

The FCOCA Festival returns to St Albans Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September



Photograph: Colin Whyman

From the Chairman

I hope you have all now received your member's ticket packages and programme for the September festival and I do hope that many of you will sign up to attend the events which are being arranged.

Participation is open to all our members including our Vice Presidents, Honorary Members, Full Members (former choristers – trebles and sopranos - and lay clerks), former Precentors, current and former Cathedral musicians and Associate Members.

This year's **Once a Chorister** magazine (see left), which is published by The Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations, features on the front page a spectacular photograph of the full Cathedral Choir, conducted by Andrew Lucas, singing Evensong in the Quire.

In addition to a warm welcome from the Dean there is a 5-page article inside the magazine covering the history of the Abbey, the Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir, the Music Staff and a section on the Ex-Choristers Association.

There is also the combined annual report on the activities of the ECA and the Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir during 2012 including a list of those valedicted last year.

Copies of the magazine (price £4) and copies of the original photographs can be ordered by email from the chairman at malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org We do not sell photographs of the Cathedral Choir but we are grateful for donations to help fund our activities with some of the proceeds eventually benefiting the Cathedral Choirs.

If you have not received the Festival Programme Package and Booking Form please contact the chairman as soon as possible either by email or telephone 01296 630169.

If you are unable fully to participate in the festival activities then please do come along and participate in the choral events; Friday Compline in the Quire at 9.15pm and Saturday Choral Evensong at 4.00pm with a rehearsal at 3.00pm. See form below.

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General meeting will now be held in the Cathedral Crypt at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday 8th September. This is later than usual because of the many summer events at the Cathedral, the holiday season and availability of key ECA people. The timing of the meeting means that those who attend either the 8.00 a.m. or 9.30 a.m. Eucharist services can still do so – the Cathedral Choir will still be on summer leave. **A formal Notice of the AGM, together with the Agenda and Committee Nomination form is attached.** Please put this date in your diary **but** more importantly please consider standing for election to the committee. This will help ensure that your Association is sustained into the future.

Members' News

We welcome the following new members to the Association: **Reverend Paul Arbuthnot** – Current Precentor, **Harry Oliver** – Treble (1956-1959), **Richard Brain** – Tenor Lay Clerk (2012 – 2013) and **David Entwistle** – Bass Lay Clerk (2000 – 2012)

New ECA Website

Great News!! Our ECA website has been re-designed by our IT Manager, Tony Price, and is now accessible at www.stalbanseca.org A visit is definitely worthwhile and recommended!

Did you know that the ECA also has a Facebook page called St Albans Choristers. Click on the following link - www.facebook.com/groups/2434518704 and join our conversations.

Lucombe 2013

During the weekend of 5th to 7th July 26 former choristers, lay clerks, a Precentor and Pat Hurford, Life Member, re-visited Lucombe and a few stalwarts camped in the old field, courtesy of Ros Clements.

Of course it was a very different camp from the past but it still engendered a great spirit of fun and camaraderie. Those arriving on the Friday were kept busy pitching canopies and tents and Camp-Master Tony de Rivaz pitched the old wood store and dug the fire pit!

A fish & chip supper was provided by Ros de Rivaz for those camping whilst non-campers brought their own suppers. On Saturday our group (well some of them) walked to Dunkery Beacon where we had the "Chairman's Lunch" before moving off down through Cloutsham to Horner for afternoon tea! On Saturday evening, while the Ex-Choristers' Association rehearsed for Sunday's Evensong Ros and her team of ladies and non-singing ex-choristers prepared a BBQ which turned out to be a feast. Sunday started as a 'quiet' day although a few did drive over to Simonsbath and walked the Barle Valley to Cow Castle for the traditional swim (nobody took soap) Then it was on with the 'Sunday Best' to sing Evensong which was conducted by David Ireson with Rogers Covey-Crump playing the organ.

The visit was timely in remembering Bill Partridge, that the Evensong was dedicated to his memory and that a number of members of his former regiment attended. Former Abbey Precentor John Reed, now Archdeacon of the Lucombe church's diocese, came to the service and sang as the Precentor. Reverend Stephen Humphreys preached a very interesting and humorous sermon.

The service was followed by an amazing afternoon tea that the village provided and that the whole congregation was able to take part in it. At the beginning of tea Pat gave a warm and heartfelt tribute to Bill and his family and which emphasised the tremendous affection that still exists between Lucombe and St Albans and the people who make the effort to sustain it.



Ex-Choristers & Ex-Lay Clerks - Lunch on Dunkery Beacon

Back: Kay Pearson, Trevor Jarvis, Joseph Elbourn, Ollie Matthews, Dominic Lowth,
Peter Pearson, Nigel Nethersole, Malcolm Bury

Front: Hazel Ireson, David Ireson, John Adams, Maureen Adams, Christine Ward, Luanda Bury, Geoff Ward,
Tony de Rivaz, Ros de Rivaz, Pat Hurford, Bob Staten, Dom Lewis-Barclay, Mike Hurford



Arrival at Camp



Working Supper & Drinks



Not a pretty sight



The Lads = Ollie, Dom & Joseph



Cloutsham



Horner – Afternoon Tea



Tony's famous camp fire



The traditional swim at Cow Castle, Barle Valley

Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and the ECA committee is now under some pressure to arrange an action replay, possibly next year, but this depends on there being a critical mass of participants. This year was, however, somewhat of an experiment, albeit a very successful one. We organised ourselves pretty well and were well supported by the parents of the three young ex-choristers.

Congratulations
Tom & Gemma Winpenny
On their marriage at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on 27th July
We wish them good health and every happiness for their future together

Current Cathedral Lay Clerks

This edition of Alban Notes has been sent by e-mail to our current lay clerks because from time to time there are items featuring the Cathedral Choirs which may be of interest. Please advise the Chairman if you DO NOT wish to receive Alban Notes by sending an email with "**Unsubscribe**" as the subject.

FCOCA Festival at St Albans Cathedral

Compline & Choral Evensong
Friday 20th September to Sunday 22nd September 2013

During the Festival there are two choral services in which ECA members are invited to participate. The first is Compline in the Quire at 9.15pm on Friday 20th September following the Festival 'Welcome Reception'. The choir will be conducted by David Ireson and the service taken by our Precentor, The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot. If there is a good response a Motet may be included in the service.

The second service is Choral Evensong in the Quire at 4.00pm on Saturday 21st September with a rehearsal at 3.00pm. This will follow the format of our biennial reunion services but we will be singing the Preces & Responses, Canticles and the Anthem.

All ECA Members, including the Abbey Singers and former Abbey Girl Choristers are encouraged to attend and/or participate in these services. If you wish to take part please complete the form below and return to the Chairman by no later than **Saturday 7th September**. (Copy and paste into an email or print and post).

Email to malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org or
 by post to **23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB.**

Thank you.

To: The Chairman
 I wish to participate in the following Festival activities.

Member's Name:

Friday 20 th September	Sung Compline at 9.15pm in the Quire	Yes / No*
Saturday 21 st September	Choral Evensong at 4.00pm in the Quire (Rehearsal at 3.00pm)	Yes / No*
Voice*	Soprano Alto Tenor Bass	

* Delete as appropriate