



ALBAN NOTES

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Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held in the Abbey Crypt on Saturday 11th July from 11.00 until 11.45. All ECA honorary members and ordinary members are invited to attend.

From The Chairman

This year's Annual General Meeting is very important and I need your help. The agenda for the meeting will again include reports from the Chairman and Honorary Treasurer. However, this year there will be an election of officers for the Committee for which an attendance confirmation and nomination form is attached. We require just the names of the nominee and proposer; election will be by a show of hands at the meeting. Please ensure that you obtain the agreement of a nominee before submitting the form.

Please complete this form and return it by e-mail or post to the Honorary Secretary, Bob Staten at staten@btinternet.com or 19 Noredown Way, Wootton Bassett, Wilts. SN4 8BJ by **Friday 3rd July 2009**.

If the future of the Association is to be assured then I need each of you to consider whether you will join the committee for one year to help administer our activities.

Please note that this is also the opening day of the International Organ Festival so there is an opportunity to attend daytime concerts, Choral Evensong and the Bach Choir Concert in the evening for which tickets are selling well. Please contact the IOF Box Office direct if you wish to attend IOF events. Following the AGM members might like to take lunch either in the Refectory, or across the road at the White Hart where the Saturday set lunch costs in the region of £12.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM and to receiving your nomination forms.

Thank you

Malcolm Bury

Mid-Summer Barbeque

The Dean has very kindly offered the use of his garden for the ECA to hold a mid-summer BBQ and this is planned for Saturday 27th June from 5.00pm (after choral evensong) until around 8.00pm. This is the only opportunity this year for members to get together socially so we are hoping for a good attendance. The evening may well include the singing of a few songs and madrigals if there is sufficient interest – those who remember choir camp-fires will recall the fun we had.

The cost of the BBQ, i.e. food and drinks, will be £5.00 for those still at school or over 80 years of age and £8 for other members and their guests. Please complete and return the attached form to confirm your attendance.

Choir Camp Equipment

The response to the request for input concerning the future of the Choir Camp kit, which was offered to the Association and lay clerks by the Dean, has been disappointing with the only positive suggestion being the possibility of an ATB long weekend in the summer of 2010.

It has therefore been concluded that the ECA is unable to take ownership of the kit and the Dean and Andrew Lucas have been advised accordingly.

Birthday Celebrations

We congratulate and send our best wishes to the following members on the occasion of their birthdays:

Raymond Hughes who celebrated his 95th Birthday in February this year.

Vice-President Dr Barry Rose OBE, former Master of the Music (1988 to 1997) on the occasion of his 75th birthday on 24th May.

Honorary Member Pat Hurford who also celebrates her birthday on 24th May.

New names on the ECA Roll

Oliver Gurney, c/o The Widdicombe Nursing Home, Luton. The Dean and Chairman have visited Oliver in Luton. He was a former tenor in the choir from the late 1940's to 1956 and along with his father, Fred sang under the direction of Meredith Davies and Peter Burton

Reverend David Baker, former Precentor 1963 to 1867

Former choristers who have come to light; **John Davies, John Cosgrove and David Collinge** who sang in the choir around 1947. If anyone knows their whereabouts or last known location then please let us know.

We recognise the service to the Abbey Church Choir and Cathedral Choir of **Mr Joseph Knightley** (deceased) who sang in the choir as a chorister and bass for 65 years from 1858 to 1923 and sang under John Stocks Booth, George Gaffe and Willie Luttman. Also **William Ward** (deceased) who was a chorister in the 1880's.

The Music Department



Gemma Saunders

In a previous edition we featured the music team. However it is often said that "behind every good man there is a good woman." We're not going down that track but members may be interested to know who helps makes things tick in the Music Department Office.

Gemma Saunders joined the Abbey Music Department as Secretary in October 2007 having graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a BA Hons Degree in Music & Popular Music.

Gemma was born and brought up in St Albans and attended Beaumont School until 2002 when she moved to Oaklands College to further her music studies. She plays the flute in a number of different ensembles, including the All Souls' Orchestra, with whom she has recently completed a tour of Scotland. Gemma is also a member of the St Albans Choral Society and sings with them regularly.

A typical week day for Gemma includes liaising with the other members of the music department regarding forthcoming events or services, making sure that choir parents and lay clerks are kept fully informed of any changes to the choir's usual schedule. It is Gemma's job to compile the choir diary and organise any forthcoming events. Recently she has been arranging the Cathedral Choir tour to Normandy in May. Gemma provides a first point of contact for outside enquiries for both the music department and the Cathedral in general. Other tasks include compiling the monthly service & music list and organising visiting choirs.

Gemma also works closely with the Revd Anna Matthews, Minor Canon (Liturgy) to compile the worship rota and reading list, as well as supporting Anna on events such as the annual Festival Pilgrimage.

Gemma is currently an associate member and provides a vital link between the ECA and the Master of the Music. We are very lucky to have a talented and amenable person helping us with our endeavours.

Dates for the diary - 6th 7th June - Celebrating the Harrison & Harrison Organ

Saturday 6th June

Afternoon	Cathedral Organ Open Afternoon (Entry Free)
2.00 pm	Welcome by The Dean and Master of the Music followed by The Colours of the Harrison and Harrison Organ – a demonstration by Simon Johnson
2.30 pm	WOOFYT interactive exhibition on the pipe organ in the North Transept for children
2.30 pm	Short demonstration and guided tours of the Organ Loft by the Abbey Musicians
3.30 pm	Dick Whittington and his Cat – Concert for Organ & Percussion
5.00 pm	Choral Evensong – Abbey Girls & Lay Clerks

Sunday 7th Trinity Sunday

11.15	Choral Eucharist – Messe Solonelle ; Langlais Cathedral Choir including Dedication of the Organ by The Dean
3.00 pm	Celebrity Recital – David Higgs (USA) – Entrance £10 – Concessions £5
6.30 pm	Choral Evensong – Cathedral Choir – Rubbra in A flat and A Vision of Aeroplanes by Vaughan Williams

Other News

We are very grateful to two members who requested copies of the DVDs of last year's reunion and the 50th choir camp and made contributions to our funds and also a further donation specifically to cover the cost of this current newsletter. Thank you.