THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

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The Music Team

September saw the start of a new choir year with two new faces; Tom Winpenny as Assistant Master of the Music and Alex Woodrow as Organ Scholar. Tom joins us from St. Paul's Cathedral where he was sub-organist. His musical career started as a chorister at York Minster. He was then Music Scholar at Eton College, Organ Scholar at Worcester Cathedral and St. George's Chapel then at King's College Cambridge. Alex joins us from Guildford Cathedral where he was Organ Scholar and prior to that he was Organ Scholar at Magdalene College, Cambridge. We wish them both well in their new posts.

2008 Strategy Review

Early in September the Committee met to review the activities of the Association since its inception and to discuss the way forward having regard to the two AGM resolutions which moved our reunions to every two years with a major fund raising event in the intervening years. The committee also reviewed the effectiveness of the organisation with a view to strengthening our relationship with the Cathedral Choir and making the association more robust and sustainable. We are delighted to advise you that Andrew Lucas, Dr. Stephen Darlington, Mr Colin Walsh and Dr Barry Rose have been elevated to Vice-Presidents and Honorary Memberships have been offered to; David Ireson for services to the Cathedral Choir, leading the campaign for the Hurford Choristership and for his commitment and inspiration as a co-founder of the Ex-Choristers' Association; Tony and Ros De Rivas for 10 years service to the choir camp and also Ros as a co-founder of the Association. Co-founders Moira Dean and Christine Blackie have also been made Honorary Members.

2008 Reunion DVD

Members who attended this year's reunion will recall that former chorister, Mark Adams and 'sound-man' Rob Miles made a DVD of Evensong and the Reception. Copies of this limited edition DVD are now available to Association members and the Cathedral Choir. Please contact any member of the Committee.

Vidcaps courtesy of Mark Adams

Member's News

We are delighted to announce that Susannah Brook (right), former Abbey Girls' Chorister has joined the Management Committee.

Congratulations to former Abbey Girls' Chorister, Claire Innes-Hopkins ARCO who this summer graduated with a BA Hons. Degree from Cambridge University and is now Organ Scholar at Peterborough Cathedral.

We welcome as new members of the Association former treble Thomas Foxton and former Abbey Girls' choristers Elinor Bishop, Erin Chard, Lucy Knight, Hannah Muhley and Bibi Berrington.

Former Abbey Girls' Choir and committee member, Libby Godlee, has now gone up to Durham University; we wish her well.

Former treble choristers identified since the last Newsletter and welcomed into the Association are Michael Milbourn (circa 1958-62), David Ranger (1948-52), Robert Alban Cozens (1930's; k.i.a. 1943), Bernard Moseley (1942-45), Mark Thomas (1972-79).

2009 Major Fund Raising Event – Advance Warning

A date to put in your diary is Saturday 19th September 2009 when the Association will be staging a major fund raising event in the Abbey. It will be a 'zany musical happening' with solo performances by members of the Association ranging from organ, light music, opera to jazz and a choral directed by Andrew Parnell. Does this sound good to you? If so, then please offer your services.

It's going to be fun with just a couple of rehearsal workshops around a Wine & Cheese Party in the spring and a BBQ a bit later in the summer.

Members should be aware that this event is virtually our sole way of raising the necessary finance to assure our biennial reunion in 2010 so, as our President, Peter Hurford said in his speech at this year's reunion reception, "please step up and volunteer your talents!"

You will all be contacted either by e-mail or by post over the next couple of months or so to see how best you can help with this event, either by participating, with its organisation, or just by attending.

Ex-Choristers' Association Website

Members with internet access will soon be able to use our recently upgraded website which has been re-designed by former Abbey Girls' Chorister Anna Debenham who came forward to offer her IT services to the Association. The structure is basically the same but it has a fresh and more modern look. Thanks to Chris Sharp who implemented the first website which served us well for a year and now Anna for the 'new-look.'

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The Newsletter has been published for just a year and it's time for some improvements.

We've given it a new name, thanks to Bob Staten, and we will try to issue it on a regular quarterly basis.

Hitherto the newsletters have been generated solely by the committee. We would now like contributions 'from members about members' – not lengthy essays but newsworthy articles about people and events – historic and current - that could be of interest to our membership.

Why not contribute to a "Where are they now?" column - a snapshot of yourself as a chorister, whenever that was and now, whatever you are doing. It could be fun!

Process and timetable for contributions to Alban Notes

Articles and news items for the next edition should be sent either in Word.doc format with pictures in jpeg format, to the chairman at malcolmgb@btinternet.com or in hard copy by post to 23, Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB by no later than Friday 23rd January 2009.