



Newsletter

Editorial

This Newsletter is a new venture, aimed at keeping our members and supporters in touch with what's going on in the choir and around the area. We will try to offer something of interest to everybody, and to record high-points in the choir's activities.

The Letter will also provide an opportunity for members to offer input into the life and enjoyment of the choir, and will feature articles about things musical. Comments and contributions will be welcome, and will help to ensure that the Newsletter provides what our members and readers want. So please let us know what you think, and how we can do better!

It would be good if we could use the Newsletter as part of the choir's 'outreach' effort. We need to be part of the wider community, and to show that we are open and welcoming to all. So do please share it with potential new members, or friends and neighbours who might like to come along to our concerts, or with anyone else who might be interested! And in the same spirit, please note a request from Jane Moran (Alto), who runs the choir's Twitter feed. Jane asks that if you or your relatives take any photos at concerts, the best ones should be sent to her at janesusanmoran@googlemail.com, for use on the feed.

There will be further editions in [July], and then in October. And at the outset I must record my gratitude to Tom Knapp for arranging the physical appearance of the Newsletter, and my admiration for his skills as compositor (or whatever it is called in this digital age). Editing the text is the easy bit: making it look as good as it does is much harder.

Robert Flower (Editor)



Choir Management

Hon. President	The Duke of Devonshire, KCVO, CBE, DL
Chairman	Sarah Davidson
Secretary	Sally Goodman
Treasurer & Publicity	Sheila Bloomfield
Membership	Tom Knapp
Librarian	Brian Harrison
Social	Elaine Thomas
Trustees	Phil Lawler (Chairman) Sheila Bloomfield Sarah Davidson Robert Flower Sally Goodman Professor Peter Leach

SCS PREVIOUS CONCERTS

As part of Skipton Camerata, conducted by Ben Crick, in 2013-15 we performed: Haydn *Creation*; Bach *St John Passion*; Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*; Dvorak *Mass in D* & Vaughan Williams *Mass in G*; Mendelssohn *Elijah*; Beethoven *Choral Symphony*; *A Night at the Opera*; and Christmas music.

As Skipton Choral Society, conducted by Toby Wardman, our concerts have been:

22 November 2015 (Christ Church Skipton): “**In the midst of Life**”: Rutter *Requiem*; Purcell *Thou knowest, Lord*; Chilcott *The Lily and the Rose*; Sullivan *The Long Day Closes*; Loesser *Sit down you're rockin' the boat*; *Autumn Leaves*; three Spirituals

17 December 2015 (Craven Court Skipton): **Christmas concert** including: Handel *Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah)*; Anon 16th Century *Rejoice in the Lord alway*; Stephen Hatfield *Jabula Jesu*; Chris Williams *Merry Christmas cha-cha-cha*; and various carols

13 March 2016 (Holy Trinity Skipton): “**The Crucifixion**”: Stainer *Crucifixion*; Lotti *Crucifixus a 8*; Byrd *Ave Verum Corpus*; Mozart *Ave Verum Corpus*; 'King John VI of Portugal' *Crux Fidelis*; plus solo piece



SCS CONCERT 13 MARCH 2016 - REVIEW IN THE CRAVEN HERALD

This very welcome review appeared in the Craven Herald under the headline “Moving performance of great sincerity”:

Skipton Choral Society
Holy Trinity Church, Skipton

THE Skipton Choral Society concert began very effectively as members came to their seats in small groups, giving the audience time to quieten in expectation. The singing of Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus* set the tone for the evening with a moving performance of great sincerity.

The *Crucifixion* by John Stainer was presented with sensitivity and enthusiasm. I particularly enjoyed *Fling Wide the Gates* sung with great gusto and I commend the musicality of *God so Loved the World*, a challenging piece which they sang most effectively.

The two soloists, Marcus Groundwater and Robert Sturman, provided strong support, performing with authority and expression and it was a pleasure to be able to hear every word so clearly.

Additional music from choir soloists made this an evening of great delight. Sally Goodman, singing John Dowland's *Flow my Tears* and Rosy Robinson singing Herbert Howells' *King David*, chose music which complemented their voices and both brought the music alive.

In the clarinet solo, Raybould's



Skipton Choral Society performs in Holy Trinity Church, Skipton

The Wistful Shepherd, Sheila Bloomfield played beautifully, producing a haunting mellifluous sound.

Finally the concert was brought to a close, with Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* providing a very satisfying finale to an evening of wonderful music. It is clear that Skipton Choral is going from strength to strength and I look forward to their next concert in July with keen anticipation.

● Julie Finkle

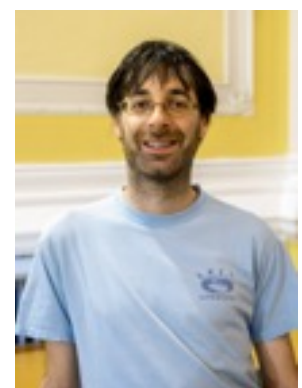
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In a letter dated 16 January 2016, the Private Secretary to The Duke of Devonshire wrote that His Grace was very pleased to accept the invitation to become the first President of the Skipton Choral Society. She added that after moving from Yorkshire to live in Derbyshire, the Duke and Duchess remained keen to continue to support charities in the Skipton area, and that the Duke sent his very best wishes to the Society and its supporters, and looked forward to hearing more about our programme later in the Spring. He has now been given details of our concert on 2 July and invited to attend.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Programming a concert is one of the more challenging jobs a musical director has to tackle.

The strangest feature is that it has to be done bizarrely far in advance. Next year's publicity materials need to be printed in time for this year's concerts, and our future audiences rightly want to know what to expect, at least in outline. There also needs to be time for the committee to source copies -- which can be especially hair-raising as Christmas looms,



when choirs compete for the same few sets of music from the same few music libraries and suppliers. The sooner we can get our music choices nailed down, the more chance we have of getting our bid in early enough to beat the rush. The ideal time to be thinking about next season's music (that is, Christmas 2016 to Summer 2017) is ... now.

This inevitably brings challenges. First, what will be right for the choir, not as we are now but as we will be 18 months down the line? And "right for the choir" means several different things. Each term's programme needs to be challenging, or people will get bored and rehearsals will lose momentum. But it also needs to be achievable, or frustration will set in. There needs to be a good mix of styles and challenge levels, or some singers will become disillusioned even as others revel in it. There needs to be the right amount of music for the rehearsal period we have, taking bank holidays into account. And there need to be one or two pieces that are either familiar or easily accessible, so early rehearsals aren't all hard graft.

That would be more than enough constraints, but I haven't even mentioned audience considerations yet. Audiences want concerts that they will enjoy hearing, and that's not always the same as what singers enjoy rehearsing! A concert must have a coherent theme so it can be coherently advertised and people can judge whether to come along. A headline piece is helpful, something that audiences either already know and like (like Stainer's *Crucifixion*) or are willing to take a punt on (like Chilcott's *Little Jazz Mass*). But audiences, like choirs, also like variety: two hours of slow miserable music is depressing, but two hours of energetic stuff is exhausting. A splash of 'new and interesting' is as important as an old favourite. The tension between coherence and variety is a constant head-scratcher.

Finally, there are very practical constraints. One: what are other local groups doing? It's no good putting on Fauré's *Requiem* this week if the next-door choral society sang it last week and pinched all our audience. The other: can we afford it? Budgets are tight, and it's not viable to rent or buy an enormous set of sheet music and hire a full orchestra if only 30 people are liable to come through the door. The bigger the resources, the higher the risk.

And one final constraint is my own musical satisfaction. I wouldn't be in this job if I didn't feel strongly about the repertoire. It's fun and exciting to introduce a choir to a new composer or genre, and see the pennies drop as people start to "get it". Few things are more satisfying than realising someone else loves something that you introduced them to. But everyone enjoys the experience of bashing through an old favourite, and I'm no exception.

The summer term will be our most challenging yet. The music isn't unusually hard, but there's a higher proportion of new styles and a much greater variety than usual. I'm looking forward to seeing how it goes down, both with singers and audiences. At the end of the day, that's always hard to predict. I've been programming concerts for quite a few years now, and it never ceases to be a learning process!

Chairman's Column

When any organisation starts from scratch certain essentials must be established. In our case it has been the MD and accompanist, the Committee, the finances, the rehearsals, the repertoire and, most importantly, the choristers. These are the basics. Then you need the extras. Social events, fundraising and The Newsletter!



I must thank Robert for taking on this task. Not easy to deliver, persuading members to make voluntary contributions to a deadline must be a nightmare. Case in point, I am writing this at 7.30am on the deadline day!!

Happy Singing, Sarah

A Secretary's work is never done

I have been Secretary of SCS for about 2½ years now. I can honestly say I enjoy the role and love being part of an energetic Committee who have become good friends. Much has changed during this time and we have metamorphosed into a good quality, welcoming choir that is firmly becoming a part of the Skipton music scene.



The Committee members don't have "job descriptions", as such, but the role of Secretary is basically to keep us well organized and make sure we maintain good records. So I organize Committee meetings (approximately every 6 weeks), Trustee meetings (approximately every quarter) and AGMs, and take the Minutes. I also send regular emails to all choir members, to ensure everyone has the latest information regarding rehearsal times, venue and music "homework".

Sadly, we don't yet have a Committee member dedicated to Publicity – so Sheila and I currently share this between us. Sheila does sterling work in designing and printing posters and programmes and generally networking to raise awareness of what we do. I maintain a list of publicity outlets (electronic and otherwise), make sure that press releases are sent out, keep the choir brochure updated, maintain the website and liaise with Jane Moran, who is doing a fabulous job of running our Twitter account.



It's a privilege to be part of such a lovely group

Sally Goodman

New Members are always welcome.....

I feel that there are two aspects to the role of membership secretary; personal contact and paperwork. I am usually the person who potential new members contact, so I do my best to ensure that their first brush with the society is friendly and welcoming; the same applies to anyone visiting a rehearsal, where they are encouraged to stay and see how they like us, and hopefully become part of the team.



The paperwork side is trying to maintain an up to date list of active members (which can vary from term to term) and also keep a list of non active members to keep informed about our activities, with the hope to bring them back to the fold.

Tom Knapp

Save the Dates!

Although not as well attended as we would have liked (for a multitude of reasons and unfortunate date clashes) the ceilidh on 12th March was a fun evening enjoyed by all. We now plan to have a summer social, the details of which are still being finalised, but we do have a date for this. Save the date: Summer Social Friday 8th July 2016.



It seems a long time ago now, but everyone who came to our Christmas social at Hetties in December last year, remembers what a great evening it was, and we are planning another Christmas social this year.

Save the date: Christmas Social Monday 12th December 2016.

All the details will be given as soon as we have them, and tickets will be for sale. Please support these events as much as you can, as they help to raise funds for our choir, as well as being great evenings out!

Elaine Thomas, social sec.

Rehearsal, Concert & Other Dates

April	Monday 25	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
May	Monday 9	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 16	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 23	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 30	Bank Holiday - No rehearsal
Jun	Monday 6	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 13	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 20	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 27	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
Jul	Saturday 2	Summer Concert Town Hall 7.30. Afternoon Rehearsal TBC
	Friday 8	Summer Social - details TBC
Sep	Monday 5	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 12	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 19	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 27	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
Oct	Monday 3	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 10	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 17	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 24	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 31	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
Nov	Monday 7	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 14	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 21	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Monday 28	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
Dec	Sunday 4	Coniston Hall Gig. Times TBC
	Monday 5	Rehearsal 7pm Holy Trinity Vestry
	Saturday 10	Christmas Concert TBC
Afternoon Rehearsal		
	Sunday 11	Yuletide Marker Carols Times TBC
	Monday 12	Christmas Social venue TBC
	TBC	Carols at Keelham

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

23 April	Ilkley Choral Society (Otley Parish Church) Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Parry
24 April	Grassington Singers Works by John Rutter and more
7 May	The Chippendale Singers (St Mary's, Burley-in-Wharfedale) "Gloria" (Handel <i>Zadok the Priest</i> , Vivaldi <i>Gloria</i> , Stanford <i>Four part-songs</i> , Schoenberg <i>Medley from Les Miserables</i>)
14 May	Opus 44 (Bingley Little Theatre Studio) "Madrigals to Musicals" (for charity)
22 May	KVU Singers with Strathendrick Singers

- 11 June Bradford Festival CS (Victoria Hall, Saltaire “The Road Home - Music of Beauty and Peace”
incl. Howard Goodall’s oratorio *Every Purpose under the Heaven*)
- 18 June Cantores Olicanae (Bolton Abbey) with Robert Sudall Jazz Trio “A Summer Serenade”
- 19 June “Scratch Messiah” (part of the Grassington Festival) St Wilfrid’s, Burnsall
- 26 June Skipton Camerata (part of the Grassington Festival “The Last Summer” (Elgar, Butterworth
& Britten)
- 1 July Skipton Camerata (The Venue, Leeds) with Sebastian Muller, violin
“A City of Two Tales” (Mozart, Schoenberg & Beethoven)
- 2 July Skipton Camerata (St Margaret’s, Ilkley) with The Clothworkers Consort
“A City of Two Tales” (Mozart, Schoenberg & Haydn)
- 2 July SCS Summer Concert**
- 2/3 July KVU Singers Young Performers
- 9 July Pinsuti (Washburn Heritage Centre, Fewston) Part, Holst, Elgar, Vaughan Williams,
Lauridsen, Mealor, Finzi and more
- 15 July Skipton Camerata (Holy Trinity Vestry, Skipton) “First Sparks” (Britten, Leopold Mozart, Evan
Jolly)
- 15 July Buckden Singers (St Michael’s, Hubberholme) Summer Concert
- 16 July Buckden Singers (St Margaret Clitherow, Threshfield) Summer Concert
- 15 October The Chippendale Singers (Otley Methodist Church) “Come & Sing” Faure *Requiem*, Jenkins
The Armed Man
- 11 Nov Skipton Camerata (The Venue, Leeds) with Emma Johnson, clarinet
“A Nation Sings” (Janacek, Finzi, Tchaikovsky)
- 12 Nov Skipton Camerata (Holy Trinity Vestry, Skipton) with Emma Johnson, clarinet
“A Nation Sings” (Janacek, Finzi, Tchaikovsky)
- 12 Nov Ilkley Choral Society (St Margaret’s, Ilkley) Verdi, Faure
- 19 Nov Bradford Festival CS (Price Hall, Bradford Grammar School)
“Cloudburst” (contemporary solo and chorus works)
- 3 Dec Nidd Chorale (St Cuthbert’s, Pateley Bridge) Rutland Boughton *Bethlehem*
- 9 Dec The Chippendale Singers (Otley Parish Church) with children from Westgate
School “A Concert of Christmas Music”
- 10 Dec SCS Christmas Concert**
- 11 Dec KVU Singers “The Messiah”
- 17 Dec Bradford Festival CS (Price Hall, Bradford Grammar School)
“A Classical Christmas” incl. highlights from *Messiah* and music by Finzi and
Vaughan Williams



YORKSHIRE COMPOSERS

Francis Alan Jackson CBE (born 1917)

This note is the first in a series on composers born or practising in Yorkshire. Others will include Frederick Delius (1862-1934), Sir Joseph Barnby (1838-96), George Butterworth (1885-1916), John Hebdon (1712-65), Sir William Sterndale Bennett (1816-75), Kenneth Leighton (1929-88), George Dyson (1883-1964), Sir Edward Bairstow (1874-1946), Sir Harry Mortimer (1902-92), Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76), William Jackson (1815-66) and more.

Francis Jackson was born on 2 October 1917 in Malton, son of the Borough Engineer and sanitary inspector William Jackson. His family sang in the parish choir and Francis and his two brothers followed them. He received his early education as a chorister at York Minster under Sir Edward Bairstow. His cousin was the lyric soprano, Elsie Suddaby.



He was a Chorister of York Minster from 1929 to 1933, when he became Organist at Malton Parish Church where he remained until 1940. On October 15, 1940, he joined the Army, and as a trooper in the 9th Lancers, a tank regiment, he saw action in North Africa, Egypt and in the push through Italy. After the War he was appointed organist and director of music at York Minster, and held these positions until his retirement in 1982. Jackson played for the wedding of the Duke of Kent to Katherine Worsley on 8 June 1961. The final voluntary was the final movement of Charles-Marie Widor's Symphony No. 5 for organ: Toccata, which set a fashion for the use of this piece for weddings.

Both nationally and internationally acclaimed, Jackson has given recitals and concerts all over the world, and made numerous recordings of solo organ music and of choral music with the choir of York Minster.

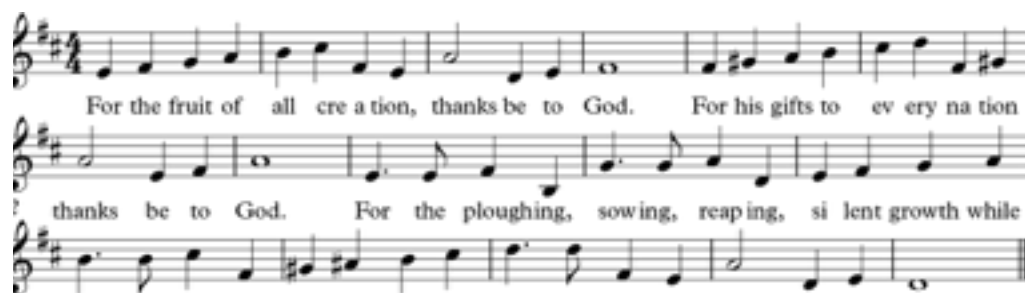
Jackson's extensive output of sacred and secular music includes canticles, anthems, hymn tunes (including the widely sung "East Acklam", see below, named after the village in which he lives), organ sonatas and other organ pieces such as "Diversion for Mixtures", two acclaimed monodramas - Daniel in Babylon and A Time of Fire, an overture, Brigantia, a concerto, a symphony, and solo songs. Jackson's creative output has continued since his retirement.

Jackson is also the author of a biography of his teacher, mentor and predecessor, Sir Edward Bairstow, entitled Blessed City: The Life and Works of Sir Edward C. Bairstow. His autobiography, Music For A Long While, was published in 2013.

In an outbuilding to the house in Acklam where he lives with his wife Priscilla he has a grand piano, and a pipe organ rescued from a church in Derbyshire, on which he still plays and improvises regularly.

To find out more about this great contemporary, go to:

http://www.simonlindley.org.uk/frankly_speaking.html



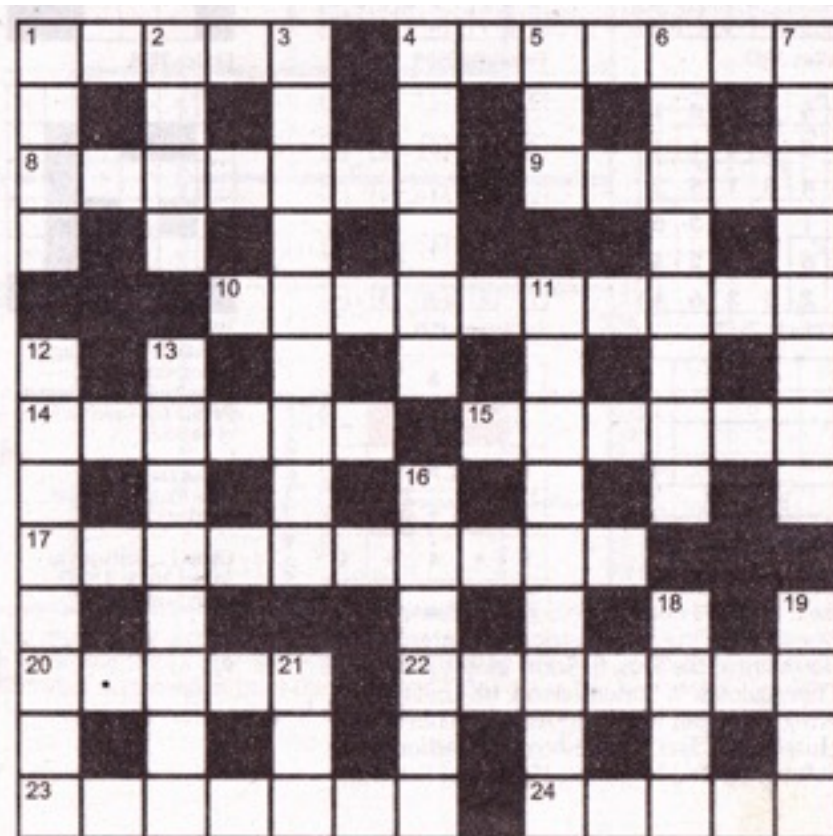
THE SCS CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Transparent composer of three songs (5)
- 4 Language of the Old Testament (7)
- 8 Neither sharp nor flat (7)
- 9 Welcome after a hard day's singing - the Sea without the c (5)
- 10 Unvoiced (10)
- 14 Slowly, at ease (6)
- 15 Writer of words for songs, player of old stringed instrument (6)
- 17 Confused cheers plus - stone tombs (10)
- 20 Delia backward and unwell (5)
- 22 Simple-mindedness in Paris (7)
- 23 Maker of mark that is hard to remove and writer of religious music (7)
- 24 Place for horse or choir (5)

Down

- 1 May be Chau, Nipple, Opera, Pasi, Tiger, Shueng, Wind or Sculptural; or an award (4)
- 2 Shylock's bridge abridged - high but not the highest (4)
- 3 Describing a dress-code (9)
- 4 French composer, 1834-1908, pupil of Cherubini, wrote one very grand opera (6)9
- 5, 7 Known (to us) for his Mass and a strange mediaeval poem (4,8)
- 6 Joyous cry in 4 Across (8)
- 7 (see 5 down)
- 11 Composer of Regard and Osculation shares first name with great Swedish tenor (9)
- 12 Venus and her like (8)
- 13 A - is unaccompanied (7)
- 16 Slangy periorbital haematoma (6)
- 18 Second letter in Athens - for whipping cream, or driving game-birds? (4)
- 19 Born away by Rumpole's haunt (4)
- 21 Desperate High-Priest on 13 March (3)



You can do this just for fun, or you can enter your solution in a competition: the first correct solution to be opened will receive, as a prize, a copy of the score for an item in our next concert. (Non-singers may claim £5 in lieu.) Send in your entry by 6 May, with 50p entry fee, as shown below. If no correct entry is received, the best effort will win the prize - editor's decision is final!

Name..... Email address.....

Please: hand to Robert Flower; or send to The Old Cottage, Appletreewick BD23 6DD; or email to robert.flower3@icloud.com (entry fee separately) - email tknapp47@hotmail.com if you want a single page to print.