THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

ALBAN NOTES

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

Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers Associations

Issue 23 (Q2 2013)

From the Chairman

The ECA has received a donation from the estate of the late Barry Smith and we are most grateful to Pam Kell, Barry's sister, for passing on this legacy. Barry was a chorister from 1940 to 1945 and had provided considerable assistance in identifying choristers in the few photographs taken during that wartime period.

What is the FCOCA

In previous editions I have referred to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations (FCOCA) and the Festival being held at St Albans Cathedral during the weekend of the 20th to 22nd September this year. However, some feedback seems to indicate that members may not know very much about the FCOCA, its objectives and its activities.

This is the UK-based Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations which at present comprises fifty five Affiliated Associations in the UK and overseas.

The history of the FCOCA, together with its objectives, organisation and programme of events can be found at the website: http://www.onceachorister.org/index.html

St Albans Cathedral Ex-Chorister's Association is affiliated to the FCOCA and I am a member of the Executive Committee with specific responsibilities for SE England, Scotland and Overseas Region.

The FCOCA also publishes an annual magazine called "Once a Chorister" in which our Association has featured significantly over the last few years with a double page colour spread. These magazines are offered to members via Alban Notes and are also available at our biennial reunions.

The FCOCA holds its Annual General Meeting and Annual Festival at one of the UK Cathedrals each year and in 1987 St Albans Cathedral hosted a very successful Festival.

The Festival returns to St Albans

In September the FCOCA will return to St Albans for the weekend of 20th to 22nd hosted by our Association.

The Dean, Dr Jeffrey John, is President of the Federation for 2013 and will be welcoming the delegates to St Albans.

A comprehensive programme is being put together for the weekend, extracts of which have already been published in recent editions of Alban Notes, and it is hoped that many of our members will participate in some or all of the social and musical events, including Choral Evensong on Saturday afternoon.

ECA Members who have attended our biennial reunions will know what a splendid sound can be made by the extended choir.

On the Saturday evening there is a banquet in St Albans Town Hall (catered by the famous restaurant, Lussmans) during which there will be some musical entertainment, with our former Assistant Master of the Music, **Dr Simon Lindley** (photo left) being the guest speaker.

The Festival Booking Packages will be sent out to members shortly and I would urge you all to send back your replies as soon as possible because the hotel and town hall have limited capacity.

Luccombe Revisited

The trip to Luccombe will now go ahead on the weekend of 5th – 7th July and we are promised a very warm welcome. Attached is the programme for the weekend (further suggestions are welcome) together with a booking form which should be returned to the Chairman **no later than Friday 10th May.**

Luccombe Choir Camp circa 1959-60

Back Row: ?,?, Mick Medina, Martin Hudson, Michael Milbourn

3rd Row: Andrew Cannel, Robert Humbert, Graham Stewart, Ian Woods, John Ireson, Keith Sedgebeer, Rod Argent, Trevor Jarvis, ?, Peter Knapp

2nd Row: Roger Grimes, Roland Harding, Mike Hall, Peter Hurford, Norton Challenor, John Tournay, Ian Clark, Ian Bartrop

Front Row: Michael Gough, ?, Christopher Freeman, R. Atkinson, Chris Martin, ?, ?, ?, ?,

Committee News

This month there have been some changes to the management committee. Simon Colston who has been our Finance and IT Manager since 2008 has retired from the committee and we are very grateful for the work Simon has done in maintaining the membership database, sending out Alban Notes and other communications to members and also looking after the website. We are very fortunate in that another Lay Clerk with extensive IT experience, Tony Price (photo right), has agreed to take over as IT Manager. Tony's wife Marie conducts the Parish Singers and family Price have contributed three choristers to the Cathedral and Abbey Girls Choirs.

In addition, current committee member John Meager has agreed to be our Honorary Treasurer

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to John & Faith Tournay on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 1st June. John and Faith were married in St Marys Church, Hitchin by Dean Kenneth Mathews and with the full Cathedral Choir conducted by Peter Hurford and Assistant Organist John Freeman in attendance. The sun shone too, says John. ☺

John was a treble chorister from 1943 with Dr Albert Tysoe, Meredith Davies and Peter Burton, and a leading Alto lay clerk with Peter Hurford until 1969. He is featured on the Choir's recordings and BBC broadcasts as a soloist including the solo in a broadcast of "Behold, Thou has made my days" by Orlando Gibbons with Peter Hurford playing harpsichord.

John has been an ECA Committee Member since 2010.

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ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

Luccombe 2013 - Booking Form
Weekend of Friday 5th to Sunday 7th July.

Dear Members: The trip to Luccombe near Minehead, Somerset will now go ahead on the weekend of Friday 5th to Sunday 7th July. Somerset is a popular part of the country, particularly in summer and as we are trying to minimise costs we are suggesting that travel and accommodation arrangements will be the member's own responsibility. A list of local hotels and B&B accommodation is on the reverse of this booking form and members should make their reservations as soon as possible.

It may be possible to camp in the choir camp field behind Luccombe Mill – "*amenities include a first class, constantly flowing stream and "dig-your-own" latrines,* or at East Luccombe Farm *where there is the added comfort of an outside toilet, small sink and cold tap!"*

Former members of the Abbey Girls Choir are full members of the ECA and although they have not, hitherto, been associated with the village of Luccombe they are invited to participate in the trip. Former Cathedral Musicians, Precentors and Honorary and Associate Members are also welcome to participate.

ECA Members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent, or nominated adult guardian, and those members with children will be responsible for their welfare, safety and behaviour at all times.

The proposed programme for the weekend is likely to be as follows. However a final programme and list of participants will be issued nearer the time so members may wish to arrange to share transport:

Friday 5th July
6.30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (assuming there is a quorum of 6) St Mary's Church followed by "Liberal Libations" at The Dunkery or The Ship at Porlock Weir!

Saturday 6th July
Walk to Dunkery Beacon from Luccombe (lunch will be provided at the Beacon)
Evening "get together" (BBQ or Camp Fire TBA – depending on weather)

Sunday 7th July
3.00 p.m. Choral Evensong & Afternoon Tea

Costs:
As members are arranging their own travel and accommodation there will be no overall charge for the trip butr there will be an opportunity for members and their guests to make a donation to ECA funds.

If you wish to participate in the trip to Luccombe please complete and return the tear-off slip below to Malcolm Bury at 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB or as an email attachment as soon as possible, but by **no later than Friday 3rd May.**

To: Malcolm Bury at 23 Long Plough, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HB or at Malcolmgb@btinternet.com

I/We wish to participate in the summer trip to Luccombe. (Delete as necessary)

Member's Name .....

Names of Spouse/Partner/Guests/Children .....

*I/We should like to sing at the Choral Services in St Mary's Church - Voice part: Sop / Alto / Tenor / Bass

I/We should like to camp in Luccombe, if possible. YES/NO

PORLOCK VISITOR CENTRE

West End, High Street, Porlock, Somerset TA24 8QD
Tel: 01643 863150
Fax: 01643 863014
Email: visit@porlock.co.uk
Web Site: www.porlock.co.uk

FREE BOOKING SERVICE

OPENING HOURS, SUMMER: MON - SAT 10AM - 5PM, SUNDAY 10AM - 1PM.
WINTER: TUES- FRI 10AM - 12.30PM, SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES QUOTED ARE PER PERSON PER NIGHT

S = Single D = Double	Tel:	Bedroom				Bed &	Evening	Single	En-	Spec	Pets	Child	Non	Grading
T = Twin F = Family	01643	S	T	D	F	B/fast	Meal	Supp	Suite	Diet			Smoke	VB/ AA
Serviced Accommodation														
						From:								
Amberton, Hawkcombe	862194			2		£35.00	No	£25.00	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Ash Farm, Porlock Hill	862414		1	2	1	£25.00	By Arr	Yes	No	Yes	No	4+	Yes	
The Culbone, Porlock Hill	862259			5		£40.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Court Place Farm, Porlock	862554		1	1	1	£30.00	No	No	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Cross Lane House,Allerford	863276			3	1	£45.00	Yes	£20.00	Yes	Yes	ByArr	10+	Yes	
Dunkery Beacon Country House	841241		2	5	1	£37.50	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	ByArr	10+	Yes	
Exmoor House, Porlock	863599	1	1	2		£45.00	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3+	Yes	LIST
Exmoor Owl & Hawk Centre	862816		1	1	1	£35.00	No	£10.00	Yes	Yes	ByArr	5+	Yes	
Exmoor White Horse Inn,Exford	831229	2	7	15	4	£40.00	Yes	£25.00	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	3 Stars VB
Glen Lodge, Hawkcombe	863371		1	4		£45.00	By Arr	£15.00	Part	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Hindon Farm, Nr.Selworthy	705244			3		£40.00	By Arr	£20.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	8+	Yes	4 Stars VB
Hurlestone, Porlock	862589		2	1		£30.00	No	£10.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Lorna Doone Hotel, Porlock	862404	3	5	3	2	£30.00	Various	Yes	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	
Lowerbourne Studio Tel.07956	193382			1		£30.00	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	
Mariners Lodge, West Porlock	862066			2		£40.00	By Arr	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10+	Yes	
Millers Bistro, Porlock	862504		2	12	1	£40.00	Various	Yes	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	
Millers, Porlock Weir	862753		2	11	1	£45.00	Yes	£30.00	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	
Myrtle Cottage, High Street	862978	1	2	2	2	£30.00	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 Stars VB
Oaks Hotel	862265			8		£75.00	Yes	£50.00	Yes	Yes	No	8+	Yes	3 St/Red AA
Overstream Guest House	862421		2	4	1	£28.00	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Reines House,Porlock	862913	1	2	4	2	£30.00	No	£7.00	Part	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	
Rose Bank, High Street	862728		2	2	1	£35.00	By Arr	£15.00	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	4 St/Silver VB
Sea View, High Street	863456	1	1	2		£30.00	No	No	Yes	ByArr	No	No	Yes	4 Stars VB
Ship Inn, Porlock	862507		1	3	1	£30.00	Various	£10.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Silcombe Farm, Porlock Hill	862248	1		3		£23.00	£12.00	No	Part	Yes	No	4+	Yes	
Simonsbath House Hotel	831259		5	5		£55.00	Various	£10.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Sparkhayes Farmhouse,Porlock	862765		1	2		£35.00	No	£5.00	Yes	Yes	No	5+	Yes	
The Bottom Ship, Porlock Weir	863288		1	2		£35.00	Various	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
The Butterflies, Doverhay	862695		1	1		£27.50	No	£10.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
The Cottage,Porlock	862996		1	1	1	£35.00	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
The Eaves, Doverhay	863544			1		£30.00	No	Yes	No	ByArr	No	No	Yes	
The Gables	863432			2	2	£32.50	By Arr	£12.50	Yes	Yes	ByArr	Yes	Yes	4 Stars VB
Tudor Cottage,Bossington	862255	1	1	2		£35.00	By Arr	Yes	Part	By Arr	No	10+	Yes	4 St/Gold AA
Yarn Market Hotel, Dunster	821425		5	14	4	£50.00	Yes	£15.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 Stars VB

11.2.13

The accommodation with a tick in the left margin are recommended. In addition there are a number of hotels and B&Bs in Minehead