



FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

NEWSHEET 20

Change of Accounting Year

The Executive Committee has taken the decision to change the organisation's accounting year beginning from 1st September to 1st January. Straddling the year by following the academic year rather than the calendar year has caused some confusion in the past and, by changing our year to end 31st December, we will be able to present a more timely financial report at the AGM.

The change, which will be introduced from January 2019, will impact all references to the Federation's year, including the subscription period. To facilitate this change our Honorary Treasurer proposes to issue invoices for the 2017/18 year in October, as has previously been the practise. Subscriptions for 2019 will become due from January 2019 and the Honorary Treasurer will send out invoices early in the new year of 2019.

Whilst on the subject of subscriptions, if yours are outstanding from previous years, do please remit them as soon as you are able to the Honorary Treasurer.

2018 Annual General Meeting

Next year's AGM is to be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 12th May. Please make sure the date is in your calendar now. We expect to be able to issue details in February and formal notices will be sent out in March.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the committee; it keeps the organisation fresh and there are roles to be fulfilled to ensure the active continuance of the Federation. Do let me know if you, or any of your colleagues in your association (they don't have to come from your committee) are interested in joining our team.

We are also looking for venues to host future AGMs after 2019. Details of how to host the event, if you've not done so before, may be found on the website in the documents section - <http://www.fcoca.org.uk/documents.html>. Do please let me know if you would consider hosting and AGM.

2018 Annual Festival

Following the very successful 2017 Festival held at Norwich, we are looking forward to the 2018 Festival being hosted by Peterborough Cathedral. Though the Peterborough Association was integral in the formation of the Federation and the first AGM was held there in 1910, it has been some time since Peterborough has hosted a Festival (1964). We are, therefore, very excited by the prospect of returning there next year.

The Festival will take place from Friday 14th September to Sunday 16th September. If not already there, put the dates in your calendar, now.

Plans are well advanced for the event with hotel rooms being provisionally booked alongside venues for dinners, guest speakers and the various entertainments expected at a Festival. It is hoped that the finalised plans will be published before the end of the year so that your interest in the event can be recorded. We understand that the organising committee are expecting to have an on-line booking process.

Future Festivals

Our 2019 Festival is planned to be held at Portsmouth but we have no confirmed bookings for hosting events from 2020 onwards. Please let me know if your Association would consider hosting a future Festival. If you've not previously hosted one, details of how to do so may also be found on the website at <http://www.fcoca.org.uk/documents.html>.

Website & Social Media

Please do go to our new website at <http://www.fcoca.org.uk/> and let us know what you think. We think it's easier to navigate and a bit more up-to-date. Please also let us know if you spot anything which is wrong. As previously mentioned, we now have a Facebook presence – just look for FCOCA or Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations. We invite you to "Like" the page and post messages about your Association or anything else relevant to the Federation. We are currently setting up a LinkedIn profile which may be a useful way of people who have been choristers to make contact with others in their locality or area of business.

Once a Chorister eEdition

As discussed at the AGM and mentioned in the last Newsheet, we are intending to publish an on-line version of the annual magazine before the end of the year. Federation Chairman, Alastair Pollard, is collating all of the material, which may be sent to him at chairman@fcoca.org.uk. You will have received recently an email from Federation Development Officer, Arnold Wills, requesting content for the Federation eNewsletter. To avoid confusion, this is one in the same. The articles will be published under Once a Chorister.

The deadline for submitting your articles is 31st October – so get writing!

2018 Worcestershire Tour

We understand from Gordon Hughes and Brian Ferris that the proposed tour is to take place from Thursday 26th April to Tuesday 1st May. The hotel being used for the base has been provisionally booked and the transport and venues are also being booked. Full details will be made available by the organisers towards the end of the year but, if you wish to know more or express your interest in going, please contact Gordon Hughes at gordonhughes@btconnect.com

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