

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

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Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music Newsletter No. 12

and

Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association Newsletter No. 21
Autumn, 2004

Editor: Dr. John Bertalot, Cathedral Close, Blackburn, BB1 5AA john@bertalot.demon.co.uk



Blackburn Cathedral Old Choristers' Association

39th Annual Reunion, 25-26th September, 2004

Back row: Neil Inkley, Rev. Philip Chew, John Keen, Andrew Simm, Stephen Holmes, John Marr, Stewart Hopkinson, Nigel Chew, David Smalley, Neil Fellows, Derek Crompton & Fred Dewhurst.

4th Row: Godfrey McGowan, Ernie Gorer, Iain Thompson, Michael Thompson, John Highton, Peter Fielding, Allan Holden, Bryan Lamb, Gordon Fielding, Peter Heald & Chairman Gordon Shaw.

3rd Row: Peter Hurst, Matthew Parkington, Daniel Grimshaw, Phillip Rowbottom, Bernard West, Joshua Abbott, Eddie Howorth, Eric Bancroft, Ralph Robinson, Adrian Wilson & Francis Hills.

2nd Row: Head Chorister Thomas Crosson, Naomi Crewe, Rachel Smedley, SOC Bob Keen, Rebecca Hutchinson, Elizabeth Mallinson, William 'Sandy' Sanderson, Music Scholar Emily Crewe & David Metcalf.

Front Row: Dr. John Bertalot, Assistant Director of Music Greg Morris, Director of Music Richard Tanner.

BCOCA ENJOYED A FABULOUS REUNION in September !

Old Choristers came from as far away as Ely, the Isle of Wight and even Germany to enjoy a weekend of nostalgic fellowship, concentrated singing of Choral Evensong with the boys, and a splendid dinner provided by our own Cathedral Caterer **Sara Swinburne**.



Among the first to arrive were **PETER HURST, & STEPHEN HOLMES** from Blackburn, & **Constance & PETER HEALD** from Ely.

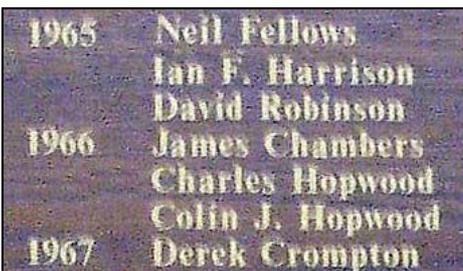
NEIL FELLOWS (right) from Germany was one of **JB's** first new boys 40 years ago, and sang at the Rehallowing of the Nave in 1965.



They're pointing at themselves, when young, in the photograph of that service now hanging in the Song School. It was especially good to see Neil again, he was an outstanding chorister and is now solo horn player in the Kiel Philharmonic Orchestra. He also conducts several other orchestras in that fair German city and recently married a Spanish lady, **Isabel**, who plays the violin. They have a one-year old son, named **John Ewart** – 'Ewart' after his grandfather, who is buried in Fence Churchyard (where JB is now organist!)

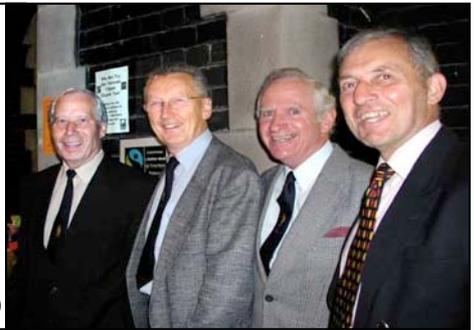


It was a particular happy meeting, because **DEREK CROMPTON** came along that afternoon to sing Choral Evensong. Neil and Derek stood next to each other when boys in the choir; and Neil just managed to get squeezed onto the Rehallowing photo – Derek didn't quite make it!



Prefects' Board in the Song School

OCs began to arrive in droves: L-R **GORDON FIELDING** (Prefect 1946), **MICHAEL THOMPSON & ERIC BANCROFT** (contemporaries in 1946), & **ADRIAN WILSON** (1947-49)



More stalwarts arrived: L-R **GORDON SHAW** (BCOCA Chairman) **ERNIE GORNER**, (Sr. Old Chorister 2001), **JOHN HIGHTON**, (Prefect 1943), & **EDDIE HOWORTH** from the Isle of Wight, (Prefect 1947).



Lining up for a delicious lunch (also provided by Sara Swinburne) were **CANON ANDREW HINDLEY, PETER FIELDING**, Prefect in 1943, **ANDREW SIMM**, Prefect in 1989. **RALPH ROBINSON**, Prefect in 1946, and **FRED DEWHURST**, TLD's Assistant Organist.

Andrew Simm, who lives in Bolton and brought his fiancée to our dinner that evening, told your Editor that, after he is married (next year) he would like to rejoin the Cathedral Choir. **Richard Tanner**, please note!



Bernard West, Sheila Fielding & Godfrey McGowan

It was so good to see **BERNARD WEST** again. He was a most faithful choirman with **TLD, JB, DC & GS** – a supremely efficient Librarian and a founder-member of the **Blackburn Bach Choir** (now re-named **The Renaissance Singers**) which celebrates its 40th anniversary next year. **Sheila Fielding** was happily there with BCOCA Treasurer husband, **GORDON**, and **GODFREY MCGOWAN** (Prefect 1960) completed the cheerful trio.

Godfrey can be seen frequently in the Cathedral – as sidesman, or helping serve the excellent lunches which are provided in the Cathedral Crypt. This time he was on the other side of the counter!



DAVID SMALLEY came all the way from Mellor Brook, **Sr. Old Chorister BOB KEEN**, superb Alto in JB's, time was there with **IAIN THOMPSON** (Prefect 1979) who represented the Mafia section of BCOCA which couldn't be with us. (To wit: **Dr. SIMON WALT' DANIELS**, who was taking part in the Great North Run see p.6) **WILL HEAP**, in the Isle of Person, and **TONY MURPHY** from Herts. who was celebrating his birthday in Australia!

A feature of this year's Reunion was an exhibition in the South Transept of photos from the musical reigns of **TLD, JB & DAVID COOPER**. This has been expertly arranged by **Rachel Fielding**, and was opened by BCOCA Chairman, **GORDON SHAW**.



OCs took great delight in seeing photos of themselves as boys: **JOHN MARR** (top) shows **STEPHEN HOLMES & NIGEL CHEW** themselves as choristers. 30 years ago!

The OCs then joined the boys for a grueling rehearsal for Choral Evensong, led, through the generous invitation of **RICHARD TANNER**, by **JOHN BERTALOT**.

Everyone worked very hard (they had to!) and watched the conductor like hawks.

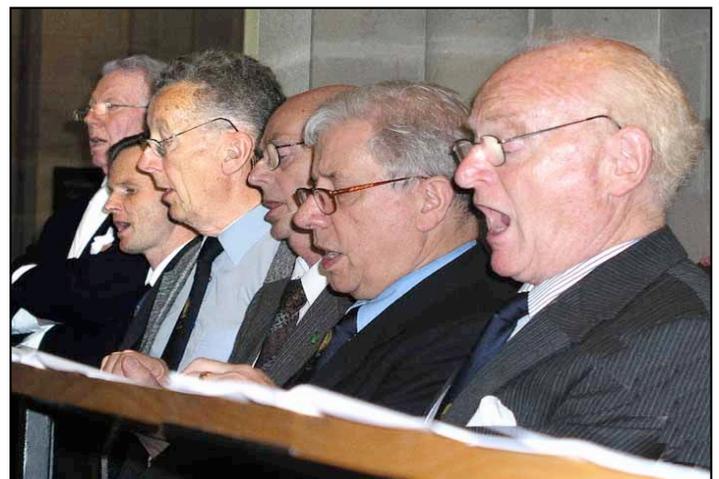


It was very good to welcome young ladies to the Reunion. Here's **ELIZABETH MALLINSON** singing with great concentration.

There are many young boys in the choir now – but they, too, watched the conductor very carefully, and sang so very well, perhaps because . . .



. . . JB walked from side to side looking the singers straight in the face! **PETER HEALD** (Prefect 1952) also gave a very strong lead.



Seasoned OCs showed the fruit of their training all those years ago: L-R **ERNIE GORNER, IAIN THOMPSON, MICHAEL THOMPSON** (no relation), **JOHN HIGHTON, PETER FIELDING**, and **ALLAN HOLDEN** (Prefect 1945)

PREFECTS GALORE!



JOHN KEEN, (Prefect 1981) son of SOC **Bob Keen**, **ANDREW SIMM** (Prefect 1989), **STEPHEN HOLMES** (Prefect 1973), **JOHN MARR** (Prefect 1974), **STEWART HOPKINSON** (Prefect 1976), **NIGEL CHEW** (Prefect 1975), and **DAVID SMALLEY** (Prefect 1955) all sang with fine leadership, of course!



ELIZABETH MALLINSON and **EMILY CREWE** also sang splendidly alongside **FRANCIS HILLS** (Prefect 2001).

One reason for the excellent singing was, of course, the superb organ accompaniments provided by **GREG MORRIS**.



Another reason may have been the energetic conducting of **JB** who, clearly, had missed his vocation as a guard on Virgin trains!
*Photos of the rehearsal skilfully taken by **Richard Tanner!***

SINGERS GALORE!



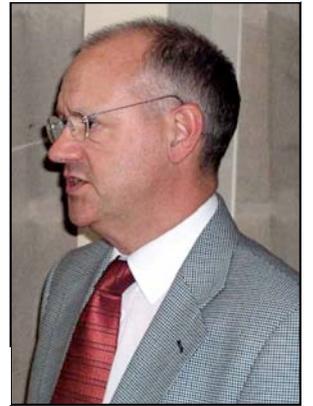
← **Naomi Crewe**



Bob Keen →



← **Phillip Rowbottom & Daniel Grimshaw**



Derek Crompton

BCOCA CHORAL EVENSONG

There were barely ten minutes' break between the end of the rehearsal and the start of Evensong, but everyone was ready on time and we had a wonderful service.

We sang the Canticles to the setting in C by Stanford – copies having been given to the cathedral choir by **OC PETER HURST** in memory of his parents and in thanksgiving for his own years in the choir.

A feature of every OCs' Reunion Evensong is Presentations to choristers whose voices are changing, and to others who are graduating. We had a right royal flush this year:

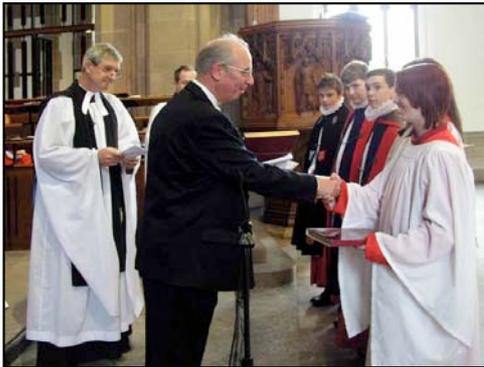


RICHARD TANNER presented **JOSHUA ABBOTT**, **PHILLIP ROWBOTTOM** & **DANIEL GRIMSHAW** to the Dean, for they had had given many years of faithful service to the

Cathedral Music as trebles, and now they were ready to join the Young People's Choir.



Similarly, **REBECCA HUTCHINSON & RACHEL SMEDLEY** were graduating from the YPC and about to go college.



BCOCA Chairman **GORDON SHAW** presented the boys with BCOCA ties and the young ladies with BCOCA commemoration plates as he welcomed them into the BCOCA fellowship.



JB would have presented Head Chorister **TOM CROXSON** with his *Dots Bertalot* Memorial Medallion, (as the longest serving chorister) if someone had remembered to collect it from the cathedral safe!

But it was collected after the service, and presented to Tom with due ceremony!



Senior Old Chorister **BOB KEEN** had the happy task of presenting £50-00 Awards each to **Adam Whittaker & Liz Mallinson**, and the book *Peter, the Story of a Chorister* to **Edward Sanderson**. Well done, all!

The service proceeded on its merry way, featuring **Tom Croxson** as the soloist in S. S. Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father*. It was a glorious afternoon for us all!



During the service the Dean dedicated the first new music desk for the Song School - a most handsome piece of furniture, Eventually there will be eight of them @ £500 each.

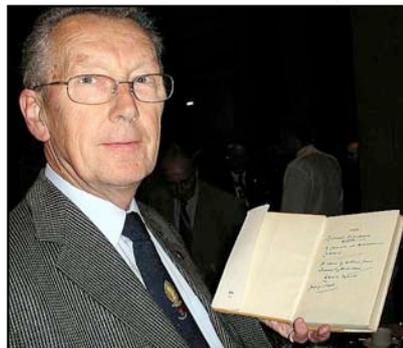
The current music desks were made 70 years ago by **HAROLD FIELDING**, father of **PETER, GORDON & PAUL**. They have withstood the onslaught of generations of choristers amazingly well, and we salute Mr. Fielding's craftsmanship. The new stalls have been made even stronger, and should last over 100 years. Already donors for these stalls are coming forward. Thank you!

BCOCA ANNUAL DINNER

But the day was not over yet! After a Choir-BCOCA photo (see front page) and a really interesting BCOCA AGM, splendidly chaired by the Dean, there was another mini break before our Annual Dinner, again deliciously prepared and served by Sara Swinburne.



It was very good indeed to welcome the **CHEW Family en masse** for the dinner. Seated: **NIGEL, Mother SARAH & the Revd. PHILIP**, who was Prefect in 1975 along with his brother. Behind them are their children, **Laura & Dene, and Egeetsia**.



OC MICHAEL THOMPSON had proudly brought along his own copy of *Peter, the Story of a Chorister* which **TOM DUERDEN** had presented to him way back in 1948. May **Edward Sanderson** be as proud of his copy in 56 years' time!

It was a special joy to welcome so many OC wives to the dinner, including **Sheila Shaw, Dorothy Green & Margaret Dewhurst**.





It was good, also, to welcome Peterborough Old Chorister **NEIL INKLEY & KATE**, from Walton le Dale, along with former Assistant Organist, **IAN PATTINSON** (now organist of Lancaster Priory), standing alongside **PHILIP WILSON**, who was JB's first Head Boy 40 years ago!

This was followed, a few minutes later by an equally generous speech by **PETER HEALD** who was a young tenor in the choir on that Friday evening all those years ago when **JB** took over from **TLD**.



Peter reminded us that he had been a founder member of the Blackburn Bach Choir in 1965. Two other founder members were with us that evening, twins **Dorothy Wade & Constance Heald**. Peter said, 'I married one of them!'



The young people were well represented at **RICHARD TANNER's** table by Music Scholar **EMILY CREWE**, Junior Organ Scholar **JOSHUA ABBOTT**, **IAN PATTINSON** (again), **NAOMI CREWE & REBECCA HUTCHINSON**.



SOC BOB KEEN duly inducted his successor, **NIGEL CHEW** with his badge of office, and after some choral entertainment by old choristers of the 1940s vintage (who, for some reason were all dressed as clergy!) the evening came to a most happy end.

The next morning the OCs joined with the cathedral choir in singing the Communion motet, Byrd's *Ave Verum*, and **GREG MORRIS** brought the weekend to a scintillating end with a pyrotechnical performance of Vierne's *Toccata in b minor*.



Thanx and Hallelujahs all round to everyone who organised and took part in such a super weekend! Wow!

Letters to the Editor

From OC Dr. Simon 'Walt' Daniels in Noccassl.

Hope the reunion went well. This year's Great North Run time was 1hr 40. Should BCOCA wish to integrate the BCOCA reunion with the international athletics calendar, next year's run is on September 18th, though the way my legs feel at the moment, I think I would be grateful of the excuse to pass on next year's run. The children ran well...I could barely keep up with Oliver as he completed the "mini" run (1 mile) in 7mins 15s.

Hope to see everyone again next year. **Walt**

Yes, next year's Reunion is on 17-18 Sept! Hard choices may have to be made by athletically minded OCs!

From former BCOCA Secretary TIM HALSALL

Dear John

Thanks for the most recent BCOCA newsletter (and indeed all of them): they just keep getting better! It's really good to be able to catch up on everyone's news.

Sadly, I won't be able to make this year's Reunion (once again) as I am moving schools (once again). I have been appointed Housemaster of Portland House, Worksop College



The Loyal Toast was given by **BRYAN LAMB** from Cambs; He said that Naval Officers may remain seated – we all stood! And the Toast to BCOCA was given, with plenty of good humour, by **RALPH ROBINSON** from Yorks.

← **Bryan**

Then, to your Editor's surprise, came a most gracious speech by **STEWART HOPKINSON** who proposed JB's health on this, the exact 40th anniversary of his coming to Blackburn Cathedral as Organist and Master of the Choristers. This was very greatly appreciated.



in Nottinghamshire (and I see from the term's calendar that a certain **GORDON STEWART** is giving a recital there...) from this September.

Susan, my wife, is being thoroughly supportive, giving up her position as Head of Art to go part time until November when we are expecting our first pattering of tiny feet. We like to do things easily: move house, new job, new baby...However, I shall be thinking of you as you gather once again.

With best wishes to everyone

Tim Halsall (1985-92)

Heartiest congratulations Tim and Susan. Send us a photo of the three of you when 'the tiny feet' appear! Ed.

From OC NIGEL POTTS in the USA who is creating music desks for his practice room at the same time as Blackburn Cathedral is doing for ours!

Dear John,

Thanks for your note, kind words and advice re the building music desks for my practice room. Your book (**Immediately Practical Tips for Choral Directors**) has been marvelous. I'm now starting a *Choir Alumni Association* thanks to the idea in your book and I'm taking in many other ideas, suggestions etc.

I look forward to the next Newsletter.

With all good wishes,

Nigel

Organist & Director of Music

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Bay Shore, NY 11706

From OC ANDREW SIMM in Bolton.

Hi John

I've recently moved to Bolton as I'm now working in Trafford Park, Manchester as a Financial Accountant for a large logistics company. I'm busy redecorating the house as I'm getting married next March.

I've also joined a local choir last January which I'm enjoying. We've done a few concerts, the highlight of which was when we joined with the Bolton Catholic Choral Society to perform Beethoven's Mass in C and a few Bruckner pieces (*Locusts, Christus Factus Est*, and a psalm which was sung in German) at St Peter's Parish Church in Bolton.

Kind regards

Andrew Simm

From OC GRENVILLE ROBINSON in Califon-aye-eh!.

JB!

Oh my goodness 40 years!

Please accept my apologies for absence. Distance and certain economic factors preclude a jaunt to UK this year.

Congratulations to you on the 40th Anniversary of your coming to the cathedral, and good wishes to all.

The Left Coast

From OC TONY MURPHY

Hi John

Just received the newsletter - a thoroughly good read and an excellent distraction from the work I should be doing!!!

Alas I can't attend the reunion this year as I have to travel to Melbourne, Australia on the Sunday for business. (It's also my birthday weekend so the family have made plans on the Saturday that can't be changed.) Please send my regards to the old choristers - I'm sure you'll have a great weekend, I'm just sorry I can't be there.

I'll be in touch, **Tony**

From Past SOC ANTHONY TATTERSALL in Darwen.

John, as promised but a little late, please find attached a photo of my family. Matthew here is nearly 4 years old and Charlotte is 2 months old. **Anthony Tat**

Heartiest congratulations, and much joy. Ed.



Family Tattersall.

Anthony told your Editor that he'd been through an interesting time recently, for into the Mill where he worked walked liquidators who promptly closed it! Tat was out of a job. However, being the person he is with oodles of initiative, he quickly found himself working with Canon **PETER BAILEY**

in the education department of the Cathedral Offices, where he works with the team which has responsibility for the many church school buildings in our diocese. He looks forward to going to college next year for teacher training. *Well done, Tat!*

From BCOCA founder member PETER HEALD in Ely:

Hallo John,

I, and others, will never forget our first sight of you as you breezed into the Song School on that Friday night forty years ago, to be introduced by dear old Provost **Norman Robinson** to the gentlemen of the choir as TLD's replacement.

The feeling was that he would be impossible to replace, let alone better, but your cheery, confident smile heralded otherwise.

It was the beginning of a new era in Blackburn's liturgical and secular music-making, topping-out a fine tradition and coinciding with the start of the completion of the Cathedral as she now is. It was a thrill to have been around at the time, to have been privileged to play a small part, and to have enjoyed and valued four decades of your friendship which has been such an influence in my life.

So - what's next? We must wait and see.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Peter.

Pete – Thanks so much! JB

From Mrs. Anne Wilkinson who has just moved to another house in Hampshire

Dear John,

I want to ensure that your excellent Newsletter keeps coming – even though I know very few of those mentioned, I enjoy it tremendously. **Anne.**

Thanks so much, Anne. Please see Michael's name on the Prefects' Board (page 9)

From OC LIZ MARLES

Hi John,

I'm writing to let you know that unfortunately I won't be able to attend this year's Reunion. I'm really sorry as I was looking forward to it but I have an eye operation that weekend. I hope everything goes well and that you enjoy the special weekend. Hopefully there will be a few more ladies there this year to bump up our numbers!

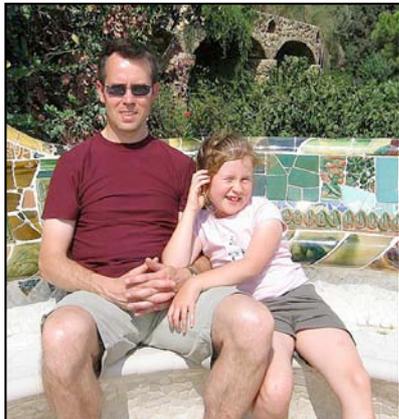
Wish every good wish, **Liz Marles**

Liz: We'll miss you, but may the op. be a great success. Ed.

From **OC DR. SIMON 'WALT' DANIELS** (again!)

We have just returned from a super holiday in Andorra (being all active) & Barcelona (seeing the sights).

But for the sake of the Thompson 'totalizer'...here is a picture of **me** and **Sophie (8)** in Parc Guell...trying to look "modernista". Best wishes to all, **Walt.**



**(i.e. how many mentions can the Daniels-Thompson-Heap-Murphy Mafia get in a Newsletter! Ed)*

From former Assistant organist **DAVID GOODENOUGH** in Edinbro,

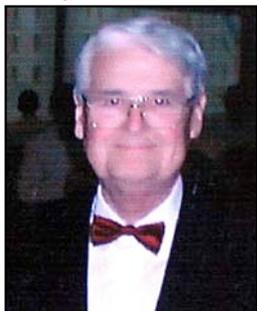
Dear John,

Thank you very much for letting me know about this very sad news. Keith was a very good man, and he was a tremendous support to me at the cathedral. He was very much a 'listener', and that was much appreciated by me. I am really very sad to hear of his passing.

All the best for the BCOCA weekend when it comes. As you folks all celebrate together, I shall be five thousand miles away in Hong Kong, conducting Music Scholarship auditions for next year and, also catching up with David Cooper over dinner. Please do give my apologies for absence to the meeting and also remember to anyone who remembers me. I'm very sorry not to be there. With best wishes, Yours aye, **David**

From **OC TOM HOLDEN** in Gillingham, Kent (with a soft 'G' as opposed to **Dean Frayne's** hard 'G' in Gillingham, Dorset).

My wife and I are enjoying your Newsletters so much and there seems to be more to read with each new issue. Even when my contemporaries are not mentioned the stories and information about music and events are so interesting. What exciting times are being provided by the Cathedral.



Peter Fielding's family history was particularly interesting this time, with so many names of choristers who came with **TLD** from St. John's and who were singing in my years in the choir.

Of course, Peter did not mention the mischief he got up to in those days in the early '40s. I seem to remember certain white mice appearing during Evensong on one occasion. Of course TLD wasn't in charge that night, Mr. Hoskins was! *[He was organist of St. Peter's Church and helped out when Mr. Duerden couldn't be there, but he couldn't keep order! Ed]*

Peter and his brother **Gordon** I always felt were responsible for the Cathedral starting a Christmas Carol Service. They went out carol singing door to door pre Christmas one year (probably 1942) and finished up knocking on the front door of **Provost Kay**.



Tom as a chorister

They were invited in and Provost Kay's daughter played the piano, the boys sang carols and a jolly evening was had by all. **Mr. Duerden** was not too pleased to hear of these exploits and at a choir practice soon afterwards he more or less told us so, but also told us that a Christmas Carol Service was proposed for future years.

I sent the following letter to the BBC about life in the cathedral choir when the end of the war was celebrated in 2005, 50 years ago.

Yours sincerely **TOM HOLDEN.**

(Here's Tom's letter to the Beeb – by the way he, like some other faithful Old Choristers, sent a generous cheque to BCOCA. Thanks so much! Ed.)

A YOUNG LAD'S MEMORIES OF THE WAR YEARS, 1939 – 45 by OC TOM HOLDEN

From 1941 to 1945 I was a chorister in the choir of Blackburn Cathedral. Every Sunday I walked from my home in Lower Darwen to the Cathedral in the centre of Blackburn, passing an old mill converted to barracks in the area known as Novas, where soldiers from the West Kent and Buffs regiments were stationed.

On a very sunny Sunday morning in 1943 (the weather was so good – I think it must have been May or June) many soldiers were lined up in threes outside the barracks in Bolton road.



At the head of the lines of men was a fife band and a large white goat dressed in regimental regalia.

As we processed into the cathedral that morning we were surprised to find the Cathedral full of men in khaki, and in the front row was a very high ranking officer.



Blackburn Cathedral before the extensions were built

During the following weeks activities at the Barracks grew less and I imagined that the service must have been related to the Embarkation. In those days all troop movements were clouded in secrecy, so no one knew where the soldiers were posted.

The following year, the Good Friday Service was broadcast from Blackburn Cathedral and recorded for the BBC Forces Overseas Programme.

Again I think it must have been in the summer of 1944 that the Cathedral received a letter from a soldier in the forces overseas saying that they had heard the service and enjoyed it so much as it brought back memories of Blackburn. I seem to recall it was from the Far East, and I always presumed it must have been from one of the Kentish soldiers.

Some years later when I came to live in Kent I learned that they had been posted to the Far East, and that they had suffered heavy casualties.

I am a Lancastrian and have lived in Kent since 1952. This story has been on my mind over many years and untold until now. May these men be remembered for their sacrifice as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2 next year.

A FURTHER WAR TIME MEMORY

From **OC HAROLD STANCLIFFE** in Lymington, Hants, who wrote to BCOCA Chairman **Gordon Shaw** after Gordon had showed him round the cathedral.



Blackburn Cathedral before the Transept, Lantern Tower and East end were built.

I apologise for the delay in writing to you but we have had our son over from Canada, doing many things including his participation in the London Triathlon – he came 4th in his group!

A little bit about me: I have Masters degrees from Cambridge (King's College) and London Universities; served 20-plus years as an officer in the army; worked in Shell International Petroleum and Shell UK and retired on 31st December, 1984. Since then, nearly 30 years of busily doing nothing.

I married in 1951 and we have two children, a son who is a Canadian and Petroleum Geologist, and a daughter who

graduated in Geophysics and later Art, but now runs a small IT company with her husband.

Some recollections of the choir: I joined in 1938 under Dr. Brearley, sang at the laying of the foundation stone for the cathedral extension by the Princess Royal [this stone can be seen in the cathedral crypt] and I was in the choir on 3rd September 1939.



Provost Kay brought a battery radio to the service and we heard **Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain** declare war. Provost Kay had put on his medals!

Early in the war a Welsh Battalion had a church parade to the Cathedral; they filled the balcony and the singing was magnificent.

I also know of two choristers of my day who were killed in the war.

HARRY HOLDEN (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry) killed in Normandy, and **KEN SHARPLES** lost at sea in the Royal Navy. Ken had a wonderful voice and I will never forget his singing *God be in my head*.



The first Prefects' Board in the Song School.

See also the names of three other well-known OCs, two of whom were with us for this year's Reunion.



My wife and I both appreciated the time you spent talking to us and showing us the memorabilia of the choir, especially as you were busy at the time. I would like to join BCOCA. Please give my regards to any old chorister who may remember the Stancliffe twins.

With best wishes, Yours aye, **'Stan'** – all Stancliffe males are called 'Stan'!

'Stan' also wrote to the Editor:

Thank you for your letter of 4th September – it was good to hear from you. Unfortunately it is not possible for me to attend the Reunion this year because of previous arrangements which cannot be altered, but I hope to be there next year.

Until now, you have only been a name to me but I have known of your work at the Cathedral and look forward to meeting you. Enclosed is a picture of me – current, not chorister.

With best wishes, Yours aye, **Stan**



From **OC DAVID ROBINSON** in Cornwall

Hello JB:

Sorry I can't get to the Reunion this time - please give my regards to everyone.

The 1965 picture was fascinating - brought back memories. Among notable absentees are bass **Tom Robinson** and alto **Arthur Howarth**. Were they no longer with us in 65?

The **Robinsons** must set a record for the number of people connected with the Cathedral with the same surname yet unrelated ... **me, Grenville, Tom, Norman, Ralph, and my namesake (Archdeacon David)**.

Hope you are well.

Best wishes,

David

From **OC DUNCAN ASPDEN** in London.

Dear John,

Very sorry that I will be unable to attend this year's BCOCA reunion - but am leading a singing day with a choir in Hammersmith that day. I will try extra hard to come next year, though: have you finalized the dates? **(Sept 17-18th Ed]**



Do you have any news of [Organist] **DAVID COOPER**? He was a talented and superbly musical chap, and I feel I owe a lot of such musicality as I have to his part in my formative years - particularly how to shape a phrase. I know he prefers to keep out of the Blackburn limelight these days, but...

I met up with **OC DAVID KNIGHT** last Saturday - he was singing in a Biber concert in the Utrecht Early Music Festival for which I was playing continuo. And you might already know that **WOODY SEYMOUR** and I were the low basses in choirs 4 and 3 of a *Spem in Alium* performance in the Edinburgh Festival over the summer. Since he was about 3 feet tall the last time I saw him (when helping out **GORDON STEWART** at Bbn. Cath immediately after finishing at Jesus) that was most amusing... he gave me updates on folk like the **MCCULLOUGH** and **HUNWICK** brothers and **RICHARD FERGUSON** last seen in THE coffee shop in Blackburn, plus brother **JOHN** who I must try and meet again when next in Bristol (where girlfriend Dr Charlie lives).

Best wishes,

Duncan

* See David Goodenough's letter for news of D C (page 8) Ed.

From **OC RALPH ROBINSON** in Nawth Yawks.

Just a brief note to say how much I admire your newsletter. Having spent quite a few years in paid employment doing similar things, I know how much work goes into your publications and the sort of problems you can meet.

The Newsletter just seems to get better and better. The pictures and the way they are handled have been improving by leaps and bounds. And the better it gets, the more willing people are to send you material. Well done! It's well worth a tenner. See you at the BCOCA reunion.

Best wishes. **Ralph Robinson.**

Thanks so much! Ed.

From **OC NEIL CAMPBELL** in Glos.

Hello John,

I was given a copy of the Newsletter by my Mother, referring to the 1966 Nostalgia Tyme photograph of the Cathedral Choir. I was the probationer to the back right of **Russell Hargreaves**. **Russell and Bernard** are my cousins, my other cousins **Ian and Stephen Hargreaves** were also in the choir.

I attended the Cathedral school of St Paul's where you held an audition (if that is the right word) when you chose three of us to join the choir. I later passed my probationer tests and still have my white card with your signature for the various tasks I had to complete,

I have many fond memories of the kindness and happy times that all the people involved in the cathedral gave to me as a young boy. As I remember at my time in the cathedral the Canon was **Geoffrey Williams**. I now live in Gloucestershire and am still very close to my cousins, when I next visit Blackburn I will call into the Cathedral and reminisce on the years of happiness and memories I have. **GOD BLESS YOU, Neil Campbell.**

Wow, Neil, how great to hear from you after all these years! Thanks so much for jogging my memory for I do indeed remember you and all your Hargreaves cousins!

So here's an update on that 1966 Nostalgia Tyme photo - with (almost) everyone named! Let me know what you are doing these days! JB



← Bernard Hargreaves now in California

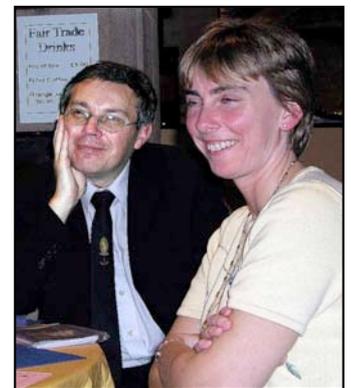
Ian Harrison (Bournemouth) & Derek Crompton (Right)

← Neil Campbell

Russell Hargreaves (L) and ?

From **OC JOHN MARR**, in Blackburn.

I thought the Reunion went well this year and both **HEATHER [STARKIE]** and I were particularly pleased to be there to celebrate your 40th Anniversary. It was so good to see **STEPHEN HOLMES** there after all these years. It felt like old times standing next to him in the choir pews. I think



that the last time this had occurred was in 1974 as Choir Prefects! *[Yes it was! See photo page 4. JB]*

John Marr

Contracts Monitoring Officer.

Contracts Unit, Social Services Directorate.

OC IAIN THOMPSON told your editor at the Reunion that he is now singing in a choir down Ellesmere Port way called *The Bunburry Singers*. *(How Wilde!)* 'It's a bit of a mixture,' he said, 'anything from *Locus iste* to Irish Folk Songs.' He thought for a moment and added, 'The troublesome singers are those who've been in for years and years. I've only just joined!'

THE HAYTHORNWHITES' LUNCH

in aid of the Girls' Choir

EDWARD & ANITRA HAYTHORNWHITES' lovely home was filled with well over 50 guests on Sunday, 12th September who came to experience a most delicious lunch (at only £12-50 per head) in aid of our fine Girls' Choir. (The choir plans a trip to Europe in the near future – watch this space!)



Edward greeted us at the door of his historic 18th Century home in Beardwood (around several corners from Preston New Road)



Lunching in the see-through tent in the garden were L-R **Phil & Sue Carr, Joan Parker and Marion Russell.**

and **Anitra and Jean Duerden** soon began serving lunch for us all from a groaning table.



Isobel Galilee, fresh from her triumph after winning the 'Keen' Puzzle, with **Canon David.**



Dean Christopher Armstrong with **Marion & Bruce Kitchen**



A gracious foursome. L-R **Amy Moore, Gary & Margery Wignall, and Hilda Salter**

"We've raised well over £600 for the Girls' Choir," said Edward as the raffle prizes were handed out. *Hearty applause!* We are all so grateful to Edward and Anitra for their generosity and for the trouble that they and their helpers had taken to make that afternoon such a success. Hallelujah!



Canon Hindley with **Emily Crewe & Elizabeth Mallinson** who sold raffle tickets to help swell the funds. A very good time was had by all

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From **OC WOODY SEYMOUR** in Herefordshire.
Hi John, "Lost OC"

I hope you are well. Sorry about the late reply. I haven't checked my e-mails for a while. Yes I do know of an old chorister Ferguson from the past. **Richard Ferguson** was a contemporary of my brother and **Ed McCullough** in the Cathedral Choir and a pupil of my dad's (probably in the Senior choir at St. Wilfrid's School when they premiered your Cantata

'The Crown Of My Rejoicing' for the school's 25th Anniversary). He is now a music specialist in a Primary School and living in the Bamber Bridge area.

I have had a busy but enjoyable summer singing around the country and with various choirs doing concerts and recordings and am now preparing for going to Durham University in two weeks' time. A little apprehensive but desperate to be there at the same time! I'm sorry that because of all this frantic business of getting things organised for university I won't be able to come to the BCOCA Reunion. I'm sure it will be a great success as usual! I hope to pop over to Blackburn for the Nine Lessons and Carols in December and catch up with all the news.

Best wishes,
Woody

From **OC ROBERT COSTIN**, Assistant Director of Music at Bedford School – and former Assistant Director of Music, Blackburn Cathedral 1995-96



Dear John,
I hope all is well with you and that life's not too manic. The start of term here has been strange without a music school - we're having a new one built this year so the department is spread all over the school.

I took the Chapel Choir to Rome at the end of August - was great. I attach some photos if you're interested - these were taken during a concert at the Church of St Ignatius where we had about 500 people in the audience, including lots of choir parents.



Our concert included Byrd's *Ave Verum*, Wesley's *Thou wilt keep him*, Wood's *O Thou, the Central Orb*, McKie's *We wait for thy loving kindness* (composed for the Queen's wedding) and Ireland's *Te Deum in F*.

We also sang for Mass at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore and were warmly received - the priest was particularly delighted by our decision to sing a Palestrina Mass (coals to Newcastle I hear you say!). We also sang for the 5pm Mass in St Peter's Basilica (has to be done but the organist asked for a copy of our music, an honour apparently!), and finally on the Sunday we sang for the Eucharist at All Saints' Anglican Church.

Before Rome I spent a month in NZ playing (including concerts at Wellington Town Hall and at Auckland University) and seeing friends. I accompanied **Indra's** Musica Sacra for Evensong and Solemn Benediction at Holy Sepulchre Church, Auckland, their regular venue. It was good to spend time with him - he seems very settled and contented with life.

All best wishes
Robert

MORE OCs' NEWS

OC COLIN YOUNG (who was a prefect at the end of the TLD reign and the beginning of JB's) phoned your Editor in great joy with the news that his younger daughter (who rejoices in the name of Elzbieta (8) has just won a place at Chetham's School, Manchester, where she will join her elder sister, Alexandra (10).

But there's more! For Elzbieta (who plays the Piano and Trumpet) has just won the Horace Tattersall prize at the Blackburn Festival for being 'the most promising young musician of the year. Heartiest congratulations everyone!



The YOUNG Family

Colin
(Prefect with TLD & JB 40 years ago) with his wife, **Ewa** who comes from Poland and **Alexandra** (L) with **Elzbieta**

Faithful member of our congregation, **Brian Whittle**, has sent your editor details of his two children who sang in our choirs many years ago:

DAVID WHITTLE, one of JB's choristers, who was commissioned in the Royal Navy is retraining as a teacher in Norwich. He has a good degree in Geography from Durham, his Royal Navy training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and experience in hydrography and a period as a landscape architect freelance. He may buy his own house once he is settled.

His sister **ALISON** who was also with him in the Youth Choir under **KEITH BOND**, also lives in Norwich.

They were both in touch last Sunday since they had been to Eucharist at Norwich Cathedral, where they worship. They had gone for Alison's 40th birthday and been treated to a Taverner anthem.

Canon MICHAEL KITCHENER, who is now Director of Ordinands and Treasurer of Norwich Cathedral whom they know, was Canon Chancellor at Blackburn after **Canon GEOFFREY WILLIAMS**. They are both thrilled with the new Cathedral Refectory and Choir school in the Cathedral Close. They can both read music (courtesy of their training at Blackburn). Alison sings Soprano and David sings a very nice Alto (but is not in the cathedral choir!)

THE RIGHT REVEREND ACTION MAN by OC BRYAN LAMB

Want to know about an heroic bishop? Try **Walter Hubert Baddeley**, Bishop of Melanesia 1932-47, Suffragan Bishop of Whitby 1947-54 and **Lord Bishop of Blackburn 1954-60**. He led in amazing life and the stories of his gallantry in two World Wars read like tales from a "Boys Own" adventure book.



OCs BRYAN LAMB & PETER HEALD admiring Bishop Baddeley's portrait in the Cathedral Crypt

Walter Baddeley was born in March 1894. Education at Arndean School in Brighton preceded entry to Keble College Oxford in 1912, where his studies were interrupted by World War

Walter was then 20 years old and enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment, serving with the 8th Battalion. He was soon commissioned as a second lieutenant and went to France in July 1915.



Men from the Royal Sussex Regt. WW 1

It is believed that the 8th Sussex never actually "went over the top", but was heavily involved in engineering and pioneer work and in defensive fighting throughout the war, including presence at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Active offensive operations for Walter came later when he switched regiments from the Royal Sussex to the Royal Surrey in 1918. His services were first officially recognised in May 1917 when he was awarded a **Mention in Despatches (the first of four)**



The MC

Soon after this, in August, he won **his first Military Cross**. The citation reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. While engaged in digging operations, his company suddenly came under intense hostile barrage. His company commander and many others were killed. He at once took command, showing the utmost coolness and disregard for personal safety, and it*

was due to his example that a most difficult and urgent work was completed."

About this time Walter became a captain and a company commander. Another "Mention" followed in December and a **second Military Cross** in the New Year, *"For conspicuous*

gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He commanded his company with great skill and determination. He organised and directed his men in a masterly manner, and displayed fine powers of command."

In June 1918, Walter was posted, as a major, to the 8th Battalion Royal Surrey Regiment as second-in-command. From that time until the end of the war, his unit was in the thick of the fighting leading to the final collapse of the Germans and the Armistice in November.

The Regimental history of these days details all the offensive actions of the great advance through northern France and Belgium, and the exploits of Major Baddeley are frequently mentioned as he directed operations and commanded his men in battle.

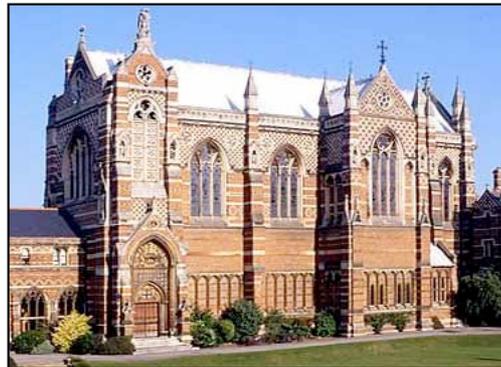
For the last few months of the war, he was in command of the 8th Battalion as **acting lieutenant colonel**. In early 1919, his services were again recognised by the award of the **Distinguished Service Order**.

The DSO



Walter left the Royal Surreys in early April 1919 and after a short period with the London Regiment, was demobilised from the Army. He was just 25 years old.

In the autumn of that year he returned to Oxford. It must have felt odd, making the transition from a highly decorated lieutenant colonel commanding a line infantry battalion of the British Army, to life as a third-year history undergraduate at Keble College!



Keble College Chapel, Oxford.

He graduated with third class honours in 1920 and straight away entered Cuddesdon College to train for the ministry. Ordained deacon on Trinity Sunday 1921, he was appointed to a curacy at Armley in Leeds. Two years later, he became vicar of South Bank on the outskirts of Middlesbrough where he remained until 1932. From 1929 to 1932 he was Proctor in Convocation for the Archdeaconry of Cleveland.

However his qualities and maturity of judgement were soon recognised and **in 1932** he was invited by a conference of the Bishops in New Zealand and **Melanesian Mission** representatives, **to become the next Bishop of Melanesia in the Solomon Islands** in the Pacific. In accepting the call, one wonders if he thought of the likelihood of new adventures? Certainly life in the South Seas must have held out a different prospect than that in South Bank.



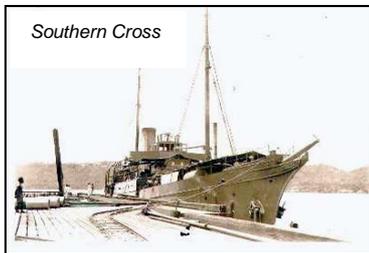
The diocese of Melanesia (part of the Anglican Province of New Zealand) at that time **stretched over 2300 miles** from what is now Vanuatu in the south, through the Solomon Islands, New Britain and New Ireland. to the Admiralty Islands in the north. Inhabited mostly by some 350,000 people of Melanesian race, it was quite a patch!



The modern West front of Auckland Cathedral

Walter travelled to New Zealand and was consecrated in Auckland Cathedral (*where OC **INDRA HUGHES** was once organist!*) on St Andrews Day 1932. He was then 38.

At the time, the CEMS magazine described him as follows: "There are some men who make one want to be a good Christian and the Bishop of Melanesia is certainly one of them. He can lead one right to the sanctuary of God in his heart to heart talks and he can show the wonderful joy which healthy Christianity brings to life. He is full of humour and fun, as every Christian should be." Clearly he was a popular choice.



Southern Cross

In his new job he was very much on the move. The Mission maintained a considerable number of churches, schools and medical centres throughout the islands of the diocese and following a custom then nearly 100 years old, he began travelling over 20,000 miles a

year in the Mission's motor ship, the "**Southern Cross**," ministering personally to the spiritual and material needs of his people.

We have little detail about his activities in the early years, but during these (in 1935) he married Miss Mary Katharine Thomas, daughter of a former Bishop of Adelaide. His main base was in the Solomons on the island of **Nggela** in the middle of the diocese between the islands of Malaita and Guadalcanal, soon to become the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of World War 2.



We are fortunate in having a copy of Bishop Walter's report for 1942, the year in which the life of this missionary Bishop was turned upside down by the invasion of the Solomons by Japanese troops. The report is written in a matter of fact style, but reading between the lines, one can sense the excitement and worries of most of that year.

Read all about it in the next instalment !

Acknowledgement

In putting together this brief account of the life of the remarkable Bishop Baddeley, I wish to acknowledge with thanks, the part played in the research by my friend and fellow columnist, **OC PETER HEALD**. Peter found many more sources than I did, including some real gems, and kindly passed them on for me to use.

Bryan Lamb, Hemingford Gray, Cambridgeshire.

WE WERE HONOURED

. . . by a visit in August by the new organist of St. Paul's Cathedral **MALCOLM ARCHER** who made a special recording on our super Cathedral organ – of *improvisations!*

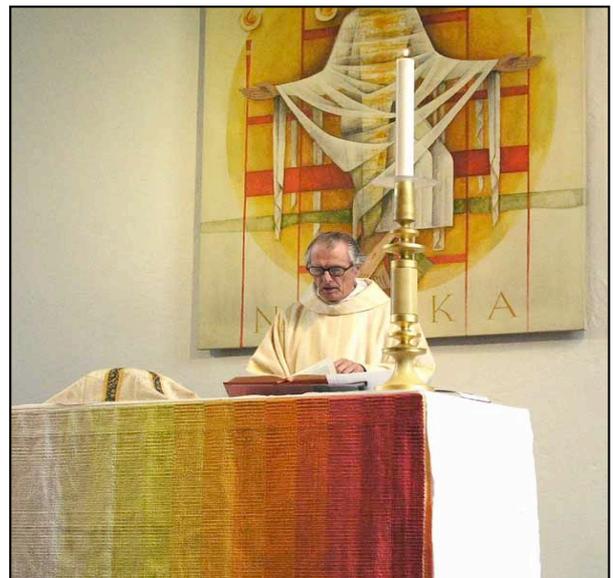


He was joined in this amazing feat by **DAVID BEDNALL (L)** Asst. Organist of Wells Cathedral who had been taught by our 'very own' **DAVID BRIGGS**. (All three have amazing feet!) **RICHARD TANNER** who produced the recording, waxed majorly enthusiastic about it.

TWO MOST HAPPY EVENTS

were celebrated by members of our cathedral family this Fall:

CANON MICHAEL TAYLOR marked the 45th anniversary of his Ordination by Celebrating in the Jesus Chapel on St. Michael's Day, September 29th. (How appropriate!)



The service was attended by his lady wife, **RUTH** and by the Cathedral clergy and many friends and admirers of Canon Michael, who is such a good friend to us all.

As your editor was going into the service he was hailed by **CANON BRIAN BEAUMONT**: 'Did you celebrate the Feast of St. Venceslas yesterday?' Your editor had to confess that he had overlooked this Feast! *Culpa mea maxima! (trans: Oh dear, Max!)*

The second happy event was the marriage on 2nd October of our Cathedral Receptionist, **DEBBIE HEYES**, who is also such a good friend to us all.



Her smile, even when hard pressed, brightens the day for so many of us. Her husband is the **Revd Stephen Johnson** Vicar of Emmanuel Church, Preston. Debbie is a Marathon Runner – and has raised a lot of money for charity.

COUNCIL OF THE FRIENDS OF BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL MUSIC

RICHARD TANNER and **GREG MORRIS** keep expanding the Cathedral's music programme! So much so that they have formed the Council of the Friends of the cathedral's music to help support and propagate this fine work.

It is made up of some highly motivated choir parents and equally highly motivated members of the cathedral staff.

Our first meeting was held on Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14th) in the Bishop Chesters Room and many were the constructive ideas that came from this dynamic group. **So stand by to benefit from the intensive work being done by this exciting group.**



Back row: **Derek Adams**, Father of YPC member, **Daniel**. Derek owns The Music Cellar in Preston, and helped us to buy the splendid grand piano at a reduced price which enhances so many of our concerts.

Greg Morris, Richard Tanner and Canon Hindley, Peter Abbott, Father of YPC member, Junior Organ Scholar, **Ioshua**. Peter is Managing Director of **Veka** which sponsored the cathedral choir's recent German tour). And your editor.

Front row: **Alison Feeney**, Cathedral Assistant Bursar. Alison's sons, **Kevin & Daniel**, were both Blackburn Cathedral choristers.

Emily Crewe YPC member, and this year's Music Scholar – her minutes are meticulous and her efficiency is greatly appreciated.

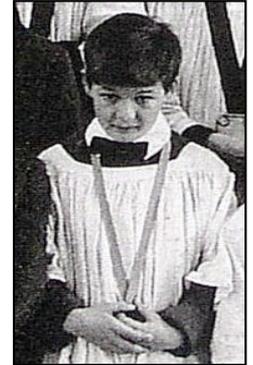
Anitra Haythornwhite, co-owner of **Time and Tune** music shop on Preston New Road. She and **Edward** provided the new upright piano in the Crypt at a knock down price!

Clare Hallows, Mother of cathedral chorister, **Daniel**. Clare is head of the Education Liaison External Relations Division of Salford University.

And **Kate Hodkinson** who has been actively involved in the management of the highly successful Ribchester Festival for many years. Her son was a chorister of Durham Cathedral). *Whatta team!*

LETTER FROM LONG-LOST OC HAROLD RANSON in Northumberland

Harold's photo as a Junior Singing Boy in the 1966 Cathedral Choir appeared in the September Newsletter



Dear JB,

Quite a surprise to hear from you after all this time and many years have passed since my days as a choirboy. My wife was most intrigued by the envelope as I was at work when it arrived and she could not wait to know the contents. She only spotted me in the picture when I said it was in my pre-spectacle wearing days. The sad part of the photo was the number of good friends who are no longer with us, but I keep forgetting that I am getting older (not little Harold any more!).

I have lived in the Northeast for the last 8 years. **Brenda**, my wife comes from Newcastle. We moved here after I was made redundant from a dead end job in Accrington. After studying for several years I am now a podiatrist [*foot doctor*] working in Northumberland. My wife is a physiotherapist in Durham.

My first attempt at a career as a music teacher was not a success. I really did not enjoy teaching at all and I'm sure you will agree that I was not a very good musician. I did not complete the course for my teaching certificate. After that I had several jobs around Blackburn and Accrington all dead end with no future.

I did have one job working in a GPs deputising service for 16 years, (which is where I got my redundancy). Brenda was not really happy in Lancashire so we moved back up to the Northeast.

I studied firstly for an HND in business studies, which I completed successfully but found that being over 40 was a barrier to getting employment.

I worked for the post office (another dead end job) and then started studying to be a podiatrist at the Durham school of Pediatric Medicine (which was the same place where I studied to be a music teacher, the teacher training department was closed down some years earlier, very strange going back to the same college with a totally different range of faculties). I qualified in June this year and was lucky enough to get a job in Northumberland. That is a whirlwind tour of my life so far.

I never thought you would return to Mellor after going to America. Thinking you would stay over there and not return to England.

ANSWERS TO BOB KEEN'S PUZZLE No. 4

Many thanks to all those who sent in answers to the various competitions and also to those who made donations in lieu of entries. The monies from this have been given towards the costs of posting the Newsletters.

The winners of Quiz No. 4 were **Mrs. Rowena Gibson** and **OC Godfrey McGowan**. and they each receive a £5 W H Smith voucher. Two fully correct entries were received

1. **Miss you Pearl**, you always sang that hymn so well.
PRAISE, MY SOUL
2. How many **Pastors reborn** on hearing this man's *Ave Maria*?
ROBERT PARSONS
3. **Rev Sty** gets changed here.
VESTRY
4. No! **Johns brash amen** does not belong to JB, nor for that matter this German Requiem composer.
JOHANNES BRAHMS
5. Did **Regal Edward** have a famous dream?
EDWARD ELGAR
6. I'm sure **Tom sat all his** exams before becoming father of English cathedral music.
THOMAS TALLIS
7. **God arrest mann** if he doesn't run the cathedral properly!
DEAN ARMSTRONG
8. **Deck tenor romp** could end up in Balderstone!
DEREK CROMPTON
9. **Violet catch spiky hiker** before he gets to this Russian composer's home
PETER ILICH TCHAIKOVSKY
10. Except for common letters, **Anabels asylum sweeties** have nothing whatsoever to do with this potential former organist of St Mary's Parish Church, Blackburn.
SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY
11. This canon must **handle dry wine** carefully.
ANDREW HINDLEY
12. You won't get a **magic tan** if you sing this regularly.
MAGNIFICAT
13. **Assist Glenda** while she views the Lantern Tower. What might she see?
STAINED GLASS
14. This **darn thin racer** is a successor to No.10 (above).
RICHARD TANNER
15. This choir man comes from parts of Lancashire **which linkup** with Blackburn via the A666.
PHIL HUNWICK
16. **Margo tongue flaws Mazda** many years after death of this prolific German composer.
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
17. **Jeans famous teeth** would help her pronounce the words of this well known hymn.
AT THE NAME OF JESUS
18. **Geoff debated thiner honey** before singing this hymn at evensong.
BEFORE THE ENDING OF THE DAY
19. **Grim Rogers** is a great organist.
GREG MORRIS
20. This 20th century English composer probably never wore a **widowers tabard**.
EDWARD BAIRSTOW

Our most grateful thanks to Sr. Old Chorister BOB KEEN for his heroic efforts to create and mark these puzzles. They have been greatly appreciated by us all. Ed.

True notices gleaned from churches in the USA:

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

I do have a lot of memories of the cathedral choirs. When I was a probationer and for a long time after I was very scared of you. Do you remember when I wandered off on the choirboys' outing to Southport and was lost for quite some time. You sent various prefects to look for me and I think **DEREK CROMPTON** and **DAVID ROBINSON** found me in the pleasure beach. I will always remember your mother's kindness to us (after graduating to the men's choir). when we used to go and pester her in St. Mary's House, where you lived, for tea and coffee (and cigarettes!) on a Friday night before practice. We would sit and watch "The Virginian" on BBC 1 but miss the ending, having to leave so as not to be late for the full practice.

You can always get a message to me through my older brother **Arthur** who is the vicar at St Silas' on Preston New Rd. (and an Honorary Canon).

Anyway I must stop going on. I do hope this finds you well, you certainly look well in the photos. Next time I am visiting my brother in Blackburn I will let you know.

Yours

E.H.Ranson.

OUR NEW MUSIC DESKS

The first new music desk (which will replace the practice desks made by choirman **HAROLD FIELDING** 70 years ago) was created just in time for our BCOCA Reunion in September (See photo, page 5.)

This first one appeared in the South Transept for **PETER FIELDING'S** lunchtime piano recital on September 22nd. His concert was attended, of course, by a galaxy of Fieldings, and afterwards, **PETER (L)** and his brother **GORDON** admired the exquisite craftsmanship of this desk.



We are ordering eight of them (at £500 each) made by **Scott Cooper Joinery**. They will not only be used for the next 100 years or more in the Song School, but they are of such a quality that they can be used for concerts and services in the Cathedral.

Already generous donors have offered to pay for at least five of these. If you would like to buy one and have the name of a loved one inscribed thereon (space is provided on each desk for a handsome plaque) please contact **Chairman Gordon Shaw** immediately. 01254 813586. If your donation is Gift Aided we could add 28% to your generosity. Gordon has all details. Gordon wrote: 'Thanks to everyone for their generosity.'

STOPPE PRESSE: KEEN FUNDRAISING

£

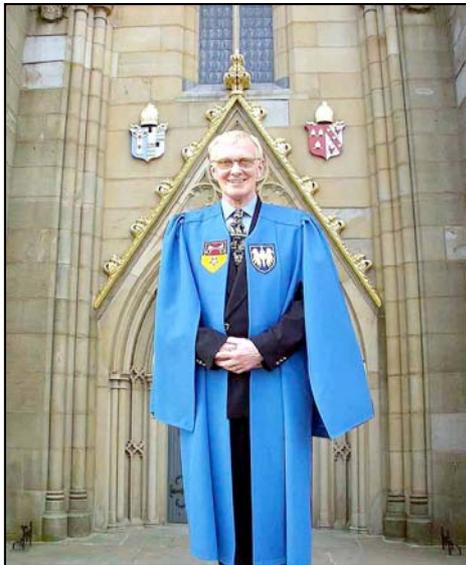
Bob & Pauline Keens' fundraising lunch at the Shaws' several months ago in aid of the new music desks raised £888. Wow ! Renewed thanks and congratulations all round!

THE CATHEDRAL FAMILY

suffered three great losses recently:

KEITH BANKS

Senior Churchwarden, Lay Canon, Choir Parent,
Producer of Plays, Loving Husband Father and
Grandfather. Wonderful Friend



Keith's funeral, on 17th September, was a Celebration of a wonderful Christian life. He was borne into the Cathedral as the Cathedral Choirmen sang Croft's *Burial Sentences*. Canon Taylor preached most movingly and Keith was carried from his Cathedral to the majestic sounds of Bach's *Fantasia in G major*, specially requested by his elder son, **OC Peter**. Our deepest sympathy go to him, to **OC Ian** (who is a doctor in Australia) and especially to **Joan**, whose courage in the face of such a loss is an inspiration to us all.

JOHN WALKER

John, like Keith, had also been ill for some months. His funeral on 23rd September, too, was a Celebration. John, like his father, **Edgar**, had been Chapter Clerk, and so his contribution to the life of the cathedral for so many years cannot be measured. He and **Sheila**, used to open their lovely garden in Pleasington to the cathedral family for an evening every summer, and many were the delicious sausages on sticks we ate on their beautifully manicured lawn.

John was often to be seen, in recent years, at the cathedral's lunchtime concerts; his enjoyment of these concerts could be seen on his ever-smiling face.

The YPC sang most beautifully for his funeral; the words of his oldest friend, choir parent **Judge Brian Duckworth**, moved us all with reminiscences of such a full life, and John was carried forth from his cathedral to the triumphant sounds of Widor's *Toccata* chosen by **Sheila**. There was a Celebration Reception afterwards and John's son, **OC MICHAEL**, agreed to be photographed or we have no photo of John.



Our love and admiration go to **Sheila**, who so courageously set the tone of Celebration for a life lived so fully in the service to the cathedral which he loved.

BARBARA THORNER

Mrs. Thornber had been ill for a long time and our admiration for **Harold** who cared for her so lovingly during these years cannot be measured. (Harold was a Commander in the Fleet Air Arm during WW2, and later taught at St. Wilfrid's School, Blackburn.)

Many of us will remember Barbara's lovely presence when she came to the cathedral services with Harold so faithfully until the onset of her illness. Our love and deepest sympathy go to Harold, our cathedral Archivist, whose love and courage inspire our deepest affection. May she rest in peace.

Music Reports from Director of Music RICHARD TANNER

On 19th June the **Renaissance Singers** were joined by **Philippa Hyde**, **Greg Morris** and the **Northern Chamber Orchestra** for a super summer concert to a large and appreciative in the North Transept. Philippa sang the recently discovered "*Gloria*" by Handel and Greg dazzled us with his playing on our chamber organ of a concerto by Handel.



The Singers then gave a performance of Handel's *Dixit Dominus*. **Alison Doyle** excelled herself singing a duet with **Pippa**.

The following day the Renaissance Singers travelled to Chaigley where they had dinner in the Craven Heifer

This season the Singers celebrate the 40th anniversary of their founding by John Bertalot (as the Blackburn Bach Choir). Their 40th Anniversary programme looks spectacular!

They have already given their first two concerts of the season: in Newchurch in Pendle (on Saturday 4th September), where **John Hallows** (father of Cathedral chorister **Daniel Hallows**) is Vicar and at Mellor Parish Church on Sept. 26th

Mellor Church was packed for our concert. It was given in aid of their appeal for the restoration of their windows. They'd gone to a lot of trouble to make the evening a success – not only by filling the church with an appreciative audience but also by giving us all delicious refreshments afterwards – wine (red and white!) with savouries and cream cakes!

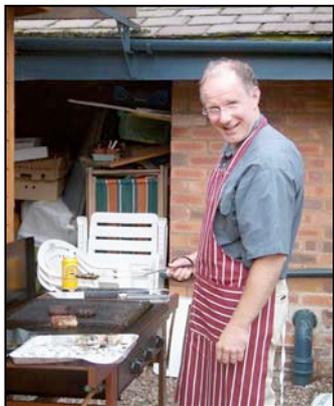
Our 40th Anniversary culminates with a performance of **J.S. Bach's B minor Mass on May 21st** with a superb line up of soloists as well as the Northern Chamber Orchestra. (The very first rehearsal of the Blackburn Bach Choir was May 20th, 1965 !)

I've invited **JB to conduct the Renaissance Singers** in a concert in **November 2005 (next year)**, on the 40th Anniversary of his first concert with them. **Former members of his Blackburn Bach Choir will be invited to sing. Contact JB now if you'd like to join us!** (JB's address is on page 1)

BBQ

The Cathedral Girls' Choir enjoyed a Barbecue on 26th June at the home of **Karen and Stephen Brooke** - parents of **Sophie**.

Stephen Brooke
cooking for the BBQ



Carly Bett & Sophie Brooke
reading the latest edition of
our Newsletter!



This was a tremendous occasion and the chef is to be congratulated on his skills with the barbecue.



Apart from some girls enjoying the latest edition of the Newsletter in the Brookes' garden, others enjoyed the trampoline



Hope Kerry



and
Table Tennis.

Maddison Birch

James Tanner
and
William Kerry
(brother of Hope)
enjoyed a game
of swingball!



We all enjoyed ourselves to the full and are most grateful for the generosity of our hosts in opening their home and garden to us.

MORE TELEVISION!

On 26th August **Ralph Allwood**, Precentor (i.e. Director of Music) of Eton College, one of UK's leading choir trainers, brought his **Rudolphus Chamber Choir** (made up, mainly, of hand-picked Oxbridge choral scholars) to the Cathedral to film some hymns for BBC Songs of Praise, screened on Oct. 17th.

TV SOP

**Greg
Morris,**

**Ralph
Allwood &
Richard
Tanner**



Greg Morris accompanied this superb young choir on the organ and piano and **Richard Tanner** (who had been inspired by Ralph as a student on three of his Eton Choral Courses between 1986-88) was the musical adviser.

HOLY CONFERENCE!

Between 6th - 9th September all of the clergy from the Diocese enjoyed a conference in St Hilda and St Bede College, Durham. **The Dean** had not only been a student at this college, but had also been College Chaplain there - so there were some photographs around the chapel of a very young looking Mr. Dean! **Canon Ballard** had also been a student at the same college.

**Blackburn
Diocesan
Clergy
exchanging
the Peace
in the
College
Chapel**



This highly successful conference was organised by our very own **Canon Andrew Clitherow**, supported by his secretary, **Jackie Mallinson** (mother of Girls' Choir and YPC member, **Liz Mallinson**).

Richard Tanner went along to lead the music making, to run two workshops and to develop ways in which the Cathedral Music Department can help the Diocese. The workshops were about Music for Common Worship and Music in Churches where there are no musicians.

It was very good to enjoy the presence of a musical clergyman, **The Reverend PHILIP CHEW (OC)** and brother of our current **Senior OC NIGEL**) at one of the workshops.



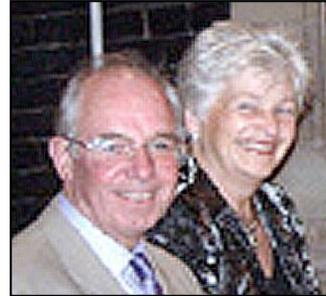
The conference afforded our new Bishop, **NICHOLAS**, with the opportunity to address the Clergy of the Diocese for the first time; he demonstrated just how fortunate we are to have him as our Diocesan Bishop.



The Clergy were in excellent voice throughout the conference - the singing in the Chapel was truly uplifting and the final service was held in the magnificent setting of Durham Cathedral, where two of the three English Cathedral Organists who are **OCs** of **St Paul's Cathedral** shared the organ bench: **Richard Tanner** and Durham Cathedral Organist, **James Lancelot**.

period when he attended only rehearsals, he was invited to join the Cathedral Choir with **JB**. His sons also joined the cathedral choir - **David** in 1978 and **John** in 1980.

Memorable moments: Hearing St. Gabriel's Cavallé Coll organ as boy. Forgetting to turn a page for a girl pianist at Blackburn Festival. 'Fortunately she knew the music,' said Gordon, 'but, oh, what a look I got!' He also heard **Gigli**, the most famous tenor of his day, singing in King George's Hall, 'I also remember my first live broadcast with JB - when the men sang Handel's *The Lord is a Man of War*. And I sang the whole of the Messiah for the first time with **GORDON STEWART** when I was 59 years old.



Gordon told your editor that he worked at Mullard's for 40 years starting as an apprentice and rising to Manufacturing Manager. 'And,' he added, 'my present highlights are my 7 granddaughters and my roller-coaster life with **Sheila**. and her many jobs and interests.. Whatta Woman. Whatta .life!'

And Whatta man! Ed

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 1

To former YPC member **REBECCA HUTCHINSON** who is now an undergraduate at Newnham College, Cambridge.

And not only that, she was chosen to form part of a privileged mixed-voice choir which will sing regular Choral Evensongs on Mondays (the resident choir's day off) in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge! Wow!

Rebecca joined us for our recent BCOCA Reunion. We thought the singing was good that day - now we know why!



HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS 2



To BCOCA Chairman, Cathedral Choirman, Renaissance Singers Librarian, Member of the Cathedral Chapter and Building Committee. and I don't know what else, **GORDON SHAW**, who, this year, celebrates 60 glorious years of singing in choirs! He began as a boy treble in St. Gabriel's, where William Dewhurst was organist -

FRED DEWHURST'S father. Then to St. James's (top of the hill in Blackburn) where Harry Hornby was choirmaster. 'He was a chain smoker,' said Gordon. 'He used to smoke through all our rehearsals and also when he drove us to sing at the Blackpool Festival - smoking all the way there and all the way back!'

He then moved to St. Jude's Church choir, still as treble, and when his voice broke. He first met **Sheila** in St. Jude's Youth Club. **TLD** (Tom Duerden - legendary Master of the Choristers of Blackburn Cathedral from 1939-1964) tested his voice at QEGS where TLD taught) and said he should sing tenor. In 1961 he was married in St. Gabriel's, and he and Sheila sang together in St. Peter's Church, Salisbury. In 1978, after a probationary

LAND OF HOPE & GLORY!

Derek Crompton & JB gave two recitals in September to commemorate the Battle of Britain. The first was this season's first lunchtime concert in the Cathedral on September 15th - the actual 64th Anniversary of the Battle (and also, incidentally, JB's 73rd birthday!) They attracted the largest audience we've ever had for such a concert, since they were first begun in 1970!

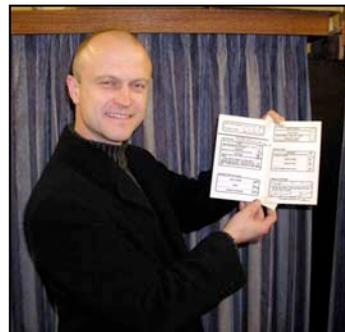
The second was a repeat (but with many more items) in JB's church at Fence.



The place was packed and the churchwarden had provided **100 Union Jacks** for the audience to wave when they sang *Land of Hope and Glory!* The singing was so loud that the organ (a mighty instrument!) could hardly be heard!

OUR NEW SENIOR OLD CHORISTER is not to be trifled with!

NIGEL CHEW came to his first cathedral choir practice on March 30th 1969, 4 1/2 years after JB came here. His brother, **PHILIP**, came on 14th September 1970, the day before his 8th birthday.



How do we know that? Because, in the cathedral archives are the two boys' test cards which give the date of their first attendance, and also the dates when they passed the tests which they had to take to qualify them to join the boys' choir. Such tests as singing one verse of a hymn absolutely correctly,

with breaths taken at the right places, and mouth working well. They also had to recite the Lord's Prayer and Creed from memory in front of **Canon WILLIAMS**, and show that they could process well, in the cassocks they had earned, and to sit very still in the choir stalls with arms folded for fully 5 minutes while the Head Chorister watched them! And there were many more tests, 'But we enjoyed it and learned a lot about self discipline!' said Nigel. It took about 3 months to complete this training, but when they had passed all their tests they really knew what singing in the cathedral choir was all about!

What's Nigel doing these days?

'I work in Blackburn schools to ensure that their computers are working properly and being used correctly – it's Information Communication Technology – ICT. This keeps me busy for I've worked with computers since my school days. We evolved together!' He started life as a postman, but he always wanted to work with his hands and with electronics, so this is the ideal job for him.

Nigel has a flourishing family: **Kara** is 18 in December, **Megan** is 16 in November and **Dene** was 12 in June. (See photo page 5.) 'My wife, **Laura**, is a teaching assistant in Blackburn schools and is a Behaviour Improvement Person (BIP!).'

Hobbies?

'I lift weights with **OC STEWART HOPKINSON** on Sunday evenings for three hours! I can lift 12 1/2 stone (80 kilograms) – that's 2 stone heavier than I am! Stew can lift much more than that because he's heavier than I am.'

'Where do you do this?' 'In Stew's garage!' Nigel paused for a moment, and added, 'I also do Jujitsu every Tuesday evening!'

'I remember, when I was a boy in the choir, we sang a televised Easter Day service. I had a black eye and next to me was **Roger Margerison** who had his hand bandaged. My family who were watching the service on TV thought it was very funny for it looked as though we had been fighting just prior to the service (both injuries were totally separate). The camera caught us both as we processed into the cathedral.'



Philip & Nigel Chew with Roger Margerison, during the cathedral choir's tour of Holland, August, 1975
(What's happened to Roger? If anyone knows, please tell JB)

'I also remember one day running into the cathedral crypt and closing the vestry door on the chorister who was behind me. He broke his leg and was in plaster and on crutches for weeks!

Don't mess with this year's Senior Old Chorister!

Our Senior Old Chorister is organising an Evening of

Poetry Reading

in the Cathedral Crypt

All proceeds to BCOCA Funds.

From Laughter to Epic

Wednesday, 17th November, 7.30 pm

You're invited to choose your favourite poem, and recite it to us (from memory, if possible). And tell us something about the poem and why you chose it.

Ask all your friends to sponsor you at £1, or £5 or even £10 at a time, (or whatever they can afford) so that you yourself can aim to raise at least £20-00 for BCOCA Funds. (But whatever you raise will be greatly appreciated!)

Bring your cheque (made out to BCOCA) or cash on the night, for the full sum of your sponsorship – (and recoup your sponsors' cash in your own time).

This is open to everyone
and there'll be light refreshments

Encourage your friends to come and applaud you – their tickets are only £2-00 each, but you get in free! (**Tickets from the Cathedral Office: 01254-51491**)

Already we've got a great variety of poems:

Nigel Chew has chosen Tennyson's "**IF**"
(*'You'll be a man, my son!'*)

Brother **Philip** will recite "**FLANDER'S FIELD**"

Their Mother, **Sarah**
(a former formidable Headmistress!) will declaim
"THE EVE OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO"

Choirman **Philip Wilson** will interpret the killingly funny "**NOAH'S FLOOD**" (in broad Lancashire!)

John Bertalot will recite, in Southern English,
"JABBERWOCKY" and "**JENNY KISSED ME!**"

What will **You** choose?

If you can't come, a **Donation** (Cheque to BCOCA)
to **Nigel Chew, 48 First Ave., CHURCH. BB5 5EH**
would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.
Nigel's phone 07941-091-953

Colour copies of most photos in this edition
may be available. £5-00 for A5, £10-00 for A4.
(plus 50p post and packing.)

All profits go to BCOCA.

Page 1, the BCOCA photo, (with names) A4 only.

Write to Dr. John Bertalot,
Cathedral Close, Blackburn BB1 5AA stating
PAGE and **DESCRIPTION** of photo, and **SIZE**.

With your name and address clearly **PRINTED**.
Cheques make out to BCOCA Thanks.