



TAG RAG AND NEWSLETTER

FOUNDED 1974

www.tvchorus.co.uk

Registered Charity number 1125742

OCTOBER 2008

THREE NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS TAKE UP OFFICE



WILL WE BE PLAYING TO SOME NEW MUSIC?



Richard Leathem (Chairman), Brian Milbank (Performance Team Leader) and Graham Starkie (Musical Events Director) join Bob Ridley, Lawrence McNulty, Ken Mills and Alex Russell to guide us through the coming year.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

A LOOK AHEAD TO

NOVEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	November 2008					1
2	3	4 Rehearsal MIH wk6	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Rehearsal TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Rehearsal	26	27	28	29

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

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

*	OCT	21	Tue		RBHC EGM to elect Director of Musical Events
*	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 Evening Performances (now only one performance)
	DEC	10	Wed	Daytimers	Thamesfield House Henley sing at 2.45
	DEC	16	Wed	Chorus	BBC Carol Service Reading Minster 6.30pm for 7.30pm
	DEC	17	Wed	Daytimers	Chequers Hotel Newbury
*	DEC	18	Thu	Chorus	Bearwood Lakes Golf Club Christmas dinner. 9.15pm sing for 30-40 mins (Full Chorus required)
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.
*	JAN	24	Sat aft/eve	Memorial Celebration	Party for our members, their families and friends at Loddon Hall Twyford for Pat Dawson
*	JAN	31	Sat	Full Chorus	Oxford Music Festival Headington Oxford
	MAR	5	Thu	Daytimers	Twyford Townswomens Guild
	MAR	7-8	Sat-Sun		Away Weekend 2009 Bournemouth
	JUN	28	Sun	Full Chorus	Sonning Mill Show
	JUL	6-8	Mon/Wed	Host/Show	With the Westminster Chorus
	SEP	14-20	Mon/Sun	BABS	National Barbershop Week
	SEP	20	Sun	BABS	Provisional booking of London Palladium

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TAG RAG OCTOBER 2008 CONTENTS LIST

Page	
2	A LOOK AHEAD TO NOVEMBER 2008
2	MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
3	CHAIRMAN'S SPOT PRICE
3	EDITORIAL STARKIE
4	PETER DAWSON TRIBUTES
6	BARBERSHOP BABES
6	THE BIGGEST LIES ABOUT SINGING
7	RESONANCE TIP FOR BASSES
7	ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS
8	ASSOCIATE MEMBER LETTERS
9	SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES
11	HISTORICAL NOTES HAYDN ADAMS
12	HURRICANE IKE BOB RIDLEY
13	SUPPORTERS IRENE STARKIE
13	FESTIVE SEASON SINGOUTS
16	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

11TH NOVEMBER FOR 18TH DISTRIBUTION



CHAIRMAN'S SPOT

This is my last Tag Rag contribution as Club chairman. I wish to thank all the men who have served on the committee during the last two years for the hard work that they have put in to our meetings and club activities. As to the future, I am excited by the fact that the executive committee will be up to full strength, and, with a new hand at the helm and a positive outlook, the club will achieve great things. Please give the new men all your support.

As I mentioned two months ago, our mixed quartet, Colori, attended the BinG! Harmony college in Doesfeld at the beginning of October. It was an opportunity to renew acquaintance with old friends, and Ralf Zeysig, Norbert Hammes, Stefan

Hammes, and Barry and Sharon Towner all send their greetings and best wishes to the club.

As with harmony colleges everywhere, it was a hard-working, hard-playing weekend. Top Canadian and American educators gave the benefit of their skills and experience: the quartet had sessions with Jack Slamka and his son Mike (of the quartet Power Play), and David Wright. Jack's vision on presentation was inspirational, and completely changed our view of how to perform one of our favourite songs! We also had an extra (and very "up-close and personal") session with Barry and Sharon after dinner on Saturday evening, which made a huge difference to the quality of our quartet sound. I just hope we can remember and apply all the things we learned.

Tim Waurick directed the mens' chorus sessions, and Eric Dalby of Vocal Spectrum was coaching the singing stream. You might think that this was enough talent to run the college, but no! When Norbert heard we were attending, he asked if Rhiannon would mind taking a few classes – four or five – to help out? In the end, Rhiannon took four classes in singing for women, three in chorus direction, and six quartet coaching sessions! And still managed to keep up with our own quartet work! It was a great experience for us all, and one I would recommend to anyone who wishes to broaden their horizons in barbershop singing.

The chorus has a number of engagements coming up in the next month or two. The Christmas period is, as usual, very busy, and we have some interesting activities in the New Year. Sing-out lists will be appearing on the notice board - please pledge your support now.

JOHN PRICE

EDITORIAL

My thanks to all the Tag Rag contributors this month.

Rightly or wrongly I always see October as the start of the Barbershop year. This is because this is the month that the new executive directors take up their roles on the committee. Some years pass by without anyone noticing a change because the incumbents stay in post. This year however we see three changes. We have a new Chairman, a new Director of Performance and a new Director of Musical Events. It's been over two years since we fielded a full team like this. Let's wish them well in their endeavours and make a promise that we will support their work in every way we can.

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If you're not party to the news yet I have an interest suggesting you lend your support to the committee because I have accepted the Musical Events post. Rod Adams has been keeping things together in a watch-keeping role over the last couple of years and I hope to be able to give the job my full attention. I have many ideas that will need exploring but many of them will have to wait until I've got my feet under the table and made sure that what is already in-train keeps on the rails. It should be far easier for me to get my fellow exec-members to make a greater contribution to Tag Rag now with a regular diet of meetings.

On the Musical Events front I'll be looking to make some changes that will benefit us all. If you've not already shared any ideas with me then do it as soon as you can collect your thoughts together so that I can take them into consideration. One of the major problems with any executive role is that of taking on too much. The result can be that little gets done because there isn't enough time to for one person to do everything so I'll be looking to share my responsibilities as wide as possible.

It is amazing to think that we have now passed the first anniversary of us getting a new riser van. Having only done a massive 2500 miles in the year it has now had its first full service. Just like your car (if it's over three years old) it's needs also include MOT, Road Tax and Insurance cover. Let's hope that it gives us the sterling service that we expect; Harvey is a big act to follow. I am also reminded with all of this that it's exactly a year ago since Scotty and I started work on the riser trolleys. Much to our relief they appear to be performing the job we designed them for excellently.

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor



PETER DAWSON TRIBUTES

I was shocked and so saddened when I learned that Peter, despite his and others best efforts, had succumbed to his cancer.

Many years ago Peter and I were equally competent members of the chorus, but Peter moved on. While I remained a 5th row riser man I witnessed Peter's development into a very accomplished quartet singer and an inspirational singing coach. As a coach he expected a very high standard, and although we must have taxed & exasperated him frequently, he improved our performance with a lovely mixture of encouragement, correction, patience and good humour - and when we got it "right" he *glowed* in appreciation. He could "feel the music" so well and his skills will be greatly missed by the chorus.

I wished to be present at Peter's funeral but had to attend the funeral of my ex Mother in Law, Edna, in Trowbridge. Edna's farewell was not an over-sad occasion as she had lived into her mid nineties, and was only in poor health in the latter few years of her full life. In cricket parlance she had "carried her bat" whilst, regrettably, Peter, it seemed to me, was "in the pavilion before the tea interval."

Edna's chapel service was at the same time as Peter's so I was able to give time to remember him and give thought to his family and his great mates in "Figaro" at the moment that I knew they too were recalling Peter, and the influence he had had on their lives.

It was good to know him and to be helped by him.

PHILIP L WILSON

IN MEMORY OF PETER

As our section leader Peter was superb. With each new song we were learning he would demonstrate to us always singing on pitch and then listen patiently while we tried to emulate the sound. He was a true professional and managed to get the best from our section. He was always quick to praise any achievements and full of good humour – even laughing at some of my jokes!

His excellent voice blended perfectly with the chorus and the quartet that he sang with. He contributed to TVC becoming a top chorus and equally so helping Figaro to become one of the best quartets in the country. An achievement to be very proud of.

I'm sure I speak for every member of the chorus and our supporters in saying that he will be very sadly missed.

SYD BOYD

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COLLECTED BY LAWRENCE MCNULTY

Several Club members have submitted tributes to the late Peter Dawson who passed away on 7th September 2008, and they will be shown on a special page in the Members Area of the new web site. If anyone else would like to contribute their memories of Peter please send them to me along with any photos that have special memories. The tributes that have been received so far include:

“Inspirational section leader. Excellent coach to the chorus and a great role model. Wonderful sense of humour. Every time I hear the introduction to "New York, New York" I'll think of Peter.”

“Among Peter's many wonderful attributes I think that the work he did in coaching the chorus stands out, not just with the Lead section which he worked with most, but also the other sections in the chorus. He did so firmly but fairly and always with good humour, and he was always able to demonstrate what he expected from chorus members.”

“Like both Steve and Rhi, Peter had the same quality to want to get the best out of us and even though we "forgot what he said week after week", his tenacity was always there reminding us about posture, tall vowels, not shouting, singing no better then beautiful etc. Other less caring people after time would have given up on us. Peter never did. I will miss him as much as Steve.”

“Peter's greatest asset was his ability to lead in a friendly but firm manner – one always listened and hopefully learnt from Peter. Not only was he a great and informative section leader but his role as warm-up man and instigator of essential revision was second to none. He had a good ear and great voice to bring barbershop to the fore as THE great singing experience.”

“Good Club man who undertook many roles - singing coach, Lead section leader, teaching material (tapes etc). Was a firm but fair singing coach, and often offset his criticism with a quip or a smile, which was a way to ensure no one felt offended. Good team player, combined his quartet role well with his Club responsibilities. To my mind a good role model and arguably a leader whom everyone respected.”

“Peter's greatest contribution to our club and our music was his constant refusal to settle for second best. He had a high standard. He adhered to that standard himself and expected no less from the rest of the chorus. In rehearsal, he constantly tried to raise the bar; careful to point out what an error had been and how it could be corrected, he was, in every

sense, an example to us all. What a pity he didn't live to hear the whole chorus follow his lead, and reap the benefit that would surely have followed. But, quite apart from that, his own singing was a delight to listen to.”

“The tragic loss of Peter Dawson has left RBHC with a huge gap which will be impossible to fill. Peter's enthusiasm, commitment and sheer love of singing was an inspiration to us all, and the whole chorus gained great benefit from his coaching skills. The Lead Section in particular is going to feel his absence keenly. I've lost count of the number of times during the past few years that I heard people say "What would we do without him?" Now that he has been so cruelly taken from us, we are going to find out. And it will not be easy. We have to make sure that all the time and effort he put into bringing our singing up to the high standard we are now capable of achieving is not wasted. It will be a fitting memorial to Peter if that standard is maintained and enhanced. Peter's legacy to the club is already firmly established among the guys on the risers. He instilled in the Chorus a keen and lasting awareness of the importance of sharing the joy of singing harmony together to the best of our ability, amid the warm glow of friendship.”

“Peter Dawson encapsulated the very best of Barbershop. His passionate love of singing was infectious. A very accomplished singer, ceaselessly striving to improve his own performance but always ready to give up his time to help others, whether novice or old hand, to get the best from their voices. Intensely keen at times with his coaching, but always kind, he was able to extract the very best from the guys on the risers. There is no doubt the Chorus raised their game when Peter was with us. And on top of everything, he was a truly lovely guy.”

Compiled by

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BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
OCTOBER'S SEPTET**

**AIDAN BRAND
DAVID COLVER
GERAINT LEWIS
PHILIP PAINE
JOHN PRICE
ALEX RUSSELL
GRAHAM STARKIE**

THE BIGGEST LIES ABOUT SINGING

**By Brett Manning – famous US vocal coach.
You must develop a strong "falsetto" to sing
very high notes.**

Truth - Your voice will make several coordinations, none of which require a great degree of effort. There is the "chest" voice, the "head" voice, and falsetto (sometimes confused with the head voice). My technique would also add what we call the "mix" voice, which is a mixture of chest and head voices.

First, let's identify these voices.

Put your hand on your chest and say "AAAAh" in your regular speaking voice. Do you feel the vibration of your chest against your hand?

This is called "chest voice" and it's what you naturally use when singing lower notes. We call it the chest voice because much of the resonance takes place in the chest cavity in your lower range.

I guess I better explain "resonation."

It's pretty easy. Imagine the sound made by slapping your hand against a boulder the size of a washing machine. The impact is like one vibration of your vocal cords. Your hand against the boulder

would make a tiny sound (more like a "snap" than anything).

Now imagine slapping the side of a real washing machine.

What sound comes from that? A big, giant BOOM! Why? "Because it's hollow," I hear you say. But WHY should that make a difference?

It's because the hollow space in the washing machine serves to amplify the sound by "resonating" or vibrating, moving a larger volume of air than the slap itself would have moved.

Your vocal cords are only about half an inch long! They're stretched across a little pipe the same diameter (half inch). If they were vibrating out in open air, you'd have to put your ear right next to them to hear them at all.

But they are part of a system that includes several resonating cavities. The biggest is the chest. It's got the "boom" of the lower notes and it can sound "explosive."

The cords make the air vibrate, and the chest amplifies that vibration.

Next voice--the "head" voice.

Why do they call it the head voice? I hear you saying "I bet it's because it resonates in the head." Yep. You're right.

But we think of the head as a solid block most of the time, except maybe for the mouth. The truth is, there are hidden pockets of air in your head! You see those 2 little nostrils and you think they are just pipes to the lungs. But they lead to the "nasal cavity" behind your nose and your cheek bones. Then there are also sinuses.

Still another resonator is in the back of the throat, just above your vocal cords.

When your vocal cords "get thinner" like they are supposed to do, they throw the tone more upward and forward into these resonators in your head.

Let's find that head voice tone right now.

Put your hand on top of your head. Now make the very happy sound: (very high) "Weeeeeee" like you're on a swing at the park. Did you feel your skull vibrate under your hand?

Now if you put one hand on your chest and the other on your head and alternate, "AAAAH" down

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

low, and "weeeee" up high, you'll feel the difference in resonators.

Now for falsetto.

This is not really a "voice." It's more of a defense mechanism to keep you from straining your vocal cords when you try to go too high in "chest" voice and don't know how to shift gears. If you sing a very high, light, airy tone, you won't feel much resonance anywhere.

This is because the cords are not really even coming together. Instead they are coming *near* to one another, then vibrating free of one another. The airy sound is from all the air that escapes through the cords in this position.

In singing, you can use this as a sound effect sometimes (to communicate soft emotions). But you don't want to be limited to it.

The chief difference between "head" voice and falsetto is that in head voice, your vocal cords are actually coming together and closing off some of their vibrating length. The tiny space left to vibrate is what is used to make the tone.

When done right, it sounds clear and clean, and it's easier and takes less breath than either chest voice or falsetto!

The fun (and the power) comes when you learn to mix the chest and head voices so that they "fade" into one another, creating one long block of usable range! It all sounds like just "your voice."

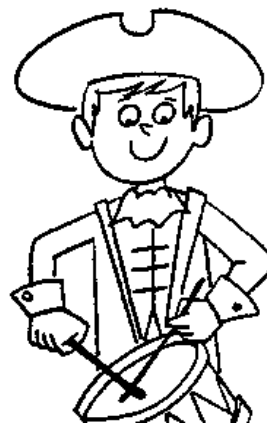
Next time, I'll tell you about the most debilitating lie that a singer can ever believe.

RESONANCE TIP FOR BASSES.

From George Luken – 30 years in barbershop in Dixie passes on tips from Jim Debusman (No not the driver of an omnibus but an official BHS coach!)

It has this interesting tip to being a better bass singer: With us and all other parts the name of the game is resonance. When we sing with full resonance, we sing with control, with confidence and seem to hold notes out to their fullest enjoyment. The secret: The soft palate. Most of us know this meaning when we talk about this little phenomena. It's actually the soft tissue in the top of your mouth. I want you to go look in the mirror, open your mouth and look at the top of your mouth in front of the little punching bag hanging down. Now yawn and or feel as though your ears have popped on an

airplane and you have to do that un-popping to make things right. When you do this the soft palate magically raises up to make the sound resonate up though all the bones in the head. Every time you take a breath, think yawn while your taking your breath. Notice how more resonant your voice is!



ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

By BOB RIDLEY Acting Assistant to the Associate Member Coordinator

I called to see Ron and Stella Collis on 25 September and we enjoyed a long chat. Gerry Holland had called to see them and Ron was full of praise for his effort in raising over £9000 for charity by singing with John Harvey and others on a boat on the Kennett and Avon Canal. (See current *Harmony Express*) Ron is continuing to get out in the wheelchair when the weather permits.

It was good to hear that Steve and Pauline DeHaven are being very busy in East Tennessee. The first of a bumper crop of letters this month. Nick Carter raises the quartet '*Harmony Heritage*'. Thanks to TagRag and Hadyn you will have read last month that this quartet [Nick Carter, Peter Bugden, Pete Forrest and not least Ron Collis] came fourth in prelims 30 years ago. No wonder Ron deserves his title 'Father Of the Chorus'. Thanks also to Bruce Beer and Phil Hadfield for their letters. Ron and Stella much enjoyed all the letters.

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

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

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ASSOCIATE MEMBER LETTERS

Steve and Pauline DeHaven,

Sorry for delay in responding - have been away to the beach - and returned to a mountain of e-mails and paperwork - but am finally managing to get through it. I am posting a U.K. cheque off to you today for another year's subs of TagRag. Pauli and I enjoy it so-o-o-o much, it's great to hear the latest.

Not too much to report here. Although we have yet to manage our English style Bed & Breakfast here in East Tennessee, we are both healthy and happy. Although I reached the magic 65 milestone last month - am still working 6 days a week.... two for an Ophthalmic Surgeon as his Communications Director (handling his staff training and all of his advertising and brochure creation, etc. etc.) and the other four for my son-in-law in his massive Pawn Shop - which is absolutely fascinating. Pauline works 3-4 days a week for a large Insurance Underwriter (AUI) - so we are both very busy. I guess working this much is keeping us both young - although at the end of a 10 hour work day (starting at 8 and ending at 6) there is not much energy left to do too much more... well, most things anyway! Needless to say - have not managed to get involved with another Barbershop Choir. But then - how could one ever find any choir that could even begin to compare with the TVC?!?

Am so pleased to hear of Ron's progress - how many times while up on the risers, Ron's smile was always there to give us that little extra lift - and make it through that last half hour of rehearsals when all one could think of was that cool refreshing draft of London Pride waiting just down the road! Just two of the many things we really miss living here in East Tennessee! Nevertheless, we are blessed in so many other ways - and hey, we might even get a decent President in less than two month's time... just maybe! Forever an optimist (or should I say Obama-tist), I am!

Please remember me to all the 'older' young lads - and assure them I am with them in spirit, if not in the flesh, every Tuesday evening! Keep smiling and blending!

Yours forever in harmony,
Ol' Steve

Nick Carter

Dear Ron and Stella
Another year has passed and I hope and pray that you are getting stronger "Ron" and you'll soon be back at the RBHC singing with that wonderful

baritone voice that I always loved, when 'Harmony Heritage' were together. I always enjoyed singing with you Ron, you're a real nice man, Please get well soon.

Love to you both.
God bless.

Bruce Beer

Hi Ron,
I hope all is well with you now you are seeing more of 'the great outdoors' in your 2 wheeled chariot. Think, if you carry a gun outside with you, you could be known as the chariot of fire!

"Is the VM doing much these days" I hear you ask. Well we have finished recording our new CD, we have a fall show in a couple of weeks with an outlandish number of new songs we have to learn, then we have our District competition in November to qualify for next year's International, then there are the Christmas shows with the inevitable pile of new material to learn. Apart from that, things are pretty quiet really! I have just finished 5 weeks of travel which took in Anchorage Alaska, Kansas City, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and, yes, even one in Dallas. I now have a couple of weeks off then over to jolly old blighty for a couple of weddings and to check that my mother is not causing too much notoriety in Pershore with riotous parties etc. Unfortunately, we cannot come to Reading on this trip, everything is so tight on time, but you will be delighted to know I always think of coming to visit whenever we come over, it is just that time is always taken up with family visits etc.

It looks like I will be teaching in Germany the week after our trip to the UK, then back to the US until mid December when we have booked a 'round the world' trip using airmiles I have accumulated from my US travel. We come to the UK first for Christmas (via Paris but I will try not to have to talk to any French people!) then off to see David and tribe in New Zealand via Singapore. Then back to Dallas via Sydney and Tokyo. Unfortunately, we don't have any time planned in each location en route - I will be away 5 weeks and when you are a consultant no work is no pay!

Anyway, I will close up by wishing you and Stella good health and continual improvement, and I wish all the very best to all the guys on the risers (and Rhi of course).
Cheers

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Phil Hadfield (ex tenor)
Dear Ron and Stella

I see you have moved to Thatcham in the last 12 months and now live about a mile from our eldest son Jonathan. Our other son has also moved to Caversham from London in the past year and so our lovely granddaughter, Isabella, is now only a 15-minute drive away from us. What a joy it is to have an active nearly 2 year old. Our days with her are rather special and, like all grandparents we have the benefit of taking her back home; unless she is staying with us overnight. Joy it may be but it is also hard work at our age! Did it used to be so hard when ours were young?

Pat and I maintain a keen interest in the chorus through Tag Rag and I am really disappointed (in us) that we have not been to see you perform yet again. I promise we will make a special effort this year! It is really lovely to think back to all the wonderful times we enjoyed. I was in Brighton this last weekend (on my son's stag do - no questions please) and recalled the time when Pat and I ate fish and chips with Ken and Sheila Smyth at midnight in November on the seafront during the Prelims.

We still see Sheila often; in fact she is helping Pat to make the cake for our son's wedding this month. I have to say they are making a stunning job of it. It is a real labour of love.

I also bump into John Dudley from time to time on the bus going to and from Reading. He is looking really well.

Best wishes to you both and the Chorus for the coming year.

Yours sincerely

SELECTED WEEKLY NOTICES

QUARTET OPPORTUNITY (16 Sep)

Lawrence gave Brian's contact details to the producer of the 210FM breakfast show and Brian had a chat with him yesterday. He would like a quartet to go onto the show soon, maybe even next week, to sing some jingles live, and then stay on for an hour or so and record them properly for later use. As always, it is an early start, say be in the studio at 7am and probably free by about 11am.

Brian is throwing this open to the whole club, not just established quartet members, and maybe there will be an audition later this week to see which four makes the best sound. As the likelihood is that we will just make up some appropriate words to existing tags, any part is open to any one in the club. I've sent the

producer a sample of tags so he can hear what sort of thing he will be getting, and I'll keep in contact.

It'll be great publicity for the club, and should raise our profile. Please speak to Brian if you are interested. Feel free to suggest some appropriate tags and words too.

PETER DAWSON'S FUNERAL (16 Sep)

The service will be held at Our Lady of Peace RC Church on Wednesday 17th September at 2pm. All are welcome. After the service Peter will be taken to the Crematorium, family only, where he will, in his own words, go for the "big burn" accompanied by Meatloaf's A Bat out of Hell.

Pat would like to have a Celebration of his life after Christmas and therefore we are not being asked to sing at the service nor to wear any uniform. Peter will be in his Figaro uniform. Pat wants no flowers, but if people want to, they can make a donation to Macmillan Trust or Marie Curie via the Funeral Directors A.B.Walker's of Reading. as both assisted greatly towards the end of Peters life.

The church is at the junction of Wokingham Road and Wilderness Road, Early. Entry to the car park and church is in Aldbourne Ave, off Wokingham Road, it is only 10 yards into Aldbourne Road on the right if you enter from Wokingham Road. The car park is not big, but there is on road parking in Aldbourne Ave.

There will be some refreshments after the service in the adjacent church hall.

MISS COWLEY (23 Sep)



Born to Emma and Nigel at 9.55am last Tuesday (23rd Sep) Betty-Mae Jane Cowley weighing in at 8lbs 1oz. Everyone is ok if a little tired!

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

RISER VAN (23 Sep)

The van now has a new MOT, is insured and taxed for another year.

CHARITY REGISTRATION (23 Sep)

Bob Ridley writes - The Charity Commission has written to confirm that Reading Barbershop Harmony Club has been entered in the Central Register of Charities with effect from 8 September 2008. Our Registered Number is 1125742.

As a charity our main benefit will be the ability to treat individual subscriptions to RBHC as donations under the charity gift aid scheme. The Club can then reclaim tax (currently 28p in the pound) as long as the individual pays sufficient tax to cover this claim. A form is available for this purpose; make sure you fill one in.

MEN IN HARMONY (30 Sep)

James Porter writes - The Men in Harmony course is starting tonight and will again take place in the Humanities Block. This will mean that for the next 5 weeks Rhi and a few of the guys will be absent from the first half of rehearsals. The lessons start at 7.30pm and finish at 8.45pm, so Rhi and the others will be back soon after that.

We are expecting 25+ men, a similar number to last year. This first week will include amongst other things voice tests to assign students a voice part. We will be introducing students to their buddies next week. The buddies should come over to the class at 8.45pm, link up with their students and bring them back to the main hall when we will give them a demonstration of a couple of our songs.

Next week students will be encouraged to come over to the main rehearsal and stay on for a while to get the Barbershop experience. It is up to each and every member to make every student welcome. A friendly handshake and enquiry about his singing experience, expectations (and fears!), family life etc., will go down well.

Please turn up in INFORMAL WALKOUT uniform (polo and chinos) for the duration of the course. The variety of polo shirts usually on display when we request this does not matter and may well give rise to interested inquiries from the course members as to their history.

DAYTIMERS' SING at DATCHET (30 Sep)

Fifteen Daytimers entertained the Datchet Monday Club yesterday in a forty-five minute programme that included some audience participation. We also had the privilege of singing to and chatting up an ex Tiller girl! We only learned of this claim to fame during the tea and cake session afterwards so we gave her a personal rendition of SWEET and LOVELY. Edna (Pritchard) celebrates her one-

hundredth birthday in December, an event all the Monday Club is looking forward to. Unfortunately Edna didn't remember too much of the detail of her Tiller years but claims to have been befriended by music hall comedy singer Lily Morris and smiled when I asked if she remembers being chased by the boys at the Palladium. Please see the following email received shortly after the singout:

Graham,

Thank-you so much for today. When we were strapping the folk into their buses and waving people off they were all saying how good you all were, what nice chaps, and how your obvious enjoyment of performing was infectious and made everyone feel good. It was great! Please ensure the rest of the boys know how much we appreciated their talents.

Best regards
Barbara

AGM and another EGM (7 Oct)

The following officers were elected to take up office at the AGM on 28th October 2008

Lawrence McNulty	Marketing
Alex Russell	Finance
Ken Mills	Membership
Bob Ridley	Administration
*Richard Leatham	Chairman
*Brian Milbank	Performance
Vacant	Musical Events

New elections are shown with an asterisk.

Bob Ridley writes - Hi all, My grovelling apologies to all but I made a procedural mistake at the EGM on 28 September in accepting a nomination from the floor without the defined 14 days notice in writing required by the RBHC constitution. A special EGM is being called by the Executive Committee to put this right.

Please note that the nomination of Graham Starkie for the post of Director Musical Events has been proposed by Rod Adams and seconded by Mike McKeown.

Please use Royal Mail to post any additional nominations to arrive by 14th October. Bob Ridley D. Admin (failed)

MEN IN HARMONY Update (7 Oct)

We had twenty-one students at last week's event, ten Leads, seven Basses, two Bari's and one Tenor (potentially). One another student turned up but decided he wouldn't be continuing. There were eight No-Shows. Five of those were friends who made a block booking in one name and another three individuals who James is chasing.

Tonight they will be introduced to their buddies. The buddies should go over to the class in the Humanities

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Block at 8.45pm, link up with their students and bring them back to the main hall when we will give them a demonstration of a couple of our songs. It is up to each and every member to make every student welcome. A friendly handshake and enquiry about his singing experience, expectations (and fears!), family life etc., will go down well.

Please check that you are carrying the music for the following four songs. You may be asked to lend them temporarily to a student: SOUND CELEBRATION and ONCE UPON A TIME this week. DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING and BERTHA the following week.

Please wear your INFORMAL WALKOUT uniform (polo and chinos) for the duration of the course. The variety of polo shirts usually on display when we request this does not matter and may well give rise to interested inquiries from the course members as to their history.

LLANDUDNO CONVENTION HOTEL (7 Oct)

Phillip Ward advises that all the rooms in the hotel that he had booked are now taken. Any more needs must be progressed personally.

- **ANDY & LYNDA (Pearce)**



Wish to announce that Claire, our eldest daughter, had her first child on Saturday 4th Oct, Isabelle, 6lb 10oz. Claire has a blood pressure problem but Isabelle is doing fine. She was 14 days early. Both are in the Royal Berks for a couple of days as baby was born by C Section.



HISTORICAL NOTES

5 Years Ago October 2003

2nd Daytimers at Thamesfield House, Henley

5th 25 man chorus at Legoland, Windsor. This was the seventh and last of the seasons engagements at this venue. Thanks to Rod Adams for finding the summer gig. There were 55 tickets left over amounting to £1300 and these were given to Barnados in Fleet and Wokingham.

11/12th At the BABS Quartet prelims held at Walsall, Figaro (Aidan Brand, Peter Dawson, Richard Leathem, Andy Rzyzsko) were in 14th position out of 20 contestants and qualified for the semi-finals at Harrogate in 2004.

16th Full Chorus at the Rotary Club, Eastbourne. Forty members turned out for this short notice engagement. Also appearing were Rockaholics (Roger Wilkinson, Alan Hill, Brian Callaghan, Chris Oliver)

21st RBHC Annual General Meeting.

The following were elected:

Chairman	Roger Wilkinson
Marketing	Chris Bradley
Music	Brian Milbank
Administration	Andy Pearce
Membership	Brian Callaghan
Musical Events	Rod Adams
Treasurer	Position vacant

Rod Adams was voted Barbershopper of the Year.

Ron Collis was awarded a trophy for outstanding services to Barbershop in the 28 years he has served with RBHC.

28th At a recruitment evening organised by Jim Downing we welcomed ten potential new members. Also present was Mike Kett the BABS Membership Development Director.

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31st Rockaholics were at the Wokingham Horticultural Dinner at Wokingham Town Hall.

10 Years Ago October 1998

7th Side By Side (Roger Wilkinson, Ken Smyth, Rod Adams, Chris Oliver) were at the Slough Masonic Club.

15 Years Ago October 1993

At the RBHC AGM Robin Nichols was elected Chairman. Barbershopper of the year was Graham Starkie for the fourth time.

20 Years Ago October 1988

14th Full Chorus at the Plaisterers Hall, London including Berkley Square (John Lane, Roger Wilkinson, Tim Cockell, Derek Smith). The audience, selected guests of Roger Wilkinson, were top people in the travel industry and not expecting Roger to be part of the cabaret.

At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman	Tim Cockell
Secretary	Adrian Cox
Treasurer	Ernie Hughes
Members	Charles Hough, Peter Rowe, Peter Wickham
BOTY	Haydn Adams

Gerry Holland left the club to become Chorus Director of Newbury. He was made an Honorary Member of RBHC.

20 Years Ago October 1983

1st A Club dinner was held at Chilton Chase, there was more dancing than singing on this occasion.

At the RBHC AGM the following were elected:

Chairman	John Dudley
Secretary	Ron Beal
Treasurer	Bill Harper
Members	Colin Thatcher, Graham Starkie, Ian Fothergill
BOTY	Gerry Holland

Current membership of the Club was 46

HAYDN ADAMS

HURRICANE IKE

Jan and I have just returned from visiting Jan's family and friends in Beaumont, South East Texas. But hurricane Ike made landfall on 13 September some three weeks before we arrived and it changed our plans considerably. We knew in advance of our visit that our chosen hotel in Beaumont had its roof blown off and that it is closed indefinitely. We

squeezed into another one on the first weekend and it was full of homeless and reconstruction teams. It has been a hectic period for hurricanes recently and each one is different.

The hurricane that hit Galveston, Texas in 1900 was a category 5 and the old town of Galveston was totally destroyed. The most recent hurricane of this magnitude was Andrew which hit Florida and Louisiana in 1992.

Hurricane Katrina was at category 3 level when it struck Louisiana on 25 August, 2005. However, some time after the storm passed the levees failed catastrophically in New Orleans with the loss of 1800 lives. The surrounding tropical storms did not spread much outside Louisiana.

Hurricane Rita made landfall as a category 3 level very close to Beaumont, Texas on 24 September, 2005. 25% of the trees were lost over a wide area and extensive damage was caused by wind and falling trees and flooding to homes and buildings.

Hurricane Gustav made landfall in Louisiana on 1 September, 2008 at a category 2 level. It weakened rapidly and although mandatory evacuations were in force in Louisiana and South East Texas, there was little impact in Texas.

Hurricane Ike was also 'only' a category 2 level when it made landfall near Galveston, Texas on 13 September, 2008. The sea wall in Galveston held; the historic district was flooded but most of the buildings survived. The silt has limited ship navigation in the ports and one shallow draft ferry which can still operate is restricted to recovery teams. The 'eye' of the hurricane was some 50 miles across. However, the storm system filled the whole of the Gulf of Mexico and tropical storm winds extended unusually widely over nearly the whole of the Texas and Louisiana coast. Major damage was done all along the coast by a 17-foot tidal surge. Hundreds of substantial beach homes were completely washed away and the beach disappeared. Many people are still missing as the evacuation order was often ignored. 2 million homes in Texas lost power.

Beaumont is 100 miles from Galveston and some 40 miles from the coast. Most of the damage from hurricane Ike was caused by storm winds. 10% of the trees were uprooted and branches fell from many more. This caused damage to adjacent houses. Neat blue tarpaulins fitted by federal contractors are now visible on the roofs of 10% of the homes. Clearing up the fallen tree debris is a major job and Disaster Relief vehicles from all over the USA are slowly collecting the piles of debris from roads and gardens. Many fences are down. Rain damage is

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

extensive. Flooding was minimal compared to Hurricane Rita, the power is back in the town and the supermarkets now do not have to ration supplies. All Jan's friends and family are safe and well and resuming their lives.

And now Hurricane Omar...and the presidential election...

BOB RIDLEY



SUPPORTERS

Graham had a hospital appointment at St Mary's in Paddington last Friday and we took the opportunity to pop in to see Derek Hird only to be told that he had been discharged that day and was awaiting transport. So, we did get the chance to chat to him, and despite the fact that he needed a shave he looked much better than he has done for some time and the pain he had been suffering had subsided. This was great news and he reckoned he would be back on the risers very soon.

On our way home a young man in our carriage asked us where he needed to alight to catch the train to Henley. We told him, and during the conversation it turned that he was best man at a wedding the following day (he thought at Bix Manor). Once home Graham went off to the wedding rehearsal at which the small chorus were singing the following day in Woodley. Imagine his surprise when he met up with our travelling companion who in fact was best man at the Woodley wedding! Spooky....

Well, Emma has had her beautiful Betty-Mae and she is just loving motherhood. Congratulations to Emma and Nigel. Also congratulations to grandparents Andy and Lynda on the arrival of their second grandchild, Isabelle.

Luv 'n' hugs as always,

IRENE

FESTIVE SEASON SINGOUTS

It's not unusual for us to be busy in December but this year we have commitments through to the end of January. This group of engagements will help you forget the financial troubles in the world. We will test your stamina - as they say "Grid your lions". Please make a note in your diary of the following dates.

Wednesday 3 December at Kennet Court Wooshill Wokingham

DAYTIMERS - This is an afternoon sing for the Daytimers at a venue that we've been to many times. This sing will start the Christmas season for us in good style with these folks who really enjoy our company. Make sure you go easy on the lunch because their hospitality is one of the best.

Tuesday 16 December BBC Berkshire carol concert

FULL CHORUS - We had a taster of this BBC Radio Berkshire event Last year and Andrew Peach has requested our presence again. It's attractive because of the publicity it gives us and this year we are discussing a greater involvement by providing entertainment to the congregation in addition to our two song recordings. Since it's our normal rehearsal evening we are anticipating a big turnout. Watch this space.

Saturday 6 December 2008 Christmas Show at the Desborough Suite Maidenhead

FULL CHORUS - This is the opportunity you have been waiting for - the answer to all those friends and family that keep asking throughout the year "Can we see you in a show?" We join forces with the ladies of Green Street Blues and Mark Grindal's quartet Nickelodeon whose line-up includes John Ward who will be Mcing the show.

Wednesday 17 December DAYTIMERS at Chequers Hotel Newbury

DAYTIMERS - This is a repeat booking from this group of NHS helpers. Do you remember the great welcome they afforded us last time? Let's reward them for their loyalty.

Thursday 18 December Bearwood Golf Club Christmas Dinner

FULL CHORUS - We'll entertain Sean and Anne O'Shea's golfing friends at their Christmas dinner in this beautiful setting. We know it's a great place for a sing let's make sure that Sean and Anne can go back to play their golf in the New Year by a spectacular festive performance with a full sized chorus.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

2009

Wednesday 14 January 2009 Goring Fine Arts Society Dinner

MEDIUM CHORUS - We enter the village of Bob Ridley and Jan to entertain the village folk at their annual dinner - and not for the first time. I hadn't realised that Barbershop singing could be considered a fine art - maybe they're just humouring us!

Saturday 24 January 2009 Peter Dawson's memorial party

EVERYONE - Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and All. This is being organised by Heather & Pat Dawson as an 'afterglow' type event.

Saturday January 31st The Oxford Music Festival at Headington School, Headington, Oxford

FULL CHORUS

Thanks to Haydn Adams, Richard Leathem, Lawrence McNulty, John Price, Bob Ridley, and Irene for supplying copy.

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

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

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

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RBHC's

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THE REMAINING DAYS OF

OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19	20	21 Rehearsal MIH wk4 RBHC EGM TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Rehearsal MIH wk5 RBHC AGM	29	30	31	October 2008

November 2008 calendar is on page 2

A LOOK AHEAD TO

DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 2008	1	2 Rehearsal	3 Daytimers Kennet Court 1pm for 2pm	4	5	6 Christmas Show Desborough Suite Maidenhead
7	8	9 Rehearsal	10 Daytimers Thamesfield House Henley 1.45 for 2.45 sing	11	12	13
14	15	16 Singout BBC Carol Service Reading Minster TAG RAG COPY DEADLINE	17 Daytimers Chequers Hotel Newbury	18 TVC Singout Bearwood Lakes Golf Club 8.15 for 9.15 sing	19	20
21	22	23 Rehearsal TAG RAG DISTRIBUTION	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27
28	29	30 No Rehearsal	31 New Year's Eve	December 2008		