

A very happy New Year to you all and welcome to the 10th edition of *Alban Notes*.

2010 promises to be an exciting year as we strive to become a more recognisable entity within the Abbey family and now is the time, if you've not already done so, to put the following dates in your diaries

26th June ECA Biennial Reunion & Abbey Girls' Choir Fund Raising Event
18th September ECA Concert at the Abbey

"A Musical Happening"

20th February Abbey Girls' Choir in concert with the Cathedral Lay Clerks
13th March "Auction of Promises" in aid of the Abbey Girls' Choir tour to the USA

The continuing economic difficulties make it very hard to go about our daily lives without thinking of the financial consequences on the family budget and many of us have had to cut back on our spending.

This is providing a tremendous challenge to our Ex-Choristers' Association and the Cathedral Choirs. However, we should not lose sight of the many valuable opportunities, similar to those which many of us enjoyed in earlier times that are, and should be, available to our current Cathedral choristers. So!! this year we have a dual "financial push."

The first, and our primary, efforts are for the ECA Reunion in June and the ECA's musical happening in the Abbey in September where we hope to raise sufficient funds to sustain the Ex-Choristers' Association's activities for a few years.

The second push is to try to support the Abbey Girls' Choir with their tour to the USA in April. In this issue there are two fund-raising/musical events advertised which should be very enjoyable; I hope members will support them.

Abbey Girls' Choir in Concert



A rare opportunity to hear in concert the St Albans Abbey Girls' Choir with the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir at 7.30pm on Saturday 20th February.

An unmissable programme featuring choral music through the centuries, including works by Handel, Rutter, Verdi, Bruckner, Tallis and Stanford.

All proceeds go to supporting the Abbey Girls' Choir & Cathedral Lay Clerks' 10-day concert tour to the USA between 5th-16th April, which will include performances in Washington DC, New York City and Miami.

Tickets priced £15 (full view), £8 (restricted view), concessions £8. All tickets unreserved.
Available at the door or in advance from the St Albans Cathedral Information Desk. Tel 01727 890256.

ECA Biennial Reunion

This year's reunion will take place in the Abbey on the afternoon of Saturday 26th June and will follow the format of previous reunions with the AGM, the Service of Choral Evensong and a reception afterwards where members can catch up with former friends and choir colleagues and meet new ones. The focus of the service this year will be a celebration of the formation of the Cathedral Choir in 1877 and the Abbey Girls' Choirs in 1996. Invitations will be sent to all members in the near future.

Once again, the Association will be publishing a Members' Year Book so please visit the membership page on our website at <http://www.stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk/> to a) check that your entry details are correct and b) browse the listings to see if you can identify any missing names.

Members will perhaps be pleased to know that our website is visited around 20 times per week on average so clearly there is quite a lot of interest in our activities.

ECA "A Musical Happening"

The Association's "Musical Happening" in the Abbey on 18th September is now being planned by your committee. We will be contacting members to garner your support for this very important event and to enlist your participation in some form of musical activity! The aims are to raise some funds, acknowledge President Peter and Pat Hurford's 80 years and have a lot of fun at the same time so **watch this space!!**

Happy Announcements



Many congratulations to Rosie Cooke, former Abbey Girl chorister and current ECA Committee member who has become engaged to Paul Roberts, a Town Planner in Malvern, and Director of Music at Bosbury Parish Church in Herefordshire.

No new ECA members this quarter but we send a very warm welcome to **Thomas (Tom) Pazzi-Axworthy** who has joined the Cathedral Choir. Tom is the son of Rhodri (always known as PA to his friends) who was a Star Chorister and Woollams Scholar in the 1970's.

Abbey Girls' Choir - Auction of promises: 13 March



The Abbey Girls Choir is also holding an Auction of Promises at 7.30 pm on 13 March 2010 in the refectory at the Cathedral to raise money for their forthcoming tour of the U.S.A. The evening will comprise dinner, with entertainment from the girls, and then the auction. In parallel, the promises have been entered on a website at <http://auctionofpromises.com/i.aspx?a=ztddrr6> at which bids can be made (or further promises offered). This link can also be accessed via the Cathedral website. Anyone who wishes to support the event can:

- (a) offer a promise (either through the website or by contacting Linda Walton at canon@stalbanscathedral.org.uk)
- (b) bid for a promise, either through the website, or on the night;
- (c) buy a ticket (£10) for the auction/dinner on 13 March (again contact Linda Walton in the first instance).

The girls will be extremely grateful for your support.

A Plea

If you attended the IOF Three Choirs' Concert last summer you will have enjoyed one of the most colourful and inspired choral performances in the Abbey for many years. Sadly we cannot locate any photographs of the choirs taken during, or at the end of the performance, only during rehearsals. This leaves a significant gap in the archives of the Cathedral Choir. If anyone has a photograph of the choirs in performance and would be willing to provide a copy for the archives please contact the Chairman on malcolmgb@btinternet.com

Finally, if you are receiving your copy of Alban Notes via the post but have access to email and the Internet please do let us know your address via info@stalbans-exchoirassoc.co.uk – it will help reduce our administration costs.