

### A message from Catherine & Annie

#### Welcome to the new season of Cantata Choirs' activities

We're well into our Christmas programmes now, which all seems a bit surreal seeing as we're enjoying a sweltering Indian Summer at the time of writing! In this issue, you can read about the successful MACC WAKS Afternoon Tea concert & also hear from a couple of our Cantata Choir members, Chris Forbes & Terry Robson; both of whom are worthy of heartiest congratulations for achieving personal goals.

We have also launched a new choir, but more of that in the next issue...

And a final note—check out our new website:

**[www.cantatamusic.org](http://www.cantatamusic.org)**



## An afternoon tea concert...



Sunday 31st July saw the final concert of the *Cantata Choirs* summer events.



We have taken on board the feedback from the concert, and even though it was a great success in that format, if we repeat it, which seems very likely, we'll just make a few amendments to the style of the afternoon.

Also, we made full use of the photographic skills of John Napier, who took these excellent shots of the two choirs (and many more!) Thanks, John for the time and effort you put into this.



**Cantata** *music*  
**MACC**  
Macclesfield Afternoon Community Choir

**Cantata** *music*  
**WAKS**  
Wednesday Afternoon Knutsford Singers

## Terry's Big Adventure

### LE JOG

It was a strange feeling on Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>, for a change I ate a full Scottish breakfast at the John o' Groats hotel, because today I wasn't climbing on my bike to pedal 75 miles as I had for the previous 14 days.

On Saturday I had reached the Holy Grail. I had achieved long-held ambition to cycle the End to End route, Land's End to John o' Groats, all 1,000 miles of it. The proof was in my possession - a signed certificate and the mandatory Tee shirt, presented at our celebratory party which went on till 2.00am.

What a fabulous holiday, the group 20 strong had assembled at Land's End at 9.00am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, myself the oldest by 20 years, it wasn't long before they started calling me Grandad. We cycled the coastal scenery on Cornwall, saw the ponies on Dartmoor, under the iconic Clifton suspension bridge, over the Severn bridge into Wales. Up the borders and posed for photos by the Charles Darwin monument in Shrewsbury, through Cheshire, Lancashire and passing Wordsworth's Dove Cottage in Grasmere.

Then on to Scotland, Gretna Green and the infamous Gorbells of Glasgow, the length on the Bonny, Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond, over the rugged Rannoch Moor to beautiful Glencoe. Then cycled the length of the Caledonian Canal. No sign of the monster in Loch Ness and on eventually to our final destination. The shortest route is only 870 miles but our route was actually 1,000 miles to take in the best scenery of Britain.

The feeling of euphoria far eclipsed the satisfaction of completing the London Marathon. We felt intoxicated with the realisation of our achievement aided of course by the celebratory champagne.

Even now a week on and receiving the congratulations of friends and well wishers the pleasure is even more heightened. Then arriving back home find my garage door decorated with an 8 by 6 feet banner highlighting the route and well done Terry emblazoned on it. This carefully prepared by my girlfriend MAPS alto singer Millie and her daughter. The life of being associated with a nutter like me has many disadvantages.

About 5,000 people a year do cycle Le Jog so it's by no means unique, but it's no easy gimme, there's lots of training hours beforehand and many hard hills to climb on the way. But on the other



hand this target is not impossible given good fitness and plenty of determination.

I will be 70 next year so I need to sort out a new target for my next decade. Perhaps Poynton to Vienna as I suspect the Tour de France could be a bit tough.

**Terry Robson, MAPS**

Editor's note: Pam Wilson's (also MAPS) husband, Barry completed the Le Jog challenge a month after Terry, having overcome cancer last year. Congratulations all round.



## Climbing over Rocky Mountain

You may think that this is going to be an article about hill-climbing, but you'd be wrong. This piece is from **Chris Forbes** of MAPSingers and MACC and is all about getting through a vocally rocky time and coming out smiling. Read on....

On Sunday 26th June, I went to Media City, Salford, to sing in the chorus of girls in The Pirates of Penzance. This was a 'Come and Sing' initiative set up by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra (who played for us) with the BBS Singers taking the solo roles.

The chorus of pirates, policemen and Major-General Stanley's daughters was at least 200-strong. The men loved their macho roles! We 'girls' went very girly, even encouraged to shriek and scream by our very able conductor Richard Davies. He is principal flautist with the BBC Phil, but has taken up conducting as well. He made us work extremely hard and kept up a cracking pace. There's no messing about when you sing with professional musicians. It was a wonderful experience, one that I shall always remember. The performance at the end of the day was an hour of total concentration that went by in a flash.

The reason I am telling you this is that 18 months ago, a throat problem had left me song-less and for a time, speechless. Eventually, and with wonderful therapy from Wythenshaw Hospital, I am able to sing whenever I get the chance.

A great opportunity came along with Macclesfield Afternoon Community Choir (MACC) and I was one of the founder members (then with a very wobbly voice!) Thanks to Annie and Catherine's encouragement and leadership, I have also joined Poynton's MAPSingers and am thoroughly enjoying myself.

So keep singing!

**Chris Forbes, MACC & MAPSingers**

**DIARY DATES:** \*exact times to be confirmed

### Christmas concerts:

**Fri 2nd Dec:** CounterPoynt 7.30pm at Poynton Community Centre, Park Lane

**Wed 7th Dec:** WAKS Lyrical 3pm\* at St Cross Church, Mobberley Road, Knutsford

**Thurs 8th Dec:** MACC 3pm\* at St Paul's Parish Centre, Glegg Street, Macclesfield

**Sat 10th Dec:** MAPSingers 3pm at Poynton Methodist Church, with special guests: Heaton Dawn Chorus

**Sun 11th & Sat 17th Dec:** Mixed Cantata Choir singing after lunch at Tatton Hall Home Farm living nativity. Approx 1pm—3pm.



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