



Ashington Vocal Summer 2026 Edition

Welcome to the eighth edition of Ashington Vocal, the newsletter of Ashington & District Male Voice Choir.

The newsletter, which will normally be produced quarterly, is aimed at keeping the community, patrons and stakeholders better informed about what is going on or will be happening in the Choir. You will automatically receive future editions unless you opt out.

Each newsletter will also be posted in a sub-section under 'News' on the Choir website, <https://www.ashingtonmalevoicechoir.org.uk>

Charitable Status the MC and in particular Neil Rule is still working on the application towards achieving Charitable Status hopefully to be completed soon.

County Hall Concert a charity event the choir supported, with the proceeds going to Young Lives V Cancer our host Cllr John Beynon was very complimentary and straightaway invited the choir to perform again in 2027.

Ashington Town Council Support the Town Council annual small grant award of £360 for 2026 will help the choir to maintain its links and outreach program and the award will finance events at the Woodhorn Museum in 2026. The members of ADMVC are incredibly grateful for this support and recognition.

Miners Memorial the choir well represented on a very windy day 13th June and sang two songs to commemorate the Woodhorn Disaster of 110years ago an important part of the town's history.

Many compliments were received; the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland took the opportunity to thank the choir and join the ranks for a photograph. BBC and ITV cameras were present and they managed to film a short segment for the news with Andrew representing the choir which was later broadcast (fame at last).

Woodhorn Museum 110yrs since the Woodhorn Disaster members of the choir performed on 13th August the Anniversary of that tragic event which was well supported in spite of the very warm weather both performances had a near capacity audience, we were joined by Caroline Ball the Civic Head of Ashington Town Council who sponsored the event and our MP Ian Lavery came along to the afternoon performance. Liz Ritson Museum events organiser was on hand and delighted with the response. Plans are already in place to make this an annual event for the choir to celebrate its heritage and promote our town. Special thanks to Declan and Johnathan Scott who ably guided us through the program.

Recruitment the choir is listing a recruitment event on Eventbrite George Stoker has been instrumental in promoting this action and already there are a couple of enquiries.

Any other ideas? The Management Committee is looking at various recruitment opportunities but if you have an idea, please let us know.

Christmas music Gary has just issued this at the last rehearsal it might seem a long way off but it soon creeps round, our Christmas schedule is full now with four events in total a return Visit to St Marys Morpeth and our Christmas concert at St Cuthberts Bedlington plus two outings to the Foxcover and the Portland hotel.

Summer Break activities as the last two years have shown members of the choir appreciated continuing the social aspect of the choir during what would have been a long summer break, Declan stepped up and provided the musical accompaniment with an element of conducting and Guest conductor voice coach Austin Gunn took the choir to another level, we hope members enjoyed this years activities and let the MC know what you think.

Joint Concert ADMVC and Wansbeck Voices two choirs for which Neil is Musical Director both with quite distinctive styles are joining together to help raise funds in a charity concert on 3rd October at Trinity Church Ashington. Tickets are £10 and on sale now.

Chairman as you are aware George has returned to the ranks following his recent operation it was great to see him back although he continued working during his laid-up period ably supported by Andrew, the Co-Chairmanship seemed to work well and ensured continuation of the choir management.

Koast Radio following a lead from ATC, Sue Lewis who has been supporting the choir with publicity and social media has successfully gained the opportunity of a spot on Koast Radio to promote the benefits of singing on health and well-being, consequently two choir members are invite to be interviewed on Radio picking four songs with a chat between this is on 27th October 2026 between 10.00 and 12.00pm. This presents a wonderful opportunity to assist with recruitment.

What Next? 2027 the musical theme is Stage and Screen which will see some old favourite songs return and Neil has already updated his version of **The Rose** which has been introduced into rehearsal.

Concerts at The Yamaha School, County Hall, St Johns Church, Woodhorn and Beamish are already in the diary with other enquiries coming in none of these can happen without your support so Thank You!

Website Janice Hiles is very kindly giving up her time and expertise in supporting Ray our web administrator to update and refresh our website to make it more appealing, work is going on in the background, and it is hoped to migrate to the new version by the end of 2026.

Lastly, I am sure you will join with me in welcoming new member Ian who came along to rehearsal and is committed to return after his holiday.