virgin (4,4)
- 25 Use peg or confuse your conscience (8)
- 26 After accidntal derail ring again (6)
- 27 Rather like 8 Across (9)
- 28 Switch lamps for a sacred song (5)

Down

- 1 Precedes the surname (5,4)
- 2 Government formed from rec-
tified ripe club (8)
- 3 Pleasing to the taste (7)
- 4 Court writ for mixed bean soup
(8)
- 5 Curry flavour (6)
- 6 Happen (5)
- 9 Non greasy topsoil (4)
- 14 To a remarkable degree (9)
- 16 On the look out for danger (4-
4)
- 18 I'm modest but together I'm
not (8)
- 19 The bill for singing perhaps? (7)
- 21 Alter direct debit to be in it (6)
- 23 Round thickly curled hairdo (4)
- 24 Bourbon, sugar and mint (5)



SOLUTIONS
PAGE 19

To have your own copy of this page to work on go to
www.nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk
and look for the latest copy of News & Views then print the page. Easy!

Singing in the stand

East Fife Male Voice Choir – Scotland East – David Tingle



We are back. After many months we are back singing, how good does that feel.

Thank goodness for Zoom, we have not been able to utilise it for singing purposes, but it has been a great hit for social gatherings. We met on Monday evenings instead of our usual rehearsals and had a variety of events to keep us amused. The evenings began with the A-Z of music, where members were asked to suggest music, then we found videos on YouTube to watch. We had quizzes galore and even had games of bingo. We had our version of the radio programme 'Desert Island

Discs' which was called 'Desert Island Discs'. A member would pick three pieces of music to play and tell us of their favourite dessert.

Some members studied Music Theory with our Accompanist, Robin Bell, some to grade 4, some to grade 5. A few members had piano lessons with our Musical Director Marilyn Boulton. So, some good things have happened during the pandemic.

As with other choirs we have had to cancel concerts along with all rehearsals. Fife Festival Of Music was cancelled in Feb-

ruary 2021 and has now been cancelled for 2022. The planned concert for the HaitiHelp charity was to be held in March 2020 but will now be held in March 2022. Our Annual Concerts for the past two years were cancelled but we have booked The Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy in April 2022 and 2023. We also have a joint concert in July 2022 with Chapel-en-le-Frith MVC.

We started our rehearsals in August 2021 in an unusual place – the East Fife Football Club stand. We had been searching for somewhere to sing outdoors when a member suggested the football club and we had a few weeks rehearsing there. The stand faces east, on our last rehearsal the breeze came from the east and the rehearsal finished early because of the cold, the following week we were back indoors.

Our first concert was in December 2021, it was an informal concert for the Ladies Guild who meet at our rehearsal room. After a few months of rehearsal, it was wonderful to sing in a concert again. Hopefully 2022 will be more productive and Covid will be no more.

Aye Sing!

Opening will open.

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir - Scotland West - Anne Kay

Conductor and Director of Music
Cameron Murdoch

The choir had a slight delay in beginning our season and were delighted to get back to in-person rehearsals from early September. Zoom kept us going during lockdown and beyond and we were very grateful to use it, but it's no substitute for the real thing!

There have been some highs and some lows since September. A group of us took part in the Kirkin' of the Merchants' House at Glasgow Cathedral. The ceremony was part of the process of appointment of the Lord Dean of the Guild who happens to be a very good friend and sup-

porter of the choir, May Storrie CBE. May is the first woman to be appointed as Lord Dean of the Guild since its inception in 1605. A well-deserved honour and we were delighted to take part and show her our appreciation of all she does for us and for others. In mid-November, a socially distanced group of us recorded a selection of songs to celebrate St Andrew's Day at the request of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller to help them celebrate the day (via Zoom). The recording can be seen on the choir's YouTube Channel.

Sadly, some lows interfered with our enjoyment of this part of the season. We had planned a series of local concerts in

small venues throughout December. Unfortunately, the virus intervened and all of these, for different reasons, had to be postponed. We hope to reorganise these for the second half of the season. Our main Christmas concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall did go ahead, nearly as planned. We had, once again, a socially distanced and, therefore, smaller choir than usual for the event. At one point we'd thought the whole thing might be cancelled because of changes to restrictions in Scotland, but, thankfully, this was not the case. We had guest choirs from the Inverclyde Junior and Senior Schools and Inverclyde Voices, who put in their usual splendid performances. Sadly, our friends from Whitburn Band were unable

to join us on the night as they had all been 'pinged' following their mid-week rehearsal. They were greatly missed. However, Cameron and our accompanist, the inimitable Gordon Cree, adapted the programme to include some of our other repertoire. While saddened by the absence of the band, choir members enjoyed the opportunity to do some additional singing - I'm sure you all know that feeling - and a great night was had by all. Congratulations to everyone who took part for their adaptability and enthusiasm; and congratulations, too, to soprano Elspeth Shearer, and tenor, Billy Hillan, who were presented with special gifts by the choir to celebrate their fiftieth anniversaries of singing with the choir.

For those who do not know him, Gordon Cree is a well-known, multi-talented Scottish, entertainer. He sings, acts, comperes and plays a range of musical instruments and is a well-loved friend of the choir. Born in Ayrshire, he graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), before embarking on a career as a professional performer.

During our 2021-22 season we had hoped to be marking fully a very special time for us. Our excellent predecessors, the Glas-



gow Orpheus Choir began singing together in 1901 and only stopped when Sir Hugh Robertson decided to retire at the end of the 1950-51 season. Fast forward a few months and the Phoenix arose, musically, from the ashes of the original choir. So, we have two things to celebrate - the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir and the 70th anniversary of the 'new' choir. Our choir president, Angus Leitch has undertaken a 'blog' for the choir's website, tracing the history of the choir and we hope to be performing a special concert in April in the acoustically perfect auditorium belonging to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and which is part of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall complex. As part of that concert we will be performing a beautiful new choral piece - *Opening* - composed and arranged by our Honorary President, Bob Chilcott; with words by his regular collaborator, Charles Bennett. It is a beautiful piece, which we look forward to performing and we are very grateful to The Grand Lodge of Antient Free & Accepted Masons of Scotland for sponsoring this composition.

As the year draws to an end, we look forward to what comes next, whatever that may be and we celebrate and remember past events and friends. In 2021, the choir lost two great friends. The first of these was our past president and member of the bass section, Ian MacDonald. Ian followed his father into the choir and was, himself, joined by his wife Anne at a later date. He was a stalwart of his section for many years - I don't think there are any basses who didn't rely on Ian to keep them right. He was always ready with an amusing (and sometimes downright cheeky) quip and was always among the first, with Anne, to welcome and support new members. The second loss was of our Associate Member, Gordon McKenzie whose wife, Helen, is one of our sopranos. Gordon, who was an excellent singer and guitarist, joined us on many tours and was always ready to entertain us after a hard day's singing. He was a warm and friendly man and well-liked by all. Both will be greatly missed.

Tewkesbury Triple Triumph

Churchdown Male Voice Choir - South West - David Hier & John Friend

It was a Three Choirs Festival, but not the usual one, although the relevant counties were represented.

After many months of lockdown, and anticipation, Churchdown Male Voice Choir finally took part in a major concert on 2 October in the beautiful Tewkesbury Abbey. It was a difficult build up for the choir as there had not been much time for

rehearsals following the easing of Covid 19 restrictions. Some singing had been done, amidst much laughter, on Zoom. There were even a few attempts outdoors, but the inclement weather and a nearby rookery made life difficult. However, the chorus eventually got there under the baton of MD Ralph Barnes, and the keyboard skills of accompanist James Quinn.

Together with two other choirs, namely Worcester Male Voice Choir and Hereford Police Choir, there were about a hundred choristers. In addition, the singers had the rare accompaniment of a brass quintet for some of the songs. The respective musical directors, and musicians, checked out the venue at an afternoon rehearsal. Then the evening began in traditional manner with *God Save The Queen*, and it was evident

from that moment this concert was going to be something special.

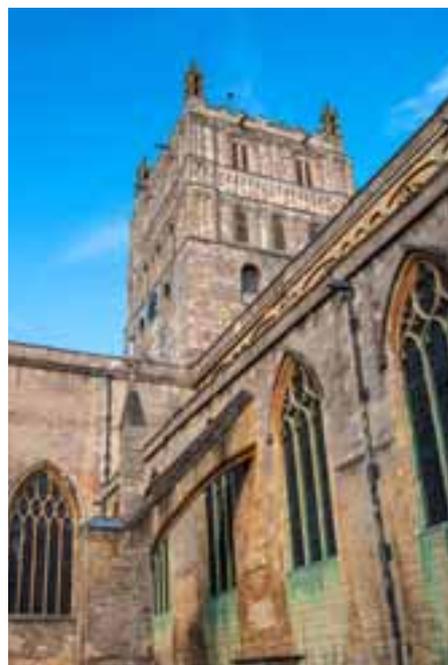
Although Churchdown, with 26 singers, was smaller in number compared to the other choirs, we were told our performance was outstanding, particularly Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*, *My Heart will Go On* from the film *Titanic*, and Sir Arthur Sullivan's *The Lost Chord*.



When the joint pieces, such as *American Trilogy* and *World In Union* were sung with the other two choirs some were accompanied by the beautiful Curzon Brass Quintet, which really enhanced the songs. These talented young professionals also treated our audience to a set of six numbers in the first half, including Stevie Wonder's *Isn't She Lovely*, and an arrangement of the Elvis number, *Can't Help Falling In Love*.

Our companion choirs were equally entertaining. In the first half the Hereford Police Choir treated everyone to a couple of Sir Karl Jenkins' popular compositions, *Adiemus* and the haunting *Benedictus* augmented by Curzon Brass. After the interval it was Worcester Male Voice Choir's turn to shine with *African Prayer* and *The Holy City*.

The evening ended with an encore of *When The Saints Go Marching In*, and nobody wanted it to finish. However, with choirs it doesn't, because we all met up later in the Tewkesbury YMCA and sang



until the venue closed. Everyone performing realized that is what it is all about, having fun and helping fund good causes. In this instance the very worthy Midlands Air Ambulance.

Bespoke performance tours across the UK & Ireland



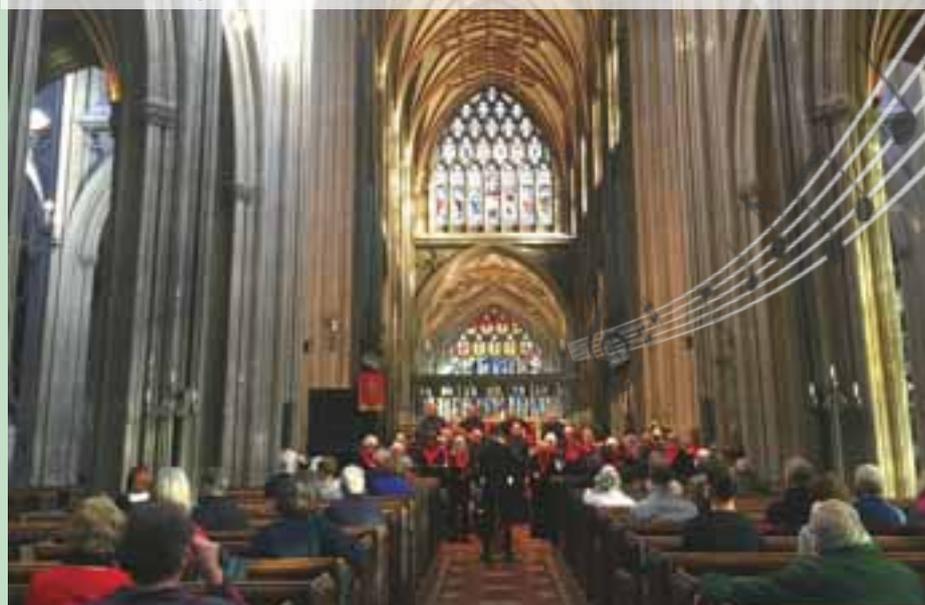
**Musical mini-breaks
created especially for
your music ensemble!
From £65* per person**

*Based on a 1 day concert tour for 30 tour participants

Sound Escapes UK PERFORMANCE TOURS



**View the full brochure
on our website!**



Tel: UK 0044 (0) 115 874 6396
www.soundescapesuk.com

Registered office: Beeston, Nottinghamshire, NG9 1DJ



Briskly back to singing

Allegra - Wales South - Angela Hiscocks

We are a ladies' choir based in Newport, South Wales.

2021 was meant to be a year of celebration as the choir marked 10 years since forming. Instead, it turned out to be a very challenging year in which the choir found itself struggling to keep members engaged throughout the effects of COVID 19 lock downs and facing a mammoth task to organise a return to singing and regular rehearsals as and when government restrictions allowed.

Thankfully, with the continued support of the committee and Musical Director, Robert Elliott, Allegra was able to recommence singing at the beginning of June 2021 until summer break in August and through Autumn term to a successful, family and friends only concert in December.

January 2020 saw a change of leadership and musical director for Allegra when Robert Elliott was selected to take the place of its founder musical director. After a long recruitment process the choir finally had a new MD in place and with that came other major changes in choir membership, the recruitment of an accompanist and a change of rehearsal venue.



Sadly, COVID 19 put an abrupt stop to plans after only 8 rehearsals and there followed 16 tense months filled with concerns regarding members' health and the future of choir singing. The committee and Rob made the decision early on in March 2020 that online rehearsals would not suit many members especially at a time when they had other priorities and concerns. Although, that did not release the committee from their responsibilities to the choir and there was a change of focus towards the wellbeing of members, ensuring that if there was no singing, contact was maintained in other ways.



It was decided that every other week there would be an online meet up so the ladies could get together and chat. There were also some very successful online quizzes in particular one at Christmas 2020 when previous members of the choir joined in the fun, and carols were sung. Additionally, socially distanced meet ups were organised in the July, September, December and April as the national and local lock downs and firebreaks permitted.

In June 2021 following some intense activity searching through Government guidance, liaising with the new rehearsal venue, calling on the committee's experience regarding risk assessments and frantic sewing of singers' masks by the choir treasurer and chairperson, choir members were finally invited back to singing. The return to singing was supported financially by grants awarded as a result of applications made to the Neighbourhood lottery fund and Arts Council Wales.

It was an anxious time, with obvious nervousness about singing and its reported associated risks resulting in concerns that singers would not feel comfortable to re-join. As a result, some singers decided not to return, and others couldn't wait to get back. There followed a period of uncertainty, and a recruitment campaign was launched not only to grow numbers within the choir but to give others in the local community the opportunity to take up a new hobby.

Under Rob Elliott's guidance singing began again and after a lot of hard work and attention to detail 10 new songs were rehearsed and perfected in readiness to be

performed at a private concert to which family and friends were invited. This was organised for December 2021 and due to take place at the time the new Variant Omicron was swiftly spreading through the population. However, after careful consideration the concert went ahead following strict guidance and with the support of the management committee at the rehearsal venue, St Julian's Baptist Church, Newport, South Wales.

Although the size of the audience was restricted, it was fabulous to be singing for others and sharing the enthusiasm for the songs performed. The audience were very complimentary, which was wonderful considering this was the first concert in almost two years, working with a new musical director and new repertoire. It was a fantastic achievement considering the challenging circumstances and the many changes the choir had experienced.

The future is looking bright for Allegra with concerts already booked for 2022 and 2023. With the continued support of the hard-working management team and under Robert Elliott's excellent direction the choir is looking forward to being able to share its high standard singing whilst taking on new challenges and experiences.

You can find out more about Allegra by visiting the website:

www.allegraladieschoir.co.uk

or our pages on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram

Leonora Lion doesn't sleep tonight...

Alfreton Male Voice Choir – Midlands East – John Stamp



After an eighteen-month Covid lockdown Alfreton Male Voice Choir performed a first concert to entertain and make money for the nominated charity – AQUABOX, which sends water filters to disaster areas worldwide.

After months of practising on the internet the choir is together singing and an audience of over 150 people were entertained with songs including, Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Anthem from the musical 'Chess' and *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* when the choir's lion, Leonora, made an appearance on stage. Guest artist, trumpeter John Barker, played a number of pieces and also joined the choir for *High On A Hill* and *You'll Never Walk Alone*. The choir's Sagalouts Skiffle Group made the audience giggle by singing *Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour On The Bedpost Overnight*.

With just under a £1000 profit on the night, the choir donated this to AQUABOX. Choir Chairman Mick Mullarkey said, 'It's a great feeling to sing and entertain as a choir after the long lockdown. It's also incredibly special to support a local charity AQUABOX and the work worldwide they do. But there is no time to rest, 2022 is not far away and we would like to recruit new members to enable our repertoire to grow to entertain.'

Looking forward to 2022 the choir is seeking to welcome new members across the choir sections: baritones, basses, and tenors; to maintain a range of songs from shows, pop, comedy and choral, using props including flags, pirate hats and even a stuffed lion, and a skiffle group. Within the choir members there is a skiffle group which is a stark contrast in look, sound,

and music when the guys bring out their garish outfits with tea-chest bass, drums, guitars, and ukuleles banging out fifties style favourites like *My Old Man's A Dustman*. Singers do not need to read music or play an instrument, the requirement is, a pleasure in singing and entertaining in a group whilst having fun with most of the guys stopping for an after-practice drink at the club bar.

We are extremely fortunate to have excellent professionals to teach, direct and support. Our Music Director, Terry Clay MA, has a wealth of experience with choirs and brass bands, whilst accompanists Lisa Smith and Michael Anthony are very experienced in a range of piano and other instruments.

Mick Mullarkey said, 'Alfreton Male Voice is a community choir. We look out for each other, tease each other, entertain for worthy causes but above all, have fun around music and song. Any guys who would like to consider joining us can easily make contact through the choir website alfretonmvc.co.uk or our Facebook page Alfreton Male Voice Choir.'

Zooming back to rehearsal

Cor Meibion Colwyn – Wales N / Cheshire W – Charles Cooksley

We hope you are all back together singing again. Our only performances together were in February 2020 when we sang at Parc Eirias to a crowd before the Wales v Italy Rugby Under 20 International in Colwyn Bay, then at indie singer/songwriter Adam Hender's gig at Venue Cymru to several hundred all aged under about 25. We then resumed rehearsals in March 2020 via Zoom until the middle of 2021. We are especially grateful to our MD, Owain Gethin Davies, for leading and coordinating our Zoom rehearsals. Owain Gethin Davies made around 10 new arrangements of songs for us and this, and standard repertoire, maintained interest a lot during our long layoff.

When pandemic conditions and regulations eased, we were able to rehearse live together again, but we had to choose a new venue as our normal rehearsal room was restricted by pandemic regulations to only 19 people and we are a choir of 50 voices. Traditional concert opportunities were limited by the restricted numbers permitted in the usual kind of venues. A lot of our early work in 2021 was therefore for smaller groups at weddings and birthday celebrations. We sang for a wedding at the Marble Church in Bodelwyddan and another wedding at Hafod Farm near Llanrwst. Later we sang at two birthday celebrations at Dyffryn

Aled and then at Rowen in the Conwy Valley. Dyffryn Aled in Denbighshire is the site of a country estate featured on a BBC documentary. The historic house was one used as perhaps the most elegant Prisoner of War camp in the First World War, where senior German officers had servants and butlers and extensive grounds for recreation. Easing of regulations meant that we could resume concerts in churches from November 2021. The 15th century St Grwst's church in Llanrwst saw our first concert and indeed their first concert for 2 years. The church was refurbished during the pandemic period and some of the proceeds went to the church. An earlier

church on the site is reputed to be the resting place of Llywelyn the Great.

On 12 December we sang at the St Joseph's church in Colwyn Bay. Followed on Sunday 19 December at St John's church Old Colwyn. Proceeds went to UNICEF and local charities. The December concerts were carol concerts. The congregation was restricted to 3 carols, but we included about 6 of our own carols in the full concert programme.

Singing to a public audience was a huge step forward for the choir, MD and accompanist, Anne Leavitt. Some of the current choir are shielding as they need to protect vulnerable family members. We have a few entirely new members who are learning the repertoire for the hopefully more extensive concert programme in 2022. Resuming concerts has been a challenge to our own 6 soloists who have now sung as soloists at concerts for the first time in two years. Special thanks to our own 3 Tenors Hywel Roberts, John Roberts and Alf Gladman and to Baritones Gwyn Jones and Richard Thomas and Bass



Gordon Evans for performing each of their own separate songs.

Looking ahead to 2022, we have a series of concerts arranged, with weddings and other events to come also, including a return to Wirksworth Derbyshire on 18 June 2022. We hope that choirs have had

the chance to stay together singing, including concerts around Christmas time, The Conference in Kendal in April 2022 will be a chance for many choirs to exchange thoughts, ideas and plans together again.



www.possessionfriend.uk

Types of Possession claims – Specialisms:

- ✓ **Prompt Possession due to high rental losses**
- ✓ **Possession for Anti-Social Behaviour**
- ✓ **Possession by overseas or distant Landlords**
- ✓ **Possession where there are liabilities or counter-claims by a Tenant**



See our website for all Housing / Rental matters dealt with

www.possessionfriend.uk

95th Annual General Meeting 33rd Annual Conference Weekend 1-3 April 2022

Hello and a Happy New Year to you all.

A New Year indeed and time to have our annual conference back on course. 1-3 April at the Castle Green Hotel Kendal.



Please come and join us for a weekend, or longer if you wish, in this beautiful corner of England. All arrangements have been made for an interesting weekend at conference.

Our main speaker 'Alan Bullard' has three seminars on Saturday where he will talk

about his current work and interesting projects. Session two will be a singing session using secular choral pieces. Session three will include a look at three cantatas for Holy week, Advent and Christmas.

Tim Knight has the seminar on Sunday morning. As of now, I don't have his choice of subject, but I know that with his depth of knowledge combined with a good slice of Yorkshire humour it will be entertaining.

The conference concert will be at the Leisure Centre in Kendal and organised by the K Shoes Male Voice Choir joined by several more choirs from the local area. I believe there is a fair chance of the concert including an appearance by the band of the Royal Marines. Coach transport to the concert and return is included in the conference costing of £230. Please come

and join us this year and enjoy the company of like-minded people who enjoy music and the art of singing.



You will find a booking form and proposed conference timeline in this publication of News and Views.

Hope to see you there.

Best wishes

Clive Lawton.

Conference Coordinator.



CONFERENCE CONCERT
KENDAL LEISURE CENTRE
7.30



National Conference Booking Form 1 1-3 April 2022

Castle Green Hotel

Castle Green Lane, Kendal LA9 6RG

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, evening meal, refreshments and free admission to Saturday evening concert
per person **£230**

Stay an extra night -

29 March Single - £100 / Double - £125 - 30 March Single - £100 / Double - £125 - 31 March Single - £100 / Double - £125
03 April Single - £110 / Double - £135 - 04 April Single - £100 / Double - £125 - 05 April Single - £105 / Double - £130

Extra nights can be booked both before and/or after the conference through the NAC at a favourable rate if you wish extra nights to be arranged for you please add a note to the booking form and I will book these on your behalf

Cancellations after this date will incur a charge of 50% of the total fee payable
Substitute guests will be welcome

Day Delegates

Payment in full when booking (non-refundable)

Please circle requirements

Day delegate fee including refreshments and lunch £40

Evening meal Saturday add £25.00

Concert ticket Saturday add £15.00

Friday Gala Dinner add £35.00

Deposit of £70 with booking form Balance by early February 2022

Reminders will be sent

Room Type - single double twin

Amount submitted £ _____

Please return your completed forms and deposits to the address below

Payment method - tick the appropriate box

Paying by cheque

Cheques should be made payable to
The National Association of Choirs

Please return your completed forms and deposits
to the address below

Paying by BACS

You may pay by BACS (please indicate BACS on form)
Pay to **National Association of Choirs**
Sort Code 40-52-40 - Account no 00012575
Reference. Conference.

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

Clive Lawton - Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS
01283 569677 or 07939012458 cliveandpatlawton@btinternet.com



National Conference Booking Form 2 1-3 April 2022

Castle Green Hotel
Castle Green Lane, Kendal LA9 6RG

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
01283 569677 or 07939012458 cliveandpatlawton@btinternet.com



National Association of Choirs

Joining the Nation in Choral Singing

National Conference Booking Form 2 1-3 April 2022

Castle Green Hotel

Castle Green Lane, Kendal LA9 6RG

Friday 1 April 2022

2.00	Delegates arrive, register at reception and collect delegate pack
3.00	National officers meeting
3.30-5.00	Come and Sing with Celia Johns and Karl Harper
7.30	Reception National Officers and guests
7.30	Delegates and guests assemble for dinner
8.00	Dinner is served- 3 courses with wine
9.30	After dinner entertainment by assembled guests
12.00	Bar closes

Saturday 2 April 2022

7.00	Access to trade stands to set up
7.00	Breakfast in main dining room
9.30	Allan Bullard
10.45-11.15	Coffee and trade stand viewing
11.15-12.30	Allan Bullard
12.30-1.30	Trade stand presentations (six) 10 minute presentations from trade stands present at conference
1.30-2.45	Lunch and trade stand viewing (Lunch included in full delegate package)
2.45-4.00	Allan Bullard
5.15	Early evening meal 2 Courses
6.45	Coach Leaves hotel for concert
7.30	Concert
10.00 Approx	Following concert, light refreshments will be provided back at the hotel
12.00	Bar closes

Sunday 3 April 2022

7.00-9.30	Breakfast (For those delegates wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at hotel reception)
9.30-10.30	Tim Knight
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)

**Extra nights can be booked both before and/or after the conference through the NAC at a favourable rate.
If you wish extra nights to be arranged for you, please add a note to the booking form and I will book these on your behalf.**

Banks Music Publications

THE WELLERMAN

TTBB and Piano arranged by Michael Ware
PCS50 £1.75

A fun arrangement of the New Zealand Folk - Song, recently a worldwide hit on Tik-Tok!



THE PRIDE OF LONDON – A MEDLEY

TTBB & Piano Arranged by
Zack Laurence PCS49 £2.95

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, The Lambeth Walk, Knees up Mother Brown amongst many others.

GLORIA

TTBB and Piano. Geraint Davies ECS611 £1.95

A truly jubilant Gloria, perfect to either open or close a concert.



www.banksmusicpublications.co.uk

BANKS MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

The Granary, Wath Court, Hovingham,
York YO62 4NN Tel: 01653 628545
Email: info@banksmusicpublications.co.uk

New Series of female composers:

KASSIAN CHORAL SERIES

Works for upper voices and SATB by
Olivia Sparkhall, Hilary Campbell and
Lydia Kakabadse (amongst others)
Check out the website for full details:

2022 – our 50th Anniversary year!



Now stockists of the following:

GIFTWARE

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

ORGAN MUSIC

SINGER'S FACE MASKS

HELP MUSICIANS

CHARITY GREETINGS

CARDS 

MUSIC STORAGE BOXES:



Cardboard music storage boxes.
Please see our website
for sizes and prices.

www.banksmusicpublications.co.uk



LYNOAKES CHOIR UNIFORMS

Measuring
& Fitting
Service
Across the UK

Unique
Designs for
Gentlemen &
Ladies

Proud to use
British Cloths,
Linings
& Quality Trims

Personalisation
Options with
your Logo, Crest,
Choir Colours



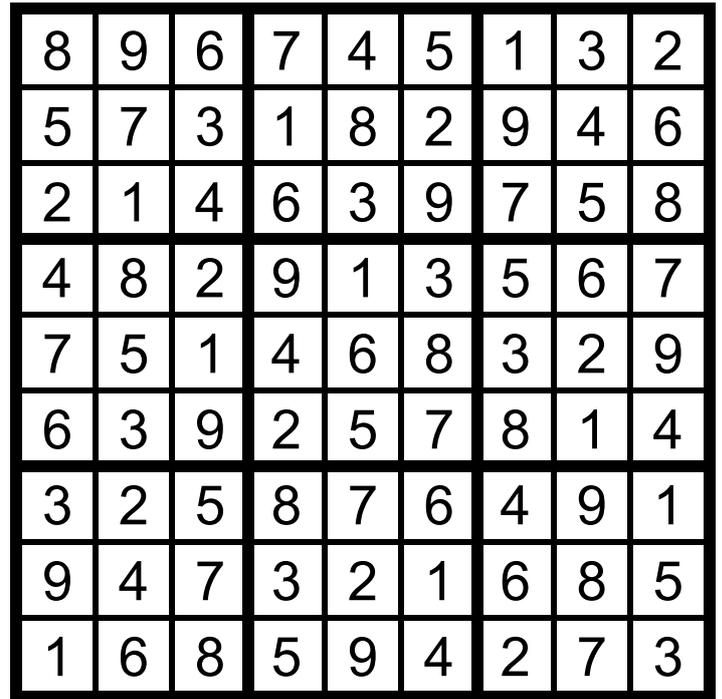
We are established suppliers of quality clothing for choirs and bands. We have a vast selection of styles, clothes, linings and trims to choose from; perfect for creating a unique look to define your choir. With a tailoring service working across the whole of the UK, we can measure and fit your uniforms so it is perfect for performances and competitions. Add a personalised touch with your branding embroidered, or incorporate an accent colour.

Feel free to find out more by contacting us.

sales@lynoakes.co.uk

0 1 2 9 9 8 2 7 3 6 0

www.lynoakes.co.uk



HOW I LIKE TO RECEIVE ARTICLES

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

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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

Many of our contributors love to show their prowess by sending in wonderful finished articles with **coloured** headlines, five different fonts and many underlinings, *italics* and **bold** bits. Then, of course, I have to spend time taking them all out before I can set their article up the way you will see it in the magazine. I’m afraid I also have a thing about exclamation marks. I allow one per article. Anymore I remove.

KEEP IT SIMPLE!

PHOTOGRAPHS

Send me pictures as high resolution .jpegs of 1mb or more, minimum 300 dpi.

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 the NAC group your choir is in.
- Tell me who has written it.
- Write your article.
- 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.
- Please 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’

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

Registered Charity: 1014630

The Officers

Ronald Corp SSC OBE - *President*

Brenda Wilkinson

Chairman, Membership Officer

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

01530 411178

membership.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk
chairman@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Clive Lawton

Conference Co-ordinator

20 Arthur's Court, Stretton,
Burton on Trent DE13 0GS

01283 569677

conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Celia Johns

General Secretary

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

01733 840370

general.secretary@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Bob Swallow

Publications Officer

8 Charles Avenue, Laceby,
Grimsby DN37 7HA

01472 500130

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Paul Gailunas

Treasurer

25 Hedley Terrace, Gosforth,
Newcastle NE3 1DP

0191 285 0654

treasurer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

John Croft

Services Officer & Public Relations Officer

15 Glendale, The Bayle,
Folkestone, Kent CT20 1SH

01303 240345

services.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk
pro@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Karl Harper

Music Review Officer

67 Woodville Road, Overseal
Derbyshire DE12 6LU

01283 760354

07976 548969

music.reviews@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Pete Carlyon

Webmaster

136 New Bristol Road,
Weston super Mare BS22 6AY

01934 513320

webmaster@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

Officer Meetings

Most Officer Meetings will be held using Zoom

1 & 3 April 2022 at Kendal hotel

7 June 13 September 15 November

10 January 2023

Members Open Forums

Sunday 3 April 2022 at Kendal hotel

Saturday 25 June 2022 venue to be advised

Saturday 24 September 2022 venue possibly Glasgow

Saturday 28 January 2023 (Zoom)

Vice Presidents

Bob Barratt - *Music Publisher*

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

Gerald Haigh - *ret Chairman*

Peter Marshall - *ret Services Officer*

Alan Simmons - *Music Publisher*

Doris Williams - *Music and Festivals Consultant*

Closing dates for submissions to News & Views

Spring Issue - 31 December

Summer Issue - 30 April

Autumn Issue - 31 August