

Issue 44 Q2 2018

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the 44th edition of Alban Notes and my first as Chairman of our Association.

At our AGM on 16th June 2018 I was delighted to be elected as Malcolm's successor and grateful to all who supported me over previous months and those who voted for me. After eleven years leading our ECA I am sure I've a tough job to match the commitment and enthusiasm Malcolm has demonstrated and look forward to working with our dedicated committee and yourselves to ensure our association is sustainable well into the future.



Richard Lilley
Chairman

Our committee now comprises:

Chairman	Richard Lilley
Honorary Treasurer	Jeremy Meager
Honorary Secretary	** Vacant **
IT and Communications Manager	Tony Price
Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1950s	Trevor Jarvis
Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1960s	Nicolas Gibbon
Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1960s	Peter Jeffs
Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1970s	Nick Coleman
Representative for the Cathedral Choir 1990s	Paolo Baroni
Representative for the Abbey Girls Choir	Helen Charlston
Representative for the Abbey Girls Choir	Laura Hicks

During Malcolm's last Chairman's report, he awarded committee member **Moira Dean** with Honorary Life Membership for her commitment to the ECA and Cathedral music trust.

Choral Evensong and Reception

Following our AGM, we were invited to join the Cathedral Choir for Choral Evensong. Singing as ExQuire, about 20 of our members enjoyed once more singing the canticles by C.V. Stanford in B flat and the anthem, *Insane et Vanas Curas* by Joseph Haydn. The combined choir was conducted by Andrew Lucas and the organ played by the Organ Scholar Marnus Greyling.

Our post evensong reception, attended by several members, friends and guests, was held in the North Transept where our Patron, the Dean opened the event expressing his best wishes to

Malcolm on his retirement. On behalf of all members I thanked Malcolm for his exemplary service, not only in sustaining the ECA for eleven years, but for being instrumental in it's reincarnation.



ExQuire joined by The Dean with Richard Lilley (centre)

In recognising this commitment, I asked the Dean to present Malcolm with a certificate awarding him Honorary Life Membership of the ECA. I also presented him with a card signed by all members present on the day, a bottle of his favourite gin and details of the sponsorship of one of the Harrison and Harrison organ pipes in his name. If any members would like to contribute to this sponsorship, please e-mail info@stalbanseca.org.

As your new Chairman my intention is not to make sweeping changes as the model we have and the dedicated management committee works well. I am of course open to new ideas from our members and encourage you to get in touch.

I concluded with thanking Moira and her husband Paul for providing the refreshments and encouraging all members to follow our Facebook and Twitter sites (see footer links) and attend as many functions as they can to support our Association.

2018 ECA Members' Year Book

Copies of our 2018 Members' Year Book were available to all present. If you would like a PDF copy you can download it from the ECA website - [Download PDF \(3.4M\)](#).

London Pub Night

Committee member Nic Gibbon organised a social event at "The Judged Hare" near Victoria, London on the evening of Thursday 26th April. A London venue was chosen due to its easier access routes for members travelling greater distances. Several of us met up, having not met for decades, and reminisced, as one does! This successful event will be repeated in due course at other locations - *please look out for details and support if you can.*

Feast of Corpus Christi

On 31st May, ExQuire (including the Abbey Singers and a few friends) sang for the service of Corpus Christi. Although the Organ Scholar, Marnus Greyling, was due to conduct he unfortunately was called away so Marie Price (director of the Parish Singers and now Director of Music at St. Nicholas, Harpenden) stepped in at short notice to direct the choir with Chris Muhley accompanying on the organ.

Setting: Darke in F

Anthem: Tantum Ergo by Duruflé

Hymns: Let all Mortal Flesh keep silence (Picardy), Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (Hyfrydol), Soul of my Saviour (Anima Christi)

After early concerns for numbers, the choir was over 35 in number and produced a good, "full-bodied" sound. The Dean particularly appreciated the singing of the hymn tune *Hyfrydol* to which a descant was added (by Marie Price).

We are very grateful to all the members who came to sing, to Marie for conducting brilliantly and to Chris for playing.

Moving the Archive

Over the last 10 or 11 years, a considerable archive of material has been amassed and maintained by the ECA (particularly Malcolm Bury while researching his book) and arrangements were made to transfer a number of large boxes to storage at the Cathedral.

The initial plan was to store the archive in the Muniment Room but it was decided to keep them with elements of the library in the switch room which is under the roof of the north aisle with access from a small door high above the floor of the North Transept.

Five intrepid "Sherpas" (including Paolo's partner who took the photo above), with Malcolm at base camp on the ground, bravely scaled the spiral stairs, crossed in front of the rose window, and negotiated the narrow walkway to the switch room.

The archives comprise: photograph albums, CD's/Choral Catalogue from the 60's onwards, service sheets, concert/recital programmes, ECA records and various other papers, including research papers.

If you have any photos or other material you would like to add to the archive please do get in touch.

Member News

We welcome **Oscar Bates** to the ECA having been valedicted on 22nd April 2018. Nature has intervened which has meant he has had to curtail his time as a chorister.



Malcolm with the "Sherpas"!

L-R: Tony Price, Richard Lilley, Malcolm Bury, Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy and Paolo Baroni.



Over recent weeks the ECA has established communication with:

- Jonathan Richards
- Richard Walker
- David Pankhurst

We have over 400 members on our database but are only in contact with about 360. It is easy to assume the ECA has contact details of those we were in the choir with from yesteryear. Please assist us by contacting ex-choristers and confirming with them they know about the ECA and encourage them to make contact via our website.

Important Dates

Wednesday 11th July 2018

Abbey Girl Choristers sing their final Evensong of the term during which choristers will be valedicted. Please support them as they become members of the ECA.

Saturday 14th July 2018

St Albans Cathedral Music Trust Concert. The Cathedral Choirs and the St Albans Bach Choir perform Mendelssohn's "**Elijah**" with Sinfonia Verdi, conducted by Andrew Lucas.

Sunday 15th July 2018

End of the choir term. Cathedral Choristers will be valedicted during Evensong. Please support them as they become members of the ECA.

Friday 27th July to Sunday 29th July 2018

Luccombe Weekend. *Details below.*

Friday 2nd November 2018

All Souls Eucharist at 8pm, Fauré Requiem. *Details below.*

Luccombe Weekend

To mark the 60th anniversary since our President, Peter Hurford, began the tradition of Choir Camp at Luccombe, all members and their families are invited to visit between 27th and 29th July 2018.

Somerset is a popular part of the country and as we are trying to minimise costs, travel and accommodation arrangements will be the member's own responsibility. We will camp in the "choir camp field" behind Luccombe Mill which has plenty of space to accommodate tents / caravans etc. but there are plenty of local hotels and B&B accommodation in the vicinity.

All members of the ECA are invited to participate in the trip and will be very welcome, particularly those from the Abbey Girl's Choir as a "top line" at the service of Choral Evensong on the Sunday afternoon will be a lovely addition. Former Cathedral Musicians, Precentors and Honorary Members are also welcome.



Family groups are also encouraged to participate. Having regard to Health and Safety and Child Protection legislation ECA Members who are under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent, or nominated adult guardian, and those members with children will be responsible for their welfare, safety and behaviour at all times. This is on the advice of The Dean and the Master of the Music as inevitably we will be associated with St Albans Cathedral.

The programme for the weekend is flexible, but likely to be as follows:

Friday 27th July

Fish & Chip Supper in the field

Saturday 28th July

Walk to Dunkery Beacon or Selworthy from Luccombe (Chairman's Lunch)

Return walk via Horner Tea rooms

6.30 p.m. Exquire Rehearsal - St Mary's Church

Evening BBQ in the field - weather permitting

Sunday 29th July

3.00 p.m. Choral Evensong followed by Afternoon Tea and departures

Costs - as members will make their own travel and accommodation arrangements there is no overall charge for the trip however there will be an opportunity for members and their guests to make a donation towards food and drinks.

If you wish to participate in the trip to Luccombe please reply to info@stalbanseca.org indicating who is attending and if you intend to sing at Choral evensong. You will then be provided with further details.

Eucharist for All Souls - Friday 2nd November 2018 at 8pm

The ECA have been invited by the Cathedral Music Trust to sing **Fauré Requiem** as the setting for the Eucharist on the Feast of All Souls. This is a fantastic opportunity for us, not only to sing once more in the Cathedral, but to sing this wonderful requiem together as ExQuire. Being more of a commitment than a straightforward choral evensong, I am keen to secure commitment from members *as soon as possible* to ensure a good balance in the choir.

Please indicate by return if you are able and would like to join us (*copy/paste and edit* the following responses – red text - into an email and send to info@stalbanseca.org).

I would like to attend the service of Old Souls on Friday 2nd November YES / NO
I would like to join ExQuire and sing the Requiem YES / NO
My voice is: Soprano / Alto / Tenor / Bass

Please continue to follow us on social media and support ECA events.

Email



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