

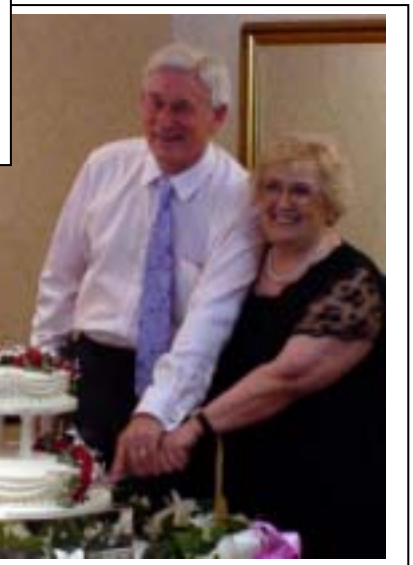


FOUNDED 1974
www.tvchorus.co.uk

THE RAG AND NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008

CONGRATULATIONS DOT & MEYRICK



READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

SEPTEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September 2008	1	2 Rehearsal	3	4	5	6
7 Vocal Coaching with John Grant Piggott Schoo. Starts at 10.30am until 4pm.	8	9 Rehearsal	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	17 Daytimers Christchurch Road Reading 1 for 2	18	19	20 Show at Corn Exchange Theatre Wallingford
21	22	23 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Rehearsal MIH wk1 RBHC EGM	September 2008			

Calendars showing the remaining days of August 2008 and the month of October 2008 are at the back of TAG RAG

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

	AUG	22-24	Fri-Sun		BABS Harmony College Nottingham
*	AUG	30	Tue		RBHC EGM
	SEP	17	Wed	Daytimers	Christchurch Court, Christchurch Road Reading 1pm for 2pm
	SEP	20	Sat	Full Chorus	2x40min spots - Corn Exchange Theatre Wallingford.
	OCT	11	Sat	Med Chorus	All Saints Church Wokingham Harvest Supper Cornerstone Hall at 8.30pm for 30 mins
*	OCT	28	Tue		RBHC AGM
	DEC	3	Wed	Daytimers	Kennet Court Woosehill Wokingham at 2pm
	DEC	6	Sat	Full Chorus	Christmas Show Desborough Suite Maidenhead Matinee & Evening Performances
	DEC	10	Wed	Daytimers	Thamesfield House Henley sing at 2.45
	DEC	17	Wed	Daytimers	Chequers Hotel Newbury
*	DEC	18	Thu	Med Chorus	Bearwood Lakes Golf Club Christmas dinner. 9.15pm sing for 30-40 mins (<i>Date corrected</i>)
2009	JAN	14	Wed	Med Chorus	Goring Fine Arts Club. Goring Village Hall 45 minutes for medium sized chorus
	JAN	20	Tue	Daytimers	WAMSDAD Maidenhead for the Maidenhead Blind Club. 1.30 for 2.30 sing.
	MAR	5	Thu	Daytimers	Twyford Townswomens Guild
	MAR	7-8	Sat-Sun		Away Weekend 2009 Bournemouth
*	JUN	28	Sat	Full Chorus	Sonning Mill Show

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

16TH SEPTEMBER FOR 23TH DISTRIBUTION



CHAIRMAN'S SPOT

It has been an emotional time of late, as the club saw the funerals of Trevor Ball, and Barry Will's wife, Sylvia: two lovely people who will be sorely missed. Illness has also struck Peter Dawson and David Colver, and we wish both men a speedy recovery. But on Friday we had cause to celebrate the wedding of Meyrick and Dot Wyard, which was a joyous occasion. Congratulations to the happy couple!

A week ago I travelled to Bristol to attend the membership retention workshop organised by the BABS working party under the leadership of Mick Kett. Many issues were discussed, starting with the Learn to Sing courses which have been such a successful recruitment vehicle for many clubs up and down the country. However, it is clear that the

period immediately after the course has to be carefully managed to ensure that new members fit in quickly and are not discouraged. As we approach another course starting next month, these issues will be addressed by the team to ensure that any shortcomings in previous years are not repeated.

There are of course many reasons why an individual may become disaffected and consider leaving the club, but rest assured that the executive committee is working hard to make your singing experience a pleasurable one. We shall be looking at a number of ideas which the BABS workshops have thrown up. Why not join us? Nominations for new committee members for the coming year should be given to Bob Ridley in time for the EGM on 30th September.

I know a number of you will be attending Harmony College at Nottingham University this year. Please spare some time to write an account of your experience for Tag Rag. Your resident mixed quartet, Colori, will be going to the BinG! Harmony College at Doesfeld at the beginning of October. We'll let you know how we get on.

Make a date in your diary for the coaching session with John Grant on Sunday 7th September. There can be very few people who know more about our art form than John – it will be an experience not to be missed!

JOHN PRICE

EDITORIAL

Thank you for all the contributions this month; especially my regulars Bob Ridley and Haydn Adams.

Bob Ridley and the executive must be congratulated on doing a fine job with the Charity Commission application and getting the approval of club members to proceed with the charity bid. I can't remember when such a major change went off so well. Let's hope the application runs smoothly from now on and we can capitalise on all the potential benefits available to us.

Life has been a bit of a roller coaster for us in recent times with two funerals and a wedding to attend each involving our members.

After Trevor Ball's funeral at the end of last month we learned of Sylvia Wills losing her battle against cancer. Our thoughts have been with Barry over this time. A strong representation of members attended the funeral at Bray church where we learned much about Sylvia's life. Sylvia's youthful years were

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

spent in the idyllic setting of a castle on the Isle of Bute and ended with Barry in Maidenhead. What can we say! Sylvia was a 'lovely lady' in every respect and we'll miss her dearly. Irene and I are sure that Barry has more than enough character to pull himself through this tough time especially with his family and our help. Thank you Barry for letting us share the Thanksgiving Service with you.

Two days after Sylvia's funeral was the splendour and elation of Dot and Meyrick's wedding. See my report on page 5.

We should be grateful to Haydn Adams for reminding us that it was ten years ago that we moved from the St John's Ambulance Hall at Woodley to the Piggott School. The following is a reprint of how Chairman Ed Dolan announced the change in Tag Rag.

ON THE MOVE

"Yet another exciting step for the TVC... The Music Team asked the Executive Committee to look for a new rehearsal venue as the Chorus had outgrown St John's. When Steve was explaining the new Music Team strategy to the Chorus a couple of weeks ago he also mentioned the plan to use small group work and of course for that to happen we would need more room.

Accordingly the Executive asked Graham Starkie to investigate the possibility of using Wargrave Piggott School which has been used in the past for extra rehearsal and as a car park! The result was that they are very happy to accommodate TVC and we have the use of the hall and whatever number of classrooms we require. There is ample carparking and no neighbours to annoy. And, it is available on Tuesday evenings, and is not too far from the Land's End pub! The Music Team went along to have a look and a sing and was excited at the possibilities it offered."

I reported last month on the availability of a trolley 'Gizmo' to help move the trolleys round in the confines of the van. Much to my relief there have been no comments and the device has seen much use. I have however been working on writing a short presentation of the Van Replacement Project that is being offered at the BABS Harmony College as a Pick and Mix (P&M). P&M sessions are not part of any 'streamed' course, they are offered to students as a break about an allied subject to help the learning process; attendance is voluntary. The idea is to share some of the ideas and solutions to using a van with tailift safely to transport risers. Who knows, I may come across someone with a simpler and more effective idea! I'll let you know how I get on. My plan is to give a short introduction of some

twenty-minutes outlining the project and then use the rest of the time giving a live demonstration of how it all works.

Talking about going to Harmony College I can report that the following members are also attending this year: Peter Cookson, Mike Ayres, Chris Bradley, Andrew Pearce, Chris Schrier, James Porter, Peter Groves, and Martin Ford. I can also tell you that John Ellis phoned me to find out what was going on in Reading because he had a succession of notifications of non-attendance from three members - Trevor Ball, David Colver and Peter Dawson. I'm sorry that everyone couldn't go because we would have had a chorus of twelve in Nottingham.

My apologies to Sean for misquoting the date of the Bearwood Lakes sing at Christmas in the Forward planner. It is definitely the eighteenth of December. Thank goodness there's enough time to sort out the error. Please check that you've put it in the right place in your diaries.

Even though I would not have been able to attend the Bristol Barbecue it is sad they had to postpone it due to poor support. I know that our personal priorities have a significant sway in this area but the earlier dates are publicised the greater the chance that people will be able to attend. Barbershopping can take up a lot of time and it is important to get dates in our diaries as early as possible to avoid this risk. Have you made a note for next year's show at Sonning Mill - June 28th. This is a fantastic opportunity that Rod had negotiated and gives us a target that is far enough away for us to develop a varied and full evening of entertainment.

By the time you read this I should have completed another 'moving' task for the Alexander Devine charity. Stevie Horten wrote to me asking if we could help them by moving some eighty garden tables and chairs from Hambledon to Holyport. Naturally we said yes but the only hold-up has been coordinating the pickup and drop-off to fit into the diary. I'll let you know how I get on. Making the vanload easily removable was one of the design parameters for the riser pallets so that we could use the van in this way. Not only does it provide a useful service but it gives the van a bit of exercise between rehearsals and singouts.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

SING 2009

B.A.B.S. has set up a new web site at www.sing2009.co.uk onto which it will place an increasing amount of information about our 2009 Convention in Llandudno. Pay it an early visit and then keep an eye on it for updates.

LAWRENCE MCNULTY



DOT & MEYRICK'S WEDDING

Twenty-one Daytimers and others witnessed the marriage of Dot and Meyrick last Friday at the Calcot Hotel. The bride in her resplendent black and cream outfit looked as stunning as the groom looked handsome in his smart suit. The sun was shining on one of the warmest days this year, not that it mattered because we were all inside most of the time.

Dot and Meyrick said their vows and exchanged rings in a civil ceremony in front of family and friends in the hotel's Loddon Suite. The ceremony was enhanced throughout by Meyrick's choice of songs from the Daytimers smartly turned out in their 'greens'.

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT was sung to the guests just before they assembled in the Loddon Suite. IF I GIVE MY HEART TO YOU was sung as the bride made her entrance. HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN and IF YOU LOVE ME REALLY LOVE ME were sung interlaced with two poems read by Derek Hird just before the signing of the register. A recording of Meyrick singing 'The Second Time Around and Eva Cassidy's Fields of Gold accompanied the signing of the register. The Bride and Groom left the room with the ringing chords of WONDERFUL DAY MEDLEY when we were able to remind Meyrick who was going 'to pay the bill'.

The Daytimers and guests including our wives enjoyed a delicious wedding breakfast with all the trimmings in the company of Dot and Meyrick in the Kennet and Avon Suite. As well as the barbershop singers, family and friends there was a

large group of ballroom dancing friends of the bride and groom in attendance.

The evening celebrations started with a performance from the Thames Valley Chorus; other members had joined in the festivity. This was followed by the best disco I've ever been to that played music that you could really dance to at a volume level that allowed you to have a good chin-wag between the quicksteps and waltzes. I must make sure Meyrick doesn't forget the telephone number of that DJ.

The whole day was a most uplifting experience and should see the happy couple off to a good start in their marriage. May they enjoy many years of happiness together. Nice one Meyrick!

GRAHAM STARKIE

From Dot & Meyrick
Gentlemen, Very many thanks to all of you who came and made our day so special with your singing, your gifts and your best wishes for our future together. To quote one of our guests "The best wedding I have ever been to." It will probably take from now to our first anniversary to thank you all.



BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
AUGUST'S QUINTET**

**MIKE AYRES
SEAN O'SHEA
BARRY WILLS
PHILIP WILSON
DENIS WRIGHT**

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



UPDATE ON TAKE FOUR.

Take Four were asked to sing at the Cantley House Hotel Proms, located on the Twyford Road from Wokingham on Sunday 20th July. This was the fourth in this series of proms and the third one at which we have sung. We were invited to the other one, but couldn't make it. So we must be doing something right!

The format was the same as in previous years. The "main event", a silver band plus two soloists started at 7.30pm, and they played popular light classics and some of the tunes heard at the London Proms, Land of hope and Glory for instance, accompanied by the almost obligatory flag waving. We were asked to entertain the arriving guests who were picnicking on the lawn. They were arriving from about 5.30 onwards.

The organisers enjoyed their almost traditional good luck with the weather so it was on a sunny Sunday evening we started to "do our thing". As in previous years we adopted a "wandering minstrel" approach, moving from one side of the crowd to the other at the end of our "serenading" the various groups of guests. Last year we gave the guests a "menu" from which to choose the songs they would like us to sing. Unfortunately a number of songs were very popular necessitating many repeats, so this year we chose the singing order ourselves to enable us to sing through our repertoire.

We also tried to engage the groups in a bit of "banter" after our singing and the vast majority entered into the spirit of the occasion. The system worked to mutual benefit, and the organisers were delighted with the interaction. Being a Wokingham location, there were inevitably quite a number of people whom I knew, which helped the link to the groups.

After the session we retreated to the hotel for coffee and sandwiches, and a chat. Having made

arrangements for our respective Sunday meals to be available a bit later than normal, we felt that we couldn't stay to listen to the other entertainment, so we went home. Perhaps next year.

A very enjoyable evening, made even better by the pleasing comments made to us by the attendees, and even some members of the band. Whether the organisers will change the format and the two groups of musical entertainment next year remains to be seen. I think I would after four years. It would be a pity, as it is an enjoyable event, but understandable.

MERVYN CLARK

on behalf of the others of Take Four.



ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

By BOB RIDLEY Acting Assistant to the Associate Member Coordinator

I called in to see Ron and Stella Collis on 14 August and had a long chat with them. They are always interested in the latest news from the chorus. Since my previous visit Ron's family have succeeded in using the wheelchair ramp to the front door. So in addition to his daily trips into his new conservatory, Ron has been pushed a few times round the local roads. He has not been far afield but he is delighted to see the world outside again although he has found the traffic a bit daunting.

It was great to hear from Nigel Ewens. We wish him well with establishing his business and look forward to seeing him in the autumn.

TagRag is available on our website thanks to the efforts of Graham Starkie and Chris Bradley.
<www.tvchorus.co.uk>

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Thank you to all the Associate Members for their continuing support.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER LETTERS

Nigel Ewens

Dear Bob,
Please excuse the long delay in posting the enclosed cheque for my renewal, I've made it up to £20 to cover some of the previous costs outstanding.

I miss my barbershop and friends, but life has been intense whilst I try and establish my business. I hope to attend meetings in the autumn when things should be calmer for me.

Yours sincerely

RAMBLINGS FROM 34 YEARS

EPISODE ONE

Well now, I recall the moment when a close friend, Bob Kay, asked me to come and sing this song that he'd acquired! We were members of the same amateur operatic society in Liverpool, and, like all music societies, we partied well!! We were sitting at the bottom of the stairs during a party in Meols or somewhere, and we were given this piece of music! Barry Prescott sang lead, Bob Kay sang Bass, Laurence Whittle sang baritone and I sang tenor!! Bob gave Barry and I the info that we should sing the music lines an octave lower than they were written, he had learned this at the "Convention" he'd attended in Newcastle a few weeks earlier! This was the hardest thing for me!! I couldn't get it right!! I didn't understand what I was supposed to do or how it was to be sung, despite the information, but we stuck at it for an hour!!! Guess the name of the song? "The Old Songs"!!!!!! It sounded like something I'd never heard before!! I wasn't sure that I wanted to carry on with this style of music, but that decision was made for me by Bob, there was no option!!

Bob actually "got the bug" after watching a television film from America that had followed the progress of a quartet that was "going for gold"! The quartet was called The Pacificaires, and they won their third silver medal in a row!! He was smitten and he found out from the programme that there was to be convention for barbershop singers in Newcastle so he was off!!! His enthusiasm and commitment was amazing..... his drive engulfed us all and he carried us with him!! He attended the convention and brought back a set of music that I now know as the Barber Pole material, and he I and set to the task of learning the music

and a little more about the style and its demands. I was privileged enough to hear and see this quartet when they came over with Dave Stevens and a chorus made up of retired American barbershoppers in Hazel Grove, Stockport in 1975. They have remained one of my most favourite quartets ever since, and I still treasure their recordings!! A certain Steve Hall was also there with his chorus from Stockport. Our paths didn't cross then but they did very soon after. That's another story!

Bob made the decision to "start" a club, asking his friends from the Liverpool Male Voice Choir and from the Bentley Amateur Operatic to join him at "The Pineapple" in Liverpool 8. He asked me to help him, and together we began Liverpool Barbershop Harmony Club!! The Chairman was the Licensee of the pub so accommodation was free for us! We rehearsed in the pub, and beer was an automatic part of the rehearsal!!! Remember that I am Welsh, brought up a Welsh Methodist with a father who was a Headteacher and a Presbyterian preacher!!!!!! I was a fallen woman in his eyes, even though I only ever drank tonic water!!

LBHC began in September 1974. I sang tenor with them at all their singouts as they didn't have any!! There are many photos of me wearing my red waistcoat with extra darts in the front!! As you can imagine there were many comments from the audience but the chorus thrived on being different, and we were kept busy learning new songs and singing in public. Bob taught the guys the notes by playing his recorder if I wasn't there to help him. His motto always "Give em Hell" and that set the tone of the club's approach from the beginning. It soon grew and had 25 members in a very short space of time.

As with all clubs the wives followed on, supporting their partners/husbands from the sidelines. However, some of them wanted to sing the songs for themselves, so they began to gather the troops for a ladies chorus!! Alongside this development, 3 partners/wives and 1 best friend decided they'd like to sing in a competition that had been created by the BBC, the Charlie Chester Barbershop competition. A taped audition was required so 4 of us set to upstairs in my house to record 2 songs!! Now, my house at the time was a large, 3 storeyed building. We'd converted the top floor into our lounge..... but you could still hear the water running into the water tank!!!! We reached the deadline for the recording, as we weren't satisfied with what had been produced up till then. There was one major problem, we'd been partying the night before and were suffering badly. Nevertheless, the recording was done, and it was in the post the following day, together with dripping tap

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accompaniment!! Imagine our surprise when we found out we were through to the next round!!

The Blue Chords made their debut in Leamington Spa in May 1975. We were judged by The Ringleaders, the quartet that had been the quartet winners in Newcastle. Their names were Paul Wren (tenor), Bob Walker (lead), Ron Avis (bari) and Bill Little (bass). They had become the Category Specialists for BABS!! We were up against stiff competition, with quartets like the Silver Chords (SA winners) and the Minor Birds all of whom had been singing together for some time, and against all odds the Blue Chords won the competition!! We became friends with Pete Powell and the Minor Birds and our barbershop lives as a quartet had begun!!

In the meantime Liverpool Ladies Barbershop Singers were born and my barbershop life was becoming increasingly exciting and busy!!!

RHIANNON OWENS-HALL



SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

NEW TVC WEBSITE (15 Jul)

At long last the new web site is up and running! Having looked at every web site listed on the BABS web site under "Chorus Locator" I have deliberately set ours out to be unashamedly a sales-oriented site i.e. focusing on getting singouts more than on recruiting new singers. Because of this focus I have left the Members Area until last and hope to add that area to the new site in the not too distant future. When that happens I will divert all attempts to access the existing rbhc web site to this new one. The Learn To Sing website still provides Member services.

Once again the Club owes a debt of gratitude to David Colver for producing the initial design concept on which the whole site is based. So, check it out, enjoy it, send feedback to me (Lawrence

McNulty) and whenever you get the chance please ask others to add a link to our new site from theirs. www.tvchorus.co.uk <<http://www.tvchorus.co.uk/>>

RISERS (22 Jul)

Please note that the school caretaker has agreed that we can leave the risers up throughout the school's summer holidays. However our risers will be needed at Wisley and at BABS Harmony College in that period so the schedule over the next few weeks looks like this:

Rehearsal 22nd Jul Piggott - Leave up
Rehearsal 29th Jul Piggott - Leave up
Rehearsal 5th Aug Piggott - Leave up
Rehearsal 12th Aug - Load on van (with 9th)
Singout 19th Aug Wisley
BABS HC 20th-24th
Rehearsal 26th Aug - Load in Van (9th under stage - School restarts on 3rd Sep)

TREVOR BALL'S TRIBUTE (22 Jul)

Sarah kindly emailed the tribute that was read by her mum at the funeral to put into Tag Rag. It is clear from this that Trevor was up to the minute with his word processing software because it came to me in Microsoft's new(ish) filetype docx that I couldn't immediately handle; so I asked Sarah to resend in .doc or .rtf. In parallel with that I sent a copy to Over t' Pond Bruce Beer because I had to return his copy for the same reason. A delay in Bruce's response gave me enough time to get the file converted with my neighbour. That success was followed by an apology from Sarah for her delay in getting it done and she was getting her daughter to look at the problem. In the same batch of emails was a response from Bruce (with a converted file) and the explanation that his delay was due to him being in Anchorage Alaska! Don't computers make the world appear small!

LETTER OF THANKS (22 Jul)

28 Westover Road
Fleet
Hampshire
GU51 3DG

22 July 2008

Mr John Price
Chairman
Reading Barbershop Harmony Club

Dear John
I apologise for sending this letter via e-mail, but I very much wanted it to reach you in advance of tonight's rehearsal.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

There really are no words to say thank you for what you did for Trevor last Thursday, we as a family will always be grateful to you all for helping to make our farewell to him something really special. Everyone who has spoken to me since the service has said that your singing was so beautiful and moving and that it took the whole day to another level.

I was particularly touched as well by the impromptu chorus you got together at the Lismoyne Hotel, including Trevor's friends from Magna Carta and Solent City Choruses, it was lovely to hear your voices lifted in harmony and as I am sure you know Trevor would have loved that. He was always the first to be on his feet for a "sing".

I am so glad that so many of you were able to join us and share in our celebration of Trevor's life. I know that he would have felt deeply honoured that so many of you were willing to give up your time to come and be there for him and his family.

I hope you will allow me to end my letter on this occasion with

Yours in harmony

Sarah Ball

NEW SONG WHEN WILL I BE LOVED (29 Jul)

This song is on issue as from tonight. Andy Pearce has the scores and the teaching tracks are available in the Members area of LearntoSing web site.

N.B. at this stage the mp3's will be issued as follows:

Part	RH Ch	LH Ch
Bass	Bass	Lead
Lead	Lead	Bass
Tenor	Tenor	Bass
Baritone	Bari	Bass

The purpose of these stripped-out recordings is to allow the basses to focus on the essential underlying rhythm to this song but with the melody as the reference point. For the other three parts the emphasis is reversed.

INITIAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

Two consecutive Tuesdays 5th and 12th August will have dedicated 45 min Bass section teaching sessions with Chris and Brian addressing the underlying rhythm requirements. Other sections at SL's discretion.

It is anticipated that conventional mp3's for all four parts will be posted on website from Tues 19th August (RHS Wisley singout)

DOT AND MEYRICK'S WEDDING (5 Aug) FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST

Gentlemen, here is the proposed programme for the wedding ceremony in the afternoon. You will be singing in full green uniform at the ceremony; I will arrange somewhere for you to change. I suggest you arrive at 2pm for a warm up. Many thanks for taking part in our special day.

CEREMONY

Meyrick takes his place at front with Betty, Ann and John. Thames Valley Chorus (TVC) sing CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT.

Dot enters on Michael's arm. TVC sing - IF I GIVE MY HEART TO YOU

Welcome by Registrar

Introduction by John Keedle

Declarations

Exchanging of rings

Enhanced vows

Legal vows

Reading 'The second time around' Derek Hird

Song HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN-TVC

Reading 'If you can always be as close' Derek Hird

Song IF YOU LOVE ME REALLY LOVE ME-TVC

Signing of register 'The second time around' and

Eva Cassidy's 'Fields Of Gold' on minidisk

Photographs

Presentation of Marriage Certificate

Bride and Groom exit while TVC sing -

WONDERFUL DAY MEDLEY

EVENING CELEBRATION (for Everyone)

Is at the Calcot Hotel Bath Rd Calcot and will begin at 7.30pm, We have given Phil Ward a selection of songs that we would like you to sing at 8pm. It will be a casual affair, no risers or uniform. Changing into uniform and then back again would be too much hassle as you are all guests as well as performers. There is a large dance floor with a low-level stage that can substitute for risers. The buffet meal will be served at 9pm and the free bar will be open until midnight.

Yours Dot and Meyrick

VOCAL COACHING WITH JOHN GRANT (12 Aug)

The Piggott School Hall has been booked for our use on Sunday 7th September from 10.30am until 4.30pm for a vocal coaching session with JOHN GRANT. Please put the date in your diaries.

Rhiannon writes - "TVC has been fortunate to secure the services of John Grant as a coach/adviser.

John Grant is a barbershopper of almost 35 years. He has been the coach for many previous Gold Medallists for both quartets and choruses, his more

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

recent involvement being with Bolton when they won their Gold Medals. He is the ex-CD for both Sheffield (Hallmark of Harmony) and East Midlands Chorus (Grand Central) where he took both choruses to several Gold Medals, and took Grand Central to their first Gold Medal in their first competition. He is an ex-Category Director for the old "Balance and Blend", Sound and the now current "Singing" category. He was instrumental in developing the definition of the current Singing category with his American counterparts when we all attended the inaugural meeting of the new (current) system in mid 1990s. He currently the BABS archivist and has a HUGE collection of early and later BABS memorabilia.

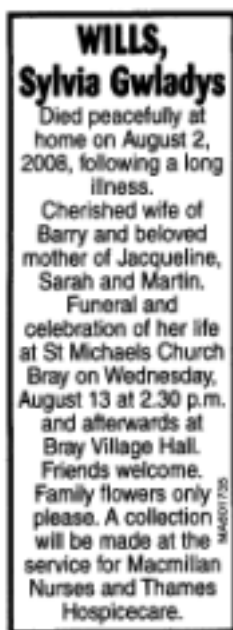
John has greatly reduced his coaching commitment throughout BABS and LABBS but is more than willing to make some contribution to TVC. I am delighted that he has found time in his schedule to be able to do this for us.

John is less mobile than he was, and therefore wishes to be able to share the driving with his wife. She works during the week so weekends are preferable for them both. The first date he could give us was September 7th.

Please, please, please put this date into your diaries and be there to make his visit worthwhile. You will really enjoy the time he will spend with us, he's a great character!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

• SYLVIA WILLS

The following cutting is taken from the announcement in this week's Maidenhead Advertiser.



I have spoken to Barry today and he is naturally very down but is looking forward to getting his life back to somewhere near normal with his singing and golf. He has appreciated, very much, all the messages of sympathy.



HISTORICAL NOTES

5 Years Ago August 2003

9th Rockaholix (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Brian Callaghan, Chris Oliver) were at a private party at Watton, Stone, Herts.

22/24th The following members were at Harmony College; Geraint Lewis, Mervyn Clark, Graham Swatridge, Andy Wheeler, Richard Leatham, Mike Ayres & Lawrence McNulty. Graham Starkie & Rhiannon Hall were faculty members.

30th A 25 man chorus performed at Legoland. On the same day Rockaholix were at a wedding reception at St. Anne Manor, Wokingham.

The Editor reported that his photocopier, after eight years service, had finally given up having done in excess of 400,000 copies. It was second hand when purchased with a meter reading of 641,100. A new machine was purchased, with the help of Club funds, in time for the next issue of Tag Rag.

10 Years Ago August 1998

Tag Rag reported the planned change of rehearsal venue from St John's Ambulance Hall in Woodley to the Piggott School Wargrave. The parking situation was becoming too difficult after the new houses had been built on the land adjacent to the hall.

Steve Hall announced his music plan to develop two performance packages: 50s/60s package to include

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

'Fever' and 'Catch A Falling Star' and a Blues/ Jazz package which will include 'Birth of the Blues' and the theme tune from 'Film 98'.

15 Years Ago August 1993

The Club established a new format for the Music Team to take advantage of the revised BABS contest judging system. The Chorus Director's role was handed over to Tony Searle from Pete Powell and Derek Smith.

14th Sat Small Chorus/Quartet Singout at Beaconsfield Wedding.

Sixteen members attended BABS Harmony College.

20 Years Ago August 1988

2nd The Insiders (1976 SPEBSQSA Quartet Champions) were at the Reading Cricket Club, Earley.

During their performance they presented a donation of £142 on behalf of RBHC to the Audiology Unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital to purchase a machine called a Speech Master to help children with speech difficulties. The whole event was recorded by Reading Hospital Radio.

14 members of RBHC attended Harmony College at Walsall. It was a record number from any one club at that time.

25 Years Ago August 1983

During the month the chorus sang at RAF Abingdon with the quartet Harmony Heritage (Pete Forrest, Nick Carter, Ron Collis, Peter Bugden) and the ladies quartet Minor Birds.

C/D was Gerry Holland deputising for Pete Powell who was at Harmony College, Missouri, USA. Pete was one of the first from BABS to be invited to Harmony College USA.

30 Years Ago August 1978

During the month the chorus sang at RAF Abingdon with their new quartet Harmony Heritage (Pete Forrest, Nick Carter, Ron Collis and Pete Bugden) and the Ladies quartet The Minor Birds. The Chorus Director was Gerry Holland who was deputising for Pete Powell who was at Harmony College in Missouri USA.

Tag Rag took on a new look under the editorship of Ron Beal. He published it in an A5 booklet form.

Graham Starkie took over the role of Club Chairman and Pete Powell took over the Chorus Director's role

from Barry Nowell, Barry moved his house and home north to Blackpool.

HAYDN ADAMS



CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU part 2 of 2

This is the second and final part of Andy Pearce's dissertation.

ACCESS TO ADVICE

We provide CAB information on-line in several languages -our public information and advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk , (external link) is available in both English and Welsh, had 4.3 million visits in 2005/06 and includes a frequently asked questions section in Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Urdu.

During 2005/06 our advisers gave more than 9.72 million hours of advice. In addition, many more hours were spent negotiating with third parties and on follow-up casework.

FUNDING

Citizens Advice income in 2004/05 totalled £37.5 million and the estimated total of Citizens Advice Bureau income was £133.1 million.

ADVICE THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

The Citizens Advice service has been helping people to resolve their money, legal and other problems since 1939.

- It is the largest advice-giving network in the UK, regularly providing advice from over 3,000 locations.
- We help people deal with nearly 5.5 million new problems every year, in bureaux, by phone and email, at outreach sessions in places like GP surgeries and courts – even in people's homes.
- CAB advice is free, impartial, independent, confidential and provided by trained volunteers.
- The CAB service is known by 96 per cent of the public and 41 per cent of has used us at some point in their lives.

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- The advice we give is the first in the advice sector to be audited for the quality of the advice given to clients.
- CAB advice is available to everyone regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or nationality.
- Every Citizens Advice Bureau is a registered charity reliant on trained volunteers and funds to continue providing this vital service to local communities.

THE PRINCIPLES OF CAB ADVICE

Independent – we will always act in the interests of our clients, without influence from any outside bodies

Impartial – we don't judge our clients or make assumptions about them. Our service is open to everyone, and we treat everyone equally

Confidential – we won't pass on anything a client tells us – or even the fact that they've visited us – without their permission

Free – no-one has to pay for any part of the service we provide

HOW CAB ADVISERS CAN HELP

There are a number of different ways that CAB advisers can help people to resolve a problem. Advisers don't tell clients what to do, but explain their options and the possible outcomes of different courses of action. Clients are encouraged to make their own decisions and act on their own behalf. We enable clients to manage their own problems by focusing on their needs as individuals.

CAB advisers, most of whom are trained volunteers can:

- interview clients face-to-face and by phone to find out what the problem(s) are
- access our regularly updated electronic information database for up to the minute information
- help clients to negotiate with companies or service providers such as creditors or to appeal against decisions, for example, social security benefit claims
- write letters or phone companies and service providers on behalf of clients
- help clients to prioritise their problems, for example, to sort out which debts are most important
- help clients with form filling, for example, to claim for social security benefits
- represent clients in court and at tribunals
- refer clients to CAB specialist caseworkers for complex problems or to other agencies when appropriate.

WHERE ADVICE IS PROVIDED

- CAB advice is provided from over 3,000 locations through Citizens Advice Bureaux,

online, by email, by telephone, in community venues such as GP surgeries and in courts, prisons, schools and leisure centres.

- the majority of bureaux provide home visits
- some bureaux provide email advice
- people can also access CAB information online at www.adviceguide.org.uk ([external link](#)), including frequently asked questions (FAQs) in English, Welsh, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Punjabi and Urdu and factsheets to download
- our [Citizens Advice Handbook](#) published by Penguin also provides CAB information - the ultimate survival guidebook to life in Britain today

So if you have a problem don't forget your local CAB, they may be able to help you, or at least know someone that can.

ANDY PEARCE



SUPPORTERS

I hope that both Peter D and Dave Colver are making good progress after their recent stays in hospital. Luv to you both.

Both Graham and I were very sad to hear that Sylvia Wills had passed away after a long battle with cancer. Sylvia was one of life's nice people and when her wickerwork coffin was carried into the church festooned with bows and bright flowers it was a true reminder of who she was; a person whose bright bouncy hair, clothes and personality to match could light up any room.

What an emotional week. The celebration of Meyrick and Dot's wedding on Friday was a very special and happy occasion; congratulations to you. The wedding had been planned so well. Everything from the songs the Daytimers sang during the ceremony, the meal, cake, proper dancing, buffet etc.etc. was exceptional. Even the weather! Dot looked fantastic in the outfit that Cristl Swift had designed and made for her.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

And then there's the Olympics -What great results.

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

IRENE

Thanks to Haydn Adams, Mervyn Clark, John Price, Lawrence McNulty, Rhiannon Owens-Hall, Andy Pearce, Bob Ridley, Meyrick Wyard, and Irene for supplying copy.

Editor

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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 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.*

CLUB EXECUTIVE

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Ken Mills	0118 978 0031
Treasurer	heatherken@talktalk.net

FATHER OF THE CHORUS and

Associate Member Coordinator

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Berkshire RG19 3FY Tel. 01635 861481.

Acting Assistant to the Associate Member
Coordinator:

Bob Ridley, Langton Lodge, Icknield Road,
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Tel 01344 489445 (Bracknell) Evenings.

INTERNET SCAMS & FIDDLES

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.

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RBHC's

50 CLUB

**Are you part of the
action?**

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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. 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

AUGUST 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18	19 Sing at RHS Wisley No Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	20	21	22 BABS Harmony College	23 BABS Harmony College
24 BABS Harmony College	25	26 Rehearsal	27	28	29	30

September 2008 calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 2008			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Rehearsal MIH wk2	8	9	10	11 Singout Med Chorus Wokingham
12	13	14 Rehearsal MIH wk3 TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	15	15	17	18
19	20	21 Rehearsal MIH wk4 TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Rehearsal MIH wk5 RBHC AGM	29	30	31	October 2008