

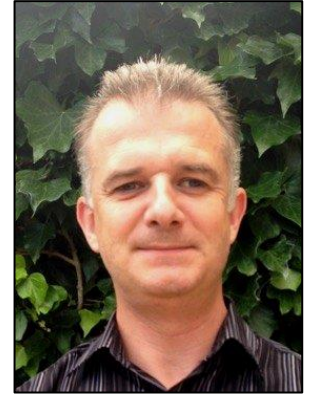
Issue 46 Q4 2018

Message from the Chairman

As time passes by at an alarming rate I reflect upon the continued development of our ECA and am grateful for the support I have received from the committee and members since I took over as Chairman at our AGM in June.

I continue to work closely with the committee to progress the ECA and am keen to embrace any new ideas you, as members, have - so please keep in touch and let me know your thoughts.

This year, after many hours spent in development by Tony Price (IT and Communications manager and current Lay Clerk), we will shortly be launching a new website design. A refresh was overdue and this version has a number of improvements, particularly when searching membership records.



Richard Lilley
Chairman

Following the great work Malcolm Bury commenced with the Cathedral Choirs archive I have agreed with Andrew Lucas (Master of the Music) that the ECA will take responsibility for managing and updating the archive. This is an exciting project, particularly for those with an interest in the history of the choirs, but also for those interested in ensuring new records, photographs, music lists, recordings etc are included. I shall be inviting members to form a working party in due course and hope the archive will be displayed at future events for all to see (see more details below).

As our ECA is about renewing or developing friendships, and not always centred around the Cathedral or music, I have asked Nick Coleman and Paolo Baroni to arrange an event with a purely social purpose in the near future, following on from the success of last year when several members met at a pub in London. Watch this space for an invite when I hope to meet as many of you as possible once again.

An Honorary Secretary... at last!

Following our AGM, **Simon Trott** volunteered to be our Honorary Secretary and was duly co-opted at our committee meeting in October. We hope he will stand for election at the AGM on 8th June.

Federation of Cathedral Old Choristers' Associations

The latest FCOCA e-magazine is available for download here - [Once a Chorister \[PDF\]](#) - which details events held during 2018. This year their AGM is being held on 11th May at Lichfield Cathedral and the annual festival will be at Portsmouth Cathedral during the weekend of 21st to 23rd June. Details and a booking form can be found here: [FCOCA Festival booking form](#)

As our ECA is an affiliated member of the FCOCA, any member (including family) are entitled to attend events at your own cost.

Archive Working Group

The ECA committee is planning to form a working group to take responsibility for managing the large collection of materials relating to the cathedral choirs over preceding generations. As reported in Alban Notes #44, the archive has found a home in the "switch room" high up over the North Transept in the Abbey.

It comprises:

- photograph albums,
- service sheets,
- CDs and a Choral Catalogue,
- ECA records and various other research papers.

It is envisaged that work will focus on cataloguing and indexing this material in such a way that it may become accessible to ECA members in the future, as well as enabling new material to be incorporated as this becomes available from future choir activities.

If you are interested in helping with this initiative, please contact ECA Hon Secretary Simon Trott (secretary@stalbanseca.org).

2018 Yearbook

The latest Yearbook was published - with professionally bound hard copies - last June and was distributed to those attending our AGM. A PDF version is available to download from the ECA website here: [ECA Yearbook 2018](#)

It would be most helpful if you could review your entry and advise of any amendments for the next edition due in 2020. If you would like to add a short description of your current musical endeavours for a large panel entry (see the entries for Caspar Singh or Jessica Price) - perhaps with a link to a website of your own - this can be added to the database and be made visible on both the ECA website and the bi-annual yearbook.

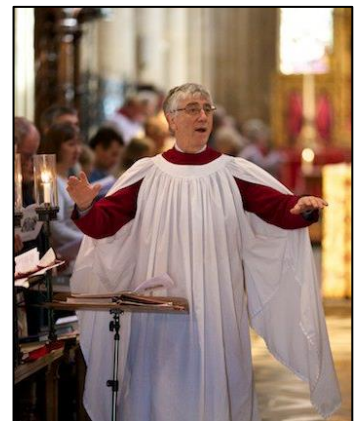
Member News

Stephen Darlington MBE

I was delighted to contact Dr Stephen Darlington on behalf of the ECA in the early part of January to congratulate him on being made an MBE in the New Years Honours list 2019.

Stephen stepped down from the office of Organist at Christ Church Cathedral in July last year after 33 years in post. He made an extraordinary contribution to music and worship at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and at St. Albans Cathedral for over three decades, and is greatly respected for his work around the world.

In reply, Stephen said: "I'm chuffed of course, and it's nice to get a gong for doing a job I have loved so much all these years!"



Dr Stephen Darlington



Ross Thayne

It is with sadness that we have received news that one of the first Woollam Scholars, Ross Thayne died on 10th February. He was a chorister from 1946 to 1949. Details of his funeral have yet to be confirmed but we will inform members when known.

Abbey Singers Evensong



Abbey Singers with the Cathedral Lay Clerks

On Saturday 22nd December 2018, the Abbey Singers joined the Cathedral Lay Clerks for the service of Choral Evensong which is now becoming an established tradition. The Abbey Singers were conducted by the Organ Scholar, Marko Server, with Tom Winpenny playing the organ.

Music included:

Introit: "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" - Praetorius

Canticles: Stanford in G

Anthem: "Creator of the stars of night" (arr. Scott)

Choir News

The end of 2018 was relatively quiet for the Cathedral choirs although there was a significant development for the two services of the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols in December. For the first time, senior girls from the Abbey Girls' Choir joined forces with the Cathedral boys and lay clerks at both services.

The chosen repertoire was not straightforward either with "Welcome, Yule!" by Parry, Robert Walker's "Adam Lay Ybounden" and topped off by "Illuminare, Jerusalem" by Judith Weir among the more familiar pieces. One notable first - the treble solo for the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City" at the beginning of the second service was sung by senior girl chorister, Rosanna Fenn.

However, regardless of the musical complexity or the relative novelty of the combined choirs, the quality of the performance was exceptional. All voices combined smoothly for a gloriously full sound. No one could deny that this was a good development, both musically and for the inclusion of the girl choristers in the two biggest services of the year.

Cycling for Choristers - Sponsored Bike Ride

You'll all be aware of the sponsored bike ride on **Saturday 18th May 2019** to raise money for the Cathedral Music Trust and the Diamond Fund for Choristers. Please do consider supporting this event either by sponsorship or dusting off your bike from yesteryear and joining other members in the 30 mile ride.

Please note, to register an interest or for any questions, please contact Shirley Anderson at the Music Trust (email - music-trust@stalbanscathedral.org) by **28th February 2019**.

For more details, please see the article on the ECA website here: [Sponsored Bike Ride](#)



EMAIL REMINDER

from Tony Price, IT & Communications Manager

I am aware that some emails have not been received by some members recently. Please would you add the ECA email addresses (below) to your contacts to avoid emails going astray or ending up in your spam folder.

The ECA email addresses are:

- For general correspondence: info@stalbanseca.org
- Chairman: richard.lilley@stalbanseca.org
- Hon Secretary: secretary@stalbanseca.org
- IT Manager: itmanager@stalbanseca.org

Thank you!

Important Dates

Saturday 18th May 2019

Sponsored Bike Ride - St Albans Cathedral to Westminster Abbey
For details, see above.

Saturday 8th June 2019

ECA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held in the Deanery prior to Evensong. Details to follow.

Please continue to follow us on social media and support ECA events.

Email



Facebook



Twitter

