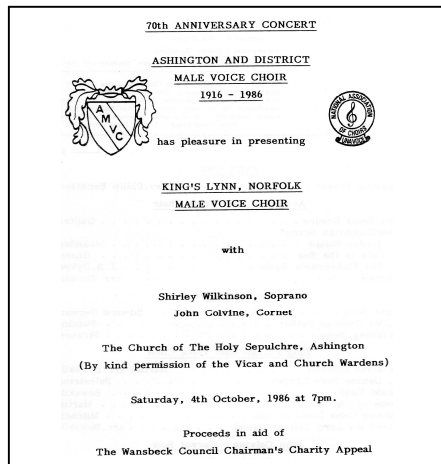




Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

The Kings Lynn MVC Partnership



70th Anniversary Concert in 1986

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 Kings Lynn MVC Partnership'.

Traditional Music through Strong Partnerships

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir has been proud to associate with many professional entertainers during their long history of making music. Many solo artists have supported at their Annual Celebrity or Christmas Concerts.

They also performed a number of joint concerts with other Ladies, Mixed and Male Voice Choirs. Locally, these included Lemington Male Voice Choir, The Richardson Singers and Warkworth Village Choir. The Choir forged an international partnership with The Dahlerbruck Choir in Northwest Germany.

Nationally, the Choir performed a series of concerts with the King's Lynn Male Voice Choir from East Anglia.

King's Lynn Male Voice Choir

King's Lynn Male Voice Choir was apparently formed by the choristers of St. Nicholas' and St. Margaret's Church, now known as Lynn Minster.

When the Wisbech Male Voice Choir was disbanding, a local Saddlebow farmer came up with the idea of forming a male voice choir in Lynn.

The new choir went on to perform in 1969 in front of the Queen and Queen Mother at the Women's Institute in Sandringham.

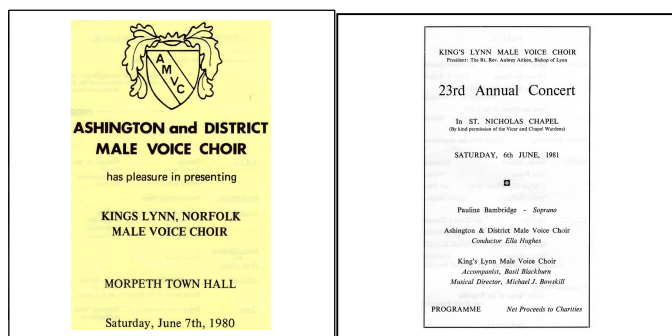
Sadly, after six successful decades entertaining audiences, King's Lynn Male Voice Choir unfortunately, like so many other male voice choirs, fell into decline because of falling numbers.

The last appearance of the original choir appeared to be at Lynn Town Hall on the 23rd May 2018.

The Partnership with Ashington & District MVC

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir performed a series of joint concerts with Kings Lynn Male Voice Choir in East Anglia and the Northeast of England during the 1980's.

A successful series of male voice concerts.



Joint Concerts in 1980 and 1981

Male Voice Singing at its Best!

This section reviews the Joint Concerts between Ashington & District and King's Lynn Male Voice Choirs.

Ella Hughes was the Conductor with Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.

Michael J Bowskill was the Musical Director with King's Lynn Male Voice Choir.

Saturday, 07.06.1980 - Morpeth Town Hall
Visit by King's Lynn Male Voice Choir.
Guest artist was David Burleigh, Northumbrian Pipes, Slaughter, keyboard and Tom Jones, guitar.

Saturday, 06.06.1981 – St. Nicholas Chapel, Lynn
Visit by Ashington & District Male Voice Choir for '23rd Annual Concert'. Guest artist was Pauline Bainbridge, soprano.

Saturday, 1st May 1985 – London Road Methodist Church
Visit by Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.
Guest artist was Shirley Wilkinson, soprano.

Saturday, 04.10.1986 – Holy Sepulchre Church, Ashington
Visit by King's Lynn Male Voice Choir for 70th Anniversary Concert.
Guest artists were Shirley Wilkinson, soprano and John Colvine, cornet.

Saturday, 14.05.1988 – London Road Methodist Church
Visit by Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.
Guest artist was Shirley Wilkinson, soprano.

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

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

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

Powerful Joint Male Voice Performances

Saturday, 07.06.1980 – Morpeth Town Hall

'Speed Your Journey' and 'Gwahoddiad'.

Saturday, 06.06.1981 – St. Nicholas Chapel, Lynn

'Battle Hymn of the Republic' and 'Morte Criste'.

Saturday, 01.05.1985 – London Road Methodist Church

'Walk In The Light' and 'Deus Salutis' conducted by Ella Hughes.

'Lily of the Valley' and 'A Roman War Song' conducted by Michael J Bowskill.

Saturday, 04.10.1986 – Holy Sepulchre Church, Ashington

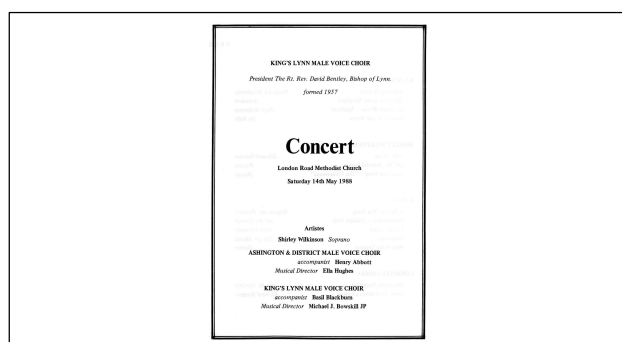
'The Finnish Forest' and 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'.

'Sunrise, Sunset' and 'Gwahoddiad'

Saturday, 14.05.1988 – London Road Methodist Church

'Shepherd, Shepherd' and 'Some Enchanted Evening'.

'Battle Hymn of the Republic' and 'Gwahoddiad'.



Joint Concert in 1988

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.