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TAG RAG

AND NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006



Front page on the January 6th issue of Maidenhead Express. Roger is keeping what it said on page 3 to himself. But we all know what goes on that page, don't we!

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

FEBRUARY 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 LtS wk5 Rehearsal	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Daytimers Hungerford Tuesday Club LtS wk6 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 LtS wk7 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Rehearsal	<p>February 2006</p>			

Calendars showing the remaining days of January 2006 and the month of March 2006
are at the back of TAG RAG

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

JAN	30		Daytimers	Lynwood Home Sunninghill 2.30 sing
JAN/FEB		Tue's	LtS wks2-6	The Piggott School Wargrave
FEB	21	Tue	LtS wk7	The last week
FEB	14	Tue	Daytimers	Hungerford Tuesday Club
MAR	11/12	Sat-Sun	Full Chorus	Chorus Away Weekend Marsham Court Bournemouth
MAR	15	Wed	Daytimers	Beenham Friendship Club Victory Hall Beenham
MAR	31	Fri	Full Chorus	Caravan Club International - Sparsholt College Winchester
MAY	12	Fri	Daytimers+	Fawley Court Henley - Craft Experience
MAY	19/21	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	BABS Convention Harrogate
JUL	1	Sat	Full Chorus	Singout at Wimborne Hants ****CONFIRMED***
OCT	10		Daytimers	Hungerford Town Hall (tbc)

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TAG RAG JANUARY 2006 CONTENTS LIST

Page	
2	A LOOK AHEAD TO FEBRUARY 2006
2	MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
3	PETER'S POINTS COOKSON
3	EDITORIAL STARKIE
5	KNOW YOUR RESONATORS. BRAND
5	BARBERSHOP BABES
5	A GREAT EXPERIENCE WARD
5	EMAIL TO THE EDITOR
5	SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES
8	BABS DIRECTORS' COLLEGE PADMORE
6	DEBRA WYARD
8	ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS COLLIS
9	ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP LETTERS
10	HISTORICAL NOTES HAYDN ADAMS
11	SUPPORTERS IRENE STARKIE
15	RBHC ROLL OF HONOUR BRAND
16	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

14TH FEBRUARY FOR 21ST DISTRIBUTION



PETER'S POINTS

Happy New Year! Wow what a start. The snow on Robbie Williams had only just melted when we launched the Learn to Sing programme. 50 men and 85 ladies turned up on the first night and the standard was very good. It will be great fun working with them on the course song over the next few weeks. The proposed show in week seven could see 180 on the risers! If the programme is successful one of the big challenges we will face at the end will be integrating a large number of new members into the Club. They will be enthusiastic and keen to learn the repertoire. Managing their expectations and aligning them with the Club's objectives will be a challenge for us all. The Executive and Performance Team are thinking how we accommodate this integration whilst we prepare for Convention. The patience, commitment and support of us all will be greatly needed if we are to successfully absorb and

retain a significant number. But it is very exciting and will fulfil an objective we set at the start of 2005 to boost the membership.

Because of the Learn to Sing programme, the away weekend, Convention and planning a new CD we have not gone out of the way to book a lot of sing outs in the early part of the year. We did very well at the end of 2005 so Rod Adams is holding open a few dates for future bookings. In addition we are assessing possible overseas trips and a charity show. And we'll be including some social events as well. So be prepared 2006 could be another busy year!

Let's make music.

PETER COOKSON

Chairman

EDITORIAL

Do I have time to write a piece this month I'm asking myself. Is there a time before last Tuesday that I can remember? All that excitement leading up to and over Christmas has been eclipsed by a frenetic week of LEARN to SING.

Irene and I went to pay our respects to Ken Smyth this morning at the Reading Crematorium. The chapel was overflowing with mourners presumably from his caravanning and DEC work connections. We met Barry and Davina Howard there. It was a fitting sendoff. We'll always remember Ken's penchant for slapstick humour. Do you remember his bicycle clips late arrival routine at a singout? A lovely family man whose zest for life was as big as his personality. I sang in my only real quartet experience with Ken along with Ron Collis and Philip Hadfield. - Vintage Wine. It's a sad loss. Ken was 66 years young.

I've a couple of items from Aidan Brand. One follows up his vocal coaching advice that he started a couple of months ago and with the other he wears his archivist's hat to share a fascinating glimpse of the past with his Roll of Honour. This Roll has been with me a couple of months now and I've forgotten to include it on two occasions. Sorry for the oversight Aidan!

I'm also reproducing a report on the recent BABS Chorus Directors' College written by a very eminent music man Dr Andrew Padmore. It gives a fascinating glimpse of how the 'outside world' of music sees our Barbershopping activities. Andrew really had his eyes opened at the professional approach that the Association now takes in its teachings. I think a lot of good can come our way from such visits. I must tell you how I coped badly

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

with the Northern Lights' contest performance at this year's Society International, on a personal dry run of a DVD presentation. A significant part of the start of the recording is mime that was unknown to me at the time. I had almost stripped the sound system down to its component parts before I realised what was happening. Fortunately I was in an empty theatre. Steve Armstrong the Northern Lights' CD thought it far more amusing than I did! Barry Towner sings with this chorus but I couldn't recognise him under all the white makeup they wore.

The Away Weekend looms. I can tell you that the Performance Team are busying themselves with that plan as well as finding solutions to the LEARN to SING issues (we don't call them problems).

Good i'n'it as Ron would say.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

KNOW YOUR RESONATORS.

Following on from my article a couple of months ago regarding vocal exercises that can be done at home to develop your singing voice, I found a note regarding exercises taught by Jim Casey when he visited us some ten years ago. It reads:

Resonators

1. The prime resonators are the mouth and throat.
2. Sympathetic resonators are the head and chest. Head resonance can be felt as a buzz; chest resonance as a vibration when we place a hand on our chest.

It is important to know your resonators and feel them working. When we all get it right the resonance created is greater than the sum of the parts.

Exercises to enable you to recognise and develop these resonators are:

A) The 'Ooh-oo-hoo' chimpanzee cry. This causes a buzzing sensation in your facemask. This demonstrates mouth resonance.

B) The 'Ng-ng' sound with teeth slightly apart causes a buzzing sensation behind your tongue. This demonstrates throat resonance.

C) Say 'Oh no' in a singsong voice. If you hit the right spot with this, you will feel your cranium vibrate. This demonstrates head resonance.

D) Saying 'Holy Moly' in a sing-song descending scale per word in a basso profundo voice, with forward placement of course, demonstrates chest resonance. Be careful of this one. It is very easy to sing in a dark, covered way when practicing chest resonance. The trick is to optimise this resonance whilst still producing a light forward sound.

Try and discover other ways to recognise and develop your resonance.

AIDAN BRAND



BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
JANUARY'S JURY**

**MURRAY DOWNING
ALAN HILL
JOHN WARD
ROGER WILKINSON**

A GREAT EXPERIENCE

The knowledge gained from my attendance at this year's Directors College was well worth the journey. It was a very rewarding experience meeting other Directors in the same thirst for knowledge.

I worked very hard to retain what was offered in the different classes available. Many notes plus handout reinforcement documents will help me remember. I was only sorry that I was the only Reading Delegate. However, I met several of the friends that I had made at previous Colleges held.

I now have a very good Video of me doing my bit with the Anvil Chorus, thanks to Graham Starkie. I can see where I have to make adjustments to my directing skills to get a better performance. The

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Anvil guys were superb and did everything I asked of them.

My time and money has been well spent, and I think I am a better unit as a result. The only downside of this was to learn when dropping Graham home with the Canadian CD of Northern Lights was to learn of Ken Smyth's death. Ken was a darn good lead with the club and will be sorely missed.

I will be going again next year especially now as BABS have now introduced a Certification programme so it can be recorded what each individual has achieved. So a permanent record is kept - Like a CV I suppose.

Think about it Guys, its a great hardworking weekend with many laughs

PHILLIP WARD

EMAIL TO THE EDITOR

Boys,
Congratulations on your performance with Robbie Williams on Ant 'n' Dec's Christmas Show. Mum videoed it and has had everyone watching it! We are all very proud of you. I am sure you all had a great time and I hope you slipped my number to Robbie or Dec?! If you didn't then why not?!? I won't tell Nigel if you won't!

I hope you are all well and I wish you all a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! Well done once again

Lots of Love

Emma Jane

XXXXXXXX

MY FIRST NIGHT

All my life I have suffered with people telling me I couldn't sing. This started at the tender age of 5 when one of the teaching nuns told me it would be better to mime instead of singing with the rest of the class. It didn't help in later life when I married Syd who as you know is part of the very talented Thames Valley Chorus and has always been somewhat rude about my singing!

Over the Christmas period we talked about the 'Learn to Sing' classes and I decided to pluck up the courage and go along last week. The turn out was amazing and it was certainly very well organised.

Rhi was so professional and encouraging. We started off with the breathing exercises and posture,

and then moved onto the scales. Then we sang 'Algie Met A Bear' in a round, which was great fun and gave us an insight into timing.

The feedback I got from the people around me was just how enjoyable the whole evening was and how they were looking forward to the next class. Rhi is full of enthusiasm that certainly comes across and for people like me helped steady my nerves.

There was obviously people who could sing and were looking for avenues to use their talents. With this in mind I hope there will be representation from other choruses, especially for the female singers (not necessarily for myself as I am tone deaf) and all I hope for is to improve my singing.

I hope to do another write up later on for the 'Tag Rag' unless I'm discovered by talent scouts and whisked to stardom!

Finally a big thank you to all those involved in making it such a fun evening.

NANCY BOYD

SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

DRESS CODE (13th Dec)

Peter Cookson writes:

The note on Club dress code recently issued stipulated no badges, medals or jewellery to be worn on blazers. The exception to this requirement is that 'pins' for long term membership of BABS may be worn.

TEST THE NATION (29th Dec)

Did you see our fellas making a name for themselves on Sunday? Alan Hill, Sean O'Shea, Chris Bradley and Denis Swift were in the Male Voice Choir group. But our Denis turned into a star for the second day in succession. He got a n opportunity to shine as he was singled out for his incompetence in using his answer keypad. After appropriate tuition to press the buttons instead of the lights he craftily slipped the input device down the crack behind his seat that was the opening to a twelve-foot hole in the auditorium seating. No wonder they only just missed being last in the winners' list.

The group's rendition of WHITE CHRISTMAS (for real) was toe curling. Alan Hill comments "The arrangement was crap so was the singing. After listening to some of the groups prior to going on I realise how much we as a chorus have moved on." He was interested to note that most of the groups

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

had the same problems as ourselves in recruiting younger members.

TALENT CONTEST RULES (20th Dec)

The objective of the talent contest is to identify any new acts to include in future TVC shows. There will be a £100 cash prize for the best act.

The conditions for entry are:

- The spot should be no longer than 5 minutes on stage
- The act should not have been used in a previous RBHC event

The competition is open to individuals, groups (male or mixed) and does not necessarily have to be singing.

Each of three judges will award points up to 10 for each of the following categories:

- Originality
- Entertainment Value
- Presentation

Should there be a tie the prize will go to the act with the highest score in the entertainment category.

TALENT CONTEST RESULT (3rd Jan)

Four acts took the stage on that last Tuesday before Christmas. Peter Dawson and Andy Rzyzsko sang a duet, Graham Starkie did a Stanley Holloway monologue, Julian Charman, Peter Groves, Jim Downing and Col in Thatcher sang parodies under the name of NOTH and Meyrick Wyard provided a magical interlude. Meyrick won the £100 prize and announced that he would divide it between our two inveterate charity fund-raisers Christine Callaghan and Heather Mills.

BELATED WISHES (3rd Jan)

Mervyn Clark invited Gerry Jenkins to our Christmas party evening and received the following reply but unfortunately didn't open it up until the day after when it was too late to do anything sensible with it. It's nice to know that Gerry still thinks of us.

Re: TVC Fun Night

Thanks Mervyn but could you please convey my apologies. I would have loved to have come but luck has it that this evening I have my monthly committee meeting of the professional singles club I belong to (I am secretary). I can't duck out of it because it is being held at my house!

Hope you have a great evening and please pass on my heartiest congratulations on the chorus's success in Prague and I look forward to seeing

the Christmas Eve show which I'll have to record as I'm partying in Maidenhead.

All the Best
Gerry

CONVENTION 2006 GOLF (10th Jan)

BABS hope to run a golf challenge again at Harrogate on the Monday following convention - 22nd May 2006 and seek a straw poll as to interest. Cost circa £35.00 including soup and rolls to start, and a 3-course meal at finish.

There is also the possibility of a clay pigeon shoot on the same day, but nothing is formalised as yet.

Can you please let Andy Pearce know if you are interested in taking part? Thank you.

AWAY WEEKEND (10th Jan)

BOOKING FORMS are available tonight. March 10/11/12 are the operative dates. That's Fri/Sat/Sun at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth where we had such a successful event last year. Please note the revised arrangements for the Saturday evening dinner. The new deal gives us a three-course meal (with silver service) that I'll select from the Hotel's banqueting menu. It will be served in the same private room as last year. Please complete your booking as instructed on the form.

DECEMBER TAG RAG CHARITY GREETINGS (10th Jan)

The final grand sum is £405 from your generous donations. All loose ends are now tidy so we can send the money off to the Chelsea Pensioner's Appeal. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU

Dear Meyrick

Many thanks for offering £50 from your well earned prize to Age Concern. Your support is very much appreciated and will help to make a difference to elderly people who are not lucky enough to have the support of family and friends.

A Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Kind regards
Christine

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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Signature

+

ENIGMA

+ **SLINFOD CONCERT BAND**

An afternoon concert

Sunday 5th February

Rhoda McGaw Theatre. Woking

For more information phone

Hilary Reid 01483 861812

BABS DIRECTORS' COLLEGE

6-8th January 2006

It was with a great sense of honour that I accepted the invitation as invited guest at the 2006 Directors' College. Coming from a background predominated by the world of Cathedral music and associated choral conducting, I have always felt woefully inadequate when adjudicating barbershop choruses. However, my interest in the amazing world of barbershop was awakened when I had the privilege of sitting in on adjudications by Rhiannon Owens-Hall and working alongside Graham Sutton.

Having done my "homework" in reading the prescribed book and studying the music and tapes sent in advance I arrived with some trepidation into this "alien" world. Immediately my fears were allayed by the warmth of welcome and friendship extended by faculty members and delegates.

The meticulously detailed programme for the weekend gave an inkling of the quality of what was to come, and I was not disappointed. In fact I was amazed by the enthusiasm, level of commitment and passion displayed by everyone in the common aim to increase technical and artistic skills. The whole tightly packed weekend was one of "sharing" - not only by the faculty making available their vast experience and expertise but also through the delegates' readiness to discuss strengths and weaknesses with each other.

After the formal welcome came a most detailed presentation by Neil Watkins showing the website and demonstrating how to navigate the new Certification System for Barbershop directors. I found this on-line facility most exciting by virtue of its carefully planned programming, its sound educational principles and its practicality. It is a resource unique in the musical world and something

of which the Barbershop world should be very proud. This was followed by the keynote speech given by Steve Armstrong (director of the Northern Lights, Toronto). Here we were introduced to important aspects of Leadership and Management which together with Steve's vision and creativity has made the Northern Lights an innovative chorus of universal renown.

Saturday began with a lively, varied and highly professional presentation of Leadership and Management by Chris Davidson. Through it we were challenged and given many thought-provoking concepts which could be of great practical benefit in dealing with chorus members. A number of "catch phrases" from this presentation were constantly quoted throughout the rest of the weekend. There was much excellent advice here for the non-musical yet at the same time the vitally important skills required of a successful Chorus Director were outlined.

Neil Watkins gave a detailed analysis of the college song suggesting ways to prepare for performance. The delegates were then invited to choose 3 out of 6 workshops related to conducting technique and interpretation presented by faculty members. This was followed by a coaching session on the college song. Mike Taylor's warm-up was a splendid physical, vocal and psychological preparation for the coaching session where firstly a faculty member then a delegate were subjected to the "Delegates' Chorus" - another wonderful learning experience.

Sunday was devoted to workshops in which all delegates were given the opportunity to conduct and have their skills scrutinised by an expert. Novices worked with a quartet and the more experienced directors worked with either the "Belles of Three Spires" or the "Anvil" Chorus. Each delegate had previously discussed with their coach what aspects they wished to work on from a choice of songs, and were given advice and help whilst in front of the singers. As the sessions were recorded on video they were able to spend time replaying and analysing these with their coach afterwards. This was a most valuable exercise giving very specific help to individuals. The videos with camera shots from 2 angles were kept by each delegate to refer to at a later date.

I visited most of the coaches and was greatly impressed by their professional and detailed comments delivered with the utmost sensitivity. There was much positive work from the delegates and this was duly acknowledged in the feedback by the coaches which made what could be a daunting exercise into one that was really effective. A closing ceremony concluded the weekend with communal

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

singing of appropriate well known Barbershop items.

The entire event was an absolute delight with superb organisation and effective teaching passionately delivered in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The venue of Bablake School was ideal with plenty of rooms of the right capacity for all the different activities. This was supported by the most modern technology ably organised by Graham Starkie. Good food and an excellent hotel with bar facilities made for a convivial social aspect. Overseeing the smooth running of events was organiser Mike Lofthouse who must be heartily congratulated for ensuring that everything was in place and that everyone's needs were catered for.

As a previous non-barbershopper I had thought that the singing at individual meal tables was some sort of Barbershop "grace" or "benediction", until I was invited to join in and then I was introduced to "tags". I also learned about "woodshedding" and other terminology specific to this fascinating world. I found the weekend most stimulating and returned home with real admiration for the professionalism, dedication and passion demonstrated in every aspect of the event.

Dr Andrew Padmore

Conductor & Artistic Director - Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir

Music Director - Harrogate Choral Society,

Examiner & Mentor - Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Adjudicator - British & International Federation of Festivals



03 January 2006

Dear Mr Wyard

Thank you for supporting DebRA and raising £50.00 towards our work through the Thames Valley Chorus social evening.

Your support really does make a difference to DebRA and helps us to continue helping people with EB through the services we provide. We now have ten travelling nurses, who visit new-born babies in hospital, as well as children and adults in their

home. DebRA funds a national welfare team who ensure that people living with this distressing condition receive the social and welfare care to which they are entitled.

Your donation will, of course, also help us to continue our far-reaching research programmes, which will ultimately lead to effective treatments for those suffering with this painful condition.

If you would like any additional information about our work, please contact Jan Sanders, who will be able to put you in touch with your Regional Fundraising Manager.

Once again, thank you for supporting DebRA this way.

Yours sincerely,
Sue Weaver
For DebRA

Received with thanks from Mr Meyrick Wyard
On 3 January 2006
The sum of £50.00
Thames Valley Chorus social evening



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Good grief! I have so much to acknowledge, and say 'thank you' for I hardly know where to begin. But most importantly, let me say "Happy, Healthy and harmony-filled New Year to you all". I hope you all had a happy and enjoyable time over the Christmas break and have not put too much weight on. Stella and I spent Christmas Day with our daughter and her family, and the day after Boxing Day my son brought his tribe down from Shropshire so the whole lot of us had one day all together. It was lovely for us "old-'uns" to see them all together again.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Well now... on with the regular stuff... so first let me say a huge collective "THANK YOU" to all you lovely people who were kind enough to send Christmas cards this year. In alphabetical order you are ANN AND ANGUS BECKLEY, BRUCE AND JUDITH BEER, NICK AND JEN CARTER, ROD AND LESLEY CLARK, PHIL AND PAT HADFIELD, GERRY AND JANET HOLLAND, KEN AND GINA HEATH, LARRY HURST, and last, but by no means least - DAPH POWELL. I really do appreciate it, folks, and I hope you will have noticed that I took advantage of Graham's clever scheme in Tag Rag to send my good wishes to you all and make a little contribution to an excellent, worthy charity at the same time. Once again - my sincere thanks to you all.

Next I have an acknowledgement to make of a very humorous and cleverly written letter from ROD CLARK. Great stuff, Rod, you should take it up professionally. I do admire you chaps (including Brucie-Baby and his Dad Eric) who can make your letters so interesting by adding a touch of humour. Your locality sounds delightful, Rod, and I know that Barry and Davina are full of it after one of their visits. Many thanks old son, you can write another one anytime you like.

Now its thank you time for sub renewals, and first off it's you KEN HEATH. Very many thanks Ken but I was sorry to learn some of the news about Gina on your card. I do hope she is feeling better especially after the addition to your family. Best wishes to you both and your family.

Another one in the H's is LARRY HURST who sent his with his Christmas card and, moreover, without a reminder. So good on you, Larry, and very many thanks for both; and also for trusting me to complete a partially blank cheque - thousands wouldn't! I gather that you are receiving your Tag Rag alright and I hope you are finding your new life in "New York! New York! so good they named it twice"... Cool! nearly had me bursting into song there... enjoyable, Larry. Great to keep you with us.

Next I have an apology as well as thanks to you GERRY JENKINS for being so late. Your cheque was very hastily stuffed into my hand during rehearsal by Brian who was arriving late (as usual) and, not having a letter or anything to remind me, I clean forgot to thank you in my notes last month. Anyway very many thanks Gerry, and thanks also for staying with us. It would be nice to see you again some time, so how about it?

And least, alphabetically speaking, the entire WARD FAMILY should be saying thanks to PHIL for paying all their subs in one fell swoop from his

cheque-book when I mentioned to him that their "AM" subs were due. Thanks so much once again, Phill, it saves me having to write to them all individually to remind them.

And that my lovelies is just about my lot for this month except to say once more a very Happy New Year to you all.

T.T.F.N.
RON COLLIS
F.O.T.C.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' LETTERS

2 Dec 2005

Dear Ron,

Thank you for your letter; I trust that the cheque arrived safely. I have noted the 2006 expiry date in my diary and hope that I can beat you to the draw (i.e. of cheque!) next year.

I hope that I look as good as you when I am 85 - right now I am 49 + VAT. As I have said more than once - it is a bugger getting old! Still, age hath its compensations; in addition to the WFA old Gordy B hoyed* another £200 into my collecting box to help with the Council Tax. What a nice man even if he is so boring.

But what of South Lincs I hear you cry? As I used to declare in another life "S' gud 'ere init!" We are learning French (Je suis le seul gay dans cette ville!) and I have been up good and close to the new Typhoon. All of the aircraft (never say plane - that is a tool) that invade our airspace are war birds - both ancient and modern, bit like the hymn book. To see one of the two surviving Lancasters still flying - the other is in Canada - with a Spitfire and Hurricane as wingmen, still brings a tear to my eye.

The bells of the parish church 'hollow out the sky' and waft into our kitchen to remind us that it is either Sunday or practice night. We have a little more room in this house which we have named 'Beware of the Dog'. One of our postmen pops out of his van, rings the door bell, and then scurries back to the safety of his van to ask if the dog is out. Anyone would think that Ben was a huge white German Shepherd simply guarding his territory... The entrance to the development is guarded by two water hazards each with three dancing fountains which are lit up at night - as am I. It is so quiet and peaceful here and yet we are only a short drive from several major shopping centres. The local town of Bourne is a delight, and folks are so friendly. Lesley and I have no regrets about moving up here.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Best give up now since I do not wish to outdo the Beer. Besides, me little pinkies is fair wore out. Our best wishes to Stella and yourself, and many contratulations to the lads for doing so well in Prague. They done good and done Rhi proud.

Yours for a song,

Rod C

*'TAREW' (Geordie term!)



HISTORICAL NOTES

It's only when you see the months in isolation you realise that some of them are relatively inactive. The notable exception is January 2001. The routine is to just get on with rehearsals.

5 Years Ago - January 2001

7th BABS Chorus Directors Workshop, Bulmershe College, Reading University.

Mike Lofthouse organised the event. Rhiannon Hall and Chris Davidson masterminded the educational facility.

BABS educators were:

Steve Hall, Mike Taylor, Jon Conway, Neil Watkins, Graham Sutton

Reading University Nicholas Bannon

IABS: Cherry Hartshorn

SPEBSQSA: Bill Rashleigh

Videos and sound recordings by Pete & Beth Powell

Delegates were from BABS (44), LABBS (16), IABS (5), and one each from Sweet Adelines and Germany.

The Thames Valley Chorus were there for them all to practise on, and received a standing ovation from everyone at the end.

21st Recording for a new CD at Piggott School 'Twenty-Five Years On' (15 chorus tracks, 2 by Bagatelle, 2 by Rockaholics). Rod Adams was responsible for the case artwork.

27th Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Chris Oliver, Brian Callaghan) were at a private party at "The Look Inn" Cippenham.

29th Small Chorus, Coronation Hall, Kintbury. C.D's were Brian Milbank and Roger Wilkinson

10 Years Ago - January 1996

29th Daytimers at Woodley Retired People's Club

15 Years Ago - January 1991

We held our weekly rehearsals and had a quiet month

20 Years Ago - January 1986

3rd Full Chorus at Thatcham British Legion Club, Tadley

18th Full Chorus at the Village Hall, Marlow Bottom for a Senior Citizens Party

25 Years Ago - January 1981

10th Full Chorus Methodist Hall, Spencer's Wood, Reading.

The club repertoire at the time was:

Sing A Song With Your Heart

Back In Dixie Again

Alexander's Ragtime Band

An Hour Never Passes

Just A-Wearyin' For You

Have A Happy Day

The Sunshine Of Your Smile

Goodbye My Lady love

Who'll Take My Place When You're Gone

Summer Sounds

South Rampart Street Parade

Now Is The Hour

I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen

Regards

HAYDN ADAMS

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



Heather, who cared for Graham on the recording day. We still don't know what the problem was!

Well onwards and upwards - I don't think you can get any higher than what you have achieved during the last couple of months.

What a fantastic response to the LEARNtoSING course. We have heard from some of the attendees how much they enjoyed the first session and how impressed they were with the organisation.

See you all soon,

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

IRENE

SUPPORTERS

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all

It was great to see so many supporters and partners at the Christmas gathering on the 20th, There is just never enough time to talk to everyone. It was great to see John and June James, who have given so much support to the Club over many years, and to see Jean Hird "back on her feet again". Rod Clark was able to come along as he and Lesley were in the area; a shame Lesley couldn't come as well. I hope everyone enjoyed the singing and festivities, and of course the "talent competition". Congratulations to Meyrick on winning and sharing his reward between two charities.

Of course the major event in December was the appearance of the TVC with Robbie Williams in the finale on the Ant and Dec Christmas Spectacular on Christmas Eve. It was fantastic. Through her contacts my daughter-in-law, Jayne, had been able to secure us two tickets to watch the show recording on the 17th. It was a great experience and totally fascinated me. I was so proud of you when you walked onto the set waiting for your slot. You looked very professional in the greens and your performance was brilliant. The audience around me were really excited and loved it all. I am aware that you have received congratulations from the programme producers and those involved with the show etc., and that you made a good impression on them with your professionalism and abilities. I would just like to add my congratulations on a job more than well done. There have been large articles with photographs in the Twyford Advertiser, Twyford Times, Reading Post and free Midweek Chronicle that I have seen. Well done to Lawrence McNulty on targeting the papers. No wonder there has been such a tremendous response to the 'Learn to Sing' programme!

You must have all been shattered at the end of the evening following on from a hectic 10 days of learning. Thank you to those of you, including

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

5 Day & 24hr Weather Forecast

www.bbc.co.uk

Consumer Advice (see Trading Standards)

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

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.

BARBERSHOPPERS INTERNET DIRECTORY

The following sites are known to be useful references for a Barbershop singer. Note that most sites provide links with other related sites which makes navigating round a particular subject easy. You can get to more or less everything barbershop from the BABS or Society webpages.

RBHC

www.rbhc.org.uk

LEARN to SING

www.learntosing.org.uk

BABS

www.singbarbershop.com

SPEBSQSA

www.spebsqsa.org

BABS Harmony College

www.babs-education.info/harmonycollege

BABS Guild of Judges

www.babs-education.info/judges

BABS Chorus Directors

www.babs-education.info/directors

Song database:

www.songfile.com

European Route Planner

www.ViaMichelin.com

Post Codes et al

www.royalmail.com (needs you to login)

Streetmaps

www.streetmap.co.uk

Telephone Numbers

www.192.com

Additions to this directory will be gladly accepted. Send to 'starkie@btinternet.com'. Happy surfing.

WE'VE GOT THEIR NUMBER

Have you heard of the Consumer Direct helpline? It's like NHS Direct, but consumers. I only ask because, although it went live nationally recently after a year of regional pilots, very few people seem to know about it.

For help and advice on all types of problems or disagreements with suppliers of goods and services - from shops and manufacturers to dodgy builders, dishonest traders and scams, call 08454 04 05 06, or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk.

Thanks to Haydn Adams, Nancy Boyd, Aidan Brand, Christine Callaghan, Ron Collis, Peter Cookson, Emma Taylor, Phillip Ward and Irene for supplying copy.

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TAG RAG is published by the Reading Barbershop Harmony Club for the benefit of Members, Associates and anyone else who is fortunate or otherwise to come into contact with us. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily the official Club view.

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

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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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READING RG3 4EJ
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READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

RBHC's

50 CLUB

Are you part of the action?

Why not join in the Club's monthly draws to win you some pocket money and provide a regular income to Club funds.

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0118 988 2530) to join.

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References available.

Regular listening to recorded material improves your awareness of the barbershop style and will help you to work-smarter with your singing.

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

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THE REMAINING DAYS OF

JANUARY 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15	16	17 LtS wk2 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 LtS wk3 Rehearsal	25	26	27	28
29	30 Daytimers Sunninghill	31 LtS wk4 Rehearsal	January 2006			

February 2006 Calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

MARCH 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 2006			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Rehearsal	8	9	10	11 TVC Away Weekend Bournemouth
12 TVC Away Weekend Bournemouth	13	14 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	15 Daytimers Beenham Friendship Club Victory Hall	16	17	18
19	20	21 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Rehearsal	29	30	31 Full Chorus Caravan Club International - Sparsholt College Winchester	March 2006