

GREETINGS - to all Affiliates, Members and Friends, from your Scottish Committee!

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Well, I don't suppose that issuing a newsletter is a very special event, but this one is maybe just a wee bit different! Here, at RSCM Scotland, we've been busy enough but never seem, properly, to get down to this communication thing. That's because we (the Committee members, that is) come together several times a year from all parts of Scotland, fight our way through a fearsome agenda of business and then depart for home leaving a loosely structured action plan in the hands of the busy few! Spreading the word about what we are doing isn't always on that action plan!

A sparkling new initiative, by Committee member Marion Paton (a church of Scotland minister), resulted in an opportunity to promote RSCM to 800, or so, souls at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland from 23 -27 May. There's more below, but an important and unexpected outcome was that those of us manning the stall found quieter spells in which we could talk, plan, communicate and look ahead. This is one outcome!! Enjoy!

RECENT EVENTS

The RSCM Scotland Committee met in mid-March, in Dundee, under the chairmanship of Rev Marion Paton. Marion has since stepped down from this leadership role on health grounds and Pat Lynch has taken over as Chair, for the present time.

As indicated above, we have been promoting church music, especially for small churches with limited resources, at the General Assembly. Our stall was well-sited in a busy, spacious passage – indeed the entire Assembly must have walked past us several times every day. Many ministers and other delegates stopped to talk and our literature flew off the table. Our Head Office staff, in Salisbury, were super-efficient and arranged for two emergency supply deliveries. The stall was staffed by Marion, Pat, David Sutherland and



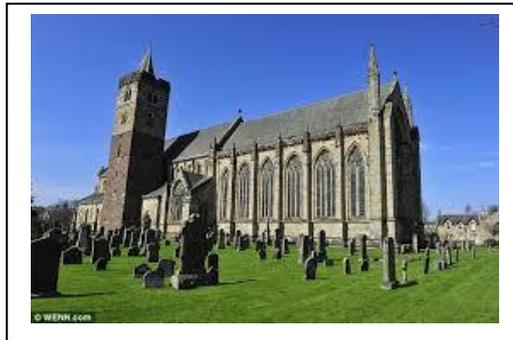
Nicola Lawrence, our Secretary. With a bright new eight-foot-high banner, great literature and our keen, knowledgeable staff, RSCM got a great deal of attention. As you would imagine, there were many tales told; some were encouraging and some were depressing. We'll be there again next year and have learned a great deal on our first outing. The picture gives an idea of the 900+ pigeonhole system at the Assembly!

The Meet, Eat and Sing in Carnoustie Church (29th May) will have been held by the time you read this but clashed with our publication deadline. There will be a report in a further newsletter.

FUTURE EVENTS

The most important, upcoming event is RSCM Scotland's SUMMER SCHOOL. If you have already signed up for this annual event, please be patient whilst we promote it to others.

The 19th Annual Summer School will be held in Dunblane from Monday 11th to Thursday 14th July, based in the Cathedral and the Cathedral Halls, under the directorship of Matthew Beetschen. A galaxy of stars has been assembled to coach singing, accompany worship, lecture, mentor, tutor and cajole! Worship plays a big part, with a daily, sung evening service and a choral Communion. There will also be two plenary sessions during the School;



each one will be led by an experienced teacher and will focus on an exciting aspect of church music. It's not a secret but if you want to know more about this and about our workshops and about the music lists for the worship you will need to consider either signing up for the Summer School (you will then receive all the details) or delving into the web.

Also coming up is a new WORKSHOP for clergy and other worship leader (Strengthen for Service; Dunblane September 2016) and there will be a Dunblane SINGING DAY in November. Other activity relates to Scottish Voices and Young Scottish Voices and these are listed below.

Finally, it's never too early to tell you about the next TRIENNIAL Celebration which will be in 2018. Provisional planning sees it being held in Dundee, in the Roman Catholic Cathedral there.

RSCM SCOTTISH VOICES

Gary Young, the Choir Administrator reports, "Since singing in our first service together in January 2009 there have been many highlights in the world of RSCM Scottish Voices - directed by Frikki Walker and accompanied by Richard Walmsley - including having fellow choristers from the other RSCM Voices choirs join us to celebrate our fifth anniversary in a rousing service in Paisley Abbey in 2014, and receiving a lovely letter from Her Majesty the Queen (who this year celebrates 60 years as Royal Patron of the RSCM) when we sang in Braemar in 2015.



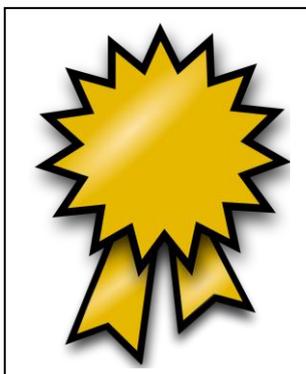
Recently, those highlights have been added to - twice in quick succession! We made our first foray as a choir across the border to sing Choral Evensong in Carlisle Cathedral in February; in April those of us who were available travelled all the way to Peterborough Cathedral to join forces with our colleagues from RSCM Northern Cathedral Singers, Voices South, and Voices West. This event was to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the founding, by Martin How, of RSCM Cathedral Singers (which evolved into the RSCM Voices choirs, including us). A highlight within that highlight was being directed by Martin How, himself, in the Introit he had specially written for the Peterborough service. He's eighty five years old, has a wicked sense of humour and is as sharp as a tack! Martin, of course, has links to Scotland. His father was Primus of the

Scottish Episcopal Church and he spent much of his childhood in Glasgow after the family moved there just before the Second World War.

We are halfway through our 2016 season; we've sung in Carlisle, Glasgow, Peterborough and Dunblane and we're looking forward to what's to come for the rest of the year and beyond. The second half of the year will include singing at the wedding of choir members Jon and Kat (who met in the choir), our annual residential rehearsal weekend at the Scottish Police College in August (a time for learning and socialising almost in equal measures), Bothwell Parish Church on 10th September, St Cuthbert's Parish Church in Edinburgh on 8th October, and Culross Abbey on 12th November, where we continue the collaboration with RSCM Young Scottish Voices. The dates and venues for 2017 will be organised soon and announced on our website (www.rscm-scottish-voices.org.uk) on Twitter ([@RSCMScotVoices](https://twitter.com/RSCMScotVoices)) and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RSCMScottishVoices), as well as on the RSCM Scotland website.

Occasionally we have vacancies for singers, so if you'd like to be considered for an audition to join us please contact administrator@rscm-scottish-voices.org.uk giving brief details of who you are and where you sing, and an application form and information pack can be sent out.

RSCM AWARDS



We are very pleased to report here of Awards made in the Voice for Life programme so far, this year.

Silver Award: **Eleanor Wilson** and **Kirstie Wilson** of Dunblane Cathedral Choir and **Archie Inns** of St Aloysius College, Glasgow; all three passed with Distinction.

Bronze Award: **Catriona Morgan** of St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen; passed with Merit.

Congratulations to all of you from all at RSCM Scotland and best wishes, I'm sure, from all readers of this newsletter who will be so impressed

Kirsten Mann Awards Administrator for RSCM Scotland writes, "We are making some changes to how we organise exams for awards in Scotland. At the moment choir masters and trainers register candidates when they are ready to sit awards and we arrange a date with them. Now, twice a year, we are going to organise a training day followed about two weeks later with an exam day. Candidates can come for training if they want to and will sit their award on the exam day. Candidates will still have to be registered before any exam takes place. These days will probably take place in Spring and Autumn in the central belt, although if there is demand elsewhere we can organise other training and exam days. This does not mean that we cannot arrange an exam when special circumstances require it, but we hope to organise the majority of awards in this way in the future. Dates will be published on the website and in CMQ".

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Those of us working at the General Assembly became aware (again – because we really knew this) that there are many different learning and training experiences available through RSCM. These really do come in all sizes, in terms of length of time/commitment. We were handing out some really excellent brochures including this one (illustrated) and a more detailed paper on the Church Music Skills programme. Please explore the websites www.rscm-scotland.org.uk and www.rscm.com for more detail. Just for the record, I'm a very happy beneficiary of an extended RSCM distance-learning course – so learning isn't something vague and woolly! I did it! So can you!



A new evangelising, all- singing, all-dancing (what else would you expect?) recruitment programme is underway because we feel that we've been hiding our (fantastically beautiful) lights under the proverbial bushel. You can play your part. Tell your choir or church or institution about the wonderful work and enormous skills and resources of the RSCM. Tell your friends. There is a specific leaflet which neatly summarises both the RSCM's work and the membership categories. Want one? – Just ask! It explains that Churches and choirs can join (**Affiliates**), individual can join (**Members**), and a smaller donation makes one a **Friend**! Now, how friendly is that?

One of the benefits of membership is local focus; RSCM is, of course, international and ecumenical but I can tell you that we here, in Scotland, are having a bit of a push towards smaller Presbyterian churches with limited music resources. Why? Because that's what we're here for! If you know a church or group that needs some help, just ask! (We cannot, however, find you a brilliant organist! We are trying to train some up but it takes a while.) So here's my message to you

JOIN, TELL, PROMOTE, ASK! Interpret as you wish, but it's about being your RSCM!

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for

RSCM Scotland Committee.

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