

2016 January BEXHILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Since the last meeting we have had a very successful Christmas Concert accompnied by brass.
We had a big push to get choir members to sell tickets, including a graph to show ticket sales week on week and we did have a much bigger audience.
We are now rehearsing for our May concert ofd Poulenc's Gloria and Puccini's Messa di Gloria.

7 May 2016	Poulenc 'Cloria' & Puccini 'Messa di Gloria'	St Augustine's Church, Bexhill
8 Oct 2016	Haydn 'Creation'	"
10 Dec '16	Carols & Christmas Music for choir and audience Including Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols'	"
6 May 2017	Handel 'Messiah'	De LaWarr Pavilion, Bexhill

2016 January CONCENTUS

Concentus sang their two main concerts for Christmas in Seaford and Eastbourne and they were a huge success.
Besides this we also sang at 8 other venues around the Eastbourne/Seaford area during the Christmas season.
We are now preparing for our summer concert where we are performing Zimbe in the second half of the programme which will involve sivty children singing at the Seaford and Eastboune concerts.
Coping with age: All Concentus members are insured for accident liability until they reach the age of 75 years. Members are aware of this.
Travelling abroad: We have taken the choir to France and we were all insured and stayed in a hotel.
Two German visits: Most members who went to Germany stayed with host families. We did have 2 or 3 members that stayed in a hotel - all were insured.

2016 January DGH CHOIR

The Hospital Choir has completed a successful year with concerts held in the Hospital Chapel and with Age Concern. The concerts/services have been well attended and circulated round the Hospitals to the appreciation of the patients. But it is difficult to maintain a group of capable singers and providing the music becomes more and more expensive. It is seen as a charitable offering and thus no subscriptions have been charged throughout the 20 plus years it has been running.
If anyone feels led to take over the directorship, I would be relieved to hand it on to 'younger blood'
Very best wishes for 2016 to all.

2016 January DOWNLAND SINGERS

The run up to Christmas kept us busy with 6 occasions to perform.

The Gala at Trinity Church saw the choir join forces once again with Wealden Brass. This was a rousing afternoon of festive music and was very well attended - the church being full, in fact it was the best attended Gala over the past three years.

We had our usual carol singing venues at Willingdon Golf Club, Stone Cross, and Lime Cross Nurseries, together with a new venture - carol singing at Freedom Leisure, Hailsham. Our chosen charity was Macmillan Cancer Support and we raised £55 through bucket donations.

We are rehearsing Stainer's Crucifixion for performance on Maundy Thursday.

2016 January

EASTBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY

Since the last EADCA meeting ECS has been very busy. We gave a concert of English Anthem and Song at All Saints Church, Eastbourne on Sat 28th Nov. This included Handel Coronation Anthems and was well received by the audience, which considering the atrocious weather, was a reasonable size. The concert also featured the lovely All Saints organ played by David Force and the retiring collection of £240 for the organ fund was gratefully received by the church

Then, as with all choirs, it was carols.

Some 35 of us led the singing at one St Wilfrid's Light of Love Services for the bereaved, always a privilege and very moving. A small group from ECS sang carols in a care home in Polegate and a larger group sang carols in the Arndale Centre in aid of Children with Cancer Fund based in Polegate. Our biggest carol event was a carol concert which took place in St Wilfrid's Hospice on Sunday afternoon. This is the third year running we have given a concert at the hospice at Christmas. All proceeds go to the running of this wonderful organisation. We made our annual appearance at All Souls lunchtime carol service where we lead numerous congregational carols plus do a couple of solo spots. This has grown in popularity over the years and there were over 130 people in the congregation, which for a weekday is great. The church work hard to promote the service and serve refreshments. A few of us squeezed into the DGH radio studio and sang carols live for one of the shows - good fun! Our very last event was carol singing at Mowbray Hotel at lunch time on Christmas eve.

The beginning of this term was somewhat of a milestone for ECS as we moved to a new rehearsal venue. ECS has rehearsed at URC since its inception in 1993 but with the redevelopment of the church in the pipeline we took the opportunity to search for somewhere else to meet. We now rehearse at Gildredge House School in Compton Place Road in a lovely new airy room. They have made us very welcome there and we are settling in well. Plenty of affordable space, with a large car park.

Nancy Cooley, our excellent accompanist, has decided that she cannot now give the time to ECS. Living in Lewes she is developing a lot more work with children and has a busy life. We shall miss Nancy's superb playing. However, fortunately for us, Nick Houghton has moved to Eastbourne and has agreed to be our accompanist. Nick has worked with us before for concerts and workshops and is well known and liked by the members of ECS.

2016 January

EASTBOURNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHORUS

ESO choral concert, last year 2015 (Creation) went well and our 24April 2016 will be Gerontius (all details on www.eso.org.uk)

2016 January

HAILSHAM CHORAL

Activities since October 2015

7 November 2015 - Concert in All Saints' Church, Eastbourne - Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle. There is a review by Robin Gregory in the [Eastbourne Herald](#) and on the [HCS website](#)

17 December 2015 - 'Carols for the Young at Heart' in the Civic Community Hall, Hailsham

Smaller groups sang carols at the Hailsham Event and at Chapter 12 Wine Bar

Future Events

19 March 2016 - Concert in All Saints' Church, Eastbourne - Mozart Requiem in D minor, Haydn St Nicholas Mass

11 June 2016 - Concert in St Nicolas' Church Pevensey - Haydn St Nicholas Mass, 'The True Saint Nicolas', a new work by Ruth Kenward and Martin Neil in which we will be joined by children from Pevensey & Westham C of E Primary School. This is part of the church's 800th anniversary celebration.

3 July 2016 (3pm) - Summer concert in Civic Community Hall, Hailsham - Love songs through the ages

12 November 2016 - Concert in All Saints' Church, Eastbourne - Glories of European Church Music (mainly from the Oxford collection 'European Sacred Music' edited by John Rutter)

16 December 2016 - Christmas concert

25th March 2017 - Concert in All Saints' Church, Eastbourne - Handel Dixit Dominus, Vivaldi Gloria in D

14 April 2017 - Easter concert

2 July 2017 - Summer concert

11 November 2017 - Autumn concert

21 December 2017 - Christmas concert

2016 January

HEATHFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

Since the last meeting, the choir has completed three evenings of performances of Aida with South Downs Opera - professionally staged and directed. This was challenging for the choir, for the amount of music we had to sing, and the extra rehearsals we had to attend.

The outcome was amazing, but some of the singers were not so enthusiastic about doing a 'non choral society' programme. The next opera in three to four years time will be either Madam Butterfly or Turandot...both large scale! It may be that the opera chorus is opened up to other singers and a Heathfield/South Downs Opera Chorus formed.

As this left us much less time to prepare for a Christmas concert, we teamed up with Buxted Symphony Orchestra for a shared 'Gala' concert. They played Mozart 'Horn concerto' and Faure 'Masques et Bergamasque' in the first and we sang Vaughan Williams 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols' and other accompanied pieces in the second half.

It was an enjoyable evening and drew an audience who would not normally come to one of our own concerts.

There were two carol singing events for the local Abbey House Residential Home and the Community Carol Service at the Kings Church.

We are now rehearsing for our May concert: Karl Jenkins 'Armed Man' and Howard Goodall 'Every Purpose Under the Heaven' - a relatively new work which has high audience appeal and needs only a small orchestra. There will be a Singing Day in April to introduce the work to other singers and choirs.

Then there is a trip to New York and a performance in Carnegie Hall...

2016 January LAUGHTON VILLAGE CHOIR

LVC is a community choir, conducted by Laughton-based singing teacher Linda Glenn, and growing rapidly in number, confidence and ability. The choir is made up of singers from the surrounding villages, with representatives from Ripe, Laughton, Chalvington, Deanland, Ringmer, Upper Dicker, even Eastbourne. We sing a wide range of music, from Handel to Fats Waller via Glee, Barbershop, Gospel, Abba, Beatles and Manhattan Transfer.

Future Events

10 March 2016 - Concert in All Saints' Church, Laughton - Faure Requiem

3 July 2016 - Concert in All Saints' Church, Laughton

This is the finale of the Villages Music Festival 2016 - Handel, Zadok the Priest. Vivaldi, Gloria

2016 January PELHAM CHOIR

No major recent events.

We will be joining the Laughton Village Choir for a performance of Faure's Requiem at Laughton Church on 19th March.

Villages Music Festival planned for 25th June - 3rd July 2016, which will include an opera evening with singers from Glyndebourne, a pop-up orchestra, piano quintet playing English music, an opera workshop for children, a folk duo, the Askew sisters, and a performance of Verdi's Gloria, a Telemann Suite with trumpet and 2 oboes, Bach violin music and Zadok the Priest,

Choral workshop planned for 8th October at Ripe.

