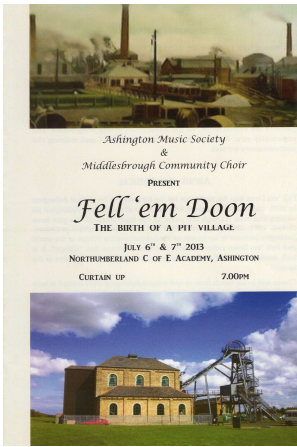




Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

The 'Fell 'Em Doon' Concerts



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 'Fell 'Em Doon' Concerts, which were held at Northumberland C of E Academy, Ashington on 6th and 7th July 2013.

The Birth of A Pit Village

Ashington Music Society and Middlesbrough Community Choir were delighted to present the two special concerts at Northumberland Church of England Academy on the 6th and 7th July 2013.

A great ensemble of local artists were gathered to produce memorable programmes of music.

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

During 2013, the Choir had 35 members – 11 baritones, 12 basses, 6 first tenors and 6 second tenors.

Neil Morton, who was the musical director, was director and conductor for the concerts.

Susan Robertson

Susan Robertson, who was an accomplished solo soprano, was brought up in Newbiggin by the Sea and was Manager of the Tees Valley Music Service.

Richard Grady

Richard Grady, who was a baritone soloist, was a singer with Ravenswood Singers and had won local singing awards.

The Children's Choir

The children's choir included:

Northumberland C of E Academy Primary Choir

The Other Choirs

The other adult choirs assembled included:

Marden Bridge Community Choir

The Hastings Singers (Blyth)

The Newbiggin Singers

The Wansbeck Singers

Wansbeck Male Voice Choir

The Massed Brass Bands

The massed brass bands included:

Ashington Colliery Band

Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band

Northumbrian Water Ellington Colliery Band



Massed Brass Bands at Woodhorn Museum

An Inspiring Programme of Music

A Musical Selection for All

Introduction	Band
Song of the Coal	Band & ADMVC
I Could Have Danced	Susan Robertson
The Rose	ADMVC
All I Ask of You	Susan & Richard
Wor Geordie's Lost	Children
Electricity	Children
Morning Has Broken	ADMVC
Stars	Richard Grady
Gresford	Band

Fell 'Em Doon

Children of Today
 Local Studies, Level No. 2
 Fell 'Em Doon
 Long Row, Cross Row
 Billy's Working Down the Mine
 Yard Seam! Bothal High!
 I've Left My Signature
 Paint Us A Picture
 The Woodhorn Disaster
 Bonnie Laddie
 Drawing on Dreams
 The Colliers' Requiem

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

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

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

A Lasting Legacy through Music

'Fell 'Em Doon' – The Birth of a Pit Village

'Fell 'Em Doon' was the nickname for the first mine to be sunk at Ashington in 1849.

The musical work, by Derek Hobbs and Mike Kirkup, tells the story of the birth of Ashington pit village and runs through the years to the time when all pits closed. 1994 was the same year as 'Fell 'Em Doon' had its world premiere at the Ashington Festival in October.

Ashington became to be known as the biggest mining village in the world and 'Fell 'Em Doon' reflects how life revolved around this 'village'. It is moving and emotional and this legacy is probably best remembered through the opening words from 'The Colliers' Requiem':

'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'

Thank you, Derek Hobbs and Mike Kirkup, for this lasting legacy!



The Colliers' Memorial at Woodhorn Museum

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.