

ASHINGTON & DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR

Founded 1916

PATRONS AND FRIENDS SPRING NEWSLETTER

I appreciate that it's been some time since you've received information about the choir but unfortunately after our very successful Christmas Concert we had to close down again for a month because of the omicron variant but we're now back in full harmony again and are looking forward to going back to where we were three years ago. We've a number of new faces among the members and continue to tempt more to give us a go. Our AGM is on 10th March and one of aims following this is to update our website so if any of you have expertise in this field and would like to offer assistance, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Although the choir's finances are reasonably healthy, we are faced with increased costs and are always faced with hidden extras such as new music or additional uniform items. We are mainly dependent on our two major concerts for our income and more so at the moment because we're having to rebuild our contact list for local concerts. After many years of no increases tickets for our own concerts are to cost £8 and we're also asking patrons to increase the fee to a minimum of £15 but you receive newsletters and a free ticket for one of our concerts. It is that time of the year when patrons are asked to renew their patronage as our year starts on 1st March. A renewal form is being sent with this newsletter and hopefully some new patrons will also be attracted.

It's three years since Ashington & District Male Voice Choir were able to perform their noted Annual Concert in Holy Sepulchre Church Ashington but this is about to change. Rehearsals eventually resumed in August and as mentioned earlier, we had an excellent Christmas Concert despite limited rehearsal time but then there was another month of close down before we could once again get together at the end of January. Just over three months to prepare for the return to Holy Sepulchre and renew the tradition of the Annual Celebration Concert being in Ashington at the end of May and this year's concert is on **Saturday 21st May at 7-00pm** with tickets being only £8 and anyone wanting tickets should contact me or any choir member but book early as the Christmas Concert sold out very quickly. Hopefully our event will be the introduction to a period of celebration with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations following. The choir is also pleased that this year's concert is being supported by the MORPETH CHEESE SHOP, a place that many of you will know, and this support is very much appreciated.

As usual the choir will have a varied programme which should create memories and bring new thoughts. Musical director Neil Morton assisted by accompanist Derek Brett have been working hard to ensure there is

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something for everyone. There is always a special guest at these concerts and this year we welcome North East baritone, Richard Grady. Richard has been singing for many years and has sung with Northern Opera and is a member of The Ravensworth Singers. His last appearance in Ashington was as Billy in 'Fell Em Doon' when it was reproduced in 2013 and which some of you may remember.

The members are delighted to preparing for another major concert and it's longer serving members are pleased that so many new members have been attracted since the early Autumn. You may know someone who just might like to see what being a member of a community choir is all about so urge them to make contact or visit www.ashingtonmalevoicechoir.org or see our Facebook page.

Finally, I would like to thank all our patrons and friends, and there are many, for the support and hopefully we'll meet at the Annual Concert.

Bob Brind

Chairman ADMVC

PATRONS RENEWAL/APPLICATION FORM

Organisation (Corporate Patrons only)

Name:

Address:

Email:

I wish to renew my/apply for patronage of ADMVC for 2022

I enclose a cheque made payable to Ashington & District MVC

I make payment to Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

Sort code 30-95-76 account No 00926588 to the value of:

Signed

