



## Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

# Newbiggin Support Project for 2024-2025



### Supporting The Mayor's Charity Evening

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 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Support Project for 2024-2025'.

## Strong and Appreciated Support from the Town Council

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir has been developing its links with the key stakeholders in Southeast Northumberland as the Choir looks to maintain the proud tradition of male voice singing.

### Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Town Council

The Choir has been re-establishing its links with the Town Council to consider areas of mutual benefit for the people of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was delighted when they were awarded a grant of £300 from the Council.

The grant will support the Choir during 2024 -2025 to:

- Help to raise the profile of the Choir in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea
- Enhance community engagement in the town
- Help the Choir in its recruitment drive for new members

### Raising the Profile of Ashington & District MVC

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was committed during 2024 to raise the profile of the Choir in local communities and with stakeholders to try and attract new members to the Choir.

New digital platforms have been created. The grant from Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Town Council has assisted the Choir to raise its profile and further engage with the local community.



Charity Musical Evening on 14.02.2025

ADMVC 19

09.04.2025



**Remembrance Day Service on 10.11.2024**

## The Remembrance Day Service

Members of Ashington & District Male Voice District Choir were delighted to support the Remembrance Day Commemorations in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The Choir supported another three events across this special weekend.

## The Charity Musical Evening

Ashington & District Male Voice District Choir was delighted to support The Mayor's 'Charity Musical Evening' at Newbiggin Community Hub on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

With it being St. Valentine's Day, love was certainly in the air and the Choir responded with a great selection of associated love songs.

The Choir helped to raise £700 each for the local charities supported on the evening – 'Brighter Storey for All' and 'Newbiggin RNLI'.

## Remembering Local Heroes

This was a Charity Dedication Concert to Alan Thompson, R.I.P., and the crews past and present of the Newbiggin-by-the-Sea RNLI Lifeboat at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Susan Robertson, local soprano, was the guest of Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.

The Choir raised £500 for RNLI Newbiggin and St. Bartholomew's Church respectively. The RNLI raised an additional £273 through a raffle.



**Remembering Local Heroes on 20.10.2024**

## Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

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

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

# Supporting Strong Anglo-German Partnership

## The Remscheid Partnership

The partnership with the City of Remscheid evolved from initial youth exchanges dating back to 1950. This led to a partnership agreement being signed in 1978 between the former Wansbeck District Council and the City of Remscheid to seal the many exchanges which had taken place.

A strong bond of friendship and close relationships have continued.

## Celebrating over 70 Years of Town Twinning

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was proud to give two performances at a Public Exhibition in The Maritime Centre at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The event was held to celebrate the strong bond between Ashington and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Town Councils and the City of Remscheid, which was probably most evident during the Miners' Strike.

Key delegates from Remscheid were in attendance.

'The Colliers' Requiem,' by Derek Hobbs and Mike Kirkup, was a most appropriate inclusion in the programme.



**Concert at The Maritime Centre on 25.10.2024**

## 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.