THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

Published by the St. Albans Cathedral Ex-Choristers' Association
www.stalbanseca.org

Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations

Issue 41 (Q3/ 2017)

From the Chairman

It was with great sadness that I advised our members of the death of Pat Hurford on Wednesday 27th September 2017. Pat became an Honorary Life Member of the Ex-Choristers Association in 2007 and was a very keen supporter of our events and attended our concerts, reunions, annual general meetings and other ad hoc get-togethers. She also greatly enjoyed participating in the ECA's Luccombe Weekend in 2013, a place very close to her heart where she gave a wonderful tribute to Bill Partridge. Pat will be remembered for her enthusiasm, cheerfulness and good humour.

Pat Hurford MA Oxon - Honorary Life Member

Pat was born and brought up in Cambridge but went to Oxford to study Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. However, much of her time there was spent sailing and singing, including singing with a six-voice group in West Germany, Spain and Denmark during the three summer vacations. Returning to Cambridge to take a teaching diploma she sang in the Madrigal Society and the Cambridge Singers, and thus met Peter.

Pat then taught at Blackheath High School and she and Peter were married while he was completing his National Service in London. They came to St Albans on January 1st 1958, two years after being married and lived there since then.

During Peter's 20 years as Master of the Music, Pat brought up Heather, Michael and Richard and supported Peter in his very testing career. Pat also taught part time at what was then the College of Further Education, and trained as a Relate Counsellor.

When Peter became free-lance in 1978, Pat went to the Tavistock Institute for further training as a couple therapist and eventually had a private practice, but also continued with Relate until she had completed 25 years service. Once the children had left home she was able to travel with Peter on recording and recital trips, and enormously enjoyed being his registrant when he played large tracker-action organs; in those days the organs in Sydney Opera House, Hong Kong Concert Hall, Ratzeburg Cathedral etc. all had minimal reliable electronic aids so a registrant was kept very busy.

In 1989, Pat's book, "Coping with Teenagers" was published by the National Marriage Guidance Council.

New members

In July the following choristers received their valediction form the Cathedral Choir and Abbey Girls Choir and were presented with copies of the book "The Choirs and Musicians of St Albans Cathedral" and the Ex-Choristers' Association's Members' Year Book: **Freddie Pazzi-Axworthy, Lucas Roseden, Joseph Shaw and Aidan Tanner; Philippa Lawrence, Amber Lythgoe, Katie Ripley, Phoebe Wakefield and Lucy Walton.**

Organ Scholar - Marnus Greyling BMus (Hons), UTLM, MMus (Cantab)

The ECA is delighted to welcome Organ Scholar, Marnus Greyling. From Johannesburg, Marnus started learning the organ in 2009. Since 2011, he has won many prizes including many national organ competitions.

In 2012, Marnus completed a Teacher's Licentiate in piano. He holds a BMus Hons degree (cum laude) from the University of Pretoria and this year he completed a Master of Music degree at the University of Cambridge, reading music at Jesus College and acting as Graduate Organ Scholar at Downing College.

Marnus taught at the Deutsche Internationale Schule in Johannesburg, worked as accompanist for the Johannesburg Bach Choir and the Welsh Male Voice Choir of South Africa. He was also organist of St George's Church, Johannesburg and has performed with the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg, Johannesburg Festival Orchestra, and more recently with the Cambridge University Chamber Choir and Buxtehude Ensemble.

Cathedral Choir News

On 17th July, three of the UK's finest choirs, St Albans Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral and the Temple Church combined forces for the St Albans International Organ Festival's Three Choirs Concert.

The concert programme which was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 17th September comprised:

Otto Nicolai	transcription of Liszt's Ecclesiastical Festival Overture on the Chorale Ein Feste Burg
JS Bach	Nun danket alle Gott BWV.657
Holst	The Evening Watch
Vaughan Williams	Credo from Mass in G minor
Eric Whitacre	Lux aurumque
SS Wesley	Ascribe unto the Lord
Tippett	5 Spirituals from 'A Child of our Time'
Bernstein	Chichester Psalms
Mendelssohn	Verleih uns Frieden

The programme featured James Hall (countertenor), Elizabeth Bass (harp), Rebecca McChrystal (percussion), Pier Damiano Peretti, with Simon Johnson, Tom Winpenny, Greg Morris (organ) and conductors Andrew Carwood, Roger Sayer and Andrew Lucas.

During the interval the audience were able to listen to a recording of Peter Hurford, playing Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C (BWV 564) on the organ of The Church of Our Lady of Sorrow, Toronto, Canada.

It can still be heard on the BBC iPlayer (until 19th October) here - http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b095y8fp

Luccombe Weekend - Friday 28th to Sunday 30th July 2017

On Friday 28th July a small party of former lay clerks and choristers and their wives and partners arrived in Luccombe – some stalwarts in the 'old camp field,' others to local hotels and B&Bs - with great hopes of a great weekend. Despite decidedly inclement weather which lasted most of the weekend everyone had a super, albeit a bit of a soggy time.

We were all very pleased to see former Precentor, Barney Huish and his two sons and two young daughters who were all sleeping under canvass for the first time – quite a 'baptism'.

After repairing to Richard Lilley's caravan for afternoon tea a few tents and canopies were pitched although there was one casualty with the Chairman's canopy being totally destroyed by very high winds.

Fortunately, the camp leaders' tent – Tony & Ros de Rivaz – became the focus of the camp and provided enough shelter for the fish & chip supper, although it did get a bit cosy with over twenty people trying to sit, eat and drinks at the same time AND trying to avoid the constant battering of the wind and rain.

Many years ago Choir Camp suffered similar soggy weather which made camp life quite difficult with activities focussed very much in "Tentacle" but in those days we were much better equipped and were also a lot younger ☺

Saturday morning started off fine with breakfast in and around "Tony's Boudoir" before others arrived from their somewhat more comfortable accommodation.

A few of our 'younger' members and guests walked up to Dunkery Beacon, some from the village via Webber's Post, while others, including Peter Pearson who had recently celebrated his 90th birthday, managed to walk from the car park at the top.

Pictured are Paolo Baroni, Nick Coleman, Luanda Bury, Nicola Higgins and Richard Lilley.

The Chairman provided the customary picnic lunch before a few members of the party walked down to the Horner Tea Gardens via Great Rowbarrow and Horner Water.

Pictured: John Adams, Paolo Baroni, Tony de Rivaz, Rogers Covey-Crump, Malcolm Bury, Nicola Higgins, Trevor Jarvis, Richard Lilley, David Ireson, Nick Coleman and Peter Pearson

Discretion overruling valour the evening BBQ was held in the Village Hall where Ros de Rivas, assisted by the ladies provided a feast of sausages and burgers.

The customary Service of Choral Evensong, directed by David Ireson with Rogers Covery-Crump playing the organ was sung in St Mary's Church on Sunday afternoon and what a surprise we had seeing the Flower Festival dedicated to St Alban and particularly the arrangement displaying the martyrdom of Alban.

The music included Sumsion's ATB Canticles and the anthem, *Gloria tibi Domine* by William Byrd.

We were, once again, delighted to welcome Rev'd John Reed, another former Precentor, who preached the sermon and our thanks go to Rev'd Stephen Humphreys for conducting the service.