



Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

West Bedlington Support Project for 2024-2025



**Supporting the Remembrance Day Service
on 10.11.2024**

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 West Bedlington 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.

West Bedlington Town Council

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

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 West Bedlington Town Council has assisted the Choir to raise its profile and further engage with the local community.



Community enjoys Annual Christmas Concert on 14.12.2024

ADMVC 20

10.04.2025



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 West Bedlington on Sunday, 10th November 2024.

The Choir supported another three events across this special weekend.

The Annual Christmas Concert

Ashington & District Male Voice District Choir has traditionally held its 'Annual Christmas Concert' at St. Cuthbert's Church in Bedlington.

The 2024 Concert was held on Saturday, 14th December 2024. This is always a popular event, and tickets were 'sold-out' in advance. It was also attended by dignitaries from several of the local authorities.

The Choir's guest artist was 'The Flat Cap Cellist'. He provided two great recitals – one of J.S. Bach music and the other of popular Christmas arrangements, supported by the Choir's musical director, Neil Morton on keyboard.

The Choir performed a varied programme of popular and traditional Christmas music, with a good blend of audience participation.

An enthusiastic audience enjoyed a bumper raffle.

The Choir had hoped to have held another community concert.



**Annual Christmas Concert on
14.12.2024**

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

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

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

Supporting the 'Update' to the local community

West Bedlington Town Council's Newsletter

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was delighted to contribute to the Spring 2025 edition of 'Update':

"Male Voice Choir

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir performing at St Cuthbert's Church, Bedlington. Despite its name, Ashington & District Male Voice Choir has performed many times in Bedlington over the years, including at our Remembrance 2024 service, and at their sell-out Christmas concert at St Cuthbert's Church in December.

The funding provided by West Bedlington Town Council will be used to increase community engagement in the area and attract new members.

Not only can being part of a choir be a rewarding pastime, but singing has also been proven to have positive health benefits, too. Visit ashingtonmalevoicechoir.org.uk to find out more."

The photograph below, which shows the Choir at St. Cuthbert's Church in Bedlington on 14.12.2024, was featured in the Council's newsletter.



**Christmas Concert at St. Cuthbert's
Church on 14.12.2024**

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.