



STOP PRESS
ROCKAHOLIX
Brian Callaghan in Tuscon, Arizona advises that they picked up trophies for being the OLDEST seniors quartet in the competition!!

The results page on the website have them as 25th. Well done!

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S TEE SHOT

With Sligo, Reading Minster and our informal Christmas social now behind us it's time to look forward into 2012 with a positive outlook for the future.

We have in Bill Payne a new and young M.D. looking to encourage and drive TVC back to former levels of success - we must ensure that we give him every support by assiduously learning both existing and new songs to a high standard so that every rehearsal becomes a performance of which we can be proud. Bill will be arranging outside coaches to help us with pitch maintenance, preparation for convention, and general improvement of technique, and alongside this we intend to facilitate the attainment of Green Dots by arranging octet singing during rehearsal nights - more on this later.

The RBHC Charity Trustees and Performance Team have both held meetings within the last month and as you will read are planning an exciting year for the Club. Comprehensive reports on both meetings start on page 4.

OXFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL - It is noted that we have need of more Baritones (only two signed up so far) - so please baris give this your urgent attention. It's 4th February! More Tenors and Basses would also be welcomed.

CONVENTION - It would be great to show the Barbershop world that TVC are alive and kicking after the unfortunate events of the last few months, so please commit yourself to singing at this year's Convention and make sure we remain one of the UK's best. It's not too late to register and Phillip Ward still has unallocated hotel rooms available.

TV HARMONY - Several bookings are already confirmed for the next few months and, with the help of Sean and myself, Clive Pugh is targeting Rotary Clubs and Golf Clubs in the area in looking to widen and enhance our customer base. TVH are now rehearsing regularly to improve their quality of performance and the new system to be introduced for Green Dots for existing repertoire and new songs throughout the club will only help in this direction. It is our intention to gradually move towards a common repertoire for TVH and TVC, and though at certain care home venues it may always be necessary to include a few "old favourites" from the archives, TVH will benefit from having obtained green dots on songs being performed by TVC now included in their own regular song list. Any TVC guys who are interested should sign up for TVH singouts on the website or talk to Chris Bradley, Sean O'Shea, Pat Perridge or Mervyn Clark.

ROCKAHOLIX

The boys are performing in the International Seniors Competition in Tucson this week - we wish them all the very best!

IAN MCDONALD

Chairman

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB



EDITORIAL

What a way to start the year - I've been submerged in copy and have had to hold articles over until next month. Thank you to all the contributors; and the diary is filling up. Don't stop!

After all that heady excitement of our activities before Christmas the British Barbershop world was mourning the loss of Neil Watkins between Christmas and New Year. I am really pleased to be able to share with our readers Paul Davies' eulogy that he read at the funeral service. That's the same Paul Davies that coached us up to the last Convention and the writer of that popular Learn To Sing Song LET A SONGBIRD FLY. Neil's passing is a really sad loss - may he rest in peace. Life must still go on and I'm confident that Neil wouldn't see it any differently.

The Executive and the Performance Team share their plans for the coming year (and beyond!).

GRAHAM STARKIE

Editor

RBHC EXECUTIVE MEETING

11th January 2012

Bearwood Golf Club, 7.00 pm

Those present were; Ian McDonald, Andy Pearce, Alex Russell, Clive Pugh, Phill Ward, Roger Wilkinson with apologies from Ray Wright and Brian Callaghan

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (3 November 2011) - It was noted that contrary to the list of those present Brian Milbank did not attend. Also

that Barry Howard has dropped his request to debate closing the club for the month of August each year.

CHAIRMAN IAN REPORTED:

THAMES VALLEY HARMONY had had a good turnout for the January afternoon rehearsal. It appears that some of TVH are not confident with the newer songs. There is a greater need for all to ensure they get a solid green dot for a song thus signifying that they will be confident. As an aside we briefly discussed green dots and the Music Team wish to instigate quartet or octet sessions to check people out on a song. Starting very soon.

REPERTOIRE - Ian also reported on the Performance Team's review of the TVC/TVH repertoire. Editor's Note - See separate notes of the meeting on page 5.

OVERSEAS TRIPS - In a discussion it was agreed that we should skip a trip this year and go for one in 2013. There was a request that we should avoid places in Nov/Dec (too cold for partners). It was suggested that we could try Riva Del Garda in Oct again. To be looked at later in the year.

SOCIAL - The meeting reviewed Sean's suggestion to have a BBQ over the Queen's Golden Jubilee weekend. Some felt that this would conflict with local events that members would wish to attend. The consensus was to have a BBQ but a month or so later.

CORRESPONDENCE - An Email had been received from the Oxford Ladies a cappella chorus Harmony Inspires about a Singing Workshop. The information is to be put in Notices and let members decide for themselves.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Alex would like the Club to stop sponsoring members for overseas trips as this was seen more as a holiday. Ian was to ask the Charity Commission (CC) what their view was. However in principal we agreed not to sponsor members on overseas singing trips.

Alex sent around his finance graph and pointed out that the income/expenditure line is starting to go

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up; this is mainly due to reduced expenses from the Chorus Director and more income from singouts.

There has been concern that funding social events is against the CC guidelines. It appears that the last three events have shown a profit rather than a loss.

Alex feels that the Chairman's discretionary spend is really not needed as in most cases over the last couple of years these spends have been agreed by the Exec anyway. Accepted.

The performance team is looking for a budget of £8.5k this year. This is made up from: £2k coaches, £3k away weekends, £1k venues, £500 props. This does not include Chorus Director costs. As Alex tends not to allocate budgets but just monitor spend against last year he felt that it was in line with what we normally do. Amount agreed.

Gift Aid. We discussed briefly Alex's paper and agreed with his method.

PERFORMANCE TEAM

The meeting was asked to consider using Ralph Allwood (ex Eton College Precenter and Director of Music) to work on Pitch Maintenance with the chorus. He is highly thought of by Paul Jones after seeing him work with Royal Harmonics on three occasions in the past. The idea was accepted and will be scheduled into our plans after the Oxford Music Festival.

Roger Wilkinson reported that his team had had a good first meeting on the 9th Jan and reported their decisions. Editor's note - A report of this meeting appears on page 5.

MEMBERSHIP

Ray Wright was unable to attend this meeting. It was reported that Dennis Wright and Brian Campbell have both resigned from the Club. Andy Pearce undertook to find a member to take on Denis' Child Protection Officer role.

EVENTS

Phillip Ward reported:

SOUTHPORT CONVENTION - A coach has been booked from Tappins and the 17th April is the drop-dead date for handing back rooms at the hotel. Phillip is now consolidating numbers.

OXFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL - It was noted that more singers are needed for this event. We have agreed to take our risers if no other club was taking theirs. (since the meeting Andy Pearce has found that Oxford Harmony will be taking theirs).

CONVENTION 2013

Dave Colver has agreed to be the Coordinator for the 2013 convention in Bournemouth.

MARKETING

Clive Pugh reported he has been busy over the last couple of months with radio interviews, paper articles and a piece for the Harmony Express. He has also sent some Compact Disc recordings out to organisations and has picked up a booking for 9th June, for a Rotary Club.

ADMINISTRATION

Andy explained the situation on the insurance to cover the 75-80 year age group and the risers. He will send out a letter to all those over 80 advising them that the club will no longer cover them and they go on the risers at their own risk. He should also get them to sign a paper accepting this.

Date for EGM is set for 25th September and the AGM is 23rd October.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SUPPORTERS

A member's wife has put herself forward to be a partner's representative. Ian is to talk to Irene Starkie as we are not sure what she does now.

RISERS et al

It's felt that we should have a refresher course, especially for new members, on the handling of risers, the trolleys and the risers going in the van. Clive is prepared to be "dummy" that tries to do it and get corrected by Graham. Alex is to set this up with Graham Starkie.

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 14th March at a venue to be agreed and the meeting closed at 2140 hrs.

ANDY PEARCE

Director of Administration

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PERFORMANCE TEAM REPORT

A meeting was held on Monday 9th January at the home of Roger Wilkinson. Those in attendance: Roger Wilkinson, Brian Milbank, Alex Russell, Phillip Ward, Tony Searle, Bill Payne and Chris Bradley. No apologies. Tony explained that he was deputising for Paul Jones while Paul was sorting his home after moving house.

Bill said that he had really enjoyed his first few weeks as Chorus Director and that he felt we were moving forward together

REHEARSAL PLAN

In a discussion about the rehearsal night planning it was agreed that a broad based plan should have sections of 20/25 minutes on songs and a 10 Minute Fun Spot to keep some light heartedness in the evening. The start time was confirmed to be 19:45 and the risers should be erected before any singing commences.

AUDITIONS

The audition procedure for new members was reviewed and it was agreed that each prospective member should sing LET A SONGBIRD FLY to enable an assessment to be made of their vocal ability then a three stage audition: Stage one: Sing a song of their own choice, Stage Two: Learn a repertoire song E.g. NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN in 6 weeks to demonstrate the ability to learn at the same rate as the chorus and Stage Three: Sing the song in an Octet

GREEN DOT SYSTEM

Discussion ensued on how this system will operate from now on. It was decided to inform the members that NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN from now on would be subject to a Green Dot assessment with the Section Leader in Octet format. This would be done during the club Repertoire session on rehearsal nights.

AWAY WEEKEND

Subject to getting suitable venues the following dates have been allocated in the Club diary: Sat 10th March 2012, Sat/Sun 31st March/1st April 2012 and Sat 21st April 2012. Sally McLane the Musical Director of the Leeds based ladies chorus the White Rosettes, Mike Taylor and Paul Davies are

being approached to provide support for the weekends.

SOUTHPORT CONVENTION UNIFORM

It was agreed that Grey Suit, Yellow open neck shirt, Mock Yellow hankie, Lapel button, Black socks and Black patent leather shoes would be worn on the stage. Green open neck shirt, Grey Trousers, Black socks, Black shoes and Black belt will be the Walkout uniform.

REPERTOIRE

It was agreed that the following list of fourteen songs be considered the current repertoire.

AMARILLO

BLUE VELVET

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT

DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING

HAPPY TOGETHER

LADY MADONNA

LET A SONGBIRD FLY

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN

RAINING IN MY HEART

SOUND CELEBRATION

SWING LOW

THIS IS THE MOMENT

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

YOU DON'T KNOW ME

Four songs are to be removed from the Current Repertoire, they are: BIRTH OF THE BLUES, EVERYBODY STEP & ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND MEDLEY, FIELDS OF GOLD and IF I GIVE MY HEART TO YOU.

NEW SONGS

The following list of songs are planned to be introduced as scheduled:

I'M GONNA LIVE TILL I DIE – 14th February

THE BARE NECESSITIES – 27th March

AFRICA – 29th May

BEATLES SUN MEDLEY – 10th July

AQUARIUS – 28th August

HIPPOPOTAMUS – 9th October

The songs being considered for 2013:

RHYTHM OF LIFE

THIS OLD HOUSE

COMEDY NUMBER

WE YOUR FRIENDS

KING OF THE SWINGERS

BRING HIM HOME

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FUTURE CLUB SHOWS

Three Club shows at different venues are pencilled into the diary before the end of the year. A local guest act would be recruited to supplement our performance to make the shows attractive to a wider audience. The proposed schedule is:

- Desborough Suite, Maidenhead (282 Seats) - Sunday 2nd September 2012.
- St Marks Church, off Oxford Road, Reading - Saturday 8th September 2012
- Kenton Theatre, Henley (234 seats) - Sunday 23rd September 2012

PERSONAL VOCAL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

An agreement has been reached with Mark Grindall to use his services to provide coaching for selected members to train them in Vocal Coaching Skills. Suggested names were Alex Russell and Les Hearn - Tenor, Paul Jones and Ed Deacon - Lead, Tony Searle and Brian Milbank - Baritone, and Philip Paine and Clive Pugh - Bass. The names will need to be confirmed with the individuals.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Payne advised he might not be able to attend the 7th February 2012 rehearsal. He would also like Stacking Issues in the Chorus to be an item on the next meeting agenda.

Date of Next Meeting
Monday 13th February 2012

PHILLIP WARD

Assistant Chorus Director

THANK YOU

LET'S NOT FORGET TO SAY, "THANK YOU".

Christmas has come and gone, a time of giving and receiving gifts. A time, therefore, for remembering to say, "Thank you".

In my eyes, Christmas came early for RBHC last year. For which we owe a large "Thank you".

A few short months ago, I was totally stunned by the schism that had occurred. Even though the club had had a similar experience 11-or-so years ago and survived, I was convinced that, this time, our club had been dealt a body blow from which it was unlikely to recover. For all that few of us want Convention rankings to be the sole raison d'etre of the club and chorus, equally, no one wants to see the chorus languishing in the lower echelons of the performance table. We are a club with a long and proud history, most of which has been spent in the higher rankings of chorus standings. But was that about to come to an end?

The speed and totality of the recovery has been equally stunning. We now have a vibrant and active club, busier than ever (when did we last have as many sing-outs as in the past few weeks?), happier than we have been for a long time, learning new material, and with a new hand at the helm that promises to guide us to even more enjoyment and continued improvement.

For all this, our undying thanks are owed to the club's executive. They have bonded together into a team of leaders that have re-created the joie de vivre and bonhomie that are the keystones of our barbershop hobby and that we were so in danger of losing. In doing so, they have also re-created a mood of confidence that had totally evaporated such a short time ago.

It has been a team effort but some names must be mentioned without whose intervention the outcome may well have been very different. Of course, in pole position, there was our W-BOTY (Whistle-Blower Of The Year), ex-chairman Sean, whose brave and prompt action in drawing our attention to the "problems" that were building up enabled the club to divert from the path that would have been so unwise.

Then, of course, Tony Searle stepped up to the figurative rostrum and took up the conductor's baton. It has been, of course, his second period as CD and has proved a true godsend. His coaching and leadership prior to and during the Sligo trip showed that he hadn't lost his touch. Just where

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would we have been if he had not stepped into the breach?

Since then, the new exec has steered the club back on course. The search for a new permanent CD was carried out in a very professional manner and has brought us Bill Payne, in whom I personally have full confidence and I am sure that the chorus members will echo this.

In addition – as was pointed out to me recently – there are all those members deserving our gratitude who chose NOT to turn their backs on our club. They did NOT take the view that our chorus was not good enough and they remained, instead, loyal to RBHC.

The entire team is deserving of our thanks. They brought us Christmas early this year. Time to say, "Thank you". I am so looking forward to the New Year.

DENIS SWIFT

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2011

This is a final statement for the donations collected on behalf of the Reading Barbershop Harmony Club members for the Tag Rag Christmas Greetings 2011 in aid of Daisy's Dream. Registered Charity Number 1067739.

Total Sum Collected	<u>£410.00</u>
Represented by	
Cheques	
RBHC	£370.00
Charity Cheques (2)	£40.00
Total	<u>£410.00</u>
Gift Aid Calculation	
Gift Aided Sum	£395.00
Gift Aid Clawback @ 20%	£79.00
Non Gift Aided Donations	£15.00
Effective Total	<u>£489.00</u>

Graham Starkie
Christmas Greetings Coordinator 2011
for RBHC
19 January 2012



BARBERSHOP BABES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR
JANUARY DUO**

**DEREK HIRD
JOHN SHACKLEFORD**

**NEIL WATKINS
14 March 1948 - 22 December 2011**

We learned of the failing health of Neil just as our Christmas celebrations were starting. Neil's health has not been good for many years. Neil's life ebbed away from him due to the secondary issue of pneumonia.

Neil was a British Barbershop singer of great importance. His contribution to the art form is the stuff of legends and he will be sadly missed. There are only the very latest additions to our ranks that will not have heard his name but we will remain grateful for Neil's contribution to almost every aspect of our musical style.

He was a legend in his lifetime both for his work with the Guild of Judges and Harmony College. Most of us knew him personally, for which we will be eternally grateful.

On the 28th December Irene and I attended Neil's funeral service at St John the Evangelists Church in North Holmwood near Guildford where Neil was choirmaster. The church was packed including many BABS colleagues from all over the country.

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It was a very moving ceremony with much music and included the Holy Communion. Windsor A Cappella opened the proceedings with a few songs. Bob Croft sang *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* (unaccompanied) immediately before Paul Davis read a eulogy to Neil.

It is Paul's eulogy that I am pleased to print in *Tag Rag*. Paul wishes me to point out that it is not intended to be a formal obituary. It summarises Neil's contribution to British Barbershop far better than I could do myself.

Tribute to Neil Watkins by Paul Davies

"They say no-one is indispensable. Today I'm not so sure. Neil Watkins was about as close to indispensability as it gets.

There can be few people in this packed-out church who do not feel a deep and painful loss at Neil's passing. I'm sure we have all attended funerals where we pay our formal respects to the departed, then walk away thinking our bit is done, our purpose served. Today is not like that. Neil played too big a part in our lives to dispatch him in a summary manner.

Neil was a giant, a major influence directly on many of us and indirectly on others who may not even know how much they owe him.

How convenient it would be to be able to relate cheery tales of banter and bonhomie during the years I was privileged to spend with Neil in both a musical and business capacity. But Neil was not that kind of man. Of course he had great wit and humour but the friendships he struck reached far beyond saloon-bar jollity or mischievous pranks.

He was essentially a serious guy. Serious about everything he did: his work, his music, his faith, his relationships, and his devotion to duty.

His appetite for work was enormous yet he had that rare gift of appearing to coast through life,

making it all look so easy. I'm sure there were reasons for this – firstly he passionately wanted to make things easier for others, sharing their load, taking their strains, explaining complexities in a way that did not make them feel inadequate or inferior. Secondly, he was at heart an old hippy. Did you know that throughout his teens and early twenties he was a henna-dyed, long-haired guitar picker who chilled out with the best of the flower power set? When we discovered this only recently, it all started to make sense. The roll-ups, the laid-back approach to life, and his tendency to address you as "hey man!" – his hippy habits never quite left him.

It's possible to believe that Neil's famously gaunt physique was an outward expression of his extraordinary sense of duty. I remember him saying: "Lunch is a nuisance. I don't normally bother. It gets in the way of more important stuff." This is a man who would *rather go without* than let someone down.

As an information technologist, Neil was in a class of his own. Any number of times I would phone him up with an idea for an enhancement to software he had written. "Let me think about it" he'd say. Next morning he would call. "I've thought about it. Fire it up and see what you think". Not only had he completed the task overnight but it did more, and performed better, than anyone had hoped.

It's extraordinary to think we developed several critical applications for my work without a single formal meeting, flipchart presentation, or even a contract in all of 10 years. Business was conducted from start to finish by phone, email, and that most important ingredient of all, trust. Neil was a truster. As he once told me, "I'd rather work on a handshake with an honest person than sign a 20-page contract with a crook." I was of course flattered. But, you see, he engendered trust in others, who trusted him in turn. The one thing he was never very good at was sending out bills. "Yeah OK man, Will do. Been a bit busy

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recently". There he goes again – looking after others before looking after himself.

But it was in the musical field that most of us here today knew him best. His contribution to the British Barbershop movement was simply immense; in fact it is hard to think of anyone in our organisation who has given more than Neil over the last three decades. In that time he has taken on just about every role imaginable – performer, administrator, mentor, leader and technical guru – conducting them all with his legendary skill, understated enthusiasm and unswerving dedication.

As a musical director he won the small chorus trophy for his first chorus, the Worthingaires, back in the 80s. He directed the ladies' chorus Coastline Harmony for four years – where I believe he met Kay, his devoted partner and wife-to-be – and then Velvet Harmony for 10 years until stepping down through ill health in 2009. As a quartetist he won the Silver Medal with Team Spirit in 1989.

Armed with a grade 8 in Music Theory, he became an Arrangement judge in the formative years of the BABS judging system and later oversaw the revolutionary changes brought about by the Arrangement category's conversion to a broader musical base. He has been chairman of the Guild of Judges, its public relations officer, and he served as Director of the Music Category several times.

He attended Harmony University and Category Schools in the USA, bringing to BABS new concepts from over the water. His judging and critiquing skills were unsurpassed and his scoring set a benchmark for everyone else. It was always reassuring when one found one's own scores lying close to Neil's! Over the years he judged countless competitions, not only in the UK but in Ireland and continental Europe, with various community music festivals thrown in as well.

Neil was a mainstay of Harmony College, the popular annual education weekend run by

BABS, where his arrangement classes were always in demand. His grasp of the technicalities of musical harmony was masterful – although I doubt if it had much to do with a rumour, never proved to my ears anyway, that he also played the euphonium!

The BABS Learn to Sing courses, which have proved to be a powerful recruiting tool for member clubs around the country, were also a product of Neil's expertise working in league with people like Mike & Paula Williams and Jon Conway.

As if all this wasn't enough for one hobby, Neil was also the creator and manager of the Guild of Judges website – a perfect example of what he could achieve in the computing field given a free hand. Here is supreme elegance and simplicity coupled with functionality that puts many a commercial website to shame. Whether you're booking a place at Harmony College, looking for reference material, or you're a judge compiling written adjudications for a contestant, the mechanisms he devised worked – and still work – faultlessly.

His inventiveness knew no bounds, nor did the amount of time he was prepared to spend bringing it to fruition. The last time I saw Neil was at the quartet prelim competition in Birmingham last month. His latest brainchild was a procedure for grabbing the scores from the judging panel and converting them automatically to a format that would allow immediate upload onto the website for the world to see. Something had gone wrong – I can't remember what – but Neil, despite his frail condition, refused to be beaten. He grabbed someone's laptop, pumped furiously on the keys for 20 minutes, and had those results up on the web even before any of the contestants got home.

Running parallel with this ridiculously busy schedule, he was also Choirmaster at this very church, St John's, for 20 years, a role which satisfied both his wider musical interests and

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his Christian faith, as well as allowing him more time to sing with his beloved Kay.

How to sum up this remarkable man? I see him as the meeting of high intellect, academic rigour, artistic sensitivity, technical mastery, modesty, patience, wisdom, trustworthiness and spirituality, in one tall and distinguished frame. What a combination. But most of all I see him as you probably do too – a fine and loyal friend.

His influence was everywhere. To illustrate the point let me read just two among scores of wonderful tributes flowing from his friends and acquaintances over the last few days.

One is from “Joe Barbershopper” in the shape of George Badland, a trouper from the West Midlands chorus:

What a sad irreplaceable loss to us all. I always found Neil to be a true Barbershopper in every sense. Always approachable, always friendly, always fair minded, always willing to help with any problems, and he always answered promptly whenever I posted a request to him. His replies were the most succinct, and easy to understand explanations. I remember one he wrote me in response to my request for an explanation of that riveting topic of ‘voice leading’. It was an absolute joy to read. God bless you friend, and thank you for all you did for me personally and Barbershoppers in general.

Meanwhile thousands of miles away, from the very top of the Barbershop establishment, I received this message from David Wright, the elder statesman of barbershop arrangers.

Neil was truly one of my favorite people - a talented man with a winning disposition and a just a great sense of humor. I always looked forward to the occasions when we worked together on panels, schools, and workshops. He will be missed, but I for one will be celebrating his life this holiday season.”

The last word goes to Neil himself in the most recent email we judges received from him shortly before he was hospitalised. Unaware of its finality, he could hardly have left a more illuminating note. He wrote:

“You needn’t worry (not that you would) about updating your personal records with the weekend’s activities. **I’ve already done it.**”

Now he’s gone. Goodbye, man. And thank you.”

Thank you to Paul for allowing his tribute to be published in Tag Rag.

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Our singers at the Wargrave Pop in Club 100th birthday celebrations for one of their members 'Cis' at the Wargrave Bowling Club pavilion on Monday 7th November. Photo by 'Ann's assistant.

"Dear Barry,
Sorry it has taken so long to send you this photo. If you need one electronically I'll see what I can do.

We have all talked about a wonderful morning it was and Cis said "Do you know - it's great to be 100 - what a lady!

Thanks again to you all - and many congratulations on your win in Sligo - Well done!

Happy Christmas to you and Davina.

Regards, Ann"

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ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

We hope that your Christmas festivities went as smoothly as ours and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

On that last Tuesday before Christmas we entertained family and friends in a relaxed evening of rehearsal mince pies and some lubrication and it was good to meet Associates Seamus and Gail McDonald on the night as well as Beth Powell. We hope you enjoyed your evening.

This New Year has started with a welcome request from Aidan Brand to provide him with details of the Club bank account so that he can make direct money transfers for his Associate subscription. I now have that detail to share with anyone that can use the facility. It will save you time writing out a cheque and posting an envelope; just let me know of your need.

Thank you to Bidy Reading for sending your subscription and your New Year's best wishes. I'm sorry to hear that you had trouble with your cheque book Bidy; one did arrive in the end. Just make sure that you are using them in the correct sequence. On an occasion when Irene and I mislaid/lost a cheque book we advised the bank then started to use a new book from our files. That bit was easy, what we hadn't realised was that the bank cancelled the other book in our possession. When Irene wrote a particularly large cheque from that book it bounced!

GRAHAM STARKIE

Associate Member Coordinator

SUPPORTERS.

Happy New Year to everyone!

I was sad to hear that Neil Watkins had passed away just before Christmas after a bout of pneumonia when he appeared to have successfully fought his cancer a few years ago.

It was good to see everyone at the Friends and Family evening prior to Christmas including a number of Associate members and supporters. Congratulations to Stephen Jessop on winning the first prize of a BBQ in the raffle.

Lots of exciting news in Tag Rag this month from both Committees and certainly the whole Club seems to be buzzing with the plans that are being drawn up and there are lots of dates to put into the diary! Bill seems to have settled in well and is almost part of the furniture now, so to speak! (No offence Bill - just a turn of phrase!).

I am looking forward to Southport. When I was a little girl living in Lancashire and we took our annual holidays either in Clevelys (near Blackpool) or Colwyn Bay, Southport was regarded by my mother and father as the "posh" place to visit. I go there whenever I visit my sister in Lytham St Annes and although it doesn't appear "posh" anymore I still enjoy my visits very much.

Luv'n'hugs as always,

IRENE

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Contact Reg Clifton, e-mail:
qed.uk@regclifton.plus.com
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Copy deadlines:

2012

14th Feb for 21st distribution

13th Mar for 20th distribution

10th Apr for 17th distribution

15th May for 22nd distribution

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 Marketing
Director (see website for contact info) 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.

Contacts - The Club's Thames Valley Chorus
rehearse on every Tuesday (with few exceptions) at
the Piggott School Wargrave near Twyford
Reading RG10 8DS from 7.45pm until 10.30pm.
All visitors are welcome. See website
www.tvchorus.co.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.

READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

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READING BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* Indicates an addition or update to last month's Tag Rag. All these dates are listed in the calendar on the club website with singout briefs if available.

2012

*	JAN	31	Tue	TVH	Sunrise Senior Living, Old Bath Road, Sonning RG4 6QT 2pm for a 3pm sing
	FEB	2	Thu	TVC	Maiden Earley Ladies Social Circle 7.30 to 9.30pm
*	FEB	4	Sat	TVC	Oxford Music Festival - Main Hall Headington School OX3 7TD. Arrive at 1pm for 2.15 Sing.
	FEB	4-5	Sat-Sun		BABS Music Directors Academy Birmingham
*	FEB	23	Thu	TVH	Sunrise Senior Living, Old Bath Road, Sonning RG4 6QT 2pm for a 3pm sing
*	MAR	1	Thu	TVH	Rehearsal at Charvil Village Hall 2pm-4pm
*	MAR	10	Sat	TVC	Proposed Away Weekend day
*	MAR	12	Mon	TVH	King's Church, West Square, Iver, SL0 9NW. 1pm for a 2pm sing
*	MAR	22	Thu	TVH	Sunrise Senior Living, Old Bath Road, Sonning RG4 6QT 2pm for a 3pm sing
	MAR	25	Sun		<i>BABS AGM Birmingham</i>
*	MAR	31/ /APR 1	Sat/Sun	TVC	Proposed Away Weekend
*	APR	21	Sat	TVC	Proposed Away Weekend day
	APR	28	Sat	TVC	Windsor Parish Church with Ascot Brass
*	MAY	25-27	Fri-Sun		<i>BABS Convention Southport</i>
*	JUN	7	Thu	TVH	Jubilee Lunch Party, Woodclyffe Hall, High Street, Wargrave RG10 8AB
*	JUN	9	Sat	TVC	Easthampstead Rotary Club Presidents Night.
*	SEP	2	Sun	TVC	Proposed Show Desborough Theatre Maidenhead
*	SEP	8	Sat	TVC	Proposed Show St Mark's Church Reading
*	SEP	23	Sun	TVC	Proposed Show Kenton Theatre Henley
*	SEP	25	Tue		RBHC EGM
*	OCT	22	Mon	TVH	Datchet Monday Club at WI Hall, The Green, Datchet SL3 9EH (behind Post Office). 1pm for a 2pm sing
*	OCT	23	Tue		RBHC AGM

Please update your diaries with the
dates from the above list

Retired Homeowners:

your home could be sold to fund care home fees

“We have worked hard all our lives to leave something for our children and grandchildren. Why should the Local Authority get it all?”

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Married Couples

If you and your husband/wife currently have 'Mirror Wills' or 'Joint Wills' you risk leaving your share of your home to your husband/wife for it simply to be swallowed up in care home fees. A legal trust arrangement within your Will could save your family tens of thousands of pounds and ensure your hard earned wealth passes to those you choose.

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