



The Kentones

The Kentonian

THE BROMLEY BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB MAGAZINE



Acafellas

Pudsey presents...



Fearlessly daring to go on stage with children and animals, the Kentones and Headquarters (HQ) took part in this year's Children in Need Concert at St John's, Eden Park, on 18th November - more inside.

...and of course all your Christmas greetings on this year's fabulous pull-out Christmas card.



Children in Need Concert 2016

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the annual Children in Need Concert at St John's Church, Eden Park, on 18th November. It was great to have both the **Kentones** and **HQ** taking part.

This event has been taking place since 2010 and has grown into a very enjoyable evening of music from a variety of local performers. It is the main annual concert for the **Sing Out Loud** community choir which my wife Becky leads.

The evening raised a total of £2,710.60. Every penny of this goes to Children in Need.

One of the best things about this evening is being able to sing to a full and enthusiastic audience, and I had a lot of very positive feedback afterwards. It is also a great opportunity to put the Club out there and sing to non-barbershop audiences, and we do it very well. OK, there were a few slips and rough edges, but the overall impression was very strong for both the chorus and for **HQ**.

It seemed that events were conspiring against us when I saw that there had been two accidents in the worst possible place on the M25, but thanks to Ryan for preparing us and to Peter for arriving just in the nick of time. Thanks to everyone involved for being flexible with the schedule.

All in all, a great evening

Tim Sowter

Children in Need Concert - the performers

Friday 18th November saw us performing at St. John's Church Eden Park for the Children in Need Concert. This church brings back memories to Pam and me, as one of our daughters was christened there in 19??, when we lived close by. The Club has contributed to these Concerts for at least the last three years and they appear to be growing in support and popularity.

There was an interesting variety of performers, starting with **St David's College Children's Choir** ably conducted by Becky Sowter. I wasn't able to see them but Pam tells me they sang a programme of pop songs with great enthusiasm, particularly one lad in the front row. A future **Kentone** perhaps?

We followed, and I must say the reception we received both before our performance and afterwards was tremendous. This was despite a blip in our rendition of *Something Good*, which just goes to show you can't take your foot off the pedal for a single moment! Nevertheless, I thought it was a very creditable performance.

I only managed to see the latter part of the **Beckenham Concert Band**, whose main attraction seemed to be their leader, who was a bit of a comedian, but it's good to have live music to break up the mostly choral programme.

The second half started with our own quartet, **Headquarters**, who were, in my opinion, the stars of the evening. They seem to

organise most of the evening. She really deserved the post-concert accolades. Her choir certainly put their heart and soul into their singing. And, who did I spot standing in the middle, but none other than our own Tim Sowter, leading the bass section - I think. I expect he was on a three line whip! Anyway, I felt quite breathless at the end of their performance.

To sum up, a highly entertaining evening, which I understand raised a considerable amount for the Charity. Well done everyone!

Frank Taylor

Children in Need Concert - congratulations

Congratulations to Beckie Sowter for organising once again a most entertaining evening of music and singing for such a worthy cause. The faces of concentration and standard of singing from **St David's' College Children's Choir** was both lovely to watch and listen to.

The **Beckenham Concert Band** played a very varied programme. **SOC Choir** sang with great energy and enthusiasm, the **Kentones** gave their all and their quartet **Headquarters** delivered a very professional performance.

Brenda Newman



The Beckenham Concert Band

improve every time I hear them, and gave a quality performance. From the spontaneous applause, the audience appeared to agree with me, and that's a first.

The night's entertainment finished with the **SOL Community Choir**. Some 60 strong and conducted by the effervescent Becky Sowter again. My goodness, what a lady! Talk about energy. She conducted two choirs and apart from that seemed to



Friday 18th November 2016
7.30 pm

St. John's Church, 251 Eden Park Avenue,
Beckenham, BR3 3JN

featuring

- 'The Kentones Barbershop Chorus'
Winners of Top Choir in Kent 2016
- 'St David's College Children's Choir'
- 'Beckenham Concert Band'
- 'Headquarters Barbershop Quartet'
- 'SOL Community Choir'



Tickets on the door: £5
(£3 for concessions)
All proceeds go to Children in Need
Enquiries: solchoir@hotmail.com

Acafellas Singout at Gravesend, 29th October

Acafellas last sang at the Masonic Hall in Gravesend in November 2015. It was quite a memorable evening as one member got lost on the way and never made it, another thought he'd left his shoes there, only to find them months later at home, and David did an impromptu dance on some broken cheese biscuits! This time, I'm glad to say, all went according to plan.

The dining room was set out with round tables covered in crisp white linen table cloths each with an attractive centre piece like a tiny bird cage decorated with flowers. The dining chairs were likewise covered in white linen and adorned with mauve organza bows. The service and the quality of the food is always excellent, and we thoroughly enjoyed a four course dinner with wine, followed by coffee and mint chocolates.



Acafellas at the Masonic Hall in Gravesend

After such a delicious meal, it was quite an effort for some of the guys to struggle up from the table to go for a quick warm-up before taking the floor. They got off to a rousing start singing *Can't Buy Me Love*, followed by *All Of Me*, *Shenandoah*, *My Girl* and *Can you Feel the Love Tonight*; one of my favourites. Then it was audience participation time as Colin divided the assembled company into three sections.



Audience participation

He taught them *I Wanna Sing*, *I Wanna Dance*, *When The Saints Go Marching In* and *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* sung as a three part round. It went well and was well received; no doubt the wine helped. This was followed by us all being

Editorial

Welcome to the December edition of the *Kentonian*, covering September, October, November and early December.



Samuel Newlove-Agbonlahor, Assistant Editor

This quarter welcomed Samuel Newlove-Agbonlahor to the editorial team as Assistant Editor alongside David Tindall as Consultant Editor and myself. Sam's main role, initially, will be to help with planning the content and finding material to publish. This is a major task and I am very grateful to Sam for stepping forward and taking this on.

After all the excitement of the preceding year this period has been a time for getting our breath back before taking on the new year and all that it has to offer - including Top Choir Kent, various coaching events, Convention in May, another show and who knows what other plans the Music Team are hatching.

Nonetheless we have not been idle since the summer - there have been several singouts, including the Children in Need concert, a birthday bash and an AGM to negotiate. And of course there is still Christmas to come- please find enclosed the *Kentonian* Christmas Card. Many thanks to all those who contributed - all proceeds go to this year's charity, the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Colin Barnes, Editor

Happy Together, *In My Room*, *Something Good* and more audience participation with *Amarillo*. Such was the applause that an encore was requested, and the performance finished with *Mary Lou*. With several of **Acafellas'** partners winning raffle prizes, the evening was nearing its end. With a final round of applause, Colin was then presented with a generous cheque; an amount over and above the usual singout fee which will go towards PSP, the Chorus' chosen charity. Thanks to all the guys of **Acafellas**; once again you did us proud.

Avril Sydee

P.S. Just A Thought

Having enjoyed this event, likewise the excellent 40th anniversary dinner held at the Chelsfield Lakes Golf Club last year, could we have an annual Chorus dinner? It could be held sometime after the AGM and be an occasion to welcome those new to the Committee and the recipients of the various awards. It could also be a time to acknowledge and welcome those who had joined the Chorus during the previous twelve months. It would be good to have some entertainment (not Barbershop!) as well. (e.g. Jane Quinn, Ian's daughter does a great cabaret act). Would the Committee please give this some thought? I think we all consider the **Kentones** to be family, so it would be good to have a family dinner once a year. It would also give the ladies an excuse to buy a new outfit!

AS

Acafellas set the tone for a Christmas Reception

We Kentones often feel that “Christmas” starts with our annual visit to the Disabled Christian Fellowship at Sidcup. It’s around that time you begin to notice the early Christmas decorations going up in your neighbourhood and you start to feel pressure emanating from the myriad catalogues and flyers that arrive through your letter box! So when Acafellas were invited by the Travel Agents “Travel Solutions” in Hayes to sing at a Christmas Reception they were putting on for their regular clients and their business contacts, it all seemed to be part of the process, and we were geared up with carols and the Christmas spirit.



Just another reception at the office

It could have been one of those difficult singouts where we are basically background entertainment, no one listens to us and we fight against the general hubbub and noise. On this occasion it wasn’t like that. The welcome we were given was warm and genuine, to the extent of being invited to mingle with the other guests and share the buffet food and drinks.

At an appropriate point Colin took us through a gentle warm up at the back of the shop. Then it was time to make our collective presence known.



Colin Couves and Acafellas swing into action

A sustained and resounding pitch from Roy attracted everyone’s attention and led us into the first ringing chords of *Can’t Buy Me Love*. The talking stopped entirely. A hush fell over the company. Faces became intrigued and animated. “Wow!” “Just listen to that!” People started to jig and rock and sway - the beat got to them and they couldn’t stop themselves. Surely this is one of the main reasons why we enjoy performing. It gives us such a buzz. Getting that sort of reaction from the audience is so rewarding. The riveted attention continued as we moved from the Beatles to Elvis and sang *Love Me*. These songs are such good crowd pleasers and a real asset to our repertoire.

Of course, being a “Reception”, this degree of attention to our singing couldn’t continue; people were there for other purposes and as David generously acknowledged this in his brief words of introduction, he made it easy for the guests to continue their conversations and discussions. We were then singing against a background of mainly subdued chatter but it worked out OK and was nothing like as difficult as similar situations we have suffered elsewhere.

Then it was the turn of **Sound Alliance**. They did not have a captive audience to perform to so it was a difficult situation for quartet singing, but they refused to be put off, got into gear and did their stuff, and gave a great account of themselves. Well done boys! We are proud of you and the progress you have made.

We had a break and did some more mingling and chatting,



Job well done! - **Sound Alliance** - Denis Delaroute (bari), Jack Willoughby (lead), Alan Lucking (bass) and Roy Simpson (tenor)

oh yes, and some nibbling and sipping as well - the buffet spread really was irresistible. We then moved into our second set, finishing off, of course, with the ever popular and always attention attracting *Amarillo*. True to form, it worked its magic again and brought the whole company together for one last, combined “moment”.

I think the organisers were very pleased with what we had presented to them; we certainly contributed to a convivial atmosphere and a Christmas spirit. A job well done I say, and enjoyable into the bargain.



...and of course the nibbles

David Southgate

John Williams' Birthday Bash

Saturday 15th October, 50!...no can't be 50!

Yep, they say time and tide wait for no man and I'm no exception - so if you can't do anything about it you may as well enjoy it.

Hmm - so what to do, or should I say what a do!

Let me start by thanking the 65 or so souls who braved a terrible winter's night: you're also very naughty, as I received many gifts and bottles which I am most grateful for.

You may not know, but my birthday was actually the previous day and I had already been treated by my lovely lady Rae to tea at the Ritz, where the pianist



Tea at the Ritz

interrupted his tune to play *Happy Birthday* while everyone turned and clapped. Very special, and for once I was lost for words - for at least 3 minutes.

So to Saturday the 15th and party time. I had my fingers crossed as the Karaoke machine I've had for ten years hadn't been used in the last six, so I'd the back off it several times in the week before fixing cables and switches! Still (I thought to myself) if it blows up, I think we could manage a song or two. The problems continued though right up to an hour before the start, when I moved it without taking the HDMI cable out of the back and of course broke it. Oh dear, I said to myself.

A dash to Tesco's saved the day just minutes before we got going.

Thanks to Rae, Sister Deb and various members of the family, a spread of food was out and the hall decorated.

The youngest attending started the singing going (thanks to Clara, Gabrielle and Penny) but soon it encouraged others, probably in an effort to get me off the stage.



...and at St Paul's Hall on Saturday with younger guests Clara, Gabrielle and Penny warming up the Karaoke mic.

I was really pleased to see so many having a go at the Karaoke.

We broke for a while to bring out the Bingo which, with the help of my boy David, went down well and I was also pleased that a member of the **Kentones** won the top prize: well done Avril & Chris.

We just about had enough food and I don't think anyone went home hungry.

Many thanks too to Peter, Ryan and Mike (**Headquarters**) for having a song or two: in the end I had to pull the plug on some die-hard singers when 11.30pm rolled round!

So, many thanks again for making my 50th such a memorable night.

John Williams

Charity News

PSPA Christmas Party, 7th December 2016

On 7th December, several **Kentones** and wives attended the PSPA Christmas party.

The entertainment was provided by the **Sevenoaks Rock Choir** who sang popular songs starting with **Queen's Don't Stop Me Now**, followed by some **Beatles** numbers and Christmas songs.



Sevenoaks Rock Choir entertain guests

There were about 20 ladies in the group, part of a larger choir.

This was the PSPA's first local Christmas party, and some 20 or more guests attended. Sarah Marshall, their organiser, was very nervous but all went well and she had much support from members of the group.

Sandwiches and cakes were, of course, well received.

After some gentle persuasion, there were generous donations for raffle tickets which raised around £180.

The venue will be familiar to many of us, for in the past we held our pre-Convention preparation there.

As you know, we are supporting the PSPA (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association) this financial year as our chosen charity.

The first donation made recently was, we understand, sufficient to cover the cost of the day!

The **Kentones** would like to thank PSPA for inviting us to the party.



Ambassadors of goodwill

John Sollitt, Alan and Jean Chick



Merry Christmas!



Les and Carole would like
to wish you all a Merry
Christmas and a happy
and healthy New Year.
Keeeeeeeeep Singing

*Adrian and Liz
Emes send
Christmas
greetings and best
wishes for the new
year to all the
Kentones and our
Supporters*

*Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year
from Charley
and Rose
Gates*

What an amazing year we have had! I
am proud to be a Kentone and to be
part of the camaraderie and the
success we enjoy.
We send our sincere Christmas good
wishes to everyone involved, including
our wonderful Supporters. Have a
great time.
David & Norma Southgate.

Anyone who believes
that men are the equal
of women, has never
seen a man trying to
wrap a Christmas
present.
Wishing everyone a
merry Christmas and
happy New Year
Roy and Marion Simpson

John and Di Rayfield
wish all Chorus friends
and their families a very
merry Christmas and a
healthy and happy New
Year.

**Mr and Mrs Fish wish
one and all the
condiments of the
season and a Happy and
an Elfy Noo Yer.**

We wish you all you wish yourselves,
For Christmas and next year.
Good fortune, peace and happiness,
And all that you hold dear.
Enjoy whatever you imbibe.
Relax and have a ball.
And thus we'd like to wish
A MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all!
Peter Aylett and Pam Shoebridge

*Colin and Margaret
send best wishes at
Christmas time to all
the Kentones and
Supporters. And let's
hope that 2017 is a
good year for us all.*

**Wishing everyone a
very Happy Christmas
and New Year.
Annie & Steve Cooper**

*Sincere and fondest
greetings to all the
regular members on
the risers, but let us
remember those who,
for various reasons,
are unable to attend
and wish them, and
their partners, a
happy Xmas.
John Weeks*

**Chris and Margaret
wish you all a very
happy Christmas
and a peaceful New
year.**

**Gill and Carlo wish all
members and
Supporters of the
Kentones a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year.**

**A very merry Christmas and a
happy New Year to all the
Kentones and our wonderful
Supporters.
Joan and Don Bodker**

```
egg yolks = 12;  
lbs_sugar = 1;  
cups_rum = 2;  
cups_bourbon = 2;  
quarts_whipping_cream = 2;  
egg_whites = 12;  
nutmeg = "sprinkle";  
@egg_nog = [egg yolks,  
lbs_sugar, cups_rum,  
cups_bourbon,  
quarts_whipping_cream,  
egg_whites, nutmeg].join();
```

Merry Xmas, The (Junior)
Chick Family...



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and harmonious New Year - Tim 'n' Jude

Pat & Denis Delaroute wish everyone reading this illustrious magazine a very good Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes for a Happy, Holy and Harmonious Christmas to all members and Supporters of the Kentones and Acafellas.

Ann & John Vaughan

Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to all the Kentones and Wags from Dick and Veronica Taylor with love.

Greetings at Christmas -May you have friends at your fire, blessings in your home and joy in your heart. Avril and Chris Sydee

May your Christmas sparkle and shine! Love Stella and Geoff

We wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2017. Love - Brenda and Barrie

Merry Xmas to all !

Have a good 'un with all good

wishes for 2017.

Bob & Vicky Gilbert

Frank & Pam Taylor wish all Club members and their families, together with our Supporters, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

And best wishes to you all from Jacomijn and Frank



This is the moment

for Brian and Hazel to wish you all a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**. Good luck, good health, good on you.

Dear all, what an amazing year for the Kentones with so many great memories and more to come in 2017. We would like to wish one and all a peaceful, restful and enjoyable Christmas and new year.

Much love
John, Rae & David

Sharon and Colin P Browne would like to send Christmas greetings to everybody wishing them all a very Happy Xmas and prosperous New Year. See you in February 2017.

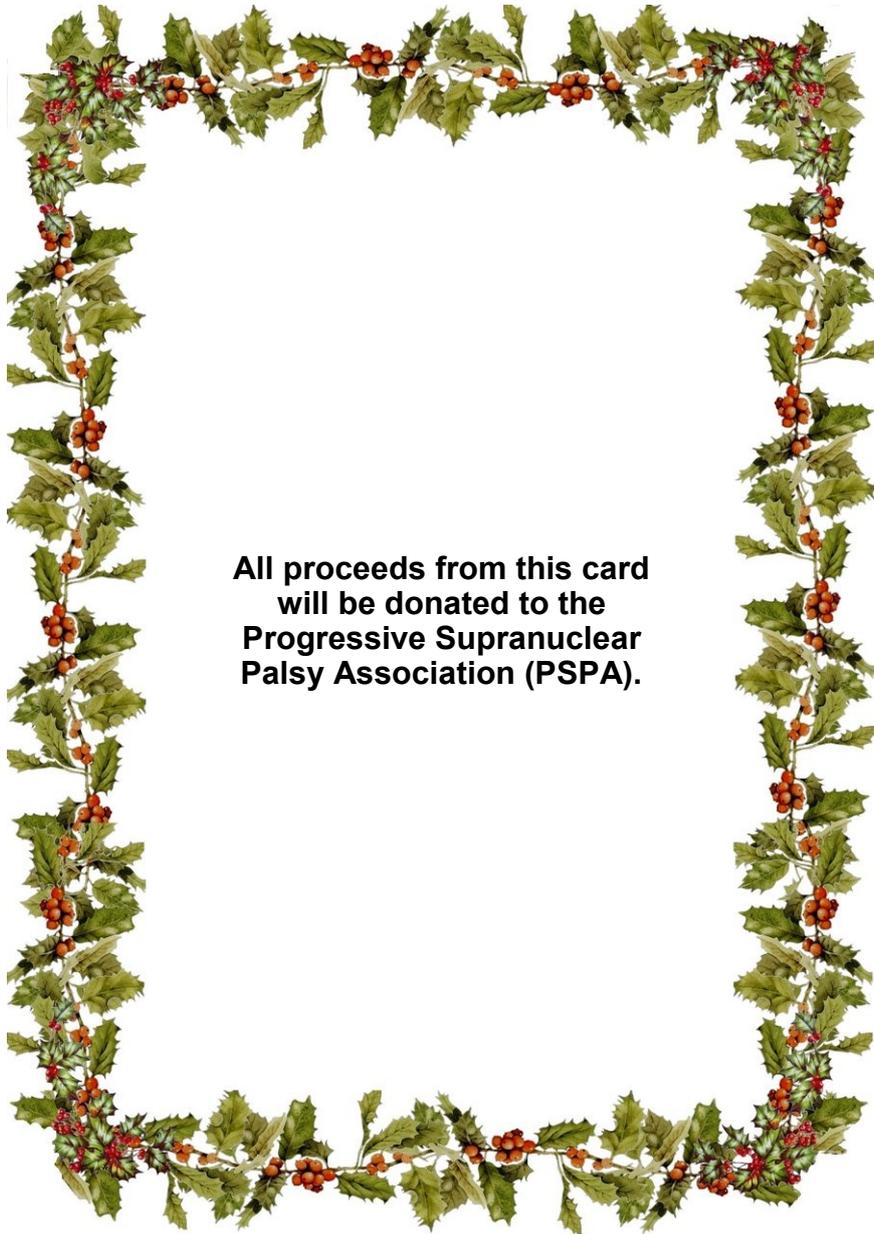
We wish all members of the Kentones and our Supporters a merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.
Jack & Pat Willoughby

Wishing all Club members both old and new, Supporters, Guests, and our Music Directors team, a peaceful Christmas and a great New Year.

John and Jenny Sollitt

Colin and Sue Couves wish all Kentones and Supporters a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

May all our readers enjoy health and happiness at Christmas and throughout the New Year.
David Tindall



**All proceeds from this card
will be donated to the
Progressive Supranuclear
Palsy Association (PSPA).**

Club News

Letter from Frank Jans November 2016

Dear All,

My work has, as you have undoubtedly understood, changed in a way that I am now working from home 100%. And I am glad to say that I have a lot of work, even though in not a good economic time and many companies struggle.

As you can envisage, this is however very disappointing for me from a personal point of view: the last visit to UK and my last time singing with you all was at the Leeds Castle Classical Concert. Which is not a bad gig to look back at as being the last time - for now - for me singing with the **Kentones**. After having been part of this fantastic chorus for seven years, I miss you all very, very much! So obviously I follow all that is going on with you and it was great to hear the comments and feedback around the show in September. And also I was very happy to receive an early Christmas gift from Bob: the new CD! Well done, and obviously I am sad I couldn't be part of this again.

So besides missing you all, I also miss the singing very much. And some time ago already I heard of a new Barbershop chorus in Tilburg (30 minutes from Den Bosch): **T-SiNG!** (www.t-sing.nl) which I thought would be interesting. They've got some great new (to me) songs in their repertoire like *Scarborough Fair*, *Smile*, *Daydream*, *Fat Bottomed Girls*, *Girls, Girls, Girls* and *How High the Moon*. All great, but for the fact that they rehearse on Thursdays as well. Surely I couldn't really join them when I was travelling, as I would always try to arrange my travel to be able to join the **Kentones** rehearsal.

So, now that my schedule had so drastically changed, I decided to visit them. And in order to join I had to do an audition (*How High the Moon* in quartet) which I did in early October. Although I do not know all the songs yet (there is not a single song in their repertoire that I had sung before) I joined the first singout last Sunday. So I also set up a rehearsal quartet from **T-SiNG!**, allowing me to pick up the new songs quickly, together with one new bass and two others who only joined last year, all by coincidence living in Den Bosch.

And in the meantime I also visited the Dutch Harmony College where I got to sing with **Crossroads** in quartet (WOW!!) and in



Harmony College, Leiden 2016 - in quartet with **Crossroads** chorus under the inspirational direction of Jim Henry (**Ambassadors of Harmony**).



Harmony College, Leiden 2016 - in chorus with Jim Henry
I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a great fantastic 2017 with more top singing and chords ringing!
Hope to be with you soon.

*Warm regards,
Frank*

Seasonal Thoughts

Singing at the Glades has always been our last official singout of the year and one of my favourites. Some years ago, whilst we were singing at the Glades, we were given the news that Frank Bostock was in a critical condition.

He passed away some hours later. Frank used to print out the carols and give them out to anyone who wanted them. He was a fine gentleman.

I remember Frank when the Glades singout is approaching and then I remember all the other friends who have passed away. I think the chorus should always try to celebrate their memory.

This year a few of our friends will not be singing with us at the Glades due to ill health, and my prayers and thoughts are with Dick, Geoff, Steve and Graeme. I hope they all get well soon.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, especially to my "Dad" Chris Garrard.

Samuel Newlove-Agbonlahor



Bromley Barbershop Harmony Club

- Minutes of the 2016 AGM held in St Pauls' Church Hall on Thursday 29th September at 8pm

Apologies for Absence: Brian Scothern, Alan Lynch

Present: 36 members

Minutes of the 2015 AGM, had been circulated. Agreed to be taken as read. (Vaughan/Showell)

There were no matters arising.

Officers' Reports (detailed reports held by Secretary)

The Chairman, John Sollitt, welcomed everyone. He referred to the major events of the past year – the 40th Anniversary dinner, death of John Mesure, Top Choir of Kent, and Leeds Castle Classical Music Festival. He thanked Chris Garrard for his work as Almoner; Colin Couves will take his place. He expressed appreciation for the work done by Peter Kennedy, and the great help from Ryan Jensen, and the hard work of the Clubs' officers. He gave preliminary indication that the September Show had made a profit of about £4000, including £1400 on the raffle, and expressed our thanks, in particular to Steve Cooper and also Simon Bird. He also thanked the many other members who gave regular help

Continued on page 14

Happy Together

- the Kentones at Sidcup Baptist Church, Saturday 12 November

The Kentones have been performing for the Disabled Christian Fellowship (DCF) at Sidcup Baptist Church for more years than most of us care to remember and, gratifyingly, the audience keeps coming back!!



An appreciative audience

This year we were fortunate to have Ryan shepherding us to the finishing post. When the charming and charismatic Mr Jensen fixes us with that Benny Goodman stare, known as "The Ray" in Benny's day, it is almost impossible not to smile, which is, of course, the idea.



Ryan with the Kentones

This is one of the most rewarding and joyous sing-outs that we do, but whilst trying to concentrate on following Ryan's direction, I became disconcertingly aware of an apparent scowl on the face of a lady in the front row. Unsure whether she hated our performance, or was trying to work out whether Tim Priddin was singing lead or bass, I later discovered that was her normal expression in repose, because when we reached *Under the Boardwalk*, she unleashed her tambourine and a huge smile appeared from ear to ear and stayed there throughout *Amarillo*, where she clapped along with great enthusiasm, sometimes even in the right places. At the conclusion of the show, she insisted on shaking hands with all of us, at least once, so that was lovely.

As Peter Aylett's birthday is in the week preceding the performance, it has become tradition for them to present Peter with a cake (does Peter eat cake?) and Peter returns the compliment by presenting them with an exquisite personally hand-crafted small cross. So, if there is ever a move towards



A gift made by Peter Aylett

mass crucifixion of tiny people, they will be well-equipped. As it was also Alan Lucking's birthday we all sang *Happy Birthday* to them both, but I don't know if Alan got any cake.



A previous presentation made by Peter Aylett on display in the church

Whilst table-hopping after the show in pursuit of sales of our new CD (I sold 14 by the way) I had a chat to a very elegant lady who confided, however unlikely it seemed, that she was aged 90. I found it hard to believe so I asked her what her secret was. She disclosed that a little wine, and an occasional vodka, kept her going, and on a recent cruise had discovered 'Sex on the Beach'*, so I made my excuses and moved to the next table.

That incident reminds me that a couple of days previously I had met up with Steve Cooper and Tim Priddin at in The Crosse Keys in Gracechurch Street, the excuse being that we'd had a pre-Big Show meeting at a delightful micro pub in Petts Wood, so we should have a post-Big Show meeting as well. Steve dubbed us the Three Musketeers, but since we don't quite look the part, Tim amended it to The Three Mustavbeers. In this impressive pub, which used to be the London head office of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, we noticed a group of ladies of mature years who were immaculately turned out in poppy red suits and red hats. So, not your usual hen party. Their striking appearance emboldened me to have a word and they explained that they belong to a club from Ruislip whose motto is 'Adventure Before Dementia'.

Now where was I? I forget ... oh yes, Sidcup! It was a hugely enjoyable occasion and they even insisted on an encore, *Happy Together*. I recommend it whole-heartedly



And is there honey still for tea?

to any Club member yet to take part. They are always so pleased to see us, and make us very welcome.

Brian Showell

* Just in case there is any misunderstanding this is a cocktail based on vodka, peach Schnapps, cranberry and orange juice - Ed.

The Kentones and the Good Folk of Sidcup

Once upon a time, many years ago, an itinerant chorus called the **Kentones** happened upon the good folk of the Disabled Christian Fellowship at Sidcup Baptist Church, and sang for them. The occasion cast such a spell upon the **Kentones** that they felt moved to return year after year, bringing with them, as time passed, new singers to experience the joy, warmth and love that the good folk provided so freely.

On their ...?th visit (help me out here, David - I wasn't paying attention!), the **Kentones** brought with them a new friend from a faraway land, where the people spoke almost the same language as the **Kentones**, but not quite. This Ryan Jensen was knowledgeable in the ways of barbershop, and so was charged with ensuring that the **Kentones** sang well for the good folk.

The performance began, and spritely David Tindall stepped forward to introduce each song with his customary knowledge and wit. (The good folk offered him a device to make his voice louder, but he declined, being wary of such sorcery.) Ryan conducted the **Kentones** in songs old and not quite so old, to the delight of the good folk, who responded with impromptu accompaniments on their percussion instruments. Ryan looked startled at first, but the uncomplicated joy of the good folk worked its magic and his smile just grew and grew.

With the performance almost over, the good folk asked for their favourite song - *Under the Boardwalk*. Ryan was unsure, so from the ranks stepped wise Frank Taylor, to conduct with a smile and a twinkle, throwing in an extra verse to ensure that the **Kentones**, their minds now on the tea and cake to follow, were still paying attention.

Amarillo brought the musical proceedings to a rousing close, but of course the good folk had provided card, candles and cake to mark Peter Aylett's birthday.

Once again, the magic of the occasion had cast its spell, the **Kentones** had had just as much fun as the good folk, and the bond between them remained as strong as ever.

Ryan might say: "Cool!" I'd say: "Enchanting!"

Judith Priddin

And in the beginning DCF Saturday, 12th November

Having been a member of the **Kentones** for twenty one years I have had the pleasure of attending most of the sing-outs for our friends at the Sidcup Baptist Church, where they host the Disabled Christian Fellowship.

This annual fixture in our Club calendar began some thirty years ago when a member of the church was also a member of the **Kentones**, and it was he who requested a visit to entertain the Fellowship.

Sadly, the instigator of these visits died as the result of a road traffic accident, which was a great loss to the church as well as the chorus. The **Kentones** continued visiting and entertaining the people of the Disabled Christian Fellowship and always look forward to this annual event and singing for people who have all manner of disabilities.

Fourteen years ago when my sixty-fifth birthday landed on the day we sang for the Fellowship, someone had let them know that it was my birthday. Having finished our performance, we were about to leave the stage when we were asked to stay put. I was both surprised and deeply touched when a group approached me, singing *Happy Birthday* and carrying a little fairy cake with one candle.

Apart from the pleasure I had, singing for these people, it was the nicest thing that happened to me that day.

I decided to repay the kindness by making something for the church. I invited Elle Cole and two of her colleagues to a Club night and presented them with a Celtic Cross. Since then, they have never forgotten my birthday, and always present me with a card and a cake, and I reciprocate with an appropriate handcrafted gift. Saturday 12th November was no exception. A wonderful afternoon, singing under the direction of Ryan Jensen, and I was presented with a delicious chocolate cake.

May God bless them all, for the love and dedication they show to those less fortunate people who are so much in need.

Peter Aylett

BBHC AGM continued

The Treasurer, Les Moore, presented his Receipts and Payments Account and cash funds at year end of £6455, followed by John Vaughan with the formal charity accounts which showed a loss for the year of £5631. Members asked for a review of Kentonian costs, and of the Convention Subsidy. No change was proposed in the Annual Subscription of £200.

The accounts were adopted (Moore/Vaughan).

The Secretary, John Vaughan, had minuted six meetings and organised Early Birds and tickets/ registrations for the 2017 Convention. He continued to look after the Archives.

The Membership Secretary, Terry Cooke, said that the singing membership was now 56, 62% over the age of 65. We had 5 new members during the year, bringing our total to 61.

The Performance Secretary, Alan Lucking, put out over 25 boards for Sing-outs this year, and urged members to sign up as soon as possible. Attendances at major events were good – 40+ members, but the average was 64%. Acafellas had an average 80% attendance, raising almost all the sing out profits this year. Tim Priddin held his 100% attendance record.

The Public Relations Officer, Brian Showell, had arranged a new sponsor, Malcolm Mills of Proper Music. He had negotiated our performance at Leeds Castle. Following the success of our first CD which resulted in an overall profit of over £3000, he had made arrangements for a second CD, *This is the Moment*, to be recorded in July, and 1000 copies would be available in October. He thanked Al Horton for his considerable help in design and printing arrangements for leaflets etc. Finally, he proposed the use of a professional agent to secure more sing-outs for the **Kentones**.

The Chorus Director, Peter Kennedy, referred to the PVI sessions for all members and our coaching sessions before Convention. There was a marked improvement in standards, reflected in the improved Convention results and winning the Top Choir Kent. He thanked the Music Team, in particular Tim Priddin and Ryan Jensen, for all their hard work, and John Sollitt and the Management Team for their support.

Our first Convention song will be *Where is Love?*

After a break for refreshments, the election of New Officers was held, as follows - Chairman, John Sollitt; Treasurer Les Moore; Secretary John Vaughan; Performance Secretary Alan Lucking; Membership Secretary Terry Cooke. After a vote, Brian Showell was re-elected PRO.

It is noted that that the position of Deputy Chairman is vacant

Charities: Two Charities had been proposed for the Club to support in 2016-7, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association, and the Hospice in the Weald, and after a vote PSPA was chosen. This charity has been supporting one of our members for some time.

Trophies: Trophy presentations followed.

- Barbershopper of the Year - Brian Showell;
- Most Improved Singer - Simon Bird;
- Stage Presence - Sam Newlove-Agbonlahor;
- The **Kentones** Cup for an outside body goes to the Langley Park Boys Barbershop Group;
- The Quartet Cup was not awarded this year as no Club Quartet had entered a competition.

Policies: The adoption of the BABS policies on Equality and Diversity, Child and Vulnerable Adults and Data Protection was endorsed by members.

Any Other Business: It was noted that the Committee was reviewing the Club Constitution.

The meeting closed at 10pm

John Vaughan

Feedback from your Music Team

Although it only meets two or three times a year, the team is continuously working on the implementation of our vision for the future development of the Club. You see the evidence of this every Thursday, but the mix of talent, experience (and opinion) within the team works throughout the year to bring our music plan to life.

Welcome on board, Simon! - We're delighted that Simon Bird has recently joined us to give further support to both our musical development and the practical implementation of our plan.

We last met on 16th November and thought it would be worth noting some of the key points from that meeting:

- Rather than last year's random approach to our 'Glades' set we agreed a set of Christmas songs to focus on and have ensured everyone has music and teach tracks for this set (and will set aside rehearsal time to learn them).
- The two songs for next year's Convention were confirmed as *Where is Love* and *Consider Yourself*.
- There was support from the team for our vision of how we develop this year's 'package' into a show-stopping performance to close BABS chorus contest 2017. John Williams will take the lead on defining our visual plan. More news over the coming weeks, but the vocal interpretation, mood, the way we look and the visual plan will all combine to tell the story from the desperate search for love through to the bond of belonging and the joy of friendship. Not a bad way to end!
- Over the coming months we will build the Convention set into a full 'Oliver' show set – adding 2 or 3 more songs including the re-introduction of 'Who Will Buy' (tbc but maybe a new arrangement).
- A critical thing for the coming year will be 'recruitment'. We will exploit any BABS funding that's available but with a clear focus on growing our membership in the 20 to 50 year age group. We will continue our links with Langley Park and other younger groups as potential 'feeds' into our target group. With Simon, Graeme, Finley and other recent visitors (potential recruits) we've got a great catalyst for this initiative. Through the BABS/LABBS 'Young People In Harmony' project, Simon has already established some good contacts we can use for promotional events – targeted at this group.

Some key dates for your diary and more on our Convention coaching plan:

- Last rehearsal 2016 will be on 22nd December
- First rehearsal 2017 will be on 5th January
- Weekend of the 4th/5th March 2017 – an individual voice coaching w/e (local, non-residential) with support from some top class performers.
- Weekend of the 1st/2nd April – the first of probably two (2nd date TBC) sessions working on the complete Convention package. This first session will be focussed on the visual plan (possibly including a dress rehearsal).
- Saturday 8th April – we've been invited again to participate in the Top Choir Kent in Canterbury – this won't be a competition (we of course will be returning as reigning champions) but another 'Gala Concert'. We have been asked to close the show with another grand finale/mass sing – I'll be directing everyone in *Do You Hear The People Sing* (our arrangement). Details on timing etc TBA but similar to previous years.
- 26th – 29th May – something going on in Bournemouth – you might want to be there! Also, make sure you have

registration for and set aside time to support HQ and Alan Lamprell's quartet **Nova** in the semi-finals and finals!

- Your main Committee is looking at ways to generate more sing-outs for the Club, and Bob Gilbert is organising a show to support The Royal British Legion towards the end of next year.
- A decision the Music Team took some while ago now was to maximise, as much as possible, the time available for singing on a Thursday, so please do keep an eye on emails and the on-line diary for all the above and other dates and don't rely on it all being repeated during 'notices'!

Peter Kennedy and the Music Team

Music Director's report

Well gentlemen,

As we come to the end of what was surely one of the busiest years in recent history, it is my duty to remind us all of the success we have enjoyed and to adorn the year that lies ahead of us. To make our goals and visions clear for the future, and possibly measure ourselves against the targets we set ourselves in January.

But as I sit to write this, and reflect on what I want to say, I have to put all the above-mentioned to one side. Why? Well, because sometimes, somehow, perhaps more important things need to be said; things that would otherwise not be said.

In the last few days, I have been reminded that whilst the music is important, it's the musicians, the people who form part of the **Kentones**, that are really important. So my report is dedicated to all of you; because each and every one of you creates this special chorus, and if anything happened to any one of you, I would be profoundly affected. I have been struck by the impact Cooperman's sudden illness has had, not only on me but everyone. Watching the likes of Chris Garrard deal with his journey, not to mention members such as David T, whose daughter has been so sadly struck by cancer, is humbling. To a man, I am aware that you all have a story to tell; and perhaps few more so than our newest recruit. His story, his bravery, strength and humour has captured our hearts, and whilst Graeme might proclaim that we are a blessing in his life, I think we are all aware of how much he enriches us whilst in our presence.

I know that there are people I haven't mentioned, and stories I know nothing or little about. But my point is that when we gather as a group, we are able, just for a few moments, to fill our minds and hearts with music, friendship and sometimes even a bit of fun. I knew from the moment I arrived, just over 2 years ago, that I was going to get close to you guys, but little did I know the depth that I would enjoy, and sometimes suffer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you are, and mean to me. My life has been enriched by knowing you and sharing some amazing highs and lows. On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to wish you, your families and friends, a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

*In harmony
Peter*

Chairman's Corner, December 2016

Is it that time of the year again already? With so much activity in the Club and our personal lives, the year has passed so quickly and we reach the festive season once again.

The Club held its 41st AGM at the end of September. All officers were re-elected to their Management team roles. Alan Lucking was formally elected as Performance Secretary, having been co-opted earlier in the year to relieve me of that role. So I am more than pleased to have the opportunity to continue as the very proud and privileged Chairman with a dedicated team working on your behalf. Similarly, we have our Music Team led by Peter Kennedy, ably assisted by Ryan Jensen, Tim Priddin the team Secretary, all part leaders and recently joining them, Simon Bird.

The past year has seen not only successes but also a new dynamic to the way we are approaching the learning process and a renewed enthusiasm throughout the chorus. It is so rewarding for everyone and can only raise our standard and belief in the future.

David Southgate has now relinquished his role as Deputy Chairman and I thank him yet again for his support and guidance. We are looking for someone to consider taking on that role, as the position is now vacant and an essential part of our management of the Club.

Chris Garrard, who has been the Club Almoner for several years, felt it time to step down from that role, so on your behalf, I must take this moment to thank him for all his dedication to the task. I am pleased to confirm that Colin Couves, a previous MD of the Club, has volunteered to accept the role – thank you. Please let Colin know of any issue that needs his / our support.

Bill Holyday has now made the decision to leave the Club after many years with us. Bill made a valuable contribution to the Club, both in terms of support and also his financial generosity. I have written to him thanking him on behalf of the Club.

It is refreshing to see the ongoing development of Quartets over the past few years. You may recall that after a Harmony College weekend in 2011, **Cantorum** was formed with Ian Brown, Frank Jans, John Williams, and Peter Wigington. Subsequently, Tim Sowter joined when Ian left. John joined another quartet, **EQ**, and achieved a commendable 10th place in competition!

Also involved in 2 other quartet groups are Alan Lamprell, who returned to our Club this year, and also Tim Sowter. Another developing quartet is **Sound Alliance**. The members are Denis Delaroute, Jack Willoughby, Alan Lucking and Roy Simpson. We now have 3 of our members in the **HQ** quartet, Peter Kennedy, Ryan Jensen and John Williams plus a former Club member, Michael Potts. They recently entered the preliminary competition in Manchester for the first time, to achieve third place and so qualify for the semi-finals in May in Bournemouth – great job!

We have our traditional Christmas singout at the Glades centre in Bromley on Sunday 18th December in support of our new chosen charity, the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association (PSPA) from Noon – 2pm. Please come along and support this. As you are aware, Chris Garrard is a member of the group. The **Kentones** have already made our first donation to them.

We are always looking to recruit new members: please give it a try; what have you got to lose?

So as 2017 approaches, what does it hold for us? Several options are being reviewed and there will be new songs for the **Kentones** and **Acafellas** of course.

Convention in Bournemouth - we are already "up for it". Hotels and B & B's booked, two new songs in progress. I won't name them just yet but we are considering a new twist!

In closing, I wish all members and Supporters a Happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

John Sollitt

The Kentones

Honorary Life President – Frank Taylor

Club Nights - Thursdays 7.30 pm at St. Paul's Church Hall, Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 8JE

Main Committee: Chairman - John Sollitt Deputy Chairman - vacant Secretary - John Vaughan Treasurer - Les Moore Membership Sec. - Terry Cooke Public Relations Officer - Brian Showell Performance Sec. - Alan Lucking Co-opted Member - vacant Almoner - Colin Couves	Music Committee: Music Director - Peter Kennedy Asst. Music Director - Ryan Jensen Music Team Secretary - Tim Priddin Co-opted Member - John Rayfield Part Leaders Lead - Jack Willoughby Asst. Lead - vacant Bass - John Williams Tenor - Tim Sowter Baritone - Ryan Jensen
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The Kentonian Magazine:- published QUARTERLY

Editor: Colin Barnes

Consultant / Sub Editor: David Tindall

Assistant Editor Sam Newlove-Agbonlahor

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 PLEASE SUBMIT ALL MATERIAL TO THE EDITOR AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Function	Venue
Sun 18 Dec 16	11.15 am	Christmas Charity Singout	intu, Bromley, BR1 1DN
Sat 4th - Sun 5th March 17	TBA	Voice coaching weekend	TBA
Sat 19th March 17	TBA	Top Choir Kent Gala	Shirley Hall, King's School, Canterbury
Sat 1st -Sun 2nd April 17	TBA	Convention Coaching 1/2	TBA
Sun 7th May 17	TBA	Fine Tuning - Convention	TBA
Fri 26 - Mon 29 May 17	n/a	BABS 43rd Convention	Bournemouth Int. Centre, BH2 5BH

Acafellas

Chorus Director – Colin Couves

Meetings:- alternate Tuesdays, 10.00am to 12.00 noon at Chelsfield Methodist Church, BR6 6HD

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Function	Venue
Fri 16 Dec 16	3.00 p.m.	WILMIRA Retirement Group	Memorial Hall, High Road, Wilmington, DA2 7BU
Sat 14 Jan 17	2.45 p.m.	Chislehurst Rotary Club Party	Chislehurst Village Hall, Church Lane, BR7 5PE

INTERESTED IN **MEMBERSHIP** OF THE **KENTONES** OR SUPPORTERS?

NEED ENTERTAINMENT FOR AN EVENT OR FUNCTION?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.thekentones.org