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TAG TAG AND NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

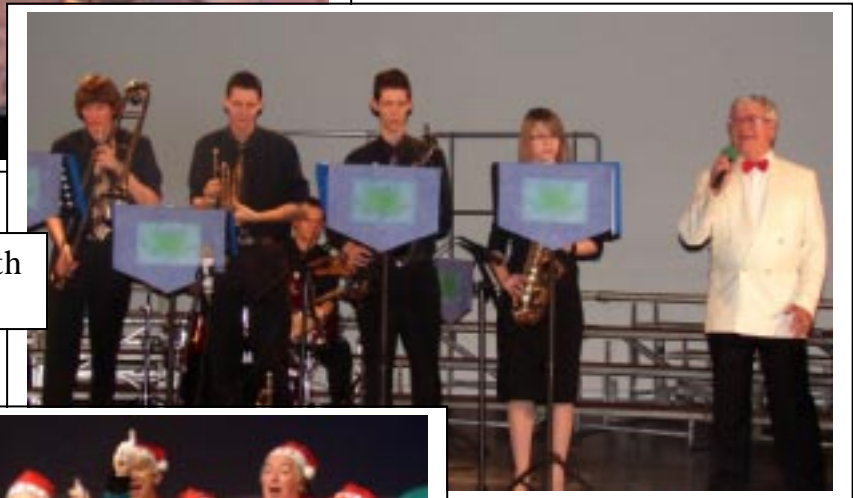


Front row in action

'CHRISTMAS GOLD'

Desborough Suite
Maidenhead
9 December 2006

Brian's solo with
Soul Purpose



'Snow' capped
Paul Ross

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A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HARMONIOUS NEW YEAR
to all our readers

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

JANUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2007	1	2 Rehearsal	3	4	5 BABS CD College Coventry	6 BABS CD College Coventry
7 BABS CD College Coventry	8	9 Rehearsal	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Rehearsal	31	January 2007		

Calendars showing the remaining days of December 2006 and the month of February 2007
are at the back of TAG RAG

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY * Addition/Update to last month's TAG RAG

2007	DEC	19	Tue		Rehearsal/RBHC Christmas Party
	MAR	2-4	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	Chorus Away Weekend Marsham Court Hotel Bournemouth
	MAY	15	Tues	Daytimers	Maidenhead Blind Club 2.30 sing
	MAY	25-27	Fri-Sun		BABS Convention Scarborough
	JUN	9	Sat	Full Chorus	Show Reading Town Hall 60th Anniversary of Düsseldorf twinning.
*	OCT	27	Sat (aft)	Full Chorus	Emma Taylor's wedding singout - Hambledon nr Henley.
	NOV	9-11	Sat	Full Chorus	Potential Warsaw trip.
*	NOV	13	Tues	Daytimers	Tuesday Club, Hungerford Town Hall to sing at 2pm
	DEC	12	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Reading 2.30 sing
	DEC	19	Wed	Daytimers	Weirside Court, Orts Rd, Reading

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

9TH JANUARY FOR 16TH DISTRIBUTION



EDITORIAL

The time since November's Tag Rag has been a bit of a blur so I'm very grateful that the copy is coming in to fill the pages. Sadly Chairman John ran out of time to pen a leading article for this Tag Rag before flying off for a skiing holiday. I promised him that I wouldn't say anything too inflammatory!

After all that heady stuff leading up to the Desborough show we were brought down to earth with the sad news that Ron Collis had suffered a stroke in the early hours of that Sunday morning. He spent most of the show-time sitting on a chair somewhere near prompt-side either during our rehearsal or admiring the youngsters of Soul Purpose playing their jazz. We exchanged a few words of admiration during the band's numbers but it was

difficult to have a conversation with the high sound levels they produced. Ron was nonetheless very impressed. We gather his condition is stable and improving slowly. Let's hope that he makes a full recovery however long it takes. Let us keep Ron and his family in our prayers.

The result of his misadventure means that we have an issue of Tag Rag without any of his welcoming words that embrace our Club's Associate members. This is indeed a rare occasion. Ron was totally consistent in his adherence to my published copy deadlines - even when I occasionally got it wrong. Ron always used the information printed under the Contents list even when it wasn't consistent with the list towards the back of Tag Rag. Let's hope he's back to good health reasonably soon.

The run-up to the Desborough show was a tad frenetic with the singout for the PROBUS Club at the Old Mill at Aldermaston. We were well received and I got an opportunity to try out my new radio microphones in a live situation. That singout was rather unusual in the way that the evening ended. Once off stage when the chorus returned to the changing rooms I stayed behind to retrieve the sound kit. Now that's not a difficult task but on that occasion my progress was interrupted three times. Once by the organiser who wanted to know whom he could pay some money to, secondly to deal with a request for information about how someone could go about joining the Club. And no fewer than three further occasions to answer questions about the efficacy of the sound system that obviously caught some people's attention. It won't surprise you to learn that Scotty and I were last off the site!

We now have the Christmas CD in-the bag. Many thanks to Sean O'Shea for introducing us to his son whose professional help made all the difference to the final product. It is something we can be justifiably proud of. Apart from our very successful sales efforts at the Christmas singouts and shows, copies of the CD have been sent to all local radio stations. Let's hope we get some airtime over the Christmas period - keep your ears open.

The Tag Rag Christmas Greetings insert has been well supported this year; in fact better than ever. The chosen Charity is a local one supporting children of bereaved families - 'Daisy's Dream' has its headquarters in Twyford and extends its operation throughout Berkshire and the immediate area. We should be able to present a cheque to the organisers of over £500 sometime in the New Year. Thank you for your support.

I've been working with the Section Leaders to get the next two songs into your hands. After a faltering start I am confident that the music and teaching tracks for FIELDS OF GOLD will be out shortly after Christmas. It is interesting to note that the copyright owner of this music, Sting, likes to review all arrangements of his songs so we are awaiting his approval. Concurrently with that we are also working

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on the new 2007 Convention ballad A TREE IN A MEADOW. This song and arrangement I know you are just going to love to sing. It has a 100% barbershop feel about it. There are four other songs also in the pipeline and because they are all songs that have been used at BABS Harmony College in recent years the music and teaching tracks are readily available so when the decision is made to issue them be prepared for an intense learning period.

Our sights are now set on the BABS Convention in sunny(?) Scarborough . Don't forget we have a very important stepping stone to that event with the Away Weekend in the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth at the beginning of March. I'll be issuing booking forms for Bournemouth in the New Year. Close on the heels of Convention is the twinning concert at Reading's Old Town Hall with the lady barbershop singers from Düsseldorf. Peter Cookson and Chris Schrier are well advanced in laying down the foundations for the event.

Have you got your copy of Robbie Williams Christmas DVD yet? Many of us were lucky enough to buy it at a reduced price through the Club but that source has now dried up. The RRP is £19.99 but you can get them at £16.99 in Woolworths. The DVD is number 38 in the charts at the moment and I have to say that our performance on the Ant and Dec show with Robbie is most satisfying to watch. It was a great honour to be part of that little bit of history.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

PURCHASING POWER

Tesco's mp3 players, Mince pies and Stamps. What have they all got in common - you might ask?

Well, as Graham said, he had trouble purchasing a volume of this product. I read the Mail on Sunday last week about a woman in Wales who got to the till with 50 boxes of mincepies. She was having a laugh with the cashier about the number of pies when along came the manager who told her she couldn't purchase that amount as she was depriving other customers. The lady said that they were for a charity function but had no joy, so didn't get her pies.

So there I am at Tesco in Bognor wanting to purchase stamps. The man in front said he would have 60 second-class stamps; he was served no problem. So my point is why wasn't he restricted on stamps, surely this was depriving other people of second-class stamps, so it's bah humbug to Tesco!

On a lighter note?

Took Ros to Radio Berkshire to do a couple of carols for Henry Kelly with the Barberettes. They were having a little warm-up in reception, got three quarters through Silent Night when the big boss man came out and told them "they couldn't sing in here as we're trying to run a business" and not in a very nice manner. However Henry Kelly loved what they did. They also did a Christmas jingle for Andy Peach's morning show.

BASS MAN MURRAY (DOWNING)



DESBOROUGH SHOW

This was the first show that I have tried to pull together and be the Chorus's chief worrier! The audience and you guys are the judge of how well it went. I understand from members of the audience that it went very well and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

This was a team effort, so if there was a screw up it would be my fault, but if we did it right then I need to thank everybody for their patience and understanding if I was a bit short or not listening. Special thanks to: Rhi, Graham S, Richard L, Laura and Katie, Rod A, Dave Colver and Chris Schrier (riser van), Ed and Chris (lights), Lawrence M, Heather, Marge, Davina, Irene, Jean, Peter C, and all the TVC members that were not doing a specific task, other than singing of course.

Needless to say one or two people are already sending mails back and forth on a proposed show for next December. Watch this space.

Many thanks for a smooth show.

ANDY PEARCE

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THANK YOU NO. 1

My thanks for all the assistance given by the ladies on Saturday at the Desborough show. At times it was rather hectic! The warmed mincepies were very popular, the raffle table very attractive and the programme sellers very charming! We were receiving glowing reports about the show - all round a very good evening.

HEATHER MILLS

THANK YOU NO. 2

This surely has to be a first! The lady nominated to give a vote of thanks to the Daytimers on December the 12th delivered it not only in verse but in-tune as well to the tune of good King Wenceslas.

Eighteen men all spruce and neat
Have given us a lovely treat
With voices clear and all in tune
They've sung to us this afternoon.

So thank you from Pangbourne WI
Now it's time to say goodbye
But before you go, it's half past three
stay with us and have some tea.

The original text has Fourteen scribbled out but the timing of half past three was spot-on!

THE HISTORY BOYS

Fifteen years since we both discovered the delights of the Thames Valley Chorus.

Derek Hird, then not yet retired from a sales career in the South of England but looking forward to it and Bob Ridley just retired from being a Defence Scientist in Whitehall. Derek had been persuaded by Cyril Duckworth, a long-term member of the club sadly no longer with us, to come to a recruitment evening in October 1991. By chance Bob had remembered a newspaper article from 10 years back which must have related to the early years of TVC locally in Tilehurst and found an RBHC contact number in the main Reading Library. The late Peter Rowe was immediately welcoming so Bob turned up on the same evening. Neither of us are natural musicians and the welcome, the lead teach tapes and the tuition were very helpful. We easily forget the effort to learn the repertoire and our sympathies to those who have gone through the steep learning curve before us and since.

Roger Wilkinson was into his second year of his first three year stint as Chairman. After what seemed an age we were able to attend our first singout in

Crowthorne to be issued with long purple jackets only for them to be taken back after the show as we moved to green jackets. Our first convention was in Birmingham in the new Symphony Hall as part of a large chorus conducted by Derek Smith. The time on stage passed in a flash. We finished fifth which seemed a great disappointment to all and an introduction to us new boys of the tricky business of competition. Many more conventions were to follow with Derek and then Tony Searle as CD. Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the RAF with a concert with the Band of the RAF in the Festival Hall and also joining the Band on their Christmas Tour was memorable. With Steve Hall we had an experienced coach and a CD and a character who enriched us all. A silver medal, a visit to International in Anaheim and the first visit to Düsseldorf were fantastic. And then Steve Hall was gone!

The Chorus could have collapsed but first Peter Kennedy and then Rhiannon Owens-Hall have more than kept the show on the road. Another silver medal, a gold in Prague, the Ant and Dec Show.....

Derek had stayed true to the lead section but Tony Searle noted that all the best US Choruses had about half the singers in the bass section so he asked for volunteers to move. Bob, with others, accepted but he was disappointed that you could not train a voice to sing any lower than God had intended. He has Steve to thank for the advice to join the Baritones. After all those years of the banter relating to how odd they are it was strange to be odd with them! (Just Kidding Denis!)

We were founder members of the Daytimers started by Peter Powell and continued by Meyrick Wyard. Astonishing to think how many singouts we must have attended.

Proms in the Park, the VE day 50th anniversary concert in Hyde Park.....there are too many highlights of the fifteen years to list them all. Our grateful thanks to all those both on the singing and the administration side for making this great hobby open to us both. The friendship of all those members with even a longer record than ours, and of all those who joined since we did, is a key part of this Great Club. Thanks to you all.

DEREK HIRD

BOB RIDLEY

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HELP ANYONE?

As you may gather from the following message from Aidan to me this is not the first time he's asked. I have to admire his tenacity but I can't make a recording of the 1976 Convention however much he pleads so, he needs your help. And I need you to share this workload - what songs did we sing at the 1976 Convention?

This was my first Convention and I would guess that we sang MARGIE and JUST A COTTAGE SMALL but I'd welcome being corrected. I'm more certain about the former than the latter. Can we put Aidan and Haydn out of their misery?

Hi Graham,

Are you sure you haven't any record of what songs we sang back in 76?

I could have sworn you once told me you had the 1976 Convention LP.

It is the only competition where both Haydn and I don't have any record of songs sung.

Aidan Brand

PS I've not got Pete Powell looking into his past records. We can - but hope.

GRAHAM STARKIE



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Irene and I made the big decision to buy an artificial tree this year after many years of real ones. We used to argue that the smell of the tree indoors gave an added flavour to our home. But we are also aware that in recent years with the availability of the many different species of trees the scent appears to have been bred out of varieties that are commonly available. So we started to look at the many and stylish synthetic ones. After many aborted decisions we've ended up with a pre-lit six-footer with ice tips! It came at a bargain price because the only one that was available was faulty stock - but that's another story for another time.

Would you believe that it actually has 450 lights? They are a very small wattage admittedly but non the less they do light up the corner more than we would have liked. When we dressed our live tree the lights were plugged into a dimmer to get a bit more life out of the bulbs. I'm sure I'm not the only one to do this - it doubles the life of the lighting set at least. The only problem I had with this new tree was that because the lights are low voltage and transformer fed the dimmer failed to do its job. I guess it's something to do with the dimmer being a 'switched' gismo that will only work effectively with a resistive load. The new lights of course present an inductive load.

The good news is that I've solved the problem by putting a 150watt bulb in series with the transformer supply. That reduces the voltage available to to the transformer and as a result the lights operate at an acceptably lower brightness. The 150w lamp of course glows a bit but it's not too easily seen under the tree. The construction of the 'dimmer' is a bit Heath Robinson but it certainly does the job. Does anyone have a more elegant solution to this problem?

GRAHAM STARKIE



BARBERSHOP BABES

**It is a very sad fact that none
of the Reading Barbershoppers
were born in the month of
December.**

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Hi Graham & Irene,

It was great to speak to you last week, just a pity that I missed Irene. As Ron is aware, my subs as an A.M. are due, so I thought that I'd make this contribution to Tag Rag as it seemed a good idea to

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send our Christmas greetings to everyone at the same time.

It's been a whole year now since we all moved to Devon and hasn't time just flown by. It has been a really busy time for us, so in a way we're not surprised. We came down at the very end of November and moved into rented accommodation (Little Shelvin Barn) so we could take our time to look for our new home. I wasn't particularly fussy about going back to work just then as I was having great fun watching Tarryn growing up and Jacky loved having all the time in the world to spend with her as well. I did some work on and off, helping out various people with transport problems but nothing permanent. We also had plenty of opportunities to visit many of the beaches that are so close to us. Lyme Regis, Seaton, Dawlish Warren etc. etc. We also had Tarryn's Christening, just after her first birthday in February which was fantastic. She will be two years old in 2007. That's very, very scary!

During a trip into Honiton one Saturday, we just happened to pass an Estate Agent whilst she was putting an advert in the window for a new property. We looked, we liked and we ended up buying! It wasn't exactly what we had planned but, after visiting it a couple of times, we were hooked. We had ideas along the lines of our Reading home, 3 bedrooms, big south facing gardens for Tarryn to play in, nothing too modern, handy for local facilities etc. etc. What we got was, 2 bedrooms, cottage garden to the front (mind you, the back is all open farmland as far as the eye can see) 18th century Grade2 listed thatched Cottage and 6 miles from Honiton. Welcome to Robins Roost, Luppitt. (No, we don't have an apostrophe in Robins, that's the way we inherited it!) Apart from that, the property ticked all our boxes. What a find! Places like Robins Roost are as scarce as square cowpats! I jest you not.

In August we had a reunion, when all my family got together in Farway, Devon. I had to arrange accommodation for 6 adults, for one week, in a farmhouse cottage. I had two weeks notice to achieve this. Have you ever tried getting any accommodation in Devon, in August, that sleeps six adults? We had my sister from Donegal, another from Stoke, another from Bridgend and another from Johannesburg all descending on us, so the pressure was on. In true non-flappable, cool-as-a-cucumber, Bass style, everything just clicked into place. Just at the last moment, but nevertheless it was achieved. We had a fantastic week.

We are both back working now. I'm doing my normal travelling all over the UK and Jacky is working part-time for a Lighting company in Exeter.

Whilst Jacky is at work, Tarryn stays with her Gran and she takes her to Sing & Sign, Music & Movement, Soft play etc. That's probably the way it happens actually, Tarryn takes Granny!

That's all from sleepy Devon at the minute so, from everyone at Robins Roost, have a fantastic Christmas and a very successful New Year in whatever you do.

FRED, JACKY & TARRYN (GOUDY)



HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM OVER THE POND

A very happy Christmas to you all – yes even Les Hearn! May your voices keep improving, your memory fail to overflow, and your presentation bring your audiences to tears (even the up tunes)!!

I thought I had better write a *short* note this time as you may be too overwhelmed with Christmas planning & shopping to have the normal amount of time required for reading my outpourings.

Since International we (the VM) have been pretty active- we had a couple of fall shows in September, a sing out at a local airport where American Airline have all their maintenance done, and a 4 day (yes 4 consecutive days) sing out last month in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The airport sing out was for mainly military types and was held in a hanger which could hold 6 Boeing 777 wing tip to wing tip. It actually had 3 planes in there at the time undergoing various levels of maintenance, and we had a 2 bay sing out area filled with tables & chairs for this posh nosh event (we were also invited to eat!) following which we sang mostly patriotic numbers to a very appreciative audience (being mainly military this was no surprise. The acoustics in a huge barn of a place were as you can imagine, interesting – thank goodness for amplification!!

As for the Hot Springs gig, the first of our 4 performances was on Thursday night, followed by performances on Friday and Saturday nights, and

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Sunday matinee. Most of us went by bus on Thursday, leaving at stupid o'clock in the morning, a time I have blanked from my mind as too horrific to remember. After about 5 hours travel we booked into our hotel, had some lunch, recovered from jet lag, then had tech rehearsals in the afternoon - our first performance was that evening. We were actually singing in Hot Springs Village which is the largest "gated" community in the States. I don't know whether you have gated communities in the UK now, but it is a community that has a large fence around it and security gates to let people in - the exact opposite of a prison! We are not talking about a normal sized estate here, we are talking thousands of acres - a huge place designed mainly for active retirees with things like tennis, swimming, hiking and several golf courses etc. It is not for those with a lean wallet either!! We had full houses of about 650 or so for each performance, with something like 60 or so standbys for each performance who wanted to come but were too late to get tickets. The theatre wasn't large, but was very comfortable and had a great intimate feel to it. We had hotel accommodation outside the community in Hot Springs itself - about 20 miles away. During the days we mainly chilled out - the hotel had spa baths and massages, so most of us did that. There was a golf day laid on, and some brought wives and cars to go touring around. I just used the time to relax and chill - and very good at it I was too.

So now we are into the Christmas season. We had one show last Saturday in a local mammoth hotel - it was a Christmas party for a large company - over 2,000 in the audience. This Saturday (9th) we have the two Fort Worth shows, then the following weekend are the 4 Dallas shows. As you will all undoubtedly remember, I will not be available for the Dallas shows because we fly to Blighty on 13th. I discussed this with Jim and Greg, and after much debate and soul searching they said the shows just had to go on and that they would just have to struggle on without me.

If all goes according to my tentative plan, I would very much like to come and visit your rehearsal on the 9th Jan - the day before we fly back to the US.

So again, seasons greetings to all and I hope to see you on 9th.

Pip pip for now,

BRUCE BEER



SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

ADDENDUM to MEMBERS' YEARBOOK (21st Nov)

There's an addendum for your 2006/7 Members' Yearbook printed on yellow card for you to read and digest. You may remember Julian introducing the ideas to the Club in September. It's the bible as far as the Performance Team is concerned. Your understanding of these points is very important so that you can get involved and make it all happen.

SNOW! SNOW! SNOW cont... (21st Nov)

After that resounding raspberry I received from most members about reusing their 'snow' cans from last year I continued my search for a new supply. Here's what Gemma Nightingale (ITV Show Researcher that got us involved) had to say:

'Hi Graham! Lovely to hear from you Now, the little cans of silly string are somewhat elusive! I was asked the very same question a few months ago and the answer I can give you isn't very positive I'm afraid. Our stage manager literally scoured the internet to buy up those small cans. There wasn't one supplier who had a lot of them in stock...we used to have to buy them in twos and threes from random websites! I'm sure you've already done this but the only thing I can suggest is doing the rounds on the internet for wedding suppliers. Unfortunately I think you might find that the small cans are discontinued, but we can live in hope! Do pass on my best wishes to the chaps! Good Luck! Gemma'

The search continues.

DAYTIMERS' FIRST CHRISTMAS SINGOUT (28th Nov)

Meyrick says - We are back at Kennet Court Woosehill on Thursday 30th November singing a specially requested Christmas programme. Singing at 2.30pm. Songs will be

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Chestnuts,
Winter Wonderland,
White Christmas,
Silent Night,
O Holy Night,
Angels From The Realms Of Glory,
We Wish You A Merry Christmas,
Coventry Carol.

Also a Carol sing-along and Christmas monologue from yours truly.

There is also a Daytimers' singout at Weirside Court Orts Rd Reading next Monday (4th Dec). We sing at 2.30pm. Phil Ward will be directing as I can't make it. Maps are available tonight.

SNOW! SNOW! SNOW cont... (28th Nov)

I thought I had it all in the proverbial bag when I found a wholesale supplier in Scunthorpe that had cases (24s) of the stuff and were advising me that it was a discontinued line. It certainly was not in their current catalogue and the stock was only uncovered after a very cooperative lady in their Customer Services department searched their stock lists using an out of date item number. Perfect - except that they had a minimum order of £150 +VAT. That meant we would have to buy 6 cases (144 cans) to comply with this company policy. No way could I persuade them to lower this threshold for an item that was going to be discontinued. I wonder how long they'll stay in their warehouse? Such is life!

Fortunately Denis had been trawling the internet and found a company advertising single cans at £2.50 each. I ordered a case of 24 only to find that they only had 21 in stock and not surprisingly this was a discontinued line.

I do however have the 21 cans in my sticky fingers which means we can now do the job. Maybe we are short-sighted not to make the big purchase - who knows?

NEW BABY NEWS (28th Nov)

Irene and I bumped into KATE DOCHERTY (and friend) in Reading last Saturday - she was pushing baby Amélie in a pram (pronounced like Emily but begins with an 'A'). Now five months old Amélie looked a picture of health as did her mum. Naturally she's taken a sabbatical from directing the Wantage chorus but hopes to get back to it in the New Year.

SNOW! SNOW! SNOW cont... (5th Dec)

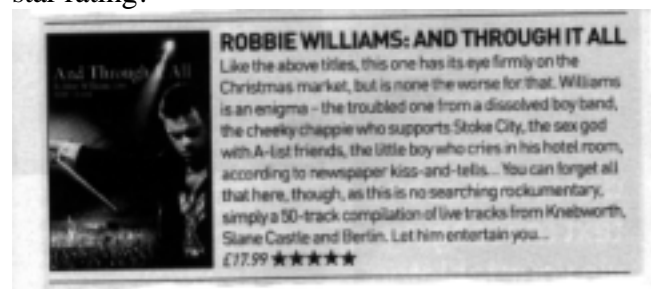
If you've been following the emerging story you'll know that we have twenty-one cans of the Wedding String. Each can has now been fitted with a locator-strip so that you can orientate the can easily in your pocket. No cans will be in use tonight, we issue them during a rehearsal next Saturday at the Desborough Suite.

DESBOROUGH SHOW TICKETS (5th Dec)

Rod tells me the show is a sell-out and he's running a waiting list from now on. So, from now on you can only sell the places on his list. Telephone him to reserve your place.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS' DVD (5th Dec)

The following is what the critics had to say about Robbies DVD in last Sunday's Mail on Sunday Night & Day magazine. It is interesting to note that there were six DVD in the list and all received a five star rating!



Quote "Like the above titles, this one has its eye firmly on the Christmas market, but is none the worse for that. Williams is an enigma - the troubled one from a dissolved boy band, the cheeky chappie who supports Stoke City, the sex god with A-list friends, the little boy who cries in hotel rooms, according to newspaper kiss-and-tells. You can forget all that here, though, as this is no searching documentary, simply a 50-track compilation of live tracks from Knebworth, Slane Castle and Berlin. Let him entertain you. £17.99"

(12th Dec)

Hi All, Ron Collis had a stroke at 5.00am on Sunday morning and was taken to the Royal Berks Hospital. Davina has spoken to his wife Stella and he is now out of intensive care. He is still unable to communicate and is paralysed down the left side, although he is able to move his toes, which the doctors says is a good sign. I will try to keep you posted and will certainly have more news tonight. Barry Howard

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME (12th Dec)

After a very successful show we are back to some sort of norm with rehearsals but we have the Christmas festivities to cope with. The Section Leaders plan to try out the version of FIELDS OF GOLD on us that we'll be learning. After much iteration we believe the goal is now in sight. See what you think. A new score is to be issued shortly. Meanwhile Rod still hasn't been able to get the copyright clearance yet because Sting apparently wants to see all arrangements of his songs personally. Watch the space.

At 9.50 the plan is that we finish rehearsal and make a beeline for The Duke of Wellington pub where the landlady and the locals are patiently waiting for us to arrive and sing to them.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2006 (12th Dec)

Many thanks for all your support; It's a bumper crop! I hope I've received everyone's greeting because I've run out of space in the booklet I've made. If I get any more I'll have to be more creative with the back page that I normally allocate to the charity's use.

After receiving two more nominations of charities to receive the proceeds of this project I consulted the members of the Executive to consider these alternatives. It was thought that the RNLI, a national cause, was very worthy but on this occasion was second to Daisy's Dream. And, the Air Ambulance are receiving a share of the proceeds from the Desborough show.



ALDERMASTON SINGOUT (12th Dec)

Phillip says " Many thanks to all the singers who turned out last Thursday. You all did a great job, the audience liked us very much and I reckon we have made many friends."

ITV COMEDY AWARDS (12th Dec)

Don't forget to book your seat in front of the tele' tomorrow at 9pm for The British Comedy Awards Live on ITV1. Coverage of the 17th annual ceremony, hosted by Jonathon Ross from London Studios.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

I'm hoping that you've read my editorial column and learned that Ron is unable to provide copy this month. We wish him well and look forward to a complete recovery so that he can continue with his invaluable and much appreciated work of keeping the geographically separated Associate Members part of our 'family'.

I have just one letter to share with you this month from John Lane. John always provides an electronic copy of his communications to me in parallel with his letter to Ron. I have informed John of Ron's indisposition and am keeping him abreast of developments.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' LETTERS

Dear Ron

Many thanks for the Tag Rag and for your friendly reminder. My apologies for being somewhat slow off the mark this year. I'm guessing that it will be close to Christmas before you receive this letter.

Another year has passed in Georgia and we both remain happy and healthy.

We have had another eventful year with lots of travel in and around the US, Beijing, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Dubai. Now we are looking forward to coming home for Christmas to be with our children and grandchildren. We do enjoy spending Christmas in the UK, obviously because the family is round us, but also because it seems to go on longer and have a warmer feeling there than here in the states. Unfortunately, we don't get back until the 21st and leave again on New Years Day so it won't be possible to attend a club night – unless you have a sing-out scheduled during that time. One day I will manage it – perhaps if we get back in the summer.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Can you imagine that we left you all over 12 years ago? – Unbelievable!

As requested, I have included my cheque (my US spell checker didn't like it spelled that way!) for another year's worth of Associate Member dues. I still enjoy receiving Tag Rag every month, even though many of the names are new to me. (Keep at it Graham!)

Please pass on our good wishes for the New Year to those that remember us.

Again, my good wishes to you Ron – You're certainly one of those guys that can't be kept down!

Yours with fond memories

John and Frances



HISTORICAL NOTES

5 Years Ago December 2001

1st Barberettes Christmas Concert at Bearwood Theatre. This was the culmination of their 25th year singing barbershop and it was (literally) dazzling. Led by their M/D, Graham Lawrence, They sang, smiled and swayed with great harmony throughout the show. Their tribute to the Beatles was particularly poignant. The ladies quartet 'Sounds Familiar' and a talented husband and wife musical duo ably supported them. Rockaholics (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) brought the house down..... (reported by Shirley Thatcher).

2nd Full Chorus at the Victoria Rooms, Old Town Hall, Reading. Rockaholix also performed.

5th Daytimers at WI. Christmas party, Cookham.

6th Daytimers at Edmunds Court, Bracknell.

10th Daytimers at Hennerton Golf Club.

12th Rockaholix were at the Horticultural Trades Association Christmas gathering at Pangbourne.

19th Daytimers at Edmunds Court, Bracknell (again)

21st Rockaholix were at the ISS Mediclean Christmas lunch at 'The Feathers', Wooburn.

26th Rockaholix were at the Dudley Hotel, Brighton entertaining guests on Boxing Day evening.

10 Years Ago December 1996

4th Small Chorus at Holyport Darby And Joan Club Christmas party

6th Daytimers at Inland Revenue, Sapphire Plaza, Reading for Rod Clark's retirement party.

7th morning...Woodley Precinct for MENCAP evening...Full show at the Methodist Church, Maidenhead.

11th Daytimers at Reading Civil Service Retirement Fellowship Christmas social.

14th Large Quartet at Magnolia Court, Basingstoke for a Christmas party.

17th Small Chorus at Windlesham Golf Club, Camberley for a Rotary Ladies night.

During the month Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Chris Oliver, Rod Adams) entertained the Reading Off-Shore Sailing Club at their Sonning clubhouse.

15 Years Ago December 1991

7th Full Chorus at the Broad Street Mall, Reading singing Christmas carols to the shoppers.

14th Full Chorus at the Barberettes show 'Winter Wonderland', Bearwood College, Wokingham.

18th Full Chorus at Prospect Centre, Bath Road, Reading for the Arthritic Care Christmas party.

20 Years Ago December 1986

3rd Rogues Gallery (Dick Coles, Nick Carter, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway) appeared at the Hexagon, Reading in a Civic carol concert. Also appearing were the band & choir of the Salvation Army. The show was compared by Jean Challis & Jenny Hanley.

6th Full Chorus at Glebelands Rest Home, Wokingham for the Cinematograph and Television Veterans.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

9th **RBHC** Christmas party at the Brunel Suite, Shephards Hill, Reading
Arranged by John Lane at the venue owned by Phil Stewart, one of our members.

16th Full Chorus at All Saints Church Hall, Wokingham for the Berks & North Hants Townswomen's Guild. The afterglow was organised by Les Hearn at his local.

29th Full Chorus at the Tythe Barn, Wokingham for a Rotary Club function. A very small venue but a glowing report from their Chairman who stated "We never expected to see and hear such a professional performance".

25 Years Ago December 1981

5th Southern Prelims at the Victoria Rooms, Bristol.

Chorus results:

1st Pilgrimaires

2nd Crawley Chordsmen

3rd Saffron Sound

4th Thames Valley Chorus with 26 on the risers singing 'Back In Dad And Mothers Day' & 'The Sunshine Of Your Smile'.....C/D Graham Lawrence

12 choruses competed.

Quartet results:

1st Partners In Time (Dick Coles, Pete Powell, Ian Douglas, Dave Heighway)

11 quartets competed.

7th Full Chorus at Woodley Women's Club with Harmony Heritage (Pete Forrest, Nick Carter, Ron Collis, Peter Bugden).

30 Years Ago December 1976

6th The Chorus appeared on Hughie Green's TV Show 'Opportunity Knocks' singing 'Band Parade Medley' with 39 on the risers. Rehearsals for the show took place on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th with the actual recording on the Sunday. The show was then broadcast on Monday 6th. We didn't win but, as a result, were asked to entertain at the Thames TV staff Christmas party that year and also appeared on the 'All Winners' show on TV at the end of the series.

The Barrytones (Barry Nowell, Nick Carter, Colin Carter, Bob Watkin) also appeared on Opportunity Knocks on Boxing Day in a special program devoted to writers of new songs. The quartet sang a song sent in called 'A Brand New Old Song'.

Regards

HAYDN ADAMS



SUPPORTERS

I was so sorry to hear that Ron is in hospital but we are getting encouraging updates from Barry. I have tried a few times to contact Stella but without success. I am sure Ron knows just how much we all want him to get better and be back on those risers again. It was lovely to see him on the stage on the show the previous evening.

Talking of the show, what a fantastic evening it was. A lot of hard work was put in leading up to and during the show and congratulations must go to all those concerned both behind the scenes and on stage. Well done. It gave a good start to the Christmas season.

I hope by the time you read this you will all have wrapped Christmas pressies, issued the invitations and sent all your Christmas cards.

Hopefully I will see lots of supporters at the Christmas rehearsal on the 19th.

So, a very happy Christmas to you all and a healthy and successful New Year.

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

IRENE

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

INTERNET SCAMS & FIDDLES

I came across the following two useful bits of information in my Retired Staff magazine recently. The first one caught my eye because of the Thames Valley connection. I referred the last 'fiddle' I received to which I got a courteous reply. It made me feel good if nothing else!

Scams - Despite constant warnings from the Police, Trading Standards, Department of Trade and Industry and other organisations, dishonest tricksters continue to come up with plausible schemes designed to catch you off your guard and to con you to part with your money. A website that offers some very useful points and advice on fraud is: www.met.police.uk/fraudalert."

"E-mail Fiddles - Usually appeals from overseas, typically Africa, from wealthy individuals seeking assistance to set up bank accounts so they can transfer money from their country. In return for your help you will receive a financial reward. **DON'T DO ANYTHING** other than forward copies of these fiddles to the TVP Fraud Squad at: Pravina.Makwana@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Thanks to Haydn Adams, Bruce Beer, Aidan Brand, Murray Downing, the Goudys, Derek Hird, Heather Mills, Andy Pearce, Bob Ridley and Irene for supplying copy.

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Advertisement lineage will be accepted and printed free of charge in TAG RAG (subject to editorial discretion). Display advertising is available in exchange for a donation to club funds as agreed between the sponsor and the editor before the publication date. Please note that advertisements will

be carried for two months only and then will be dropped (at the editor's discretion) unless requested otherwise.

Objectives of the RBHC - To encourage the singing and enjoyment of Barbershop Harmony in both Chorus and Quartet form. It is a non profit making organisation and shall support such worthy charitable causes as the Executive Committee think fit. (paraphrase of Club rule number 2)

Contacts - The Club's Thames Valley Chorus rehearse on every Tuesday (with few exceptions) at the Piggott School Wargrave near Twyford Reading from 7.45pm until 10.30pm. All visitors are welcome. See website www.rbhc.org.uk for directions.

SECURITY NOTICE *The best place to park your car at the Piggott School is in the main car park at the side of the school; this area is under constant surveillance by four CCTV cameras. The camera over the front door only looks at the main entrance to record movements coming off the road.*

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Vacancy
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Associate Member Coordinator
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READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

RBHC's

50 CLUB

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action?

Why not join in the Club's monthly draws to
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Regular listening to recorded material improves your
awareness of the barbershop style and will help you to
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Barbershop Recordings Resource Library

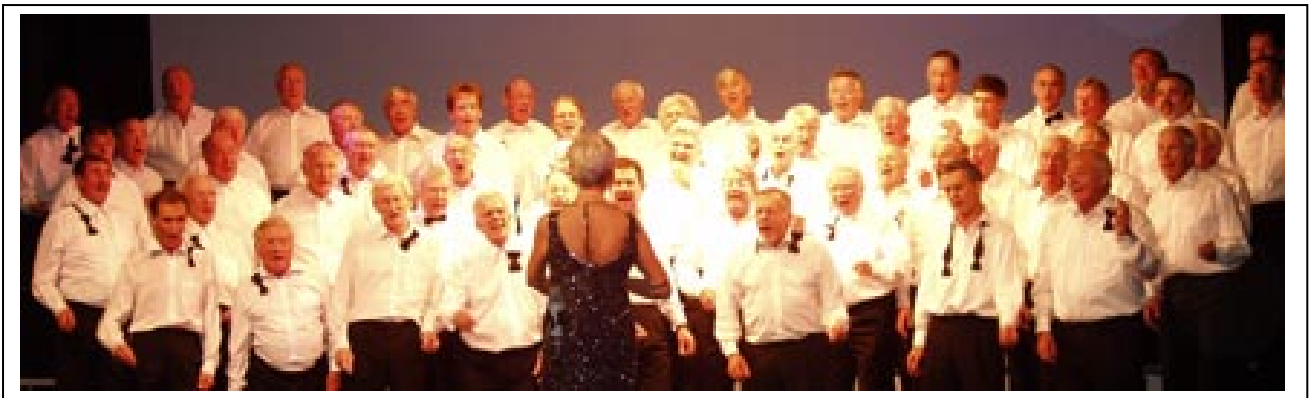
Save yourself the cost (and trouble) of getting your own
recordings by borrowing other members through Andy
Wheeler's Lending Library Service. Look for the Library
List on the notice board for current titles.

Borrowing requests should be made either by email or a
personal note that should include name of item required
and a reply address. Speak to Andy on Rehearsal night or
at andy.wheeler@sportscentre.org.uk. Andy will
coordinate the loan and put the lender in touch with the
borrower to complete the deal.

A charge of £1 per item loaned per week is payable to
Andy. The money will go into Club funds and Andy will
review the need to purchase recorded material on behalf of
the library.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

DESBOROUGH SHOW
CHRISTMAS GOLD
9th December 2006



READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

DECEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18	19 Rehearsal/RBHC Christmas Party TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day NO Rehearsal	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve	December 2006					

January 2007 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

FEBRUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 2007				1	2	3
4	5	6 Rehearsal	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Rehearsal	28	February 2007		