



# Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

# The Centenary Celebration Concert

A Century of Song



ADMVC Centenary

1916 - 2016

Centenary Celebration Concert

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

With Guest Artists

Susan Robertson - Anna Corcoran

The Academy Children's Choir

Programme £1

Northumberland C of E Academy

The Choir was founded originally in October 1916 by Mr. W. H. Batey as Ashington Male Voice Choir.

He laid the foundations of successful choral singing of a high standard winning many contests and earning a fine reputation for the Choir.

After surviving the 1926 General Strike and the Second World War, the Choir amalgamated in 1956 with the depleted Morpeth and Newbiggin Male Voice Choirs to form Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.

The Choir has entertained audiences across the region and overseas and performs a varied selection of songs. It is appropriate that several numbers are about coal mining as Ashington was once famous as 'the largest coal mining village in the world'.

Surviving the Covid pandemic, which impacted on many community choirs, this traditional male voice choir from Ashington continues to flourish and attract new members.

This information sheet reviews 'The Centenary Celebration Concert', which was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

## A Concert fitting for A Centenary Anniversary

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was proud to assemble the ensemble of artists for their 'Centenary Celebration Concert' at Northumberland C of E Academy.

### Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

During 2016, the Choir had 28 members – 9 baritones, 7 basses, 6 first tenors and 6 second tenors.

Jonathan Shaw was the musical director and conductor and Derek Brett was the accompanist.

### Susan Robertson

Susan Robertson, who was an accomplished solo soprano, was brought up in Newbiggin by the Sea.

Living in Teesside, she was Manager of the Tees Valley Music Service but still found time for her solo work, conducting choirs, leading workshops and composing songs.

### Anna Corcoran

Anna Corcoran, who was a singer songwriter and pianist, had just released her debut album.

She had been choir director and singing teacher at the Academy.

### Academy Choir

The Choir gave their own performance and then supported in the Tribute to the 1916 Woodhorn Disaster.

### A Tribute to the 1916 Woodhorn Mine Disaster

Neil Morton, who had been associated with ADMVC for many years, directed this tribute.

All songs were produced by Derek Hobbs and Mike Kirkup:

Song of the Coal and from 'Fell 'Em Doon':

Yard Seam, Bothal High  
The Woodhorn Disaster  
The Colliers' Requiem

ADMVC 1

25.07.2024



Susan Robertson and Anna Corcoran

### A Rich and Varied Programme

#### ADMVC

76 Trombones  
If I Ruled the World  
Gwahoddiad  
Calm is the Sea

#### Susan Robertson

O Mio Babbino Caro  
My Hero  
If I Loved You

#### ADMVC

The Lord is My Shepherd  
The Keel Row  
The Water of Tyne  
Bobby Shafto  
You Raise Me Up

#### ADMVC

With Cat Like Tread  
Do You Hear the People Sing  
Bring Him Home

#### Anna Corcoran

And the Winter Came  
On a Hillside

#### Academy Choir

If You're Out There  
He Lives in You

#### A Tribute to the 1916 Woodhorn Mine Disaster

#### ADMVC

The Long Day Closes  
When I'm 64

#### Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

Web: <https://www.ashingtonmalevoicechoir.org.uk>

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

## A Lasting Tribute to A Local Legend

### Mike Kirkup will be remembered!

The Choir President, George Wade, paid tribute to Mike Kirkup, a former President of the Choir, in the concert programme.

Mike, who was not just famous for his publication, 'Creeful of Coals', will probably be best remembered for his work with local musician Derek Hobbs. They produced the oratorio, 'Fell 'Em Doon', which was performed at the Ashington Festival in 1994.

Pieces from the musical have become 'Coalfield Anthems' and 'The Colliers' Requiem' is recognised nationally.

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was honoured to be asked to sing at Mike Kirkup's funeral. It was fitting that Mike left the church to 'The Colliers' Requiem' with Derek Hobbs as the Choir's accompanist.

*'Let's close the door on what has gone before'*

*'Don't look back, move further up the track'*

*'One by one the mines have come and gone'*

*'One by one, now there's none'*

*'We sing a Requiem for Coal and Collier Men'*



Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

### Ashington & District Male Voice Choir Information Sheets

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir is producing a range of information sheets on various topics, including on the heritage of the Choir. They will be published within the Choir website.