



Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

The Ashington Support Project for 2024-2025



Presentation by Civic Head

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 Ashington 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.

Ashington Town Council

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

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir was delighted when they were awarded a grant of £2,000 from the Council. Councillor Caroline Ball, Civic Head, presented the cheque at one of the Choir's summer training sessions.

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

- Enhance its programme of community events within Ashington
- Purchase new promotional material
- Develop members' musical learning skills
- Purchase new music to enhance the 2025 repertoire

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 Ashington Town Council has assisted the Choir to purchase new A5 promotional flyers, business cards and display banners.



ADMVC 18

07.11.2024



08.06.2024 and 20.09.2024

Enhanced Community Events Programme!

The grant from Ashington Town Council has enabled Ashington & District Male Voice Choir to deliver additional events focussed at engaging with a wider spectrum of the local community:

Saturday, 08.06.2024 – The Memorial Service at Woodhorn Museum

The Choir returned to the Service at the Northumberland Miners' Picnic. 'The Colliers' Requiem' was very well received as it was the 40th Anniversary of the Miners' Strike.

Sunday, 07.07.2024 – Ashington Community Fair

Members of the Choir were pleased to attend in a 'meet and greet' capacity.

Saturday, 03.08.2024 – Hirst Welfare Summer Fair

Members of the Choir also attended in a 'meet and greet' capacity.

Friday, 20.09.2024 – Asda in Ashington

Two performances to support Wansbeck Valley Foodbank.

Sunday, 10.11.2024 – Remembrance Day

Volunteers support congregational singing.

Thursday, 28.11.2024 – Christmas Lights Switch-On at YMCA

Performance in advance of the formal switch-on ceremony.

The Choir was also delighted to supported 'Celebrating Over 70 Years of Town Twinning' at The Maritime Centre in Newbiggin-by-the-Sea on Friday, 25.10.2024.

Ashington & District Male Voice Choir

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

Also on Facebook and YouTube.

Enriching Our Musical Performances

Developing Learning Skills

During August 2024, the Choir ran three training sessions to give members a better understanding of musical structure and terminology.

Additional rehearsals are planned for a volunteer group of members to develop their skills and allow them to perform with backing tracks during 2025.

Enriching the 2025 Repertoire

New music scores have been purchased to enrich the Choir's repertoire during 2025:

And So It Goes – A popular song written and recorded by Billy Joel. Arranged by Kirby Shaw for male voices.

Carrickfergus – Irish Folk Song arranged for male voices by Gwyn Arch.

Let It Be Me – Popular song made famous by The Everly Brothers. Arranged by Haydn James and David Last for male voices.

The Wellerman – New Zealand Folk Song arranged by Michael Ware for male voices.

We Are the Champions – A popular song, which was written by Freddie Mercury, made famous by Queen. Arranged by Alan Simmons for male voices.



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.