



Kings of Herts Newsletter March 2023

It has been a busy time for the Kings of Herts so far this year – not forgetting the latter part of the last one. So here, working backwards, is a collection of just what we have been up to in the last few months! Remember you and your friends are most welcome to come along to any Thursday rehearsal – or to one of our regular pub evenings – and join in with our friendship and song.

Milton Keynes Festival

The Kings of Herts got back to competitive action on **Saturday 11th March 2023** by appearing at the annual MK Festival of the Arts. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of barbershop singing - by both quartets and choruses - was had by all who attended and performed. It left all 23 (men and ladies) of us wanting more!

The festival performances by the Kings of the Queen classic 'Crazy little Thing called Love' plus the timeless 'Irish Blessing' were well appreciated by the audience and adjudicator alike. The Kings scored a very high Commendation – just one point short of a distinction - so were very pleased by the culmination of their recent hard work that had got to this standard. Chorus Director Dave Anstice-Pim collected the certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Countess Howe. You can see the Kings' performance, plus others, on youtube at:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmbtonXT79oGI3zSysEO1JuveUEWYLIV4>





Open Night

Harpenden's Kings of Herts chorus hosted an open night at the Queens Head, Southdown Road, Harpenden, AL5 1PQ on **Thursday 23rd February**.

Newcomers were invited to come along and hear us sing, then to join in with us to sing some popular songs. The chorus really enjoyed this evening!

Open (pub) nights are regularly organised by the Kings every couple of months or so. So check out the Kings' Calendar on the website or our facebook site (see QR code below) for details.



Renowned Vocal Coach Visits Harpenden!

Thursday 2nd February saw the renowned vocal coach Linda Corcoran putting the Kings of Herts through their paces.

Since 2000, she has been the front-line director of The Great Western Chorus of Bristol, the most successful Men's barbershop chorus in UK history having won the British Championship a record 10 times. Linda led the chorus to the 4 of those Gold Medals and has 3 times, taken the chorus to the World Championships in the USA. She holds 2 national Quartet Gold Medals, the first singing Tenor with the 1994 Champions Checkmate and then in 2007, as the Lead in Havoc.

After only one hour of practicing vowel sounds and sustaining pitch from Linda, a video of our improvement was there for all to see! You can view it on our facebook site. It is fully intended that future educational evenings like this will be organised.



Xmas soiree and presentation evening

Harpenden's Kings of Herts chorus finally had their delayed Xmas soiree and awards evening on **Thursday January 26th**. The previous event was scuppered by heavy snow and freezing conditions in mid December!

As well as Pizza and beer, several previous members were awarded honorary membership of the club, in recognition of their long and meritorious association with the Kings.

Previous members John Green, Andy Speight and founder member David Garrett, as well as previous Chorus Directors Roger Chantrelle and Derek Harrison were honoured. Chairman Mike Rose presented the certificates and Brian Hocken acted as MC for the evening.

For more information on this and other stories, scan the following QR code to locate our facebook site.

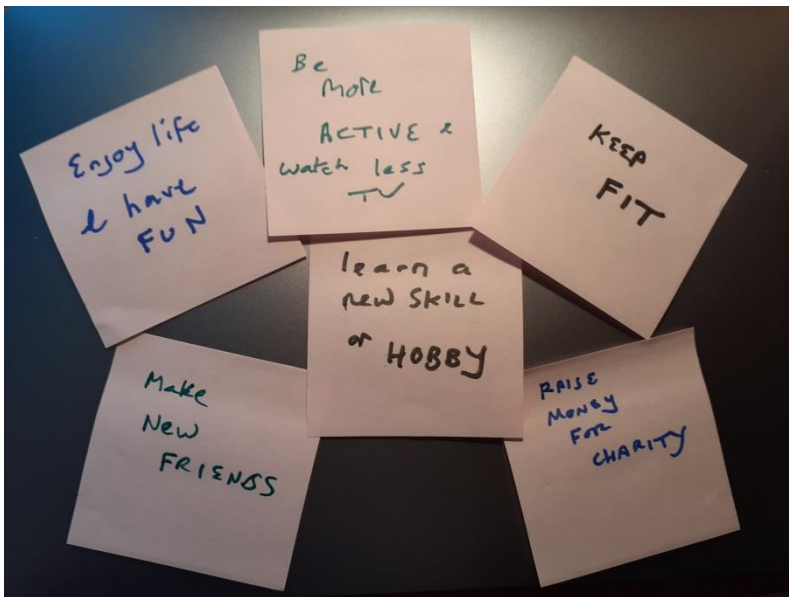




New Year's Resolutions Anyone?

The following was advertised on local social media as part of a New Years' recruitment drive.

Do you want to.....Learn a new skill or hobby? Make New Friends? Keep Fit?



Raise money for Charity?
Enjoy life and have fun? Be active and watch less TV?

Do all these and more by coming along to sing with Harpenden's Kings of Herts Barbershop Chorus. The club is offering a complimentary introductory membership for potential new members of all ages. Being a member of a choir

is well known for the many benefits it offers – both physical and mental. The Kings are a friendly bunch of people - mainly men - who just like to sing. No musical experience is required, just a willingness to have fun whilst singing. Club nights are 7:30pm every Thursday at Wood End School, Harpenden.

Simply download a certificate at: www.kingsofherts.co.uk ...then come along!

'We wish you a Merry Christmas'

The Kings of Herts recorded some Christmas songs for everyone to enjoy and in December 2022 downloaded them onto their website. To listen, go to: <https://www.kingsofherts.co.uk/gallery> where you will find 'We wish you a Merry Christmas,' 'Jingle Bells' & 'Silent Night.' Plus a selection of other songs the Kings currently sing.



Busy Christmas for Kings

Harpenden's Kings of Herts had a busy pre-Christmas with 4 concerts in 10 days in the run-up to Christmas. First it was an appearance at Redbourn's Xmas market, then an informal sing-out for residents at Holmedell House in Harpenden. A further appearance was made at St George's church in Hemel Hempstead. The climax was an appearance in Barnet in front of over 200 people at a concert raising money for Parkinson's disease. Audience participation made this concert particularly special as the Kings sang a mixed set of both Christmas and other classic songs. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It's why we do it after all!



AND NOW, Potential Future Kings Events (TBC- see website/facebook page)

Saturday 13 May, Salvation Army Spring Fair, Leyton Green, Harpenden, 11:00 am to 11:30 am.

Saturday 17 June, Harpenden Summer Carnival, Harpenden Common, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm:

Saturday 24 June, Cumberland Walled Gardens, Redbourn, 2:00 pm to 2:40 pm

Saturday 19 August, Cumberland Walled Gardens, Redbourn, - 2:00 pm to 2:40 pm