

NEWS & VIEWS

199

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

AUTUMN 2012

MARILYN SMITH MBE
The Presentation at Holyrood

At Last

A Cryptic Crossword

Donaghadee MVC

80th Anniversary

CONFERENCE 2013

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3 articles from our members





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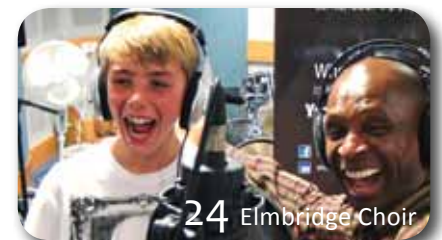


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Last date for submissions for Issue 200
Spring 2012 - 31 December
On your doorstep by 1 February

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Crawford's Corner



As I write these notes the sun is shining but it is not as warm as it has been recently. Andy Murray has just won his first Grand

Slam tournament and the excitement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is beginning to subside. Life is returning to normality and Autumn is making its presence felt.

Let's not get maudlin, there is a great deal to be excited about in this issue of News & Views. Have you noticed the new cover? I've been looking for ideas to

update it for a while now. I went looking for magazine covers on line and was quite impressed by 'Vogue' and 'Glamour' and I don't mean the ladies on the covers. I mean the general idea of having a full size photograph and then advertising what's in the magazine down the side.

Of course the Officers had a good chuckle when they heard where I got the idea from but I think they liked the style.

What do you think?

The next issue of News & Views is number 200 and I have been involved since number 188. I think I have moved the magazine on during that time.

My thought now is that it might be an idea to look at the name, News & Views. Is it a bit last century? Could we come up with a better, more modern title? I discussed it with the Officers and have been given permission to explore this further. I decided to hold off on this until after issue 200. I may ask you to come up with a new name. I may even make a competition out of it, with a valuable prize.

What do you think?

Anyway, enjoy this issue.

Crawford

Chairman's Chat



What a wonderful summer this has been! The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Olympics and Paralympics – I have spent my time glued to the television watching happy people doing happy things and being very proud to be British. Wherein I totally agree with them.

Happy things of course include the music we have heard. Who can forget the poor drowned rats on the orchestral barge in the Thames Jubilee procession, valiantly standing on the top deck drenched to the skin, but singing away and looking as though they were enjoying themselves? Then we had the pleasure of the children's choirs singing in the opening ceremony of the Olympics, and an NAC choir in the middle of it all (London Welsh MVC). And finishing up with the wonderful Elin Manahan Thomas' voice soaring into the stratosphere at the closing of the Paralympics. I'm pleased to see that there are some items in the magazine about the Olympics, and people getting involved. I am sure that many more choirs across the country were at Torch relay events – my own choir was represented at one such event – but of course if we all put pen to paper about our involvement we would have an entire magazine just on the one subject.

Having said that, please do not take my comment to mean that you shouldn't send in write-ups for past events and publicity for upcoming concerts. Crawford is always looking for items from our member choirs, and I know he would rather have too much for a particular issue than too little. Please remember that (at the time of writing) there are 581 choirs in NAC membership, and the other 580 want to

know what YOU have been doing, and what YOU have planned for the future. Can I also point out Crawford's plea for feedback on the new cover for the magazine, and any ideas you may have for a possible new name for News & Views. I will forego my usual roam round the items in the magazine this time, as there are a few things I want to bring to your attention:

Does your choir have adequate insurance? The issue of public liability is one which can lead choirs into deep problems in all innocence. Did you know that if you arrange (for instance) a social event where the choir members are present, you are covered by your choir insurance even if you are not singing? Speak to our Insurance Provider, TIP, if you are in any doubt.

If your choir is a Registered Charity, you need to be aware that the Charity Commission has brought the Charity Act 2006 and its various amendments into a new statute, the Charity Act 2011. As this drastically amends what is defined as Public Benefit, it would be wise if your Trustees made themselves aware of the statute.

If you work with children or vulnerable adults, you should know that from 10 September 2012 there are new definitions of regulated activity. Some of these changes are quite far-reaching.

I am pleased to say that the NAC has set up communications with the Schools Music Association, with a view to working much more closely together in the future. As you will realise, average ages of our choir members are by and large increasing year on year, and we have to do something to encourage younger singers to join us. We are looking to encourage closer working between school choirs and local adult choirs, so that young people come to realise the natural progression of their singing, rather than leaving school and dropping choral singing until later in life when they eventually return to it.

I hate to say it, as it's currently September, but I hope you have a very Happy Christmas and a pleasant and prosperous New Year! Enjoy all your carol concerts and have a wonderful time.

Celia Johns

From the President



We have had a fairly busy time starting in July where we did a joint concert with Vancouver Male Voice Choir in Burton Town Hall to a full house. They were on their way to the Olympics.

On Saturday 30 July we were invited to a joint concert with the Wolverhampton Orpheus Choir and Luton Male Voice Choir and at the interval we went outside the church to sing as the Torch procession went by the Church in Wolverhampton.

On 3 July we attended a concert by a choir from Detroit at Barton under Needwood Church.

They often come over to this area and stay over in the local community

Gresley MVC had 3 days in Cornwall where we sang in Truro Cathedral and in a joint Concert with Marazion Apollo MVC In St Mary's Church Penzance.

Our Group meeting was on Saturday 8 September and on Sunday 23 September we are invited to the Bestwood MVC Diamond Jubilee Concert in the Albert Hall Nottingham to represent our Group and the NAC as President.

Eric Jackson

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

OCTOBER 2012

Festival Concert with Leyland Band Sat 6 Oct 2012

Venue: **Chester Cathedral**
The City of Chester Male Voice Choir
Festival Concert with Leyland Band who
are Brass in Concert Champions 2011

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

The Forest Singers 40th Anniversary Concert Sat 13 Oct 2012 at 7:00

Venue: **The Baptist Church, Chesterfield
Road, Mansfield**
A celebration concert with guests
The Huthwaite Silver Band.
Tickets £5 under 16s £2.50
including refreshments.

Enquiries: Audreybarnes@ntlworld.com
01623 408270

Hull Male Voice Choir in Concert Saturday 20 October at 7.30

Venue: **Brough Methodist Church**
A fund raising event being organised
by the local RAF Air Cadets who will
participate in the form of drumming and
some drill - a concert with a difference
to provide finance towards purchasing
kit for the cadets' own marching band
- at present, they are only able to
perform on borrowed instruments.
Tickets £5 each (including
refreshments)

01482 662122.

Thames South Group Workshop Saturday 27 October

Venue: **Our Lady of the Angel's Church,**
Bexley Road, Erith, Kent, DA8 3HQ
10.00-4.00 Run by Paul Robinson, MD
of Gillingham MVC. All voices welcome
£5 for NAC members, £10 non-NAC. For
more details call Jacky on 01903 238792

NOVEMBER 2012

Mozart Requiem Workshop Saturday 17th November

Venue - TBC.
Run by Helen Emery, MD of The Rowland
Singers, Worthing 2.00 workshop, 6.30
performance
£10 (£5 RS members), For more details
call Helen 01903 238792

DECEMBER 2012

Sounds of Christmas The Hull Male Voice Choir Friday 7th December at 7.30

Venue: The Guildhall, Hull
Guest Artists The Hull Youth Choir.
Reuben Hird on 01482 656869 for ticket
details and other information.

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

Venue: **Vienna**
9 – 11 October 2011, the Second World Choral
Festival of Adults and Seniors was once again
successfully held in Vienna. The cultural
diversity of the Choirs, the abundance of
songs, and the traditional costumes, which
were presented on stage, enchanted the
Viennese audience. The Choirs performed in
well known Viennese institutions, such as the
Austria Center, St. Peter's Church, Steinhof
and in the famous Golden Hall of the Vienna
Musikverein. Since its premiere in 2010, the
Festival is under the patronage of Dr. Michael
Häupl, the Mayor of Vienna.

The Festival is a platform for intercultural
exchange between choir members of advanced
age. As a new concept of musical exchange,
the Festival aims to give a new path. For the
participants of the Festival, the City of Vienna
turns into a giant stage first time. The World
Capital of Music let the choir members not only
feel its charm from a perspective of audience, but
give them the chance to turn the whole City into
their own stage.

Besides the slogan 'Music is our life', community
and new friendships form the most important
part of the Festival. Under the artistic instruction
of Prof Walter Zeh, who was a member of the
board of directors of the Vienna State Opera for
many years, the choirs have jointly rehearsed

carefully selected songs and performed on stage.

The Festival is supported by the Austrian Choir
Association, the Organization for Promoting
the Austrian-Chinese Relations, CCTV (Chinese
National Television), Eurovision, the Confucius
Institute at the University of Vienna, Uniart
Media (ICT Management GmbH) etc.

The 3rd World Choral Festival of Adults and
Seniors will take place from the 3rd-5th
of December 2012. Further information is
available under www.allchoir.com or senior-festival@hotmail.com.

The Rowland Singers' Carol Concert Thursday 20th December

Venue: **The Assembly Hall,** Stoke Abbott
Road, Worthing, 7.30 Featured soloists The
Nick Reynolds Christmas Jazz Trio Fun for
all the family.
Tickets: Adult £9, Child £3. Available from
Helen 01903 238792

MAY 2013

Cornwall International MVC Festival Thu 2 to Mon 6 May 2013

Venue: **Truro and other venues in Cornwall**
Administration and organisation is carried
out by Festival Director, Peter Davies, 47
Deeping St James Road, Northborough,
Peterborough. Cambs. PE6 9BT
01778 347381.

peter@cimvcf.org.uk

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

JUNE 2013

Musica Sacra Bratislava Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 June 2013

Venue: **Bratislava, Slovakia**
Deadline for sending in applications for
the festival is 1 March 2013

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

Thames South Group's 3rd Joint Concert Saturday 22nd June 2013

Venue: **The Central Theatre,** Chatham,
7.00
Five choirs from the region join together
for another spectacular evening of choral
singing. More details to follow.

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir Northern Ireland

Based in the picturesque seaside resort of Donaghadee in County Down, Northern Ireland, the Donaghadee Male Voice Choir celebrates its 80th Anniversary this year.



In the early 1920s Donaghadee had a thriving Choral Society which gave numerous performances locally. The Society disbanded towards the end of the decade but a few of the men continued to give recitals at church services. They sang at the 1931 Harvest Service in Shore Street Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee, when the then organist Jim Savage suggested that this group should seek more members and form a male voice choir. In 1932 thirty potential members were identified and the Donaghadee Male Voice Choir was duly formed with Jim Savage as conductor.

Finding a place to practise caused problems for the choir and, during the pre-war years, they used a number of different rooms in the town including a school classroom, a hotel, a local manse, an army cadet hut, and even a room above a café. The availability of a piano at practice was a luxury. It was not until 1982 that the choir had a permanent home in a disused telephone exchange in the town. From the beginning, Jim Savage believed that the discipline necessary to succeed in competition was an important factor in improving the choir's performance and the choir duly entered local musical festivals up to the outbreak of war and achieved encouraging success in gaining several second places.

In the early forties, with membership now much reduced by the demands of war, the choir struggled for survival. Practices were held whenever possible. Jim Savage had taken up another appointment and several temporary conductors were in post during this time, including the wife of the local Methodist Minister. An American Army unit was stationed in the town, and for a while numbers at practice were augmented by the presence of a few interested US Marines.

In November 1948 Val Smiley agreed to take over the duties of conductor and once again the choir undertook many church engagements while preparing for Festival

competition. In 1950 the choir gained 1st place at the local Holywood Music Festival and a prize of £5. The strength and popularity of male voice singing at this time is reflected in the entry of 10 male voice choirs from Northern Ireland competing at festivals.

Val Smiley emigrated to Canada in 1951, and up to 1968 he was succeeded as conductor by Norman Gamble, Walter Wood, Ernie Brown and then Cecil Thompson.

In 1968 the committee appointed Robert Wilson as their new Musical Director. At his first practice there were 18 members present. Robert immediately instilled a new enthusiasm in choir members and within 6 weeks the number had grown to 38. Today there are almost 80 members in Donaghadee Male Voice Choir, making it easily the biggest male voice choir in the island of Ireland.

One of Robert's first tasks was to maintain and improve the choir's success at music festivals and within six months of his appointment he guided the choir to success in the 1969 Belfast Music Festival. This was the start of the choir's illustrious period of accomplishments as they went on to win an amazing total of 40 first places over the 1970-2006 period at festivals in Morecambe, Whitby, Cheltenham, Chester, Wharfedale, Cork and New Ross in addition to the local festivals of Belfast, Carrickfergus, Portadown, Bangor, Portstewart and Coleraine. It should be remembered that this success came about as a result of the dedication and commitment of the members and the Musical Director during 'the troubles', the most unsettled time in Northern Ireland's history. That the choir continued to expand in both success and numbers over this period is a remarkable achievement.

One of Robert's goals for the choir during this period was to compete in Festivals in mainland UK. The choir won the Morecambe Festival in 1970; the Eskdale Festival of Song at Whitby in 1972 and again in 1973; Wharfedale Musical Festival in 1978; the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1980 and again in 1990; and the Chester Choral Festival in 1996.

Participation in The National Male Voice Choir Championships in Huddersfield in 1992 and 1993 was a learning experience for the choir where the adjudicators were placed in a 'box' and unable to either see or identify each performing choir. Another ambition was realised when the choir's application to enter the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen was accepted in 1991. The choir returned to compete in Llangollen in 1997 and 1999.

In May 2009 the choir took part in the

Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival where there was a magnificently organised competition and series of concerts for participating choirs. This was followed by a return to Eskdale In April 2010 for the Festival of Song competition.

Another of Robert's goals was to undertake a concert tour further afield. In 1987 the choir traveled to Georgia and South Carolina for a two week tour of twenty eight public performances. They were proclaimed Honorary Citizens of Georgia by the State Governor in recognition of outstanding achievement in the music field, and were also presented with the Ceremonial Key to the City of Columbia, the State Capital of Carolina, by the City's Mayor. The choir returned to Georgia in 1989, 1995 and again in 2005. In addition to these USA tours the choir visited Ontario, Canada in 1998 and 2000 for extensive concert tours.

In between these festivals and USA/Canada tours the choir competed in several overseas Music Festivals. In 1981 the choir took part in the XIV International Choral Festival in Varna, Bulgaria; the Malta International Choral Festival in 1992 and 2002; the Athens International Choir and Lyric Soloist Festival in 2007; and the Lake Garda Music Festival in 2010. More recently the choir has returned from the Krakow International Choir Festival in June 2012.

In 2008 the choir visited New York and had the privilege of performing in Carnegie Hall, New York and singing in St Patrick's Cathedral.



Robert is now commencing his 45th year as Musical Director. His dedication is undiminished, his vision for the future of the choir is without equal and he remains THE inspirational driving force, striving for the excellence which continues to take the choir to greater heights and further horizons. In 2008 Robert was awarded the MBE for services to music.

Over the years Donaghadee Male Voice Choir has established strong links with choirs from Yorkshire. The Retford Male Voice Choir, and their conductor the late

Michael Bullars, came to the North Down Music Festival in 1978. The 'Dee Choir reciprocated in 1979 with a visit to Retford and so began a series of exchange visits over the subsequent years. During these Yorkshire visits contact was established with South Yorkshire choirs, including Thurnscoe Harmonic Male Voice Choir who, as a result, came to N Ireland in 1991 for a short concert tour. A strong friendship has since been established between Donaghadee and Barnburgh Village Singers, formed and conducted by Michael Bullars' widow, Julia. The two choirs currently undertake very successful exchange concert tours on a bi-annual basis.

Ivan Black, a very versatile and accomplished musician in his own right, has been the choir's accompanist for the last 20 years. Ivan made his first public appearance at the age of 5, made his professional debut at the age of 11, and has been working as a freelance multi-instrumentalist, composer, conductor and adjudicator ever since.

The breadth of his performing experience is considerable. He has played the clarinet with the Northern Ireland Light Orchestra; the saxophone with the Humphrey Lyttleton Jazz Band, the piano with the Ulster Orchestra (most recently in Friday Night is Music Night) and features in many recordings of all kinds of music, including Jazz, Country and Western, Gospel and has

three solo albums to his credit. He is also a featured saxophonist in the chart-topping 'Jive Bunny' album.

Much of his composing is for the BBC and includes writing signature tunes and background music for programmes. His 'Irish Rhapsody' for accordion orchestra has been published by Hohner. If you go to the Ulster Folk Museum, visit the cinema there where you will hear specially commissioned piano music in the period style to accompany the Charlie Chaplin Films.

Ivan is widely experienced as an examiner and adjudicator. He was a chief examiner for CSE music in Northern Ireland, and examined both O and A level music for that board. He is the only British adjudicator ever to officiate at the Coupe Mondiale and he has regularly adjudicated at the National Accordion Orchestra (NAO) championships and at vocal and instrumental classes at festivals throughout Britain. He has recently examined final year degree students for the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir has come a long way and travelled a long way and achieved many honours since its early days in Shore Street Presbyterian Church and this could not have come about without devoted service and leadership, and it could not have continued through the darkest days of Northern Ireland's recent history

without men of vision, determination and personality within the organization. Not only has the choir sought the highest standards in music over the past 80 years, it has also maintained a close rapport with the people of its home town, and today Donaghadee and Northern Ireland is justly proud of its famous choir.

This is summed up in a message from Lady Sylvia Hermon MP, President of Donaghadee Male Voice Choir:

'Throughout the past 80 years, there has been no greater ambassador for Donaghadee and Northern Ireland than the town's internationally renowned Male Voice Choir. It is truly hard to believe Donaghadee Male Voice Choir had its origins 80 years ago and I have no doubt its founders, if alive today, would be immensely proud of the magnificent choral tradition it has maintained throughout its illustrious history.

As Member of Parliament for North Down, I am immensely proud of the Donaghadee Male Voice Choir and wish its members my heartiest congratulations upon achieving this remarkable milestone in its distinguished history.'

Michael Pritchard

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Letter from NAC in Oz

The days are getting longer, the sun is getting warmer, the birds are nesting – it must be Spring. It's a welcome relief after what seems to have been a cold miserable winter. Everything is relative, of course, and our winters are nothing like those experienced in the UK and the rest of Europe. However to us they seem cold! The weather over the winter has led to bumper growth of vegetation in the bush and a bad fire season is being predicted. Indeed as I write this I can see a plume of smoke from a bushfire. This is very early in the year but is probably what they call a controlled burn to clear the under-storey of inflammable material. Unfortunately all controlled burns are not controlled. A sudden wind change can prove disastrous.

However enough about the weather! The Sydney Male Choir is almost at the end of a full programme of events. Since my last epistle we have performed in eight concerts and in addition have had several recording sessions with a view to issuing a new CD in time for our Annual City of Sydney concert at the end of September. In addition the choir was invited to sing at the War Memorial in our capital city, Canberra, to mark the 70 anniversary of the sinking of the HMAS Canberra in the Battle of Savo Island in August 1942. Serving on the ship and lost during the sinking was the son of Horace Keats and he wrote several pieces of music to commemorate this. The pieces have recently been arranged for male voices by Brennan Keats and with words by Herbert Brandon form a suite of four songs. See picture of the choir at the War Memorial. The choir also sang this suite of songs at the Portrait Gallery of Australia in Canberra.



We are working hard to hone our performance for the Annual City of Sydney concert where we will be showcasing many of the items we will sing on our visit to France and England next year, our centenary year. This involves some songs in French and we are lucky to have a

French speaking choir member to help us change those Aussie vowels to as close an approximation to French as we can get!

Our itinerary for the tour next year is virtually complete and if you are interested in seeing where we will be it is shown on our website - <http://sydneymalechoir.com.au/touritinerary.html> You will be able to see where we are going to perform and which choirs we will be joining in concert.

As always if you wish to contact me please do so

petefig@optusnet.com.au

I always look forward to contact from the UK.

Peter Marshall 

New Mill Male Voice Choir Yorkshire West

The choir is 21 years old in November and we have written a book in celebration. Here is some background on purpose and content and information on how you can buy it.

New Mill Male Voice Choir has a tradition of writing, so the 21st Birthday seemed the ideal opportunity to review this writing in some sort of choir history. We were not tempted to write a formal date-to-date account, rather, we chose a series of moments that illustrate choir development. Whilst the approach may seem to lurch from rehearsal to concert to tour, it nevertheless reflects the real life of a choir; a background of relative peace interspersed from time to time with short sharp bursts of action.

The book, entitled 'Let All Men Sing', contains pieces on the following themes:

There are as many reasons for joining a choir as there are members. An affinity with music is a good start. Some singers enjoy a weekly two hours away from day-



to-day pressure in the company of men who sing. Others thrive on the company and the camaraderie that spills over into social activities like cycling, crown-green bowling, clay-pigeon shooting and trips to the brewery.

Whatever their starting ability and confidence, most singers improve and want to keep improving, striving for their personal best. These private meanings find their ultimate expression during rehearsal weekends away in Llandudno or Scarborough. Our professionals also have their thoughts and feelings.

The short sharp bursts of action are the concerts where we entertain in public. Some are free, but many are not and attracting a paying audience can focus the mind. Receipts may go to local projects, charities or fund-raising for other choirs and musical ensembles. Our programme peaks at the Huddersfield Town Hall when we share the stage with a high profile guest (Willard White, Aled Jones, Morrision Male Orpheus Choir, Julian Lloyd-Webber, Alison Balsom). Singers, conductor and pianist are all on their musical mettle and the choir and supporters alike work hard to ensure a commercial success.

Touring (Italy, Catalonia, Czech Republic, Poland) combines the best of the personal and the public, and we and our supporters also get to go on holiday.

We were not a competition choir until 2009 when we became South Yorkshire Champions at the Don Valley Festival held at the Elsecar Heritage Centre, near Barnsley. We repeated the success in 2010 and came second in 2011. Performing with others helps to measure development, but being judged by a professional adjudicator is something else.

The next 21 years is a crystal ball moment, combining the current trends in music, choral singing and male voice choirs with a best guess as to where New Mill might next develop.

The book is published in October 2012 and can be ordered 01484 683196

shalliley@btinternet.com

or from D Walker (book editor), 30 Victoria Springs, Holmfirth HD9 2NB.

David Walker

Hull Male Voice Choir Yorkshire East

OBITUARY – *Phil Ashworth (10 October 1932-25 April 2012)*



Phil Ashworth enjoys the concert

It will be recalled that Phil Ashworth – then Chairman of the Hull Male Voice Choir – wrote an article ‘O Ye of Little Faith’ in the Summer 2012 Edition of *News and Views* recalling some of the financial aspects of promoting a one-off prestigious, and potentially expensive concert *Sounds of Celebration* that took place in October 2011 to celebrate the Centenary of Hull Male Voice Choir, and the concert became an outstanding success.

Around the time of the concert, Phil had complained of feeling ‘off-colour’ and not fit enough to sing with the Mass Male Voice Choir at the concert, but few of us realised just how serious Phil’s ‘off colour’ feeling was to become that prevented him from singing in the choir on that memorable occasion. Despite all this, Phil carried out his Front of House administration role, and in particular to welcome the many VIPs with his usual military precision to which we had all become accustomed.

After participating in subsequent concerts, including one in February 2012 when he sang two solo items, and attending a NAC Steering Group Meeting, Phil was taken ill and shortly afterwards to our great shock he announced that his end was nigh as he had been diagnosed with a cancer that had attacked his vital organs and it was very unlikely that he would come out of hospital. With further military precision, Phil summoned Choir Secretary Reuben Hird to his bedside, being told to take pen and paper. Little did Reuben know that he was to be asked to take note of the funeral arrangements required by Phil which were bravely outlined.

Very sadly, on 25 April 2012, Phil passed away, having been a Choir Chairman of outstanding commitment. He had influenced greatly the support for my idea to stage the *Sounds of Celebration* concert to celebrate the centenary of the choir - this against much pessimism and concern that its failure could bankrupt the choir. But they need not have worried because as outlined in Phil’s article, after the essential precision planning, a very substantial sum of money was raised for charity and Hull City Hall was filled to capacity for the concert which was a rare occurrence, even for concerts promoted by professional artists, we were told!

On 30 April 2012 the Hull Male Voice Choir fulfilled the wishes of its late Chairman and attended Phil’s funeral to sing his requested item *Gwahoddiaid* and to lead the singing of the three hymns carefully chosen by Phil for his Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for his life. One can only think that Phil bravely fought his cancer over those final days with the great comfort of the immortal words that are contained within *Gwahoddiaid*: ‘I hear thy welcome voice, that calls me Lord to thee!’

Phil must rank amongst the top chairman of Hull Male Voice Choir for his great enthusiasm, persuasion, experience and commitment to the choir: he had worked very hard indeed with great conscientiousness at all times to promote the aims and expansion of the choir and was greatly admired by all. He will be greatly missed for many years to come as he most certainly made his mark. I definitely owe a lot of gratitude to Phil for all the support he gave me because the great success of *Sounds of Celebration* can very much be attributed to the influence that Phil had in supporting my idea – he was most certainly not amongst those that were seen to be ‘O Ye of Little Faith’ but prepared to be positive and optimistic, meticulous in planning and

clear in his belief that if you have a dream - then follow it. Thankfully, we did, and Phil left us all on a high note !

Terry Wallis
*Assistant Musical Director and
Public Relations Officer*

Viva Musica Midlands West

Since its formation in 1989, Viva Musica has established itself as one of the leading choirs in the West Midlands. With over 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.

Based in Dudley, the membership of the choir includes many singers who had already established themselves in the surrounding rich musical heritage of the area in church choirs, light opera, Gilbert and Sullivan and other musical companies. Their common interests are to enjoy the challenge of adding new works to their extensive repertoire, to raise money for local charities, but above all to enjoy themselves through the medium of song.

Viva Sing with Alfie Boe

Viva Musica’s concert at the Dudley Concert Hall on Saturday 19 May was a complete sell out. It was a fantastic evening, with our extra-special guest Alfie Boe, and raised £1000 for Viva’s charity, Mary Stevens Hospice in Old Swinford.

It was an incredible experience and, hopefully, we will be asking another high profile celebrity to join us in the not too distant future.

Sharon Hopkins



Alfie Boe with MD and Accompanist

The Drybrook & District Male Voice Choir South West

The choir continues to sing at various venues around the Forest of Dean area and beyond and though their numbers are not as high as they were in former years, the choir continues to meet in their own choir room in Drybrook, Gloucestershire every Wednesday evening for rehearsals.

Under the musical directorship of Sarah Waycott, a most competent flautist in her own right, the choir has enjoyed singing at some wonderful venues, with other choirs and before some most appreciative audiences. Although the choir is slightly smaller than days gone by, the quality and dedication remains the same.

Saturday 26 May was a special occasion for one member of the choir, when a surprise presentation was made to Sam Marfell, one of the choir's longest serving members. As a top tenor, Sam has been a member of the choir for 50 years and the choir committee, knowing Sam's 'reluctance for any fuss', used a social evening in the form of a skittles evening, to make certain Sam was present. The evening was a great



success, with the ladies of the local skittle team providing excellent refreshments and the Male Voice Choir providing excellent prizes for the raffle. Sam was presented with an engraved watch by the Chairman, John Rogers and Sam's wife Anne received a bouquet of flowers from the choir's Librarian/Registrar, Charlayne Matthews. Members and friends shared a great supper together, including a special cake made for Sam. It was a memorable night.

David Wilson
Choir Secretary.

Gresley Male Voice Choir Midlands East

Cornwall Tour 2012

The choir travelled to Cornwall this year for a four day tour at the invitation of Marazion Apollo Men's Choir. This stemmed from family connections between one of our members and the deputy conductor of the Marazion choir. The concert was staged at St Mary's Church in Penzance to a packed audience. Both choirs enjoyed the occasion and the reception provided afterwards in the local hostelry where Cornish pasties were in abundance. Gresley wish to thank Marazion for a memorable and enjoyable visit and hope that they will return the compliment in the near future and travel to the Midlands when we will be delighted to act as their hosts.

We were also fortunate in being allowed to perform a lunchtime concert in the beautiful cathedral in Truro. Our thanks must be extended to the administrator of the cathedral for allowing us this privilege. Performing in such buildings is a highlight of any tour.

Finding accommodation large enough to

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Photographs of Birmingham Town Hall taken by Mike Gutteridge and Adam Fradgley.



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Aled Jones

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cater for ninety choristers and guests can be a problem and even more so when the destination is in demand for holiday makers and in July. We consider ourselves very fortunate in choosing the Falmouth Hotel as our base. The hotel has seventy one rooms and a spacious lounge and dining room, both overlooking Falmouth Bay. What I would like recommend to you all about this hotel is the professionalism of the staff. From the moment we decided to approach them we were impressed by their attention to detail when dealing with a large party. The food was excellent and the appointments of the hotel very comfortable. Being a short walk into Falmouth, the location was ideal. We were asked by the staff to perform a concert in the hotel ballroom which proved very successful, drawing a packed audience from the local area. I would have no hesitation in recommending this hotel to any choir considering a tour to Cornwall. We have used many hotels both in this country and abroad and would say it ranks with the best. The contact person at the hotel is Anna Beard (Revenue Manager)

Clive Lawton

Midlands East Group

After many years of annual concerts which celebrated the achievements of the Midlands East Group choirs, in 2012 it was decided to move the game plan forward with a joint concert of five choirs This was performed in the Darwin Suite, Derby on Sunday 13 May in order to raise money for the Sunshine Deck appeal at the Royal Derby Hospital.

Three choirs volunteered to form a committee so members of the Sonara Singers, Eastwood Collieries Male Voice Choir and Rolls Royce Ladies met under the chairmanship of Liz Moulder, to produce an event which would hopefully raise a generous sum of money to donate to such a worthy cause. They were joined by the Derby Constabulary Male Voice Choir and Greasley Singers to produce a memorable evening of music making which reflected the many genres of choral singing which these choirs perform so well.

The evening was supported a large audience and attended by the NAC President Eric Jackson, Chairman Celia Johns, General Secretary Lord James Ferrabee and Membership Officer Brenda Wilkinson. With such support from our national committee how could the evening not be a success?

Joined by Julie Chapman, Charitable Funds and Community Fund Manager of the Derby Hospitals Charity at both committee stage and on the evening of the concert, we were delighted to hand over a cheque for £2,046.



This included money raised from a highly successful raffle with a specially designed cake which depicted the Sunshine Deck. This was won by Julie herself and was donated to the children's ward where it was enjoyed by patients and staff alike!

The committee would like to thank all involved for their support, the donated raffle prizes and the staff at the Darwin Suite for their help on the night. Hopefully, this format can be replicated in the future.

Liz Moulder

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Bestwood Male Voice Choir Midlands East

A 'Wunderbar' exchange visit to Rotenburg in Germany

Bestwood Male Voice Choir has just returned from a superbly successful 6 day cultural exchange visit to Rotenburg, in Germany, from the 16 to 21 May. Forty-two members of the choir, plus wives and partners, enjoyed a rich mixture of food, fun, fellowship and much singing, in both English and German! Included in the party were four widows of former choir members, who had previously visited Rotenburg in 2007. The visit was organised and supported under the auspices of the Gedling/Rotenburg twinning arrangement.



Thursday, our first full day in Rotenburg, began with an invitation to an Ascension Day service in Stiftskirche, a beautiful red sandstone church in Rotenburg. The service formed part of the church festival, which included a barbecue and a variety of musical entertainment. Originally, Bestwood MVC was invited to sing inside the church after the service, but the sun shone so brightly and the large audience were so settled outside the church, that the choir quickly re-arranged plans and sang outside. The short 30 minute performance was greeted with enthusiastic response from the audience.

Friday morning saw the choir in the town hall for a civic reception hosted by the young, newly elected mayor, Christian Grunwald, who gave a very warm and moving welcome to the choir and partners. Following an extremely informative presentation, covering the long history of Rotenburg by town guide, Mrs Fleisschhut, and an exchange of gifts, the choir assembled for an official press photograph in front of the Town Hall steps before presenting a short 'Hello Rotenburg' concert.

Saturday evening was, for the majority of choir members, the highlight of our visit,

with the choir performing an early evening concert in Auferstehungskirche, another beautiful 'picture post card' church in the neighbouring town of Bebra. The concert, originally programmed to last one hour, extended to just over an hour and a half, finally ending with an encore which brought almost the entire audience to its feet. One choir member said it was the most memorable and appreciative audience he had experienced in over 30 years with the choir! It is true to say, that there were more than a few tears of emotion shed that evening, by both choir members and audience alike.

Jakobi Church, in Rotenburg market square, was the venue for the choir's last official performance. The choir opened the morning service by singing the Sanctus, from Schubert's 'German Mass', in both English and German, much to the delight of the locals and singing The Lord's Prayer towards the close of the service.

The climax to the visit was the Sunday evening Farewell Party, held in the newly built 'Burgerzentrum' in Rotenburg. Over 150 English visitors and German friends enjoyed an extremely emotional time of more food, drink, fellowship and singing, interspersed with goodwill speeches and votes of thanks. New friendships were made, old friendships strengthened and a true sense of a warm, sincere bond was experienced by all.

Add to this, optional excursions to the GDR-Border Museum, Merkers Salt Mine, a Mediaeval Banquet, a relaxed evening in Hollerbach's Beergarden (complete with large screen to view the Chelsea victory), Rotenburg Town Festival and it all added up to a truly magnificent and memorable visit.

Wunderbar!



Additional rehearsals are helping to step up the preparation for the Bestwood Male Voice Choir's Diamond Jubilee Concert on 23 September 2012 at the Albert Hall Nottingham.

Following on from singing the National Anthem on BBC's Radio 2 Royal Jubilee 'We are Sixty' programme on 3 June and singing in front of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, during the Queen's visit on 13 June, the choir is now rehearsing hard to fine tune their repertoire for the Diamond Jubilee Concert.

Special guests for the concert include BeVox, the truly inspirational and dynamic people's choir, with over 100 members and David Butterworth on the fabulous Binns Organ. The concert programme will climax with a joint item with Bestwood MVC, BeVox and the Binns Organ, which is guaranteed to 'lift the roof'!

Tickets are selling well, with over two thirds sold to date, so if you are interested in enjoying a really entertaining and uplifting evening, call the Box Office on 01623 484091. Adult tickets are £10, under 16 are £5 and Family tickets £25 (2 adults & 2 under 16).

Peter Fletcher
Vice Chair & Publicity Officer

AFFETSIDE CHOIR

We have a number of choral arrangements that we wish to sell.

All are for SATB and apart from one are all secular music compilations .

Interested? Mail me and I will forward list and prices to you.

Jacqui.sorfleet@fsmail.net.

I will post purchases but buyer pays postage.



85th Annual General Meeting 25th Annual Conference Weekend 19-21 April 2013

The National Association of Choirs is pleased to be able to announce details of its forthcoming National Conference for 2013. This year sees the continuation of the National Conference being open to all - non-members included!

The National Association of Choirs will be holding its National Conference at the beautiful Llyndir Hall Hotel. This magnificent country house hotel near Chester on the border of North Wales promises to provide an experience to remember. Set in 5 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, offering peace and tranquillity, with the backdrop of the glorious Welsh countryside and yet only minutes from the Roman city of Chester, the Llyndir Hall Hotel & Spa, North Wales is an ideal venue for our National Conference.

Inside the Llyndir Hall Hotel guests will find recently renovated elegant and classic decor, within spacious and comfortable rooms which command stunning views of the local area including the gardens. The hotel offers 48 deluxe bedrooms, a fabulously designed restaurant, bar and lounge, and a majestic ballroom, (the Llyndir Suite and conservatory) overlooking the Italian terrace and gardens. All of the bedrooms offer en-suite facilities in a variety of styles, equipped with satellite television and radio, hairdryers, trouser press and a hospitality tray,

combined with free Wi-Fi internet and an indoor heated swimming pool, gym and sauna facilities, (perfect for resting and unwinding after a day of workshops and seminars) the hotel is well equipped to look after you, our delegates. In the evening delegates can indulge in fine food, fine wine and beautiful views in a variety of comfortable communal rooms. The hotel has a relaxed atmosphere which is the perfect way to end a busy day of seminars and workshops.

The National Conference is undergoing some interesting changes this time and will feature as always our Headline Workshop Presenter, along with a variety of other seminars and workshops for you to benefit from and enjoy. Plans are almost completed and agreed but until then you'll just have to take our word for it.

There have been some major changes to the format as well for the 2013 National Conference which will be released early next year along with the exact timetable; keep watching this space for developments. This year the host Group will provide the entertainment on Saturday evening, the Wales North/Cheshire West NAC Group have everything in hand, a variety of choirs will entertain us at the fabulous William Aston Hall in Wrexham and so far it promises to be an exciting evening.

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

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

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

Make a date in your diaries and remember places are strictly limited and are sure to go fast!





National Association of Choirs

National Conference Booking Form 19 – 21 April 2013



The Llyndir Hall Hotel, Llyndir Lane, Rossett, Chester, LL12 0AY

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

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

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

Surname:.....

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

Address (Lead Name):.....

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

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

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

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

NAC Group:.....

Choir Name:.....

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

Total Payment Required/Submitted:

- Resident Delegates £70 per person **non-refundable** deposit due by **11 January, 2013**
- Day/Dinner Delegates **FULL non-refundable** payment per person required at time of booking

Receipt Required? Y N (Please enclose a SAE)

Amount Submitted: £.....

Balance outstanding is due by Friday 29 March 2013 please.
 You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by **Friday 29 March 2013.**
 (Cancellations will incur a fee of 50% of the total delegate fee payable).

No refunds will be given after Friday 15 February 2013; however substitute delegates will be welcome.

'FULLY INCLUSIVE CONFERENCE COSTS'

NAC Members

Room Requirements:-	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) Dinner, B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type.	Double	@ £160.00	@ £160.00	@ £90.00	= £00
Single delegates please be aware that a £20 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room.	Twin	@ £160.00	@ £160.00	@ £90.00	= £00
	Single	@ £93.00	@ £93.00	@ £45.00	= £00

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

NON NAC Members

Room Requirements:-	Night	Friday Dinner, B&B	Saturday Dinner, B&B	Sunday (optional) Dinner, B&B	Total Cost
Please enter number of rooms required of each room type.	Double	@ £180.00	@ £180.00	@ £100.00	= £00
Single delegates please be aware that a £20 per night supplement will apply and has already been added to the cost of each single room.	Twin	@ £180.00	@ £180.00	@ £100.00	= £00
	Single	@ £105.00	@ £105.00	@ £50.00	= £00

*Dinner for non-resident delegates including wine with your meal only	@ £37.50	= £00
**Saturday/Sunday non-resident delegates conference fee includes lunch and refreshments	@ £37.50	= £00

Please return your completed form and deposit to:

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

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



When the unexpected happens...

As a choir you may regard your risk exposure to be low but when the unexpected happens, experience tells us that claims arise from the most innocuous circumstances and that settlement involving injury payments and legal costs continue to be on the increase.

It is also worth bearing in mind that damage to venue fixtures and fittings, hired property or even the theft of your property at an event, may not be covered by the venues insurance.

The Insurance Partnership is a leading independent insurance broker experienced in offering bespoke covers for NAC choir Member and is able to meet your insurance needs with two comprehensive cover options.

Claim examples:

1. A Choir group used a local church for its rehearsals; they were accused of causing an electrical fault from their equipment which led to a fire and subsequently damage to church property.
2. During an overnight trip, a choir group locked its equipment in the van and spent the night at a hotel. During the night, the van doors were pried open and the choir equipment and contents of the van were stolen.

Solution:

A basic entry insurance package that includes essential aspects of cover - Public Liability up to £5,000,000, Employers' Liability for £10,000,000 and up to £1,000 cover for choir monies.

A second option extends protection to include choir property with a loss limit of £10,000 (no under-insurance or average clause) and personal accident cover for members to the same level.

For more information on how we can protect your group please contact:

Elaine Blakeston at The Insurance Partnership

Tel: 01482 388513

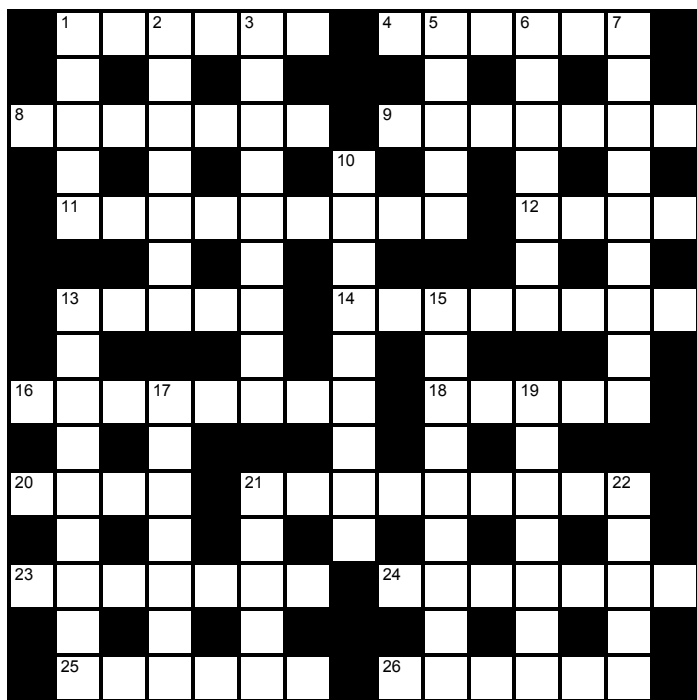
Email: elakeston@insurance-partnership.com

The Insurance Partnership, Partnership House, Priory Park East, Hull, HU4 7DY

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PUZZLE PAGE

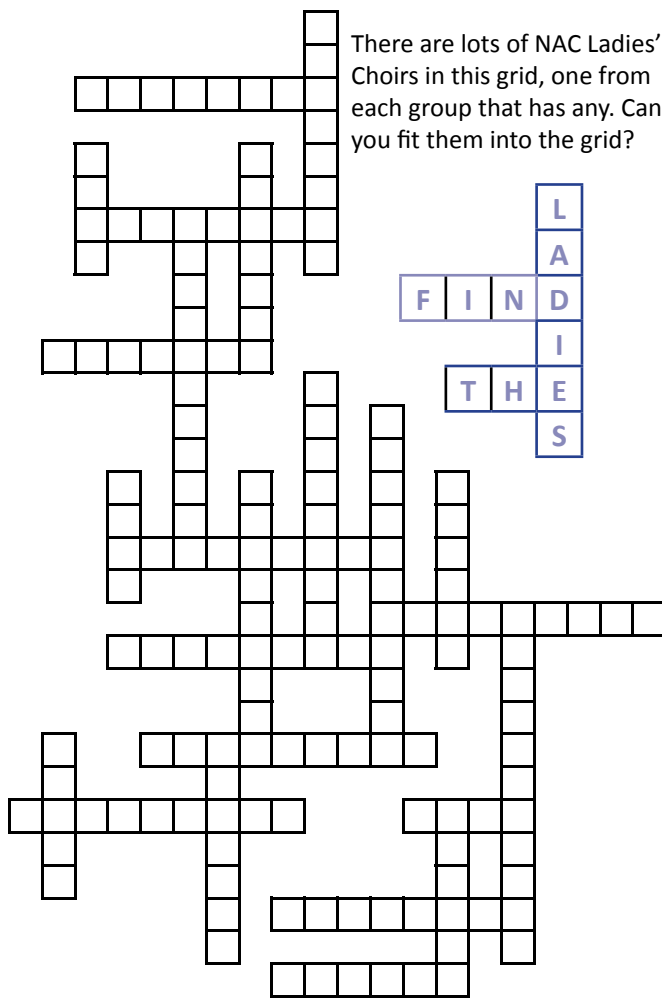
How about that? Here at last is the cryptic crossword I've been meaning to do for ages. Not only that but there are more puzzles to solve. Enjoy (or not as the case may be!)



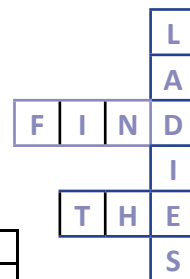
Across

Down

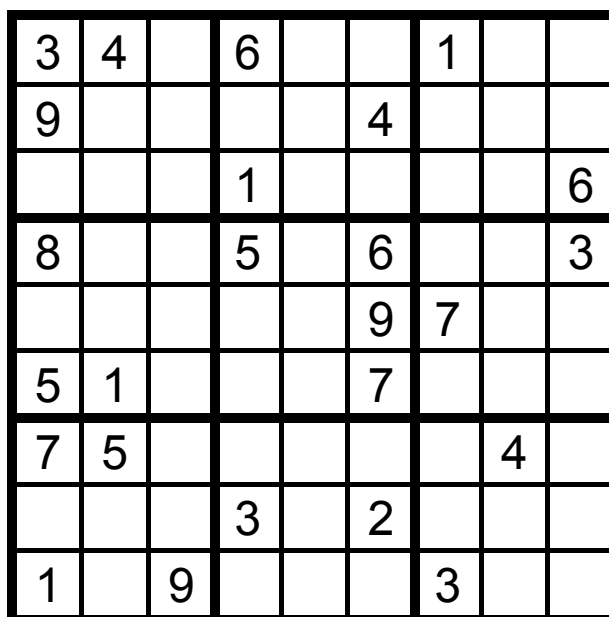
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 An old beetle points the vehicle at the sailor (6)</p> <p>4 Sunday before Advent? (4,2)</p> <p>8 That rap soon confused the singer (7)</p> <p>9 Sounded, like a thousand and two trainees in need. (7)</p> <p>11 Current mover, scan the canal for gold. (9)</p> <p>12 Deep swimmer? (4)</p> <p>13 Crude portion of amoeba sickens. (5)</p> <p>14 In the area, it seemed all icy to me. (8)</p> <p>16 Hornswoggle sure things for performances. (8)</p> <p>18 completely destroyed my dears, devastated. (5)</p> <p>20 A lot of ladies sound like that. (4)</p> <p>21 Sacred, point to the constant ceremony. (9)</p> <p>23 High Priest Alcimus, sadly, wasn't able to sing or play. (7)</p> <p>24 Only one Alfie Boe? (7)</p> <p>25 Headless hunting dogs still hunt. (6)</p> <p>26 Good but not best. (6)</p> | <p>1 Admitted patients to ICU, seemingly indifferent to pain. (5)</p> <p>2 Expressing opinions or raising obscure objections. (7)</p> <p>3 Widdecombe, the old lightweight, turns informer. (9)</p> <p>5 A tenner to the listener. (5)</p> <p>6 No sad balladeers befuddled, name them again. (7)</p> <p>7 Crush the stallion to fasten it. (5,4)</p> <p>10 A portion of the pasty list I cut and how I did it. (9)</p> <p>13 Damages books and paper. (9)</p> <p>15 Fickle Inca rover likes meat (9)</p> <p>17 Strangling Swiss oxygen ruler. (7)</p> <p>19 Not closed in? (4,3)</p> <p>21 Post a verse for music. (5)</p> <p>22 Deranged Earl's eyes have seen the light (5)</p> |
|--|---|



There are lots of NAC Ladies' Choirs in this grid, one from each group that has any. Can you fit them into the grid?



- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| AUBURN | COLLINGWOOD | HEARTBEAT | NELSON |
| BASINGSTOKE | COLMCILLE | HOLME | PENISTONE |
| BELCANTO | DAVIES | HULL | PENNINE |
| BLAENAVON | DRYBROOK | JADE | RIVIERA |
| BOUNDARY | ELIZABETHAN | LUDENSIAN | STEVENAGE |
| CANTARE | FIREFLIES | MABE | WULFRUNA |



Easy?

Puzzle solutions on page 27

Songbirds Choir Thames South

Songbirds have recently returned from a very successful first tour of the Isle of Wight.

This tour was originally suggested partly in jest, to the choir one Monday evening during rehearsal by Jo, our MD, as a fun weekend social at her mum's guest house. However, I don't think she was expecting the very exuberant reaction that this suggestion brought, with 20 members signing up almost immediately. A fair bit of planning was needed but eventually the date was set for 30 June and three performances were scheduled on the island.



Ferry tickets in hand and car sharing complete, 20 of us plus Jo and her husband Ollie, who 'volunteered' to be our technician for the weekend, set off for the Portsmouth to Fishbourne ferry. On arrival in Portsmouth our 'tour hoodies', complete with the Songbirds logo, were given out and we all wore them with pride.

We arrived at The Fernside Guesthouse in Sandown and were given a warm welcome by the owners Denise and Lawrie Davis. As part of our weekend experience we would be sleeping in shared rooms in bunk beds and we were then tasked with working out room sharing arrangements and who would be sleeping on the top or bottom bunks; such a simple task, or so you would have thought, however, for 20 women in a highly excitable state it caused copious amounts of giggling and reminiscing of times spent on school trips of the past.

Following a lovely lunch we departed for a performance at Arretton Barns Craft Village where we met, purely by coincidence, a couple who had a former assistance dog from Canine Partners which is one of our new charities for 2012/13. An hour of free time followed this performance, and due to the surprisingly good weather, a trip to the beach seemed to be appropriate,

made even better when Jo introduced the girls to her favourite ice cream shop and the little known treat of dipping the ice cream into hot chocolate sauce. This was certainly an experience not to be missed! A brisk walk along the beach for some and a trip to the pier for others concluded our free time and we returned to the guest house in time for a fish and chip dinner.

In the evening we enjoyed a really lovely performance at Shanklin Chine, where a book signing for a local author was being held, and once again the weather was kind to us. We received an amazing contribution to our charity funds from the owner of the Chine, who told us how much everyone had enjoyed our performance, as well as a Shanklin Chine Teddy, which has now become the Songbirds' mascot and given the name of Shanklin (very original, eh?). After our performance and with the beautiful late evening weather, we were able to enjoy a lovely walk up through the Chine, which really enhanced what had already been a fantastic evening for all of us.

Karaoke and socialising went on late into the night upon our return to the guest house, with most of the Songbirds finally making it up to bed around one in the morning.

An early breakfast on the Sunday morning followed by a performance at Robin Hill Park and a buffet lunch brought an end to what all agreed was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend and the decision has already been made to repeat it again next year.

As the end of the Summer Term approaches we will certainly not be resting on our laurels. We have a number of smaller performances planned within our local community where we will be fundraising for our chosen charities for 2012/13 (Prostate Cancer UK, Winston's Wish & Canine Partners). We are also giving a performance at a member's daughter's wedding on 25 August and taking part in Sing for Water at The Scoop in London on 9 September. On 19 October, we will be performing at the 850-seat Crawley Theatre The Hawth, in a concert of Karl Jenkins' Adiemus; Songs of Sanctuary with Cantatrice Ladies Choir and Amici Voices with their Musical Director Zoe Peate, as well as Divas Undaunted with their Musical Director Kaytie Harding, so we will certainly be busy.

2012 is definitely proving to be the year for Songbirds to be spreading our wings

and encompassing more growth and development within the choir, whilst also retaining the 'fun' aspect which is very important to us. We are all looking forward to learning new and in some cases more challenging repertoire and to the experience of performing to larger audiences. From November we will be focusing on our Christmas repertoire as well as planning ahead for our annual charity concert which has just been booked for 16 February 2013.

Rosemary Robinson
Songbirds Committee Member
Three In A Bar

So... C, E flat and G walk into a bar and the bartender says: 'Sorry we don't serve minors', so E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and G is out flat. F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough. D comes in and heads for the bathroom saying, 'Excuse me. I'll just be a second.

Then A comes in, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor. Then the bartender notices B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and says, 'Get out! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight.

E-Flat comes back the next night in a three-piece suit with nicely shined shoes. The bartender says, 'You're looking sharp tonight. Come on in, this could be a major development.' Sure enough, E-flat soon takes off his suit and everything else, and is au natural. Eventually C sobers up and realizes in horror that he's under a rest. C is brought to trial, found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and is sentenced to 10 years of D.S. without Coda at an upscale correctional facility.

from **Linda Sankey**
Lincolnshire



THE HUMOROUS SIDE TO THE RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC

Last time the mystery of the Rudiments of Music was revealed. Now that you have some idea of the meanings of musical terms maybe you will appreciate the humour in some of the following definitions.

NOTA BENE FOR MUSICIANS

p piano- (soft) the neighbours have complained
f forte-(loud) the neighbours are out
 Crescendo-(getting louder) ... testing the neighbours tolerance level
ff fortissimo(very loud) to hell with the neighbours
pp pianissimo (very soft) the neighbours are at the door
 dim thick
 obbligato being forced to practise
 rit (and/or) rall coming up to the bit you haven't practised
 con moto I have a car
 allegro a little motor car
 maestro a bigger motor car
 metronome person small enough to fit comfortably in a mini
 lento the days leading up to Easto (with eggs and chocs etc)
 largo brewed in Germany
 (Hence-'Handel's largo reaches parts other beers cannot reach')
 Piu Animato .. If you don't clean that rabbit out it will have to go!
 Interval time to meet the players in the bar
 Perfect interval when drinks are on the house
 Cantabile singing(that is viz drunk)
 Con spirito drunk again
 Cantata a fizzy drink
 Tutti Italian ice cream
 Coda served with chipsa
 Codetta a child's portion
 Chords things that organists play with one finger
 Dischords things that organists play with two fingers
 Suspended chord for lynching the soloist

rubato ointment for the musician's back
 subdominant 'I can't play until I've asked the wife'
 Tonic a pick me up
 Syncopation bowel condition brought on by an overdose of Jazz
 Crotchet knitting
 Quaver the feeling before a lesson when you haven't practised
 Key signatures silly things put there to frighten you
 (ignore them - they will go away, and so will the audience)
 Time signatures things for the drummers to ignore
 Colla voce this shirt is so tight I can't sing
 Professional anyone who can't hold down a steady job
 Flats English apartments
 A tempo in a temper
 A tempo de café just in time for coffee
 Improvisation what you do when the music falls down
 Fugue clever stuff
 Prelude warm up session before the clever stuff
 acciaccatura/appoggiatura types of insect
 opus ... exclamation when Moggy has done a whoopsie on the carpet
 scales fishy things
 trill bird food
 virtuoso someone who can work wonders with easy play music
 antiphonal crossed lines
 melody an ancient now extinct art in song writing
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Linda Sankey
Lincolnshire



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Shelfield Male Voice Choir Midlands West

Harvey Boucher retires this year after 44 years as MD and Conductor of the Shelfield Male Voice Choir.

We had our annual concert at the Walsall Town Hall in May which was supported by the Warley Male Choir and The Cory Band. This concert was a special one to mark Harvey's retirement and was a huge success. He was especially thrilled to receive such wonderful comments from Celia Johns, Chairman of the NAC, along with many other dedications. His highlight was conducting the Cory Band for joint items. Harvey spent some years in the Royal Air Force Band and his love of brass bands has never diminished.

The ladies section headed by Anne Price, organised a complete surprise retirement party for Harvey and Sheila, and surprised they were. It was a little emotional to say the least. Our ladies had presented them with a published complete pictorial history of the choir with all the countries we have visited as the Shelfield Male



Voice Choir, along with other gifts, I had done a cartoon for Harvey and had it signed by all the choir members. As we always do at the end of our dinner parties the choir sang some of the ladies' favourite songs. One of our longest serving members, Len Greenwood, wound up the proceedings and there wasn't a dry eye in the place after giving a very emotionally charged speech. Len also delivered the choir's best wishes to the new conductor Andrew Webb.

Andrew Webb has been a member of the choir for some years now and we wish him every success in his new role.

John Raybould
Chairman of Midlands West

Best of British

Answers on page 27

All of these quiz questions are about British Composers or about places in Britain. I've given some choice to make it easier. As if you don't know all the answers.

1. The 1912 tone poem written by Frederick Delius was about hearing the first one of which of these birds in spring?

a Nightingale b Cuckoo c Thrush d Lark

2. The patriotic words of *Rule, Britannia* were originally written as a poem. Which composer set them to music around 1740?

a Thomas Arne b Johann Christian Bach
c William Felton d Henry Carey

3. Often referred to as *Fingal's Cave*, what is the correct name for the overture written by Felix Mendelssohn?

a Skye Overture b Shetland Overture
c Hebrides Overture d Orkneys Overture

4. Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D* is known in the UK as the tune for *Land of Hope and Glory*. What name is often used for it in the USA?

a The Wedding March b The English March
c The Ceremonial March d The Graduation March

5. Percy Grainger's light orchestral piece, written around 1912, refers to which composer *in the Strand*, (possibly sheltering from flood or conflagration)?

a Beethoven b Schumann c Handel d Strauss

6. Composed by Berlioz and first performed in 1833 the overture *Opus 4* is about which tragic Shakespearean father?

a King Lear b Hamlet c Othello d Macbeth

7. The opera *Dido and Aeneas* was composed by which English Baroque composer?

a Malcolm Arnold b William Walton
c Henry Purcell d Benjamin Britten

8. *Symphony No. 104*, which is also known as the *London Symphony*, was a 1795 work by which of these Austrian born composers?

a Mozart b Schubert c Liszt d Haydn

9. The music of *Jupiter*, from Holst's suite *The Planets* has been used for which of these patriotic works?

a I Vow To Thee My Country b Jerusalem
c An English Country Garden d The Knightsbridge March

10. Ralph Vaughan Williams leafed through the work of which American poet for the text of his choral symphony *A Sea Symphony*?

a Emily Dickinson b Walt Whitman
c Henry Wadsworth Longfellow d Edgar Allan Poe

SORRY ABOUT THE TYPO.

In the article on the Rudiments of Music, News & Views issue 198 Summer 2012 there was a typographical error.

sf / sfz - sfarto / sfzando should have read

sf / sfz - sfzato / sfzando

We hope this error did not spoil your enjoyment of this article

Thames South

I am delighted to be able to report that the Thames South Group is going from strength to strength.

Our choir numbers continue to grow and we are looking forward to our first workshop which will be held in Gillingham on Saturday 22 October from 10.00 to 4.00 approximately. All are welcome. The cost is only £5 per head for NAC members. It will be run by Paul Robinson of Gillingham MVC but is for all voice parts. If you are interested, contact Jacky Hetherington 01903 238792

jacky@helen-emery.co.uk

After our first two very successful joint concerts (picture below) which were held in the prestigious Assembly Hall, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing, we were looking to relocate to the East Sussex and Kent area for our 3rd Joint Concert. Five Choirs have already committed to joining us for this event on Saturday 22 June 2013. They are Gillingham MVC, Rainham Ladies Choir, St Fidelis Catholic Primary School Choir (from Gillingham), Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus MVC and The Rowland Singers (mixed choir) from Worthing. The concert will be held at the Central Theatre, Chatham and it promises to be just as exciting as the last two have been.

More choirs from the group are expressing a desire to become active and that is great news. There is also more collaboration between choristers as shown by the joint concerts being given by Kaleidoscope with Songbirds and The Pleasure Singers with The Rowland Singers.

Our aim is to become more active in the Mid Sussex area in 2014 and perhaps in the Reading area after that. Of course we must not forget that 2015 sees the NAC Conference in the South for the first time where the events will be shared between Brighton and Worthing. 01903 238792

mail@helen-emery.co.uk

Helen Emery



The Torbay Police Male Voice Choir Devon

The choir comprises in excess of forty members. They perform at the request of locally based charities to help them raise funds. These charities have included RNLI, Children's Hospice - South West, Save the Children, Age Concern, and the League of Friends for Paignton Hospital.

Over the past three years alone they have help raise over £10,000 for these and similar good causes by performing at thirty concerts in the South Devon area.

Our current accompanist with over 30 years' experience of working with choirs is retiring in the autumn and we are seeking a suitable replacement.

This person will need to be accomplished at the piano and have the ability to read music, but no formal qualification is necessary. Previous experience of working alongside a musical director and with a chorus is an advantage, but not essential. With the Torbay Police Choir the accompanist is encouraged to actively contribute at rehearsals to help achieve the best results from the choir.

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening from September through to early July at St John's Church, Montpellier Road, (above the Terrace) Torquay. The choir perform on average 12 concerts per annum which are usually staged on Friday or Saturday evenings at venues throughout Torbay and South Devon.

An honorarium is given and sheet music is provided free of charge from Choir funds.

Candidates in the first instance should contact Mike Bennett on 07841 372777

mebtufc@blueyonder.co.uk

and he would be pleased to give further details and suggest arrangements for a viewing at one of the choir's rehearsals.

2012 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Torbay Police Choir. To mark this event we are holding a celebration concert for our own funds at Central Church, Torquay at 7.30 on Saturday 10 November.

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and also our 40th anniversary, The Torbay Police Choir recently performed in front of an audience of more than 200 at Central Church, Torquay with their invited guests the Beaufort Welsh Male Voice Choir. The concert was well received and the

Beaufort Choir have offered their hosts a joint concert with them in Gwent in 2013.



In September this year the Torbay Police Choir made a reciprocal visit to Shropshire to perform at a joint concert with the Shrewsbury Police Choir who they hosted in Torquay in October 2011.

In November 2013 we are visiting Hamelin to sing at a joint concert with the local police ensemble to celebrate the twinning links between the two towns.

For more information regarding the Torbay Police Choir please visit our website at

www.torbaypolicechoir.co.uk

Police Choir 01803 408703

mebtufc@blueyonder.co.uk

Mike Bennett
Press Officer

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The Glasgow Phoenix Choir Scotland West

Sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare

The choir's trip to Northampton, Hereford and Worcester proved to be a most enjoyable one with the last weekend in May blessed with glorious sunshine. As always our connection with Hereford Police Male Choir was most enjoyable, and we enjoyed two excellent concerts with them in Hereford Cathedral and St George's RC Church in Worcester (where Elgar had been organist). However our new association and concert with Northampton Male Voice Choir was a new experience. Their conductor Stephen Bell, we discovered is the brother of Chris Bell – Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, a man well known north of the border, and like his brother, Peter turned out to be quite a livewire. Like the Phoenix, Northampton Male Voice Choir is sponsored by The Co-operative Funeralcare. There are plans to have that choir joining us in Glasgow later.



Since the last issue, our conductor Marilyn Smith has been to Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh to be invested with her MBE by the Queen. The Queen was very interested in information about the Phoenix and remarked that she knew well the fame of our predecessors the Glasgow Orpheus Choir, as she no doubt would remember as a young princess listening to the Orpheus singing at a Command Performance at Balmoral Castle before King George V and Queen Mary and calling up requests to the platform. The photograph above shows Marilyn's investiture.

At the choir's AGM in June there were a number of new faces elected on to the Choir's Council as a result of the retirement of some of the original members. One member who, after 11 years in the post of Choir Manager, Elizabeth Dingwall (known to her friends as Liz) decided that it was time to move over. During her tenure, along with Business Manager John Blue, she had to cope with the staging of massed choirs at both the Choir's Golden and Diamond Jubilees in the 2,500 seater Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, together with numerous concerts and tours (including transport) both in the UK and abroad as well as hotel accommodation. Well done Liz. Her place was taken by Marilyn Smellie whose considerable experience in the Civil Service will be invaluable.

The new season promises to be just as busy and the choir eagerly looks forward to a return visit to Strathpeffer, Inverness and Elgin in late September, where we will be joined by good friends Dingwall Gaelic Choir (current holders of the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine Trophy as best choir at the National Mod).

Concerts confirmed for the autumn and early winter include Lockerbie Town Hall for Rotary, a weekend trip to Peterculter (near Aberdeen) followed by one in Bankfoot near Perth on the way home, a second short concert in Perth City later in the month, Ibrox Parish Church with the Salvation Army Junior band, a St Andrew's Night concert for Cadder Freestone Lodge of Freemasons in Bishopbriggs. The year will end with Christmas concerts in Moncrieff Parish Church - East Kilbride, a charity concert for the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Freemasons' Hall - Edinburgh, finishing with our own Annual Christmas Concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall where we will be joined by the Co-operative Funeralcare Band (current Scottish Champions), and the Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines.

www.phoenixchoir.org

J Lawson Purdie
Hon Vice-President

Luton Male Voice Choir Thames North

On Saturday 30 June the Luton Male Voice Choir were invited to sing in a concert with Wolverhampton Orpheus Male Voice Choir at the church of St John In The Square, Wolverhampton. I must say what a great day it turned out to be.

We were picked up by coach in Luton at 8.30 then off to Wolverhampton where refreshments were served to us, then a rehearsal with Wolverhampton Choir which went well. Then outside we all went and the Olympic torch procession came through. We sang our hearts out with *Land of Hope and Glory*, *Rule Britannia*, and *Jerusalem* as the procession passed through. Then back into the church for more refreshments and then to sing in the concert. The church was covered in flags of all nations and looked great. A good day was had by all and money was raised for the Midland Air Ambulance.

We are now busy rehearsing for The Festival of Brass and Voices in The Albert Hall on Saturday 3 November.

David J Holloway
Publicity officer

The Three Valleys Male Voice Choir Thames North

Due to the Musical Director's impending retirement the Three Valleys Male Voice Choir is seeking a Musical Director/Conductor commencing in January 2013 for rehearsals and a busy concert programme.

The choir was established in 1994 and has steadily grown in reputation and members. We maintain a rolling programme of popular old and new songs, show numbers, and male voice classics. Programmes are varied and concerts numerous. Members enjoy singing together which is reflected by an active social calendar.

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings in Waltham Cross on the borders of Hertfordshire and Essex.

People who are interested should contact the secretary, Nigel Thomas, for an information pack and application form. 01992 630 981 or by email via the choir's website.

www.3valleymvc.org.uk

The closing date for applications is the end of October 2012.

Nigel Thomas

The Rowland Singers Choral Society Thames South

After a fantastic Summer Term with our exciting, patriotic and fun concerts, Gold, Pomp and Sparkle! where our chairman, Dorothy Foan inaugurated ex-Worthing Mayor, Ann Barlow as a Vice-President, we are looking forward to another full-on fun packed term.



From 20 - 22 September, 17 of the singers will be in the pit for 5 performances of Worthing Light Opera Company's Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street production because Helen is the MD for this exciting show. Then on 27 September we will be joining for a concert with new NAC members, The Pleasure Singers, a ladies choir from Horsham. On Saturday 27

October we are hoping to take a coach full of Rowland Singers to the Thames South Workshop run by Paul Robinson, MD of Gillingham MVC.

On 17 November 2012, Helen Emery will be running a workshop for the Mozart Requiem in Worthing which will be open to anyone who wishes to join us for a cost of £10 (RS members £5). This is in preparation for our Mostly Mozart Concerts next Easter when we will again be using a chamber orchestra after last year's phenomenal success.

Our three Christmas Concerts this year will also be exciting and suitable for all the family. At our two smaller carol concerts, The Quart-ettes (run by Helen with Maxine, Dorothy and Jacky), will be the soloists, but at the Assembly Hall, Worthing on Thursday 20 December, we are delighted



to welcome The Nick Reynolds Christmas Jazz Trio as our soloists.

Our social events this term include a Ceilidh on 20 October with a live band and a Skittles Evening on 10 November so lots of fun will be had by one and all. If you would like to come to any of these concerts or events, please do contact me on 01903 238792

jacky@helen-emery.co.uk

We would love to see you.

*Jacky Hetherington
Hon Life President and Secretary*



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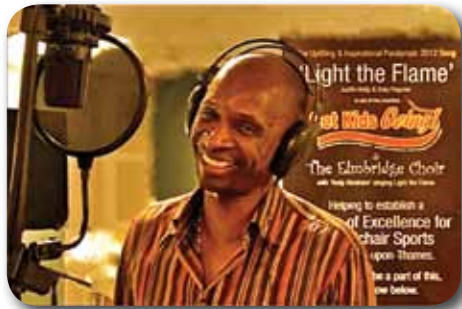


The country has been fired up by the Olympics and the Paralympics over the last few weeks. It seems that our members have also been caught up in the fun and games. Here are three articles about our members who have been getting involved.

Elmbridge Choir Thames South

Choir's Charity Single aids Paralympians

A large local community choir is lending its substantial voice to a national charity, 'Get Kids Going!' in its bid to fund and build a sports academy to support the UK's budding future Paralympic champions.



Surrey's Elmbridge Choir has recorded and released a charity single featuring the fabulous soul singer and X-Factor runner up, Andy Abraham and Yorkshire singer Katy Haymer. Taking inspiration from the values of the Paralympic Games, 'Light the Flame' was written by local author Judith Kelly and arranged by Elmbridge Choir's Musical Director, Cliff van Tonder. To help reach the charity's fundraising target of £200,000 and to raise awareness of 'Get Kids Going!', Paralympic champions from Beijing and competitors for London 2012 have thrown their support behind the single which is available for download from I-Tunes and Amazon.

David Weir MBE, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Mickey Bushell, Danielle Brown and the entire wheelchair rugby team are just some of the Paralympic athletes backing the charity in its aim of building a sports academy. The charity, whose President is Lord Sebastian Coe, has already helped many young people become Paralympic athletes but is now looking to help the next generation realise their dreams as part of the 'Inspire a Generation' legacy of the Games.

15-year-old Jack Binstead who was born with brittle bone disease and has suffered over sixty fractures in his short life, is one of the youngsters who has already received help and support from 'Get Kids Going!'. Thanks to the wheelchair donated by the charity he is aiming to compete in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Brazil. 'It's

going to be a lot of hard work, but no pain, no gain', says Jack.

David Weir, MBE, Vice-President of 'Get Kids Going!', World Number One Paralympian, six-times winner of the London Marathon, and 2012 winner of the New York Marathon says that 'Get Kids Going!' has been a massive help and support to him over the years. 'Without the equipment supplied by the charity I wouldn't be where I am today, competing in London 2012. 'Get Kids Going!' has had a major impact on Paralympic sport. Buying the single of 'Light the Flame' will help towards setting up the David Weir Racing Academy.'

'The aim is to build a sports academy to reach and help more kids who want to develop sports skills,' explains Jane Emmerson, CEO of 'Get Kids Going!' 'Without our funding and support these kids would struggle to realise their potential and to maximise their opportunities within sport. We are hoping that sales of the 'Light the Flame' single will go some way in helping us achieve our goals.'

By courtesy of Kingston Borough's Cultural Olympiad programme, the single was recorded at the Hook Studios in Cheam. The track features delightful solos from Sam Wilson aged 13 and Olivia Wilson aged 11, both of whom are children of one of the choir members.

'Our choir is extremely proud to be supporting the vital work of 'Get Kids Going!'' says Cliff. 'As a music charity ourselves, we aim to enable and provide access to music for all, and so the values and aims of this amazing sporting charity are truly in alignment - or should I say harmony! - with ours. It's all about giving opportunities.'

The single can be downloaded from

www.lighttheflame.co.uk

Michael Grinter



The Humberston Singers Lincolnshire

My Moment to Shine - Olympic Torch Relay 2012

Tuesday 26 June was the day the Olympic Torch was coming to Grimsby, and I was one of the honoured and lucky people to carry it through the town. Everyone had a 'collection point' where we had to meet - mine being the Oasis Academy at Immingham. My time to carry the torch was 5.57 (very precise, as was the whole operation!) from Dabuney Street to Blundell Avenue. This was the culmination of eight months anticipation and excitement. My final instructions and special suit had been received the previous week and I duly arrived in Immingham at 2.30 as requested.

We were met by LOCOG staff and a representative from our special sponsor company, in my case this was Samsung, and were immediately put at ease and made to feel welcome. There were 16 other torch bearers on my coach, and at 4.00 exactly, began the journey through Immingham, dropping each person off at their allotted spot. Immingham was crowded, and the atmosphere on the coach was friendly, excited and expectant. The journey to Grimsby along the A180 was memorable, with the Metropolitan Police motorbike outriders patrolling the cavalcade all the way. I was second to last to get off our coach, so was able to get a real feel of the occasion, and when I arrived at my drop-off point, all my family of children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and great-nieces and -nephews and friends were there to cheer and take photographs.

There was about ten minutes before the torch would actually reach me so there was plenty of time. The crowds were unbelievable, and everyone wanted to be seen with 'The Torch'. Our chaperones, the grey-clad people who ran alongside all the torch bearers, made sure we were certain of what to do, and kept the crowds at bay. These people were mostly, again, metropolitan policemen and policewomen, specially trained to do the job. When the flame finally arrived, one of these helpers who had a key, turned the gas on, and 'the Kiss' took place. This is

when one torch is lit from another. That moment was even more emotional, and big cheers went up. After a slight hesitation, to savour the moment and hold the torch aloft, I began my 300 metres of steady jog (we had been asked to do this if possible, as apparently it had been found that the crowd responded better to a jog than a walk). With waves and cheering all the way, and tears in mine and many others eyes, I proceeded to cover my allotted distance, to hand the flame over to a seventeen-year old young lady from Lincoln. It was almost an anticlimax, as my flame was speedily extinguished, and I was ushered on to the following 'sweep up' coach. Then everyone was taken back to Immingham, where we waited to have the gas canisters taken out of the torches (for safety) before we took them home. Samsung kindly allowed us to keep our torches, and the suits we wore were also ours to keep. To end the day on a high note, I drove back to Grimsby to my daughter's house, where all the family were waiting with a bottle of champagne on ice - what more could you want? What a thrilling and exciting day - one to stay in the memory for ever. But the torch has gone on to greater things. I have visited schools, where it led the children of Scartho School out in procession at the start of their Olympic Week, the Hospice, the Linkage Centre, Westward Ho Barracks, Brownies, Rainbows and even the Lifeboat Station at Cleethorpes. Many people have asked if I was putting it on E-bay, (tongue in cheek I think) which I wouldn't dream of doing, but I have raised some money for the Breast Unit at Grimsby Hospital, as many people have asked to have a photo taken with the torch, and have been quite happy to give a donation for the privilege. Certainly a day to remember!

Jenny Clark

Saltash Girls' Choir Devon

Saltash Girls' Choir Sings At The Olympic Torch Celebrations

The Saltash Girls' Choir were delighted to be invited to sing at the Olympic Torch ceremony on Saturday 19th May - the choir was part of a special 100 children's Torch Choir.

Singing with them was the mixed choir of Riverside School based in St Budeaux - Plymouth under the direction of popular teacher Jenny Cleverley - and it was most fitting to have two choirs merge for such a special event both sides of the River Tamar

where the Torch was passed from Cornwall to Devon.



The children who came in at short notice worked extremely hard to practice six wonderful modern songs including *Here comes the Sun, Firework, Your Song* and *Price Tag* which they sang with gusto and vigour to a most appreciative and large audience who gave rapturous applause at the end of their performance.

The Saltash Girls' Choir hosted girls from Essa School of Performing Arts and past members of the choir for this special occasion which proudly featured twenty eight girls - the remainder being the mixed choir from Riverside School.

The Saltash Girls' choir meet in term time every Wednesday at the Burraton Community Centre - Saltash (lower hall) from 6.00 until 7.15 and would welcome new members - for further details ring Chairman Sue Hooper 01752 843073 or email suehcf@msn.com

Sue Hooper

In Accord North East

On Tour with 'Merry England'

In Accord - Singing for Pleasure - was formed two years ago by a small group of experienced and enthusiastic singers. We now have 30 members in our mixed voice choir and over 80 patrons. Each spring our patrons are invited to a free informal concert, followed by afternoon tea. These have proved to be a huge success, with approximately 70 attending - an ideal way of saying 'thank you' for their loyalty as well as giving the choir members a chance to become acquainted with those who support our efforts.

We decided to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee by giving a 'Last Night of the Proms' type of concert, choosing Hits from the Shows, inviting the audience to participate in the traditional flag waving while singing

our national songs, and to perform an abridged concert version of *Merry England* by Edward German and Basil Hood. This operetta is rarely heard today, but it evokes the drama and pageantry of the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth. It was an ambitious and challenging project, which involved a steep learning curve for a number of our members, who had little or no experience of singing to this level. We invited two guest singers, friends of the choir, to take the roles of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Earl of Essex, the female principal parts were sung by some of our very capable members. During our Charity Concert we presented a cheque for £500 to Marie Curie Cancer Care, bringing our donations to local charities to £1,500 in less than two years.

Word spread of our ambitious programme and we were invited to take our 'show' on the road - first to a church in Monkseaton, who were raising money to fund their roof repair - they raised £700, on the evening, and then to another church in the area, who were raising money for their annual project - Haiti Earthquake Survivors Appeal - this performance raised over £600.

Our initial aim was to bring music to the



people, while 'singing for pleasure' and to raise funds for local events and charities. So far we have given 10 fund raising concerts for local events and performed three charity concerts in addition to the above. In two years I feel we have done much to promote the pleasure of music through singing.

This year our Christmas Charity Concert will be supported by the local Reunion Brass Ensemble, and we anticipate giving a further donation to a local charity Pathways4All, which is a local group working to provide accommodation for children with learning and physical disabilities.

www.in-accord.org.uk

Margaret Clark
Director of Music

Saddleworth Male Voice Choir North West Group

The choir has performed in concerts and music festivals throughout the UK and overseas for more than 57 years. The choir's repertoire is typically male voice with songs about *Drunken Sailors* and *Comrades in Arms* with a little Palestrina thrown in for good measure, but those of you who are not familiar with the Saddleworth area will not be aware that at 7.00 on Saturday 22 December 2012 the choir will present its 50th consecutive annual performance of Handel's popular oratorio *Messiah*.



The picture shows the chorus and orchestra during their traditional warm up with Christians Awake prior to the soloists taking the platform.

For 50 years, 32 members of the male voice choir augmented by a ladies chorus of 48 sopranos and altos recruited from local church choirs and musical societies have overcome every conceivable type of winter weather to assemble at the Civic Hall in the Saddleworth moorland village of Uppermill.

At the beginning of November the ensemble will commence rehearsals under the direction of Damian J Cunningham the choir's MD, and accompanied by the Pennine Orchestra and with four soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music their performance will herald the start of Christmas in Saddleworth.

Saddleworth's *Messiah* was first performed under the baton of Denis Jones, the choir's founding MD with the intention of bringing first class soloists to Saddleworth. The four years from 1966 to 1969 saw a young Thomas Allen (now Sir Thomas) perform and in 1970 Valerie Masterson CBE graced us with her presence. Other soloists include Barbara Siddelley, Marjorie Thomas, Barbara Robotham, Joy Roberts, Roger Stalman, Michael George and Thomas Round and there are many others too numerous to mention.

Following the performance, the hall is transformed into a giant Christmas party when the whole ensemble and audience enjoy supper and join together to sing Christmas carols.

To celebrate the achievement of 50 years of *Messiah* the choir will hold a dinner in the Civic Hall in February 2013.

John Watts
PRO

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 01782 658663 daleianla.choir@gmx.co.uk

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 Mrs Janet Brown 25 Falbro Crescent, Hadleigh, Essex, SS7 2SF
 01702 556023 secretary@hadleighvoices.co.uk

THE LAURENCE SINGERS North West Mixed voices 36 choristers
 Valerie Jones 15 Birkdale Close, Tytherington, Macclesfield SK10 4UA
 01625 619411 valerie.jones@focus-systems.co.uk
www.thelaurencesingers.org.uk

LEEDS MALE VOICE CHOIR Yorkshire West 12 choristers
 Mr J Lockett 40 St Catherines Crescent, Bramley, Leeds LS13 2JX
 0113 256 0450 jlockett406@gmail.com

LINLITHGOW LADIES CHOIR Scotland East 38 choristers
 Heather Laing 170 Bailielands, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7TG
 07948 511337 linlithgowladieschoir@yahoo.com

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER CHOIR North West Mixed voices
 Joanne Reeve 17 Duplow Drive, Liverpool L18 2HB

RAINHAM LADIES CHOIR Thames South 40 choristers
 Ms W Back 282 Wigmore Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0LY
 07816 159668 backwendy@hotmail.com
www.rainhamladieschoir.org

WREXHAM YOUTH CHOIR Wales North/Cheshire West
 Number of choristers not yet confirmed
 Andrew Fergus 4 Belgrave Court, Claypit Lane, Gresford, Wrexham LL12 8PN
 01978 853359 andrew.fergus@fergusmartin.co.uk

WYNDHAM SINGERS Devon Male Voice Choir 15-30 choristers
 Martin Mountstevens The Glade, High Street, Kentisbeare, Cullompton, Devon X15 2AP
 01884 266820 martinmountstevens@btinternet.com

3	4	8	6	9	5	1	2	7
9	6	1	7	2	4	5	3	8
2	7	5	1	8	3	4	9	6
8	9	7	5	4	6	2	1	3
6	3	2	8	1	9	7	5	4
5	1	4	2	3	7	6	8	9
7	5	3	9	6	1	8	4	2
4	8	6	3	5	2	9	7	1
1	2	9	4	7	8	3	6	5

S	C	A	R	A	B	S	T	I	R	U	P		
T	I	N	E	E	R								
S	O	P	R	A	N	O	K	N	E	L	L	E	D
I	I	O	S	O	A	S							
C	O	N	D	U	C	T	O	R	B	A	S	S	
G	N	Y	E	S									
B	A	S	I	C	L	O	C	A	L	I	T	Y	
O	E	I	A	U									
C	O	N	C	E	R	T	S	R	A	S	E	D	
K	H	T	N	H									
A	L	T	O	S	P	I	R	I	T	U	A	L	
O	K	T	C	V	T	A							
M	U	S	I	C	A	L	S	O	L	O	I	S	T
S	N	V	R	U	E								
E	A	G	L	E	S	B	E	T	T	E	R		

Best of British- 1b 2a 3c 4d 5c 6a 7c 8d 9a 10b

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As I was flipping through some back issues of News & Views I realised that the last time I offered any advice about sending in your stories was two years ago. I thought that it might be worthwhile going over the things that help to make my job easier.

The first thing is to send your article by 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. KEEP IT SIMPLE!

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- Use Calibri 10pt to write your article. (If you don't have this, don't worry I can soon change it.)
- Set your paragraphs to single space with no spacing before or after paragraphs.
- Start with the name of your choir.
- What NAC group is your choir in?
- Write your article.
- Say who has written it.
- Quotes use single speech marks (same key as @ but without the shift).

- Dates do not include st nd rd or th
- Abbreviations do not have full stops.
- Song titles are shown in italics.
- Do not put photos in the text.
- Unless the word 'choir' is part of a title it should NOT have a capital letter.

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

Attach them to an email.

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

01472 500130

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