



Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club (HBHC)

Newsletter July 2023

Q. Notice the difference?

A. A new name....or rather just going back to an old one. The club will be reverting to its official name of Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club or HBHC for short. Our performing name of The Kings of Herts will still be in use though.

Q. Why the change?

A. Well the club is now a mixed chorus and we need a name to reflect that. HBHC is what it says and reflects who we are. This is important if we are to be open to recruitment for all. The Kings of Herts performing name may well change in the future, depending on members' views.

FUTURE EVENTS

There is a busy time ahead for the club – right until the end of the year. It is now our summer break from Thursday night rehearsals at Wood End School until September 7th, but we will still be active in and around the Harpenden area.

-HBHC Summer Open Evenings

The Summer break is finally here and **Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club** (AKA The Kings of Herts) will be hosting a number of relaxed **open evenings** throughout July/August at the following venues:

27 Jul - **Queen's Head**, 59 Southdown Road, Harpenden

3 Aug - **Plough & Harrow**, 88 Southdown Road, Harpenden

10 Aug - **Chequers Inn**, St Albans Road, Redbourn

17 Aug - **Queen's Head** as above

All start at 7:30pm. Hopefully the sun will be shining and we can sing in the lovely gardens – else there is plenty of room inside! Hear us sing some popular songs in acapella that you will all know and can join in with. All welcome!

-6 week FREE Course - 'Sing 4 part harmony with a smile on your face'

The Club will be running a FREE course during October/November on how to sing 4-part harmony with a smile on your face, which will be open to all. See flyer below for details.



Challenge yourself to sing traditional up to present day classics in 4 part acapella harmony by joining Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club's FREE course.

You'll be surprised how much you love it - we all do!

Everyone is welcome and you don't have to read music.

So.... come along and see what it's all about!

Course starts at 7:30pm on Thursday 26th October 2023 and then each subsequent Thursday until 30th November at:

Wood End School, Yeomans Avenue, Harpenden, Herts AL5 3EF

**To book your FREE place on this course
email info@kingsofherts.co.uk with your contact details
.....Or give me a call, Mike Rose (Chair) on 07779 472013**

**HBHC performs as The Kings of Herts
www.kingsofherts.co.uk // www.facebook.com/kingsofherts**



This will be an opportunity to showcase the club and introduce people to the physical, social and mental health benefits of singing in a chorus. We all know it... so let's share it! Hopefully a few participants will be sufficiently convinced and join the group.

The course content is being finalised but I can let slip that there will probably be 3 songs, including a Christmas one! Yes, Christmas will be upon us by the time the course finishes at the end of November.

Flyers will be going out to selected addresses in Harpenden, St Albans, Redbourn, Sandridge & Wheathampstead during September. Posters will be going up in local pubs and Supermarkets. Social media will also be employed across the area. Remember to spread the word!

Future HBHC Events (see website/facebook page for more details)

Saturday 19 August, Cumberland Walled Gardens, Redbourn, - 2:00 pm to 2:40 pm
See the end of the newsletter for the flyer for this

Thursday 27 July - Queen's Head, 59 Southdown Road, Harpenden - 7:30 pm

Thursday 3 August - Plough & Harrow, 88 Southdown Road, Harpenden – 7:30pm

Thursday 10 August - Chequers Inn, St Albans Road, Redbourn – 7:30pm

Thursday 17 August - Queen's Head as above

Thursday 7 September – Rehearsals resume at Wood End School

Saturday 21 October, BABS Open day, Biggleswade - (times TBC)

Thursday 26th October – Thursday 30th November, 6 week FREE Course
'Sing 4 part harmony with a smile on your face' – Held at Wood End School, Yeomans Avenue, Harpenden, AL5 3EF. Each Thursday at 7:30 pm – See flyer below

Saturday 3 December, Xmas Fair, High St, Redbourn, - 11am to 11:40am (TBC)

Monday 11 December – NFU ladies Xmas at OA's Club, St Albans - 8pm - 9:30 pm



[Scan the QR code to locate our Facebook site.](#)



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Here is a collection of just what we have been up to in the last few months!

-Salvation Army Spring Fair, Harpenden 13th May

HBHC sang once again at the Salvation Army Spring Fair, which was held on Saturday 13th May. The event was held on Leyton Green in Harpenden (next to Waitrose.) It was supposed to be spring but it was a cold day accompanied by a biting wind! The chorus kicked off the event at 11:15 with what seemed an appropriate song - California Dreamin' - with its lyrics of cold days and dreams of warm beaches. Sweet Caroline got an inaugural rendition and is now firmly in the repertoire. We sang for 30 minutes in total, finishing with Amarillo which got the audience and stallholders alike dancing to the rhythm (probably helping to keep themselves warm!)

-Open Nights

These have been very popular with the chorus plus pub goers who have been (pleasantly) surprised by our presence!

We have sung at the Queens Head pub in Southdown on 20th April and 6th July, plus the Plough & Harrow - also in Southdown, on 22nd June. The latter was a rehearsal for a performance at the Cumberland gardens in Redbourn. Good fun was had by all and the later events were held outside so we could get much needed outdoor singing practice! We were graciously accommodated by our hosts and members of the public were very complimentary with their comments. Some even lined up with the chorus to sing!

-Gigs in the Gardens, Redbourn on 24th June (and 19th August!)

Harpenden Barbershop Harmony Club (performing as The Kings of Herts) sang their own brand of 4-part acapella harmony at the Gigs in the Gardens event on Saturday 24th June in the Cumberland Gardens, Redbourn.

It was a glorious day and a well organised event. Residents and visitors alike brought along chairs and blankets to savour the sun, music, food and drink at the event.



The chorus sang for 45 minutes, kicking off with 'Sweet Caroline' and finishing with a requested encore of ('Do you Know the Way to) Amarillo.' Other favourites such as 'Can you Feel the Love tonight?' and 'Crazy Little Thing called Love' were performed.



Ken Smith expertly conducting the Chorus in Redbourn

The club has been booked to sing again at a similar event on 19th August 2023 at the same venue. If the Pimms are as good as before then we are already looking forward to it! See below next page for details.

AND FINALLY...

Just a special mention to perhaps our most loyal member, Dan Parkes, who turned 50 this year! Dan held a party at the Oddfellows Arms that was attended by members with pizza, cake and drink on tap. Congratulations Dan!



Gigs in the Gardens

2 - 6pm

Saturday 19th August 2023

Cumberland Gardens, Redbourn

Featuring:

- ◆ 2-3pm Barbershop Chorus
- ◆ 3-4pm Redbourn Folk Club
- ◆ 4-5pm Partyaintover
- ◆ 5-6pm Redbourn Players



* Acts subject to change

- ◆ Bring your own blankets and chairs
- ◆ Spatchcooks BBQ in the gardens
- ◆ The Queen of Herts - Afternoon Tea Packages*
- ◆ High Street food & drink outlets will be open
- ◆ Cash Bar in the gardens
- ◆ Free event - donations welcome

* Pre-order Afternoon Tea

