



# ALBAN NOTES

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[www.stalbanseca.org](http://www.stalbanseca.org)



*Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations*

**Issue 39 (Q1/ 2017)**

Welcome to the first edition of Alban Notes in 2017. There are two major events this year for which the support of ECA members is needed:

## **ECA Reunion Choral Eucharist & AGM – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

As reported in the last edition of Alban Notes, the Ex-Choristers' Association choir, *ExQuire*, will be singing the Service of Choral Eucharist on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Last year around 30 ex-choristers and lay clerks were conducted by David Ireson and sang Sumsion's Leicester Communion Service which was very well received, as indeed was Andrew Parnell's *Oculi omnium*.

This year Andrew will conduct *ExQuire* and Nick Freestone will play the organ for us. You should all have received an email and return slip regarding this service – it is also posted on our website - and a few members have already signed up to sing which is encouraging. If you have not already done so please complete the slip and return it to me as an email or email attachment as soon as possible. We have established a good reputation with the Cathedral authorities and clergy and it would be good to maintain our excellent relationship.

After the service there will be drinks and nibbles prior to the AGM for which there is no charge.

## **Luccombe Camp**

This will take place on the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July. Again, details are on the ECA website and you should have received an email and return slip. A few folk have already signed up but we must be sure of an ATB quorum for the Sunday Choral Evensong. Please support this event as it may be the last occasion when this can be organised.

## **Members' News**



### **Helen Charlston BA Hons. (Cantab)**

We are delighted to welcome Helen Charlston to the ECA Management Committee.

Helen was a chorister, and subsequently head chorister of the Abbey Girls Choir, under Simon Johnson. She has been one of the very few girl choristers to have been invited to sing alongside the gentleman lay clerks.

She studied music at Trinity College, Cambridge where she held a choral scholarship for three years. Now in demand as a soloist, Helen appears regularly with orchestras and choirs worldwide.

Most recently she has appeared as the alto soloist in Handel Messiah with orchestras in Perth, Adelaide and Seattle, and made her debut at Cadogan Hall singing Schoenberg Lied der Waldtaube with the Facade Ensemble.

Helen is also an experienced consort singer, appearing with many of the UK's finest vocal ensembles including the Tallis Scholars, Alamire, the Gabrieli Consort, and her own Amici Voices, which she founded in 2012.

## **Congratulations**

We send our best wishes to former bass lay clerk **Peter Pearson** who celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in April.

## **Another Brilliant Musical Success**

The final of the sixth St Albans Young Musicians Competition proved very successful for our ex-choristers. The competition, organised each year by the Cathedral Music Trust, showcases the incredible musical talent

of children from local primary and secondary schools. The standard this year was particularly high but former choristers Thomas Johnson, Tom Pazzi-Axworthy, Louisa Kataria and Emily Price all came out as winners.



**Louisa Kataria and Emily Price**

Thomas and Louisa formed half of the Parmiter's Barbershop Quartet, who sang "I see the light" by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater, and won the first prize for Secondary Vocal Ensemble, jointly with St Albans School Chamber Choir in which Tom was singing, performing "The Dying Soldier", a traditional song arranged by Nigel Short.

Louisa then went on to win first prize in the Secondary Wind/Brass Solo category, playing the first movement from the Sonata for Alto Saxophone by Lawson Lunde. The adjudicator, Delia Meehan, highly praised her exceptional tone and musical line. Emily, competing in the Secondary Vocal Solo category, gave a beautifully crafted performance of "Green Finch and Linnet Bird" from "Sweeney Todd" by Stephen Sondheim, and came away with the first prize. Both solo winners received a certificate and a cheque for £100.

A number of current choristers were finalists in the primary categories so we can expect more ex-chorister winners in future years no doubt.

### **Cathedral Choir news**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February the Cathedral Choir gave a concert to a very appreciative audience at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford a church which has a thriving choral tradition. The programme included a wide variety of choral and organ pieces from across the repertoire, some of which demonstrated the versatility of St Michael's newly rebuilt Mander's organ.

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To: The Chairman      [malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org](mailto:malcolm.bury@stalbanseca.org)

From:

I should like to sing with *ExQuire* at the Choral Eucharist on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June\*

Voice Part\*:      Soprano      Alto      Tenor      Bass

I shall be/shall not be attending the post service drinks and Annual General Meeting

My guest(s) will be.....