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# THE RAG AND NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

## Definitely a new era.



Graham Starkie, Maurice Scott (Scotty) and Dave Colver with the van in its new livery. Graham and Scotty are handling the risers on one of the riser trolleys and Dave is sitting in the cab. This picture is one of a few that were taken to illustrate an article that Lawrence McNulty is writing for BABS Harmony Express extolling the importance of making bequests in wills for the benefit of our Clubs and Association. It was the wills of Geoff Sassé and Gordon Redhead that made the replacement van purchase possible.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**MAY 2008**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>May 2008</b>				1	2	3
<b>4</b> Extra Rehearsal 9.30-12.30	5	<b>6</b> Rehearsal	7	8	9	10
11	12	<b>13</b> Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	14	15	<b>16</b> Singout Fawley Court Day 1	<b>17</b> Singout Fawley Court Day 2
18	19	<b>20</b> Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	21	22	<b>23</b> BABS Convention Cheltenham	<b>24</b> BABS Convention Cheltenham
<b>25</b> BABS Convention Cheltenham	26	<b>27</b> Rehearsal	28	29	30	31

**Calendars showing the remaining days of April 2008 and the month of June 2008  
are at the back of TAG RAG**

**MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY** \* indicates an addition or update to last month's Tag Rag 2008

*	APR	25	Fri	Daytimers	Rehearsal Parkside International Hotel 2.30-4.30
*	MAY	4	Sun	Full Chorus	Extra Rhearsal 9.30-12.30 Drama Studio Piggott School
	MAY	16/17	Fri-Sat	Full Chorus	2-days at Fawley Court Craft Experience Henley
	MAY	23-25	Fri-Sun	Full Chorus	BABS Annual Convention The Centaur Building Cheltenham Racecourse
	JUN	11	Wed	Daytimers	Bray Disabled Club 1pm for a 2pm sing
	JUL	19	Sat	Daytimers	Woodcote Crowethorne at 2.30
	AUG	6	Wed	Daytimers	Thamesfield House Henley sing at 2.45
*	AUG	15	Fri		Dot & Meyrick's Wedding Calcot Hotel Bath Road Reading.
*	SEP	17	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Christchurch Road Reading 1pm for 2pm
	OCT	11	Sat	Daytimers+	All Saints Church Wokingham Harvest Supper Cornerstone Hall at 8.30pm for 30 mins
	DEC	3	Wed	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Wokingham at 2pm
	DEC	10	Wed	Daytimers	Thamesfield House Henley sing at 2.45
*	DEC	17	Wed	Daytimers	Chequers Hotel Newbury
2009					
	MAR	5	Thu	Daytimers	Twyford Townswomens Guild
*	MAR	7-8	Sat-Sun		Away Weekend 2009 Bournemouth

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

**13TH MAY FOR 20TH DISTRIBUTION**

#### **EDITORIAL**

I give many thanks to all the contributors this month especially Rhiannon who has given us an opportunity to read her visit report to the Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD) Convention ahead of a feature in Harmony Express. Also to Haydn Adams for pointing out a 'nugget' that came his way that Easter will not be this early again until 2160 (152 years time). The originator of this useful bit of information reckons that we should do something about it and Haydn has requested that I make an entry in "Dates For Your Diary". Many thanks Haydn; I'll put your suggestion to the editorial committee. I'm saddened to read that Daph Powell is throwing in the towel but I can understand after all this time. I just can't imagine Barbershop in Reading without Daph! Have a happy retirement.

So what do you think of the idea of the new shirt for Convention? This new garb will come into its own on the second song UNDECIDED MEDLEY. The plan is that we sing HOW DEEP in our greens and when we are retreating from the 'Walk-down' we remove our jackets to reveal the new shirt. The jackets will then be passed back through the chorus and by the time the fifth-row man is back on his riser he can carefully place the four or five jackets he's collected over the bottom bar of the back-rails. All that happens before making the final right-hand turn to face the front. So we'll start the second song jacket-less.

The red stripes on the white shirt will provide a more vibrant visual effect for this up-tempo song. It has not yet been decided whether the stripes will be vertical or horizontal. It is thought that the vertical

stripes will dramatise the swaying moves. Horizontal stripes have not yet been ruled out and the uniform committee is deliberating the issue with the professional help of Miss April Loof. April's theatrical credentials are without equal.

The results of the Back To Basics survey conducted by the Performance Team are now circulating. I'm hoping that the Performance Team will give their considered reaction to the achievements of their plan in the near future. There was a wide range of suggestions made to improve the Club's performance. Two stand out - song teaching materials and a request for more singouts. From my experience we have a long way to go to get common thinking about the pros and cons of the different teaching materials available. Having looked reasonably closely at the song learning evidence there's nothing to favour any particular technique. The need for a regular supply of singouts is paramount if we are to free our Tuesday nights of repertoire review so that we can achieve the song learning rate that we set ourselves.

The run-up to any Convention is never easy and this year is no different. However both songs are tucked under our belts and the movement plans are firming up. With some concentrated effort I believe we'll knock things into shape in time for Cheltenham. Bringing the start time of the Competition forward by a whole hour affects us dramatically. Being fourth in the running order is our only comfort knowing that there are three other competing choruses worse off than we are! Let's hope that the members on Day tickets are able to cope with the five o'clock start from Reading on the day.

David Colver and I held our first Roadent training course last Saturday. Chris Schrier and James Porter were our first students. We met at the van in the School parking lot and discussed issues relating to the running of the van and its load. Two more volunteer drivers are on the list - Ian McCann and Andy Pearce. If you fancy adding your name to the list please speak to David Colver ASAP, the more the merrier.

At the request of the Executive committee I have now signed the contract with the Marsham Court Hotel for the Away Weekend 2009. Most surprisingly I've already received the hotel's Function Sheet for 2009! That's a surprise because that paperwork normally comes to me within two weeks of the event. Our needs are obviously very predictable!

**GRAHAM STARKIE**

Editor

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

### BABS CONVENTION - WHO'S GOING

Fifty-four members form the chorus for the Convention at Cheltenham. The three members identified with an asterisk are making their first appearance on the contest stage.

Adams Rod	Leathem Richard
Ayres Mike	McCann Ian
Baker Craig*	McKeown Mike
Ball Trevor	McNulty Lawrence
Blanchard André*	Milbank Brian
Boyd Syd	Mills Ken
Bradley Chris	Paine Philip
Brand Aidan	Pearce Andy
Callaghan Brian	Porter James
Campbell Brian	Poulter Mike*
Charman Julian	Price John
Chisholm Derek	Ridley Bob
Clark Mervyn	Russell Alex
Colver David	Rzysko Andy
Curtis Bryn	Schrier Chris
Dawson Peter	Scott Maurice
Deacon Ed	Shackleford John
Downing Jim	Starkie Graham
Downing Murray	Stewart Phil
Evans Gary	Swift Denis
Gordon Paul	Thatcher Colin
Groves Peter	Ward Phillip
Hearn Les	Wheeler Andy
Hird Derek	Wills Barry
Howard Barry	Wright Denis
Laight Simon	Wyard Meyrick

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### CURRENT TVC REPERTOIRE

A Tree In The Meadow  
Birth Of The Blues  
Do You Hear The People Sing"  
Everybody Step/Alexander's Ragtime Band  
Medley  
Fields Of Gold  
Happy Together  
Have A Little Talk With Myself  
How Deep Is The Ocean  
If I Give My Heart To You  
If You Love Me Really Love Me  
Lady Madonna  
Make Em Laugh  
Once Upon A Time  
Sound Celebration  
Swing Low Sweet Chariot  
Top Hat Medley  
Undecided Medley  
Wonderful Day Medley

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### HEALTH AND SAFETY IN RBHC

The RBHC Executive Committee has always taken Health and Safety matters seriously but previously responsibility has not been assigned to a particular member. The Executive Committee has decided that this responsibility will now be included as part of the Director Administration job.

This will mainly involve recommending action to reduce risk and monitoring RBHC activity for safe practice. We had a visit from an H&S consultant in February 2007 and he assessed our risks as arising mainly from handling the risers and carpet. He left us with a leaflet entitled 'Notes on Manual Handling' which was included in the current year book. It has also been circulated recently to the newer members. The medium risk of handling the carpet below the stage has been reduced by Graham Starkie/Maurice Scott designed special carpet carrying trolley. Instructions for using this are on the notice board.

The new van has given us great advantages but some safety challenges. The demonstrations by Graham and the issue of instructions for loading and unloading the trolleys are aimed at reducing risk. The Roadents are being given special training to ensure that the van is loaded and unloaded safely. The safety fences must be in place during tail-lift operation. Only trained Roadents are authorised to operate the tail-lift.

The Club is fortunate that accidents have been very rare but new legislation has made the (unused) accident book out-of-date. A new RBHC accident /incident report form has been devised. Copies can be obtained from Director Administration.

In response to my request, James Porter has volunteered to enquire about the possibility of taking a short course to refresh his previous qualification in First Aid. Thank you James.

Every member needs to act in a way to minimise the risk of accidents to themselves and others. Please read the Manual Handling leaflet and the various instructions carefully. Please direct any queries on RBHC Health and Safety matters to Director Administration.

### **BOB RIDLEY**

Director Administration

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



### BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
APRIL'S FIRST-ELEVEN**

**BRIAN CAMPBELL  
GEORGE CASSELLS  
DEREK CHISHOLM  
GARY EVANS  
PETER GROVES  
LES HEARN  
RICHARD LEATHAM  
BRIAN MILBANK  
ANDREW PEARCE  
BOB RIDLEY  
SID SEWARD**

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### BABS MARKETING WORKSHOP

I had the great pleasure of attending the first BABS Marketing Conference which was held at the BVSC Centre in Birmingham on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The event was a joint effort between BABS, LABBS, and Sweet Adelines Region 31 who are the international equivalent of LABBS (Region 31 being the UK area). And in case you're not sure who LABBS are they are the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers.

About 50 people attended (mostly Club PRO's) with delegate numbers fairly evenly split between the three organisations. The morning "Welcome & Introduction" at 10:20am was given by Jacqui Edwards, chair of LABBS, and was wonderfully brief!

Laurie Whittle (BABS Marketing Director) and Jeanette Yuile (Marketing Director of Region 31) gave a super-charged session entitled, "What Are We Selling?" Laurie is a very capable presenter but he was completely overshadowed by Jeanette, an American firebrand who dressed up like a West-End showgirl! The "meat" of the session looked at the spread of barbershop singing in the UK, the demographic profile of a typical singer, and the

potential market for recruiting new singers. BABS has commissioned extensive market research and is geared up to offer loads of support for Learn To Sing initiatives which, Laurie said, should be primarily aimed at the 35 – 55 age group.

Yours truly took the next session "Opportunities in the Local Press" having been drafted in at the last minute because the appointed speaker from LABBS had to pull out. My main aim was to enthuse my fellow PRO's to work with local news editors, and to do that in ways that would endear them to the media. Sheena Kaighin, PRO for Surrey Harmony and a professional journalist, followed my session with tips on how to approach local radio and television. Interestingly, she has worked for BBC Radio Berkshire in the past and knows our old friend Andrew Peach.

The final session before lunch was given by David Taylor, a freelance web designer who has recently taken responsibility for the BABS web site. He has developed several Club websites and happens to be married to Valerie, Sweet Adeline's Regional Co-ordinator. He demonstrated a good knowledge of our art as he took us through the ins and outs of creating a Club website.

After a brief sandwich lunch we were free to attend break-out groups on Website Creation (David Taylor), Being Interviewed on Radio (Sheena), and Practical Aspects of Writing Press Releases. This last group was led by Linda Stevens (Capital Connection) and Joy Needham (Reading Barberettes). Mock radio-station interviews were set up by Sheena in her group where she took the role of interviewer complete with microphone and, in my experience, faithfully reproduced the pressures of an on-air interview whilst giving valuable tips on how to best go about it.

The afternoon ended with everyone back in the main meeting room for an open Q and A session. I was impressed with the enthusiasm the day created for the delegates, and there promises to be other workshops in the future with, hopefully, more BABS PRO's attending next time. In his closing remarks, Laurie gave some insights into the future plans of BABS in particular a week-long project planned for September 2009 to promote our style of singing. It will be a nationwide campaign of practical singing opportunities, and extensive media coverage, topped off with a magnificent Saturday night show at a top London venue.

Considering this was the first such venture it was very well put together and everyone said it had been an extremely worthwhile day – even though many had travelled from all points of the UK to be there.

# READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

From my perspective, it was good to be involved with the BABS organisation team of Laurie Whittle and Alan Goldsmith (vice chairman BABS) and to sense the esteem in which our Club is held.

## LAWRENCE MCNULTY

PRO

May 2008

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## ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

By BOB RIDLEY Acting Assistant to the Associate Member Coordinator

I called in to see Ron and Stella on 17 April but Ron was fast asleep. I had called earlier but Stella had been in the new conservatory and she had not heard the door-bell. We found that her Friedlander bell was mobile and worked well when carried outside. An interesting physics experiment! I had a long chat with Stella and she remembered with some pain the problem of learning the moves in the Barberettes. The long awaited visit from Newbury social services to assess Ron for a wheelchair is due shortly before TagRag publication. Ron and Stella would welcome visitors but please phone first.

Ron was pleased to read the letters from Robin Nichols and Daph Powell. Robin makes spring in the South of France sound very enticing. Our best wishes go to Daph retiring from the Barberettes after founding them 32 years ago. The life memberships are well earned. It was good to see Martin Lapworth at the recent rehearsal.

TagRag is available on our website [www.rbhc.org.uk](http://www.rbhc.org.uk) thanks to the efforts of Graham Starkie and Chris Bradley.

Thank you to all the AMs for their continuing support.

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## ASSOCIATE MEMBER LETTERS

Robin Nichols

Dear Ron,

Another year flies by and another twelve quid falls due. Still fantastic value and a good read. Glad to hear on the grapevine that your move to Thatcham went without major hitch (although it must have been a bit of a wrench leaving Tilehurst after all those years) and you are still improving as time passes. ... the AM section of the Club thrives as ever. Long may it continue so to do as a great and fitting tribute to work you have put in over the years.

Here in the 'sunny' South of France, we are in the death throes of winter and, whilst we have hit a cold damp spell, the usual harbingers of Spring are appearing with every day. Fantastic wild flowers such as various kinds of orchid, spurge, hellebore and even poppies are now in flower. The early summer birds are arriving too which is nice. We currently have a lesser kestrel who has been roosting on one of our shutters every night for the past two months. A beautiful thing but he is going to have to go soon so I can repaint the shutter and hose off the mess on the pool terrace in readiness for the season's visitors. On which subject, we are very much looking forward to welcoming our guests from RBHC again this year. It will be great to see Rod and Irene Adams here for a second trip. They were super guests and a pleasure to host. I'm also looking forward to meeting Andy Pearce and his wife who are visiting us for the first time.

As you may know, we have had visits from Rockaholix for the past two years, which has been great. They have put on some terrific shows and helped us raise a good deal of money for local good causes in the village and were extremely well received by one and all, both ex-pats and locals. I hope we see them again one day soon. Happy memories linger long and I am sure they feel the same too. Needless to say, if there are any other TVC / RBHC folk who fancy a holiday in this beautiful region, check us out on the website [www.lacardabela.com](http://www.lacardabela.com). They will be assured of a very warm welcome to which I am sure those who have been here will attest.

I must close. The choir I sing with are presenting a concert next week for charity and it falls on me to make all the arrangements locally. It just remains, then, to wish you and Stella and everyone at RBHC a very happy Easter (albeit belated by the time this arrives) great success at the upcoming Convention and of course continued good health and happiness.

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## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Daph Powell

Dear Ron

I am so glad to hear that you are making good progress and also you have settled happily in your new home.

After much thought I am retiring from the Barberettes at the end of the month. It has taken me quite awhile to come to this decision: Kay retired last year and I said I would continue to help the new director get settled in. It has been 32 years since Peter and I founded the Barberettes and I know I am going to miss the chorus, but I have so many other things in my life and I had to decide. The Barbs have asked me to continue to coach them and this I will do from time to time. I feel proud that I have been made a life member of Barbs and also of LABBS.

Our new director, Joy Wheeler, is great and doing a really good job. She has been in barbershop for many years so things look rosy for the future.

So my pitchpipe is having a rest! I will be continuing to sing primarily at Tilehurst Methodist Church, where we have a dynamic singing group. We are just starting to work on a musical for the autumn.

Anyway Ron, I am glad that you are doing well. I often think about you. I send my love to you and to Stella.

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### SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

#### **RUN-UP TO CONVENTION (1 Apr)**

Julian writes - As mentioned once or twice both before and after the Away Weekend we are now in the "qualifying" period for Convention.

That qualification is to have attended at least one day of the Away Weekend AND to have attended at least 6 out of the 9 rehearsals between 4th March, the first rehearsal after the Away Weekend, and 29th April, the last rehearsal before the auditions. The first audition will be held (privately!) during rehearsal on Tuesday 6th May with a possible second session on Tuesday 13th May. This second session will be to allow for unavoidable absentees from the first session and/or to allow for a second run through for anyone identified as still needing work at the first session.

As always I stress again that the intention is not to exclude members from Convention, but to ensure that every member on the Convention stage is fully competent both in the words, music and

interpretation of the two songs. Family, work and financial pressures may dictate that not all members can achieve the qualification criteria. It will be incumbent upon the section leaders holding the auditions to help any member with problems to overcome them and reach the required standard.

**EXTRA HELP** - As mentioned last week, the section leaders will be available at break time in the "Earlybird" room each week from now until Convention in order to offer extra coaching to any member who has any uncertainty about the Convention songs. Members who will/may not achieve the Convention qualifications will of course be most welcome but qualifying members who just want a bit more help will also be welcome and their voluntary attendance will in no case invalidate their qualified status.

**NEW SONG** - The Performance Team has been considering issuing the next new song some time in the next few weeks as a diversion from the concentration on Convention songs. "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" (from Elton John/Tim Rice's "The Lion King") was originally to have been issued after Convention. It may be possible to confirm the process for issuing this new song at Tuesday's rehearsal. The song is inspirational and fairly easy to learn. The professional mp3 is of a high standard."

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#### **ABCD REPORT**

In August of last year, over the Bank Holiday weekend I was privileged to have the opportunity to attend the ABCD (Association of British Choral Directors) Convention in Chester. As this was so close to my home it was too good an opportunity to miss!! I was able to do this as I was awarded a grant by BABS, and it was a wonderful experience from start to finish! However, it was with some trepidation that I arrived at the University on the Thursday afternoon for the pre-Convention Conducting Course, it was more than a few years since I had actually been a student and I was very nervous!

The set works for study were pieces of music by John Rutter, Frank and Mozart, a wide range of musical styles. The course was run by Dr Colin Durrant, who is responsible for the music at the London Institute and has worked at Roehampton University and in America, and Keith Orrel, the conductor of the Liverpool Welsh Choral Society Choir. The provenance of them both was without question. The quality of their input was inspiring and motivating. They involved us all from the beginning of the course, ensuring that we practised, modified and developed our directing skills and

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styles. I found this particular strand of the weekend to be really exciting. I was an observer and did not actually stand up and direct any of the songs, but was delighted to hear the same advice being given to the delegates that is shared with the delegates at the BABS DC events.

The other sessions that I attended over the next three days covered aspects of Warm-ups (great fun, with ideas that are just the same as the ones that are advocated by BABS!!), singing jazz rhythms with your choirs, working with people who think they are tone deaf, stacking your singers (that's not what they called it but that is what it was!!) so as to get the maximum vocal impact, singing songs with Primary school pupils, how to get 90+marks in competitions and rehearsing your orchestral score in preparation for a performance. A very varied programme that I thoroughly enjoyed!!

In addition to all the above there was an exhibition where I spent far too much money on resources for work and for the Youth Choir!! It was good to have all the music publishers represented there and to have the opportunity to look at a whole range of songs that was available.

On Saturday evening there was a concert for the delegates and for the public. This was held in Chester Cathedral, a very impressive, ancient building. The contributors were The Manchester Boys Grammar School Boys Choir, The North West Honour Choir (directed by Bob Chilcott), A Youth Choir from Poland (34 young singers no older than 18), Laudibus a group of the top singers from the National Youth Choir of Great Britain (directed by Mike Brewer) and The Joyful Company of Singers, a choir that were previous winners of SCOTY (directed by Peter Broadbent). Every choir sang several songs, and the Polish choir sang twice. They sang Ave Maria, a fitting song for such a beautiful acoustic; it was so beautiful and one of the most moving musical experiences I've ever had; wonderful! The finale was a crescendo of sound, rhythm and joy when all the groups joined together to sing a song for World peace. They were accompanied by the organ and ALL the Musical Directors of the choirs playing a range of percussion instruments that produced some fantastic sounds!!! We talked about the event for some considerable time afterwards.

Altogether a great weekend, made possible by the generosity and kindness shown to me by BABS. It was wonderful to be able to attend so many motivating and worthwhile educational sessions. Thank you very much indeed.

### RHIANNON OWENS-HALL

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### HISTORICAL NOTES

#### **5 Years Ago April 2003**

5<sup>th</sup> Daytimers at Waltham St.Lawrence Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Brian Callaghan, Chris Oliver) were at the Butcher Hall, City Of London, Ladies night.

10<sup>th</sup> Daytimers at Frimley over 60's Club, for their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

19<sup>th</sup> Rockaholix were at a wedding reception at Dartford, Kent.

23<sup>rd</sup> Daytimers at St.Edmunds Court, Bracknell.

#### **10 Years Ago April 1998**

10<sup>th</sup> Daytimers at the Twyford over 60's club. Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Rod Adams, Chris Oliver) were at The Ferryman Pub at Pangbourne for local Caravan Club Meet.

13<sup>th</sup> Maidenhead Carnival.

Tag Rag reported the cessation of Tony Searle's role as Chorus Director. Much praise is heaped on Tony for his unstinting work in the last six plus years of his tenure.

#### **15 Years Ago April 1993**

7<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus Royal Festival Hall, London RAF 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert broadcast live on BBC Radio 2

Featuring:

Central Band of the RAF  
BBC Concert Orchestra  
Thames Valley Chorus  
Joan Savage.....soloist  
Raymond Baxter.....announcer

20<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus Lakeside Country Club, Frimley for PROBUS

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Tag Rag was full of tributes to Peter Rowe, the club PRO, who died suddenly of cancer. Barry Howard replaced Peter on the Committee.

### 20 Years Ago April 1988

9<sup>th</sup> Guildford BHC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show, Great Hall & Tannery, Farnham Maltings.

“The Big Sound Show”

Taking part was:

Surrey Fringe Chorus  
Thames Valley Chorus  
Quartz Precision (BABS silver medallists)  
Barbican Brass Ensemble  
TVC had two spots on the show C/D Derek Smith

In the finale we sang Battle Hymn with the Guildford Chorus and the Barbican Brass Ensemble with Nick Carter taking the solo and Pete Powell directing.

14<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at the Blue Coat School, Reading for the area AGM of Women’s Institutes.

In the fourth and final eliminating round of the Charrington/Old Spice southern area Barbershop Quartet contest, Kennet Valley Chord Company (John Harvey, Pete Powell, Peter Wickham, Bruce Beer) was the only contestant. They staged a winning performance at the semi-finals to qualify them for the grand final. They were fourth in the final that was won by the Fortunaires (Crawley). As a result KVCC were on Radio Oxford for five minutes of recorded interview and also had space in the local press.

### 25 Years Ago April 1983

8/10<sup>th</sup> BABS Convention University of Warwick Chorus results:

1<sup>st</sup> Great Western Chorus,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hallmark Of Harmony,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Crawley Chordsmen,  
4<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimaires  
5<sup>th</sup> Liverpool,  
6<sup>th</sup> Rainy City Chorus,  
7<sup>th</sup> Thames Valley Chorus. C/D Graham Lawrence

We were 44 on the risers and sang ‘The Sunshine Of Your Smile’ & ‘Mississippi Medley’. 16 choruses were in the final.

In the quartet contest won by Mancunian Way (Manchester), Downtown Strollers (Bristol) with Dick Knight was 4<sup>th</sup> and Yesterdays Dreamers (Chesham) with Tony Searle & Gerry Holland was in 7<sup>th</sup> position. The visiting American quartet was Boston Common.

This month saw the closure of the Borough Arms (opposite our rehearsal hall at Huntley & Palmers) where we used to retire after rehearsals until late at night, or early morning, depending on the singing.

### 30 Years Ago April 1978

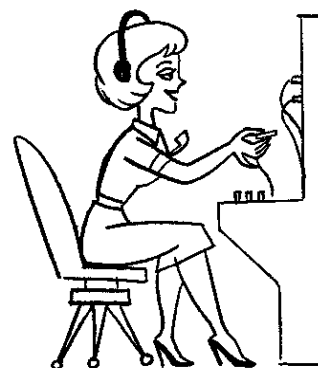
5<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus Civic Hall Fleet for the Lions Club Taking part was:

Berkshire Barbershoppers (TVC)  
Reading Barberettes  
Barrytones (Barry Nowell, Nick Carter, Bob Watkin, Colin Carter) making their last appearance in public.  
Four No Trumps (Ken Hopper, Ron Beal, Pete Powell, Ron Collis)  
Minor Birds (1976 LABBS Quartet champions from the Barberettes)

15<sup>th</sup> Full Chorus at Heatherwood Hospital, Bracknell with the Barberettes

### HAYDN ADAMS

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### SUPPORTERS

Last Saturday Graham and I went to a show organised by the 'Tuesday Singers' of Maidenhead. A close friend sings with them and when she told us that Figaro was also singing it was a double bonus.

I must offer congratulations to the quartet as they were a most professional act. They looked great, sang great and Peter developed a great rapport with the audience. I know I am just a *little bit biased* but they were fantastic. Well done.

Convention is fast approaching, and it's hard to believe that with all this horrid weather we are experiencing we are in the middle of April. Cheltenham looks a nice place to visit and so I am hoping there might be a little bit of time to explore - especially with the revised timetable for the Chorus competition!!

I hope that Chris Oliver is continuing to make good progress and he is back on those risers before too

## READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

long and congratulations to Sidney Seward who celebrates his 86th birthday this month.

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

### IRENE

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Thanks to Haydn Adams, Lawrence McNulty, Rhiannon, Bob Ridley, 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 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](http://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 BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

RBHC's

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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](mailto: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

THE REMAINING DAYS OF

**APRIL 2008**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20	21	22 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	23	24	25 <b>Daytimers</b> rehearsal	26
27	28	29 <b>Rehearsal</b>	30	<b>April</b> <b>2008</b>		

May 2008 calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

**JUNE 2008**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 <b>Rehearsal</b>	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	11 <b>Daytimers at</b> <b>Bray Disabled</b> <b>Club</b>	12	13	14
15	16	17 <b>Rehearsal</b> TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <b>Rehearsal</b>	25	26	27	27
29	30	<b>June</b> <b>2008</b>				