

NEWS & VIEWS



224 SUMMER 2021



**Ivor Richardson
65 years with the
Nankersey Male Choir**



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Crawford's Corner

Publications Officer - Bob Swallow



Well, I don't know, here I am writing Crawford's Corner in an issue of News & Views. I haven't done that since around Christmas time. It seems like forever but not as long as the last time I stood with friends and sang with one of my choirs.

I am writing this on the day that we have just been allowed to go to the pub and drink indoors. We can go to the cinema, as long as there aren't too many of us. This coming Thursday I can go to my local cafe 'The Little Teapot' and have lunch with my wife instead of calling in to collect a takeaway.

It is great that we can do more things but WE STILL CAN'T SING with our choirs. Be patient, I tell myself, it will come.

Of course the other great thing that will happen when we can once again join our voices in song is that there will be more stuff that you can send me to put into

News & Views. You will be planning concerts, arranging trips around the country, not abroad yet but thinking about it. You will be contacting other choirs to arrange concerts together and start selling tickets for the world to come and hear you sing for joy.

Won't it be strange, but won't it be great. When you start to do this please remember that I am sitting here waiting to hear of all the great things you are planning in the near future and all the concerts you will perform in.

Who will be the first to send me an article with photographs of their first concert after Lockdown? Will it be an indoor concert or outside when the weather finally lets us take our macs off?

In Chairman's Chat, below, John has talked about the Zoom meetings we have been having and mentions that we will keep holding Officer's Meetings on Zoom. This is very straightforward and sensible and cheaper and I should be happy to do it. There is just the fact that Zoom meetings

don't serve sandwiches with great chips at lunchtime. Oh well.

Just as a final thought, won't it be wonderful when the words I am listing below don't appear in any of the articles that you send me for the Autumn issue of News & Views.

Have a great Summer whatever day it falls on.



Chairman's Chat

NAC Chairman - John Croft



Welcome to this Summer 2021 edition of News & Views as we move slowly out of lockdown and look forward to returning to some degree of normality. I hope you are all keeping well and safe and will continue to do so as we take our first steps towards singing together again and entertaining audiences.

We were not been able to celebrate our

Centenary Year as planned due to Covid but we have re-arranged the events, taking an optimistic view of the future. Clive has presented our plans in this issue and I hope many of you will be able to join us to enjoy our postponed celebrations.

We have continued to hold our officers' meetings via Zoom and held two very successful Open Forum meetings using the same method. We will probably continue to use Zoom for our officers' meetings even when restrictions are lifted and will definitely use it for most future Open

Forums – these proved very popular and enabled many more members to attend, many of whom had never attended one in the past. We will, however, continue to hold face to face meetings at our proposed venues for future conferences.

On behalf of the officers may I wish you all an enjoyable Summer whilst keeping safe and a wish that we can all return to normality as soon as possible.

Best Wishes.



Resuming after Covid lockdowns

General Secretary – Celia Johns



It seems hardly possible that after over a year of not singing together, we are now looking forward eagerly to resuming face to face rehearsals, and possibly even a concert or two. But in spite of the eagerness there may still be a few pitfalls.

You may know that NAC is a member of Singing Network UK, a loose association of many choral organisations across the UK, which meets from time to time to discuss choral activities and to try and improve access to advice and assistance for musicians of all kinds from the Government of the day. You may also take it that the Network has been extremely busy on your behalf for the last year, lobbying Oliver Dowden, head of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to endeavour to clarify the position of amateur choirs with regard to restarting safely as soon as possible. The lead organisations in the Network are Making Music and abcd (the Association of British Choral Directors), and it is these two upon whom we have been relying for the information about restarting.

As I write, we are still pinning our hopes on the date of 17 May for a few more restrictions to be lifted, and choirs to be able to meet in person. Choir committees and members should be aware of several things before they do meet though:

- 1 Choir members will still need to be socially distanced – at least 1 metre apart with mitigation (wearing a mask) or preferably 2 metres apart.
- 2 The wearing of face coverings is mandatory (singers' masks are available through many outlets). Choir committees must make their own decisions as to what to do about persons

who have a genuine exemption from wearing a face covering.

- 3 A risk assessment must be prepared by the choir, in conjunction with a risk assessment from the venue you are proposing to use. This will include items such as cleaning before and after the rehearsal, sanitising door handles, seats etc, and in and around any toilets used; one way systems in the venue for people arriving and departing; registers of attendees for the Test and Trace system.
- 4 It is advised that rehearsals indoors should be limited to between 30 and 45 minutes' duration, and then a break for at least 15 minutes must be taken to enable the venue to be ventilated. If you are able to sing with doors and windows open, so much the better. People must go out of the room while it is being ventilated (but care is needed to prevent them from mingling together during the break).
- 5 Do not provide refreshments during rehearsals, and think carefully about only having pre-packaged items available to the audience during a concert. It would be better to have a concert lasting only one hour, without a break, then the question of refreshments will not arise.
- 6 Reinforce messages about social distancing and wearing face coverings by placing signs where they will be easily seen. Remember that wheelchair users will need signs at a lower level.
- 7 If your choir uses music copies, consider how to manage the copies without compromising their possible infectiveness – paper holds Covid germs for longer than do hard surfaces. Anybody handling the distribution or collection of copies should

wear disposable gloves.

- 8 Consider the placement and protection of your MD and accompanist. The MD should be at least 2 metres away from the front row of singers, and should at least wear a face visor. (Most MDs need their choir to see their mouths while they are taking the rehearsal). As the aerosol droplets which spread Covid are greater in number when people are speaking or singing loudly, you may like to consider providing your MD with a voice amplifier so that they can communicate with the back row without raising their voice. The accompanist should also be at least 2 metres from the front row of singers, but would probably be more comfortable wearing a face covering; plastic visors can distort the vision sometimes.

These are the basic minimum of precautions to be taken when meeting face to face again. You will need to consult your choir members to find out how many are willing to return under the current restrictions – and maybe consider live streaming rehearsals for those who are unable or unwilling to return in person. Possibly the unwilling might be more open to returning when they see the amount of care you are taking to protect everybody.

This is of course a lot to think about, but consider the best part – you will be back together, singing, and the very best part? – listening to each other rather than singing in a vacuum over Zoom.

I wish you all the very best in your return to live music-making.

2020 - THE YEAR THAT NEVER WAS!

Nankersey Male Choir - Cornwall - Fred Bidgood



The year 2020 was supposed to be the year that Nankersey Male Choir celebrated 70 years in existence - but something called 'Covid19' put paid to that!

In common with all choirs, our concert programme and indeed rehearsals were all cancelled from the initial pandemic outbreak last March and consequently all our arrangements for celebration of our 70th Anniversary were decimated.

For example:

A much anticipated choir tour of the Mendip area and Devon was a casualty in May. Hopefully, whenever possible this might be resurrected so that we can meet up again with our friends at Mendip MVC.

Our Annual Fete planned for August in the Gyllyngdune Gardens of Falmouth (our biggest fund-raiser) also bit the dust.

A 'Special' 70th Anniversary Concert planned for September in Falmouth also had to be cancelled. It was to be the occasion when our long service awards were presented and to which all past and present members and supporters would have been invited to join in our celebrations.

A very prestigious concert with Mousehole MVC in November at Penzance also had to be shelved.

Of course, all of our usual Christmas festivities also failed to take place and we had to cancel our Annual Dinner & Dance and even postpone our Annual General Meeting.

This article is to register the fact that Nan-

kersey Male Choir is still alive and kicking (but not singing!) after 70 glorious years and it is hoped that it will be of interest to all those who read it.

'Nankersey' means 'Valley of the Swamps' in the old Cornish language and the pretty fishing village of Flushing now occupies the same position across the water from Falmouth.

Nankersey Male Choir was founded in January 1950 by 12 members of the 'Nankersey Glee Singers'. These men (with David Laity one of them) wished to concentrate on close harmony singing. The choristers initially all came from the village of Flushing and performed the first concert as Nankersey Glee Singers, in Flushing Primitive Chapel on Good Friday 7 April 1950. Nowadays the Choir is nearly 60 strong and members come from many nearby towns and villages in West Cornwall.

Over the years several thousands of pounds have been raised to benefit local and national charities, organisations and projects.

Historic highlights include performing at 'Songs of Praise'; 'Highway'; Hampton Court Flower Show; Royal Albert Hall (with massed Cornish male choirs); the biennial Cornish International Male Choral Festival and the Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival.

The Choir has recorded a selection of CDs which are available from the Choir Website.

For more information please visit the website – nankerseychoir.org or follow us on Facebook (Nankersey Male Choir).

In addition to David Laity (70 years) and Ivor Richardson (65 years) the following choristers were also presented (socially distanced) with their long service awards:-

Elaine Tangye - MD - 30 years

Philip Richards - 15 years

Trevor Williams - 15 years

Stephen Willoughby - 10 years

David Foster - 10 years

The Choir is very proud of its Musical Team:

Musical Director - Mrs Elaine Tangye

Elaine joined Nankersey in 1990 as Accompanist and in 1998 became its Musical Director.



She had also been the Accompanist for St. Stythians MVC and associated with the Stithians Ladies Choir where she served 34 years, as a chorister, accompanist and from 1995-2013 as its Musical Director. She is currently also Musical Director of Tresillian Singers (a ladies' choir), a post she has held since February 2016.

Back in 2003 Elaine led the Kernow Male Choir (a choir formed by members from Cornish Male Voice Choirs) for a tour to Australia, performing in Sydney Opera House.

As Musical Director of the Trelawny Male Choir (again a choir formed by choristers

from the Cornish Male Voice Choirs), she toured with them to Singapore and New Zealand in 2007.

Elaine was again invited to tour Eastern Canada in September 2015 as MD of the Trelawny Male Choir.

As well as being an accomplished musician (percussion, clarinet and piano), Elaine is a talented singer in her own right.

In acknowledgment of her achievements, Elaine was honoured as a Cornish Bard in 2005.

She was also presented with the 'Services to Music in Cornwall' award for that year by the Gorsedh Kernow.

Accompanist - Michael Uren

Mike was appointed Nankersey Male Choir's accompanist with effect from 1st September 2014. This followed his very welcome help as guest accompanist dur-



ing the difficult period which ensued upon the passing of his predecessor, George Smith, the previous March.

Music has always played a major part throughout Mike's life and in addition to the Cornish Male Voice scene, he continues to be involved with other areas such as drama and pantomimes, both as a player and director.

A Grade 8 pianist since his schooldays, he added the same level as organist whilst Organist and Choirmaster at High Street Methodist Church in Penzance.

Mike has a fine tenor voice and has sung with Choral Societies in Penzance and in Helston.

In 1975 he joined Four Lanes Male Choir as a Second Tenor and went on to become their accompanist in 1979. In 2011 he

moved on to become their Musical Director, a post he held until October 2013.

Deputy Accompanist - Clive Ellison

Clive has been Nankersey's Deputy Accompanist for the last 31 years.

A former organ scholar at Truro School, Clive continued his studies at Dartington College of Art, studying organ, piano and harpsichord and obtained his BA (Hons) degree.

Clive is constantly in demand as accompanist for the numerous soloists, choirs and operative societies throughout Cornwall.

He is Organist at St Agnes Parish Church and plays in St Agnes Band. Clive is also an official accompanist for the Cornwall County Music Festival, held in Truro, as well as the Wall Music Festival.

In 2003 Clive was awarded the Gorsedh Shield for Outstanding Services to Music in Cornwall - an honour thoroughly deserved.

Nankersey Male Choir is grateful for his support over the years and he is always welcome and appreciated in our practice room.

We can only hope that sometime in 2021 we will all be able to meet up again and sing – not only to make music but to give concerts and help raise money for charities and to keep our Choir Motto going— 'To Sing for and to Give Pleasure'!

Keep Singing

York Philharmonic MVC -Yorkshire North and East - Colin Hockridge

In January 2020, we started to prepare for our forthcoming season of concerts and social gatherings. No-one then dreamed of just how deranging and disruptive would be the significance of the ominous evening news bulletins from the other side of the World, about a disease none of us had ever heard of, Covid-19.

By happy coincidence, in December 2018 the choir had purchased a laptop together with the Sibelius Music software and, later, a good quality USB microphone.

No one could foresee that from March

2020 to the summer of 2021 this kit would become the lifeline which enabled the choir to keep working throughout the pandemic. The system has worked well in aiding composition, arranging, and the preparation of practice tracks. In addition, it has enabled the editing and collation of numerous individual voice recordings and has been used to create videos. It has been the transmission tool for our weekly Zoom rehearsals as well as three well attended and much appreciated online concerts. It has justified every penny of its £750 cost, and has enabled the Phil to thrive, not just survive, during this most

difficult time.

But the real story of 2020 is a human one. In times of crisis natural leaders, those best placed to navigate new challenges, come forward. The key to success then lies in the wider community accepting their guidance and working with them. This has been the York Phil experience of 2020. At the rehearsal held on 9 March 2020, the decision was taken to suspend normal activities. Two members, tenor Richard Kay, (then Assistant Music Director) and baritone David Todd, an IT specialist, immediately met to plan a way forward. A



fortnight later, as the national lockdown came into place, Richard conducted our first Zoom rehearsal. This was followed by a live Facebook social, hosted by David as a way of virtually replacing our normal post-rehearsal gatherings in our local pub.

Our Monday night's pattern for the next 12 months was thus set. No-one imagined, back in March, that Richard and David's bold and imaginative initiative would be our way of life for such a long period of time. The support of the membership was immediate as we learned to use Zoom and many found Facebook for the first time. More significantly, we were quickly challenged by Richard to use newly-created practice tracks to record ourselves (another challenge to be overcome) and to return the results for collation and editing. At the same time, David needed a constant supply of new material, stories, photographs and video clips for the Facebook socials. Richard was helped greatly by our accompanist Helen Smith, who recorded the piano parts for so many of the selected songs. As Helen had only joined the choir in March 2019, she was often recording pieces she had never heard the choir sing.

New work was also created. Richard composed an SATB piece *Keep Singing* and asked if we would like to work with another choir, Rydale Voices, to make a combined recording, a suggestion readily accepted. Members of a local primary school parents' choir also joined, so our first virtual concert included a community production of a new piece. Helen Smith composed *When All Of This Is Over*, setting to music for male voice a Covid-related poem she had seen in a shop window. This

too was recorded at home and set to a video displaying photographs submitted by choir members. At the same time David was receiving a mix of material both from ourselves and from our twinned choirs in Münster in Germany and Lochem in the Netherlands. His socials quickly found an international audience. Between us we raided choir archives to find as many video and audio clips as we could to keep the content interesting.

These strange circumstances also gave new life to a part of our heritage that had lain dormant since 1979, the CH Fletcher Challenge Cup. In the 1930s this was a trophy awarded to the best singer in an annual competition. This tradition lapsed after the war and was last held in 1979. It was agreed that the award should come back to life and be presented annually to the member who had made the greatest contribution to the choir in that year. So, on the only occasion in the summer that any of our singers met – a golf day – the cup was presented jointly to Richard and David by Chairman Peter Smith. As can be seen in the photograph the winners are in their 40s; both are family men coping with the work and domestic pressures brought on by pandemic restrictions, making their commitment to the welfare of the choir even more commendable.

When needed, Richard and David stepped forward with the vision and skills to guide the choir through an unique crisis. In return, the choir has trusted their judgement and given them full support. Berry Lewis, our Director for 20 years, led the way by willingly acknowledging Richard's superior technological skills and by helping in whatever way she could. One official

change was made with Richard moving from Assistant to Deputy Director (swapping roles with his father). A most remarkable aspect of this human story is that during lockdown we have gained two new young singers. They have now been with us for several months, and we are looking forward to meeting them in person. In this remarkable technological age, one of them attended his first rehearsal in York sitting in a hotel bedroom in Scotland.

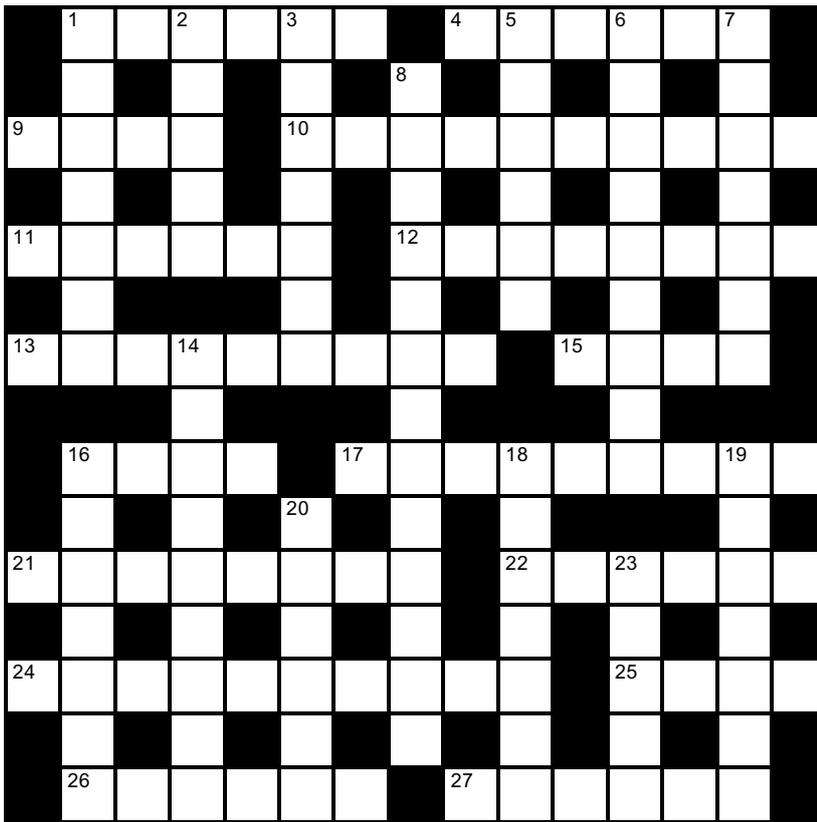
Other members have also been creative. James Elliot continued his output of 'Rambling Ruminations', detailing the background and history of the songs in our repertoire; Rob Smith, our secretary, led a team revamping our website; and I revised and updated the choir's history 'Sound Fellows' five years earlier than intended. It now covers 95 years from April 1925 to January 2021. This second edition is an eBook enhanced by 24 audio/video clips and can be downloaded free of charge from our website:

www.yorkphilchoir.org.uk

As an eBook, I was able to use freely-available translation software for both German and Dutch versions, so that it has been shared with our twinned choirs. The translations were politely described by a Dutch friend as being 'not perfect but understandable'. Both the website and the book give more details of just what has been achieved since March 2020.

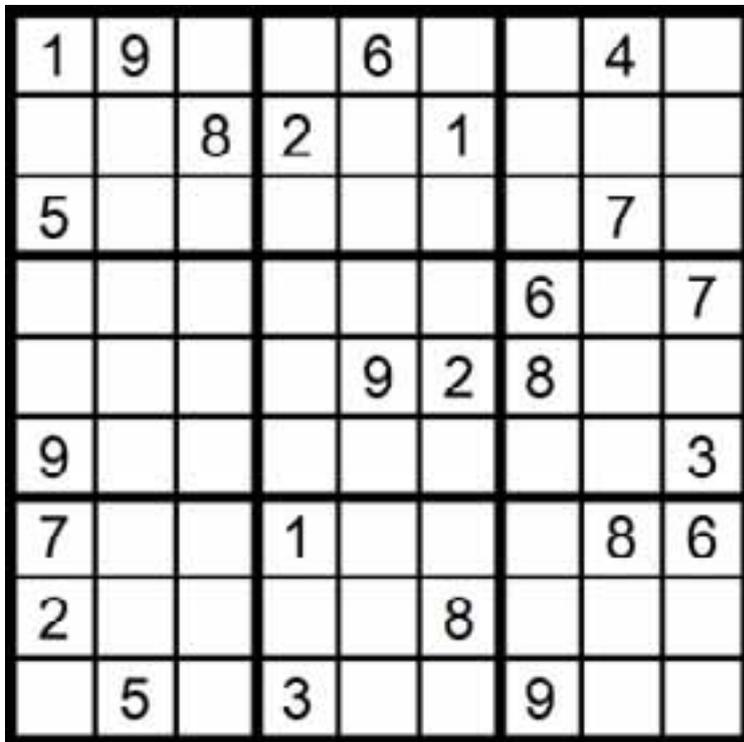
Technology enabled the Phil to have a successful 2020 despite the pandemic. We reached some big audiences, with the summer concert being viewed worldwide. The experience has deepened our understanding of just how important choral life is, both to us and to our audience: the description 'choir family' does have real meaning. But this experience has not been shared by all. There is a paradox, as the summer concert was beamed across the world, yet did not reach some of our own members here in York. Lack of access to and understanding of technology has prevented some from playing any part in the year's events. A normal in-person rehearsal would have 50 attendees, a normal Zoom rehearsal 37. The tight restrictions on social distancing have prevented us from effectively reaching out to and including all of our members but, hopefully, by the time this article is read, we will once more be all back together.

PUZZLE PAGE



Across

- 1 Sitting 25 across? (6)
- 4 Gosh Al a battered overshoe (6)
- 9 Giant who likes to eat human beings crushed gore (4)
- 10 Small French house? (10)
- 11 Last vowel submersibles (1-5)
- 12 Unconquered eggs, no omelette (8)
- 13 Rambling dieter was by the lake (9)
- 15 Did you get the vital part? (4)
- 16 Sexual crime that provides oil (4)
- 17 Ornament musically written smaller (5,4)
- 21 Precipitation covering (8)
- 22 Centre rebuilt just a short while ago (6)
- 24 Conscientious attention to rules and details (10)
- 25 And bacon sounds like a breakfast (4)
- 26 Spliff (6)
- 27 Chant repetitively (6)



Down

- 1 Mix Arab gel mathematically (7)
- 2 Eighth in the table of Greek letters (5)
- 3 Turnover some Indian food (7)
- 5 Parasitic protozoa (6)
- 6 Incisive activity (9)
- 7 Electric chair may be nice in winter (3,4)
- 8 Oddly stand-ins demur if they don't get it (13)
- 14 Ambitious in scale or scope (9)
- 16 Atomic pile (7)
- 18 Screaming Doctor Cleo Emmanuelle Cowboy (5,2)
- 19 Sadly Anne got a tax on the ship's weight (7)
- 20 Move to and fro (6)
- 23 Beliefs (5)

**SOLUTIONS
PAGE 23**

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

Len Wilson remembered

Steeton Male Voice Choir – Yorkshire North and East – Ian McDonald

Further to the article regarding Len Wilson in the last News & Views it is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Len.

He died in Airedale Hospital on 15 January at the age of 93, with one of his sons at his side. We were honoured that the family invited 6 members of the choir to attend his funeral when numbers were so restricted. I was asked to deliver a eulogy on behalf of the choir, which I was also honoured to do. Without doubt we would have had a choir of 60 men to sing him out if circumstances had permitted. The service ended with our recording of Gwahoddiad which was one of his all time favourites.

What I did not include in the article about Len's amazing 50 year contribution to our choir was that we knew he was terminally ill. At the start of 2020 Len was diagnosed with untreatable lung cancer. Only a year or so prior to that he had completed suc-

cessful treatment on a lung tumour and continued to sing with us until just before the first lockdown. As mentioned he continued to support the choir throughout 2020, despite his declining health, with his uploading of songs onto the computer software to enable us to practise new items at home.

He will be much missed and long remembered by all who have ever been involved with SMVC and the wider community including the wider choral community. He sang with his local church choir in Barrow-in-Furnace from the age of 7 until he left the area in his twenties. He promoted choral singing in all the schools he worked in throughout his long career in education and was a stalwart of his local church choir in East Morton in the Aire Valley for several decades.

Of course we will miss him and mourn him but will also celebrate a life well lived. We plan to hold a memorial/tribute concert

as soon as we are physically able to do so, which will feature as many of his favourite choral and instrumental items as we can.

We had submitted an application for what would have been a well deserved honour for Len and had the support of our Patron the Duchess of Devonshire. Unfortunately we did not have time on our side. On being informed of his death she wrote 'Len was a lovely person, so very kind and thoughtful and always thinking of others ... should he have been bestowed the honour you were campaigning for it would have been greatly deserved'.



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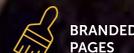
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Losses in Lockdown

Exeter Police and Community Choir – Devon – Bruce Pell

The choir has lost two long-serving and dedicated former members of the choir during lockdown.

In February, members were sad to hear of the death of tenor and former Chief Superintendent Mike Keatt who had served the choir both as chairman and secretary over a long period. Mike passed away at the Exeter care home, where he had been a resident for the past two years, with his immediate family by his side.

One of his old colleagues wrote: 'Michael was a real gentleman and today the world is a poorer place without him. He can now enjoy that wonderful golf course in the sky where there are no bunkers and the sun always shines'... sentiments shared by choir members.

Another well-loved and long-serving former secretary Bill Smith died last year



but still fondly remembered for his caring attitude towards new members, his attention to detail and his sharp wit.

The choir is also sorry to lose John Byatt, vicar of St Boniface Church in Exeter, where the choir have rehearsed and held concerts for many years. John, a baritone with the choir, and his wife Ann, who have unofficially provided refreshments and

many other tasks during their time, are now retiring to Seaton on the Devon coast.

John says: 'I have absolutely loved being part of the choir, having made so many friends, and want to say thank you for all that the choir has done for me - and Ann also.'



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120th Anniversary and 70th

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir - Scotland West - Anne Kay

Conductor and Director of Music
Cameron Murdoch

At the time of writing, Scotland is just emerging from its most recent period of lockdown. Sadly, there still seems to be little clarity on when we can all start singing together again. Like many others, Glasgow Phoenix Choir continues to rehearse online through the wonders of Zoom. We have a pretty good turn out (or maybe that should be turn in?) every week and Cameron does his best to keep the sessions lively and varied and his witty (some might say cheeky) asides keep the choir entertained. Over the last few months we have been learning a good range of new music as well as revising older pieces from our repertoire – useful to both old and new members. We are all looking forward, somewhat wistfully, to a future date when we can hear one another again.

The 2021-22 season will mark a very special time for us. Our excellent predecessors, the Glasgow Orpheus Choir began singing together in 1901 and only stopped when Sir Hugh Robertson decided to retire at the end of the 1950-51 season. Fast forward a few months and the Phoenix arose, musically, from the ashes of the original choir. Next season, therefore, sees the 120th anniversary of the founding of

the Glasgow Orpheus Choir and the 70th anniversary of the 'new' choir. We have amazing plans to celebrate though all of these are on hold until allowed. We have, however, commissioned a very beautiful piece of music, which we are currently learning. I would be delighted to tell you more, but that would spoil the surprise!

In the meantime, we have, once again, embraced the world of the multi-screen video. As a special Easter project, we recorded *Highland Cathedral* with our friends of Whitburn Band. Over the years of being a member of this choir, I have sung *Highland Cathedral* on numerous occasions without appreciating its origins. The melody was composed in 1982 by two German musicians, Ulrich Roeber and Michael Korb for a Highland Games held in Germany. The version sung by the choir has lyrics by Ben Kelly and has been arranged for choir and band by our own Cameron Murdoch.

If you enjoy listening to a brass band, Whitburn Band are multi-award winners who have joined us in some of our big concerts in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. They will be hosting their own virtual festival, with a line-up of 37 bands, on the weekend of 25 to 27 June 2021. You can hear them, and watch the festival, on their own YouTube channel. One of their

percussionists, the fabulous Ryan Bradley, is the genius behind the production of all the band's multi-screen videos, including those with the choir.

In a separate project, we were asked to contribute to a Zoom dinner being held by the Worshipful Company of Coopers, based in the City of London, a charitable organisation that is still connected with the ancient craft of cask making. Always happy to oblige, particularly where the contents of a cask are involved, our choir manager, Ronnie Kay, produced a mini-concert video based on a selection of our existing recordings, which we hope will be enjoyed by all at the event.

How are other choirs keeping their spirits up? We are very lucky to have a hard-working group of people on our council who have been doing their best over the last year to keep the choir united. Although we've not been together, all the usual people have been toiling away in the background to keep the choir in as good a position as possible, so that we can spring into action as soon as we're able. On behalf of Glasgow Phoenix Choir members, I would like to thank our council and all the people in all the other choirs who are striving to get us through the current situation. Thank you.

Gwahoddiad for Ian Scholes

Warrington Male Voice Choir – North West – Bob Williams



The choir has performed and recorded a fitting YouTube tribute to member and former Secretary, the late Ian Scholes.

Ian joined the choir in 1983 and was

Secretary for twelve years. Sadly, he died in January and his funeral took place Tuesday 2 February.

In tribute the choir has recorded one of Ian's favourite hymns, the classic and much-loved Welsh hymn, *Gwahoddiad*. Noting the English translation, the choir is sending out an 'invitation' to watch the tribute by clicking the link:

<https://youtu.be/ub37SqYZJ64>

During his time in the choir, even when he wasn't Secretary, Ian was always on hand to sort everything out. In later years,

when he became Secretary - ably assisted by his wife, Jean - what a brilliant job he did; including setting up the '100 Club' and everything that that involved.

He was a true Mr fix-it, an enthusiastic chorister, a gentleman and a pillar of the choir.

Commenting, Chairman Bob Williams said: 'Ian was a committed, enthusiastic and loyal member of Warrington Male Voice Choir. Along with his smile, he will be missed by everyone connected with the choir'.

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Choir

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01639830757

Conference Update

Conference Co-ordinator - Clive Lawton



Hello to you all as I write on this bright Sunday morning in April. Weather like this makes me look forward to this year and the promising progress of the vaccine rollout together

with the chance of a return to normality for us all and particularly, in our case, to the return of singing together, meeting together and performing for the pleasure of our audiences. We are cautious in our optimism about the release from restrictions and are closely following government guidelines as the situation in the United Kingdom continues to improve. Where we will be in October remains to be seen. Rest assured that whatever the government advice is will be implemented throughout the conference weekend. Your safety is of paramount importance to your officers.

Blackburn 2021 Conference 15 - 17 October.

The conference is centred at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel Blackburn.

The hotel is a spacious four-star hotel with all the amenities you would expect from a hotel in this category. There is a comprehensive view of the hotel on their website for your perusal. The conference hall is spacious and well equipped with a mezzanine floor to accommodate trade stands. All rooms are en-suite. The Gala Dinner will be accommodated in a separate dining room set aside for our use.

Our speakers this year will be David Lawrence and Douglas Coombes. Both have a website which I recommend for your perusal. The content of their seminars is listed

within this edition of News and Views.

There is a different venue for our Conference Concert. This year it will be held at Blackburn Cathedral which is about three miles from the hotel. Transport to and from hotel to Cathedral will be provided or you can use your own transport if you prefer. Choirs from a wide area will be performing at the Cathedral for your entertainment.

Many of our delegates instructed me to transfer their full payments from last year to October this year which I have done. For new bookings, I have included a booking form within this edition of News and Views and hope to see as many of you as possible this year. If I can provide further information not included, please feel free to contact me on 07939012458 or cliveandpatlawton@btinternet.com

Kendal 2022 Conference 1-3 April

2022 sees the conference back, hopefully, to its usual date two weeks before or after Easter. As with all our planned conferences, all are one year later than originally planned. Kendal is a lovely town situated in the scenic lakes and mountains of Cumbria. We will be staying in the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal which is about a mile from the centre of town. The conference facilities are excellent in the hotel with all the rooms served by lifts. All rooms are en-suite. Our speakers for this year are Alan Bullard and Tim Knight. Again, both have extensive websites which are recommended for your perusal. Several choirs will be performing at our annual conference concert.

As it is over eighteen months since the officers visited Kendal for a Members' Open Forum (MOF) we thought it would be a

good idea to re-visit Kendal to meet the choirs again in person to plan the event.

To this end we will have the next MOF in Kendal on 26 June 2021. Any member can attend the MOF and we hope as many will attend as possible. The meeting is from 11.00 to 3.00 on the day. Lunch is provided. Please let me know if you are attending, for catering numbers. The meeting is at the Castle Green Hotel.

Taunton 2023 Conference 24 - 26 March

As it is a while since the team visited Taunton for a Members Open Forum, we plan to travel to Taunton to reconvene to discuss the conference and concert. The date for the MOF is 25 September at the Holiday Inn, Taunton.

I am pleased to say we have a choir volunteering to head up the conference concert as by coincidence it is their centenary in 2023 so a double celebration. We have the Holiday Inn at Taunton planned for the event. The venue for the concert is to be discussed when we convene in September this year. We hope that the speakers for this conference will be Bob Chilcott and Paul Whitaker.

The Centenary Concert for the National Association of Choirs

This will be staged at the King Georges Hall Blackburn on 19 November 2022. Due to Covid 19 the concert is on the date that the Association was formed 102 years on.

Look forward to meeting you at a forum





National Conference Booking Form 1 15-17 October 2021

Mercure Blackburn Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa
Blackburn Road Clayton le Moors, Accrington, BB5 5JP

Conference Costs

Full Conference Stay

The price quoted is
per person for the whole conference
There are no single room supplements
Price per person for whole conference
includes admission to all lectures
two nights bed breakfast and evening meal
refreshments
and free admission to Saturday evening concert
per person **£230**

Stay an extra night -
Thursday Single £83 BB - Double £90 BB
Sunday Single £58 BB - Double £60 BB

Deposit of £70 with booking form
Balance by 1st August 2021.

Reminders will be sent

Room Type - single double twin

Day Delegate (Saturday)

Please circle requirements

Day delegate fee including refreshments and lunch **£40**

Evening meal Saturday add £25.00

Concert ticket Saturday add £10.00

Friday Gala Dinner add £35.00

Day Delegates

Payment in full when booking (non-refundable)

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

You must inform us in writing of any cancellation by 1 August 2021

(Cancellations after this date will incur a charge of 50% of the total fee payable)

Substitute guests will be welcome

Amount submitted £ _____

Please return your completed forms and deposits to the address below

Cheques should be made payable to
The National Association of Choirs
Please return your completed forms and deposits
to the address below

You may pay by BACS
Pay to **National Association of Choirs**
Sort Code 40-52-40
Account no. 00012575
Reference. Conference.

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

Clive Lawton - Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS
01283 569677 or 07939012458 conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



National Conference Booking Form 2 15-17 October 2021

Mercure Blackburn Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa

Blackburn Road Clayton le Moors, Accrington, BB5 5JP

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

Guest 1

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

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

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

Email Address.....

Special Requirements

Diet [type].....

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

NAC group.....

Choir Name.....

Guest 2

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss.....

First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

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

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

Email Address.....

Special Requirements

Diet [type].....

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

NAC group.....

Choir Name.....

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM FOR MORE GUESTS IF REQUIRED

Please return your completed forms and deposits to
Clive Lawton - Conference Coordinator, 20 Arthur's Court, Stretton, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE13 0GS
01283 569677 or 07939012458 conference.coordinator@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk



National Conference Provisional Timetable 15 - 17 October 2021

Mercure Blackburn Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa

Blackburn Road Clayton le Moors, Accrington, BB5 5JP

Friday 15 October 2021

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

Saturday 16 October 2021

7.00	Access to trade stands to set up
7.00-9.30	Breakfast in main dining room
9.30-10.45	David Lawrence (1) Talking about his current projects and commissioning music
10.45-11.15	Coffee and trade stand viewing
11.15-12.30	David Lawrence (2) Practical singing session with an emphasis on European music
12.30-1.30	Trade stand presentations (six 10 minute presentations from trade stands present at conference)
1.30-2.45	Lunch and trade stand viewing (Lunch included in full delegate package)
2.45-4.00	David Lawrence (3) Conducting techniques
5.15	Early evening meal - 2 Courses
6.45	Coach leaves hotel for concert
7.30	Concert
10.00 Approx.	Following concert, light refreshments will be provided back at the hotel
12.00	Bar closes

Sunday 17 October 2021

7am to 9.30am	Breakfast
	For those delegates wishing to attend local churches, details will be available at hotel reception
9.30am.to 10.30am	Douglas Coombes. Warm ups and cool downs
	Explanation and practice of S.O.V.T. (semi-occluded vocal tract)
10.30-11.00	Coffee and trade stand viewing
11.00-11.30	Annual General Meeting
11.30-1.00	Members Open Forum
1.00	Conference closes. (Lunch available in dining room at members' own expense)
1.00	National officers debrief meeting (guillotined after one hour)

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



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😊 Musical Questions? 😊

How do you make a bandstand?

Take away their chairs.

How many composers does it take to change a light bulb?

Just one, but it takes four movements.

Why did the pianist keep banging his head against the keys?

He was playing by ear.

What type of music are balloons afraid of?

Pop music.

Why did the soprano go up the ladder during music class?

To reach the high notes.

What kind of musical instrument do rodents play?

Mouse organs.

What do you call a musical insect?

A humbug.

Why did the fish make such a good musician?

He knew his scales.

What is the most musical part of your body?

Your nose because you can blow and pick it.

What makes songs, but never sings?

Notes.

Why did the grandma sit in the rocking chair with her roller skates on?

Because she wanted to rock and roll.



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“

I would just like to personally thank you for being so helpful and clear at a time when everything is so unclear. Everyone at Rayburn Tours made the task of organising an entire choir trip so fun and easy. It has truly been such a pleasure to work with you.

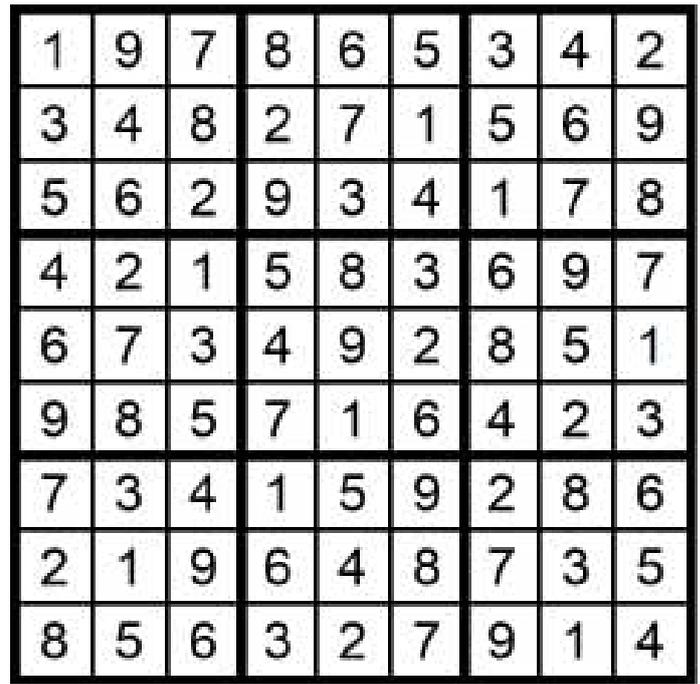
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HOW I LIKE TO RECEIVE ARTICLES

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

publications.officer@nationalassociationofchoirs.org.uk

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

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

KEEP IT SIMPLE!

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

HOUSE STYLE

- We use Calibri 10pt in News & Views. (If you don’t have this, don’t worry I can soon change the one you use.)
- Set your paragraphs to single space with no spacing before or after paragraphs.
- Start with the name of your choir.
- Then the NAC group your choir is in.
- Tell me who has written it.
- Write your article.
- Quotes use single speech marks (same key as @ but without the shift).
- Dates do not include st nd rd or th
- Abbreviations do not have full stops.
- Song titles are shown in italics.
- Please do not put photos in the text.
- Don’t use am or pm in times.
- Unless the word ‘choir’ is part of a title it should NOT have a capital letter.
- Your choir is singular so ‘the choir is’ not ‘the choir are’

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Jean Cooper - *ret General Secretary*

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Alan Simmons - *Music Publisher*

Doris Williams - *Music and Festivals Consultant*

Meeting Dates

Officer Meetings

**All Officer Meetings
will be held using Zoom**

Tuesday 9 June Tuesday 8 September Tuesday 10 November
Tuesday 12 January 2021

Members Open Forums

**All Members Open Forums
have had to be cancelled
until further notice**

Closing dates for submissions to News & Views

Spring Issue
31 December

Summer Issue
30 April

Autumn Issue
31 August