



Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club (HBHC)

Newsletter

February 2025

- November 16th 2024, 40th Anniversary Charity Concert (& Adopt a Music Creator Project Finale.)

Well, what a night! Many thanks to all our friends, family and supporters for making it such a great evening. It was a fitting celebration for 40 years of harmony singing in Harpenden plus we also had music from our special guests, the Abbey Gateway Orchestra to complement the singing.

Then there was a world Premiere for Charlotte Botterill's song trilogy, In Retrospect, which was written especially for us AND we also raised £2000 for Macmillan Cancer Care!

A great evening all round. We know many of the audience enjoyed the evening...because they told us so!





-Redbourn Christmas Market, Sunday 1st December 2024

The Kings of Herts once again sang at Redbourn Christmas Market on Sunday 1st December 2024 at 12:00 noon in Cumberland Gardens (just off the High Street.) We were delighted to be asked back once again to Redbourn. We sang some festive favourites along with some other songs from our repertoire....and it didn't rain this year!

- Christmas Open Evening, 12th December 2024

The Kings of Herts hosted a relaxed and informal open evening in the run-up to Christmas. We sang some festive favourites along with a selection of other songs from the repertoire. Following our impromptu performance at the Engineer after our anniversary concert, we were asked back there to sing on Thursday 12th December from 8pm.

Again, a great evening if perhaps a bit too busy to hear ourselves at times.

Word had obviously got about that we were singing there!

We were to follow that at the Queens Head on Thursday 19th December, also from 8pm. However, a number of the chorus went down with colds and coughs so we had to call it off!

- Charity Presentation and Honorary Member Evening, January 16th 2025

Following the Kings of Herts' recent and highly successful 40th anniversary charity concert, the Harpenden-based acapella club were officially thanked for all their efforts by representatives of Macmillan Cancer Care at a recent rehearsal.



Members of the chorus with Sue Hobley (centre right)

The chorus spent most of last year collaborating with St Albans based composer Charlotte Botterill as part of the 'Adopt a Music Creator' project, organised by the national charity Making Music. The culmination was the premiere of a song trilogy especially written for the chorus at the concert, which took place at St John's Church in Harpenden towards the end of last year. The concert was a joint enterprise with St. Albans' very own Abbey Gateway Orchestra and all proceeds from the evening of £2,000 were raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Local Macmillan representative **Sue Hoble**y thanked the chorus on behalf of the charity for all their hard work in organising what was a very enjoyable evening. Sue herself was also celebrating a 40th anniversary of volunteering and fundraising for Macmillan. Club stalwart **Brian Hocken** was also made an honorary member after finally singing his last chord.

New club chair Ronan McArdle said "Brian's name has been synonymous with the club over many years and he, along with his many catchphrases*, will be sorely missed. The concert was the culmination of the club's celebrations for its ruby anniversary year. It was a fun evening with all proceeds going to a very good cause. We can now look forward to a new year of new songs and new challenges. "

* e.g. *eyebrows, its only a hobby and with actions* amongst others!

-And finally.....

The Kings' musical director, **Mr David Anstice-Pim** has taken his final rehearsal. DAP has been with the chorus for nearly 3 years and it's fair to say that his vigour and enthusiasm has rubbed off onto the group over that time. Dave has been headhunted by MK Acapella (good luck with that Dave!!!) and with it being so close to his home - and his young family- it is entirely understandable that he has accepted their approach. We will miss him and joking apart, we really do wish him the very best of luck going forward.

But onward and upward, auditions are already taking place for a new MD. Watch this space!



DAP at the piano with members of The Kings of Herts chorus