

Blackburn Cathedral Music & More online Supplement No. 11

1st March 2013

*Music and Magic
at
Dutton Hall
in aid of the
Blackburn Cathedral
Song School Appeal*

What an amazing evening it was!

Andrew and Catherine Penny had again shown their generosity to the cathedral by enabling an evening of **Music & Magic** to be held in the concert hall of their historic home near Ribchester.



All his 'tricks' were done close up, but none of us could spot how he did them.

A member of the audience had chosen a card which later appeared *within* a balloon he'd blown up.

When another member of the audience had chosen a number between 1 and 16 (she chose number 12) he foretold what would appear on the 12th piece of a newspaper which he tore (before our very eyes) into 16 pieces.

And he severed the string on a balloon bit by bit until there was virtually nothing left (we could see each piece as he dismembered it) – only for us to discover that the string was whole after all!

Brian had us sitting on the edge of our seats with glee.



Stewart & Melanie Whillis at the receipt of custom.

Only £3 entrance plus almost compulsory raffle tickets!

The evening had been arranged by **Stewart Whillis**, President-elect of Preston and District Organists' Association, who knows all the right people, and wanted to help raise money to help the complete renovation of our Cathedral Song School.



Catherine and Andrew Penny distributed refreshments at half time – what a lovely hall this was,

and Andrew Penny thanked everyone afterwards.

He'd invited the **Leyland & Penwortham 'One Voice' Choir** to sing an ambitious programme for us, under the direction of **Margaret Greer**.

This choir was exceptional for every member sang from the heart – their dedication to the music and to their conductor could clearly be seen on every face.



And in addition to soloists, Stewart had invited his long-time choir friend **Brian Berry** to compère the evening for us.

What a character he is! Whenever he opened his mouth there was a joke, and in addition to that, he is the most amazing magician.



But it was for us to thank our generous host and hostess (who not only allowed us to be in their home but who also set up all the chairs and took them down again afterwards!)

And we also thanked **Stewart Whillis**, who had not only arranged the whole evening but who had also accompanied the choir on the Pennys' grand piano.

And the Cathedral Song School Appeal was better by £255.

Thank you indeed!