



Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

1926 – A Year to Support Regional Heritage



**The Miners' Memorial Service at
Woodhorn Museum on
08.06.2024**

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 '1926 – A Year to Support Regional Heritage'.

Strong Appreciation of the Heritage of the Region

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir has a great appreciation of the heritage of Southeast Northumberland and Tyneside.

The Choir already includes many numbers in its existing repertoire about coal mining, as well as Northumbrian and Tyneside folk songs.

In 2026, to celebrate its 110-Year Anniversary, the Choir will launch a new suite of heritage music about 'Ashington'. The five new songs are being created and arranged by musical director, Neil Morton.

Ashington has a Worldwide Reputation

At the height of the UK Coal Mining Industry, Ashington was considered to be the 'world's largest coal-mining village'.

It is also famous for 'The Pitmen Painters' and Woodhorn Museum.

Many famous sporting personalities, including the Charlton Brothers, are associated with the town.

Recognising the Heritage of Ashington

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir is proud to recognise the heritage of their hometown through their music.

The new heritage music will be launched on 21st March 2026 with a key concert at St. John's Church in North Seaton, Ashington. This will be followed by a series of regional concerts.



**Heritage Celebrations planned for Cramlington and
Jesmond in 2026**

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