

NEW Orchestral Network Meeting for NW Monday 8th September
Manchester City Centre

For the first time representatives from Making Music orchestras across the North West will get together for an informal networking session and meeting to discuss ways in which they can share ideas, experiences and explore ways of working together. Hopefully this will be the first of a series of useful and enjoyable meetings. Please **contact [Sally Smith](#) for further info** or if you wish to come along.

6-7pm Networking Join us for complimentary food and drinks, and a chance to have a chat and meet colleagues from other orchestras. Drop in at any time.

7-8pm Meeting Tea and coffee provided.

Development Grants 2008/9

We are pleased to announce the following societies have made successful applications under the above scheme in the North West:

Abbey Singers
Carlisle Festival
Harps North West
Holmes Chapel Music Society
King Edward Music Society
North Cumbria Choral Society
Nova Cantica Chamber Choir
Phoenix Strings
Preston Barbershop
Pro Nobis
Rochdale Music Society
Sedbergh Pepperpot Club
WACIDOM
Warrington Youth Orchestra

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Making Music Newsletter
August 2008 Issue 46

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ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

Graham Crompton - Chairman 1999 - 2008

An appreciation

Graham was already Chairman when Cumbria and its alien system of finance was transferred from Northern Region to the North West. This was one of the many major difficult and time-consuming changes that Graham had to guide through in the last few years. Others might be seen as increasing centralism and professionalisation of the NFMS/Making Music, the appointment of remunerated RDOs, re-organisation of Arts Council funding, budget inflexibility under, so we are told, Charity Commission guide lines and a plethora of politically correct legislation that he had to guide into the consciousness of sometimes reluctant committee members and local societies; all that together with the annual routine activities of the region and, as a volunteer, still managing a considerable private workload.



Graham handing over chairmanship to Anne Shepherd at the A.R.M., 7 June 2008, Parbold

This booklet can be made available in larger format and is available to view online on the Making Music website at

www.nwweb.plus.com/nwweb/index.htm

Graham would be the first to acknowledge the help received from other officers and committee members but he provided the calm, measured and effective working atmosphere that allowed all of the above to be dealt with and generally accommodated with only the occasional casualty. His man-management style and control of the disparate personnel on the committee was sensitive but necessarily firm and decisive as required. His active participation in so much local music making also kept him fully in touch with the highs and lows that individual societies face.

At the AGM in June I referred to Graham as a real "gentleman". At least older members should appreciate that compliment! He used his sense of humour positively and in telephone conversations - so much better than impersonal e-mails - his communication skills were first class. He has left his post, with the committee, together with the RDO, in fine fettle and luckily we will continue to enjoy his wealth of experience for some years to come.

John Fisher - Ex Chairman of Northern Region

Graham Crompton hands over the reins

After 9 year's of dedicated service to Making Music North West Region, Graham Crompton announced that he was standing down as Chairman. At the start of the Annual Meeting, this year held on 7th June at Parbold Village Hall, the Chairman gave his report on the year and stated, in his own words, "...we now have a national policy in place under which the senior regional officers are elected to serve for a period of three years. They may, subject to re-election, serve for a further three years, but then must retire from office. This is a policy with which I wholeheartedly agree. In my case, and in the previous absence of such a policy, the time limit has been well exceeded and I believe that the time for change is overdue. I am delighted that Anne Shepherd will be taking over the reins. I have known Anne for many years and am quite sure that she will make an outstanding Chairman for the region. I look forward to working with her and the rest of the committee and wish you all the very best." Graham also accepted the position of Vice-Chairman.

North West Region Committee members

You are very welcome to contact regional committee members if you have a query or want advice, or wish to know more about Making Music and its services. The committee members and their key responsibilities are set out below. All committee members are volunteers (except RDO).

Alan Cantor	01253 724472	Treasurer
Anne Shepherd	01253 737244	Chair *
Bas Perrins	01477 537769	Liaison for hire of our Grand Piano with NW Pianos - 0161 225 4110
Berkeley Ranby	01244 381995	Chairman, North West Classical Music Tours & New Member contact
Clive Walkley	01539 723482	
Graham Crompton	0161 928 6498	Vice-Chair *
Hugh Malkin	01606 833023	
Ian Coomber	0161 973 5018	
John Fisher	01946 692185	Responsibility for Cumbria
John Perrin	01524 701500	
Ken Griffin	01829 771533	
Michael Bonsall	01257 463646	
Mike Porter	01624 832143	
Nancy Dale	01606 42641	
Sally Smith	01204 480528	RDO sally@makingmusic.org.uk
Sheena Williams	01978 752800	National Vice Chair
Shirley Jarvis	01625 611594	
Shirley Mitchell	01706 655655	
Una Talbot	01257 253689	Secretary
Andy Humphreys	01772 742307	Newsletter Editor
Victor Sumpter	victor@sumpter.freemove.co.uk	- keeps website & concert list.

* denotes elected on the 7th June 2008 at the A.R.M., Parbold

as soon as you can. You'll be hearing a lot more from me about our exciting new site and how you can use it very soon!

As always, I have also been busy meeting and chatting with groups and have been to some wonderful concerts such as Westmorland Youth Orchestra's 60th anniversary concert which also featured the girls' choir *Amabile*, and a musical sharing between friends and family by the newly formed group Phoenix Strings in Fleetwood.

In the past few months we've welcomed several new members in the NW including Halton Music Society, Kendal Concert Band, Promenade Concert Orchestra, Warrington & District Youth Orchestra, The Richard Hart Singers, Warrington Brass, St.Peter's Singers & Orchestra, Blackburn International Music Festival, Phoenix Strings, Wigan Community Choir, Arnside Choral Society, Waverton Handbell Ringers and Cumbria Baroque Choir. As with all our groups I do hope you will get in touch should you need any help or advice or just wish to say hello! I would also welcome your ideas and needs for training or seminar sessions. You can phone me on 01204 480528 or email me sally@makingmusic.org.uk.

Has your group performed a UK premier?

If so, don't miss the opportunity to nominate your composer for the Making Music Award for British Composers. The annual Awards celebrate the music of classical composers living and working in the UK and Northern Ireland. Last year, at a ceremony and concert at Glaziers Hall, the 2007 winners were revealed. The Making Music Award went to - Howard Jones *The Illusion of Progress* performed by COMA (Contemporary music making for amateurs). The event was hosted by BBC Radio 3's Sara Mohr-Pietsch and Andrew McGregor and the awards were presented by Errollyn Wallen MBE.

For further details and a nomination form please visit www.makingmusic.org.uk and click on 'Awards' or email sally@makingmusic.org.uk.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 26 September 2008.

INNOVATION IN PRACTICE

This was the title given to this year's North West Region Annual Meeting, an event held in the Village Hall at Parbold near Wigan. Whilst the formal meeting is an established part of the day, it only lasts for a few minutes and the main focus is on the other parts of the programme, to say nothing of the opportunity to meet people from across the region.

Delegates arrived to background music and a video recording from the Gospel Workshop, organised by the Regional Committee earlier in the summer. It was a splendid sound -over 120 voices- and provided an excellent informal start to the day in a beautifully refurbished village hall facility.

Following a brief welcome from the Chairman, we were treated to a most interesting and well illustrated presentation by Martin Maris, Head of Community and Education and Project Manager for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. For some time, this orchestra has been developing and implementing projects to bring live music of all kinds to a wider audience. These have ranged from impromptu concerts in supermarkets and public houses; combined brass band and dance projects to practical brass band playing opportunities in prisons and simple workshops for schools and community groups - an impressive list of achievements designed to generate a wider interest in the practical performance of music.

The presenter was extremely enthusiastic and gave us an insight into what can be achieved when there is determination (and some financial support), to widen the interest in live music - a most stimulating presentation with food for thought for our societies!

The second session was a short presentation by our Regional Development Officer, Sally Smith, who recently completed her first year in post. She gave us an interesting outline of the variety of work she had undertaken, with particular reference to the Surgery Sessions for member societies. These had received encouraging support and had enabled members to raise issues and problems with her and other members of the Committee on a one to one basis. She planned to continue with the sessions and from them to develop further activities including performance workshops and joint concerts linking different societies.

An excellent buffet lunch was provided, taken in the recently refurbished hall, itself an excellent example of what can be achieved by a dedicated band of volunteers, who include a number from member societies.

The afternoon commenced with a superb recital on the Harp, by Louise Thomson, a most gifted performer. Her programme illustrated both the wide range of music available for the instrument, together with the technical skills required to perform some of the repertoire. Her recital was given great acclaim by a most appreciative audience. Those of you who were not at Parbold on the day missed a treat!

At the start of the Annual Meeting, the Chairman gave his report on the year. Attention was drawn to the success of the Development Grant Scheme for the 07/08 season and he announced that funding had just been approved for a similar scheme for the forthcoming 08/09 season. The scheme had created considerable interest from member societies and was helping to foster the link between them and Making Music at the regional level. Thanks were expressed to members of the North West Committee who had given up much time and effort to promote the making of live music in the region.

The short Annual Meeting then took place, with a report from Alan Cantor (Treasurer), who outlined the state of the region's finances, drawing attention to specific items of income and expenditure.

Una Talbot (Secretary) then explained the changes to the regional committee's membership. Two members, Norman Cutter and Ian Ronald were retiring and were thanked for their substantial contributions.

The official proceedings were then drawn to a close by Anne Shepherd, but delegates were invited to remain for the short Committee meeting that would follow on immediately. She stressed that members were always welcome to sit in on committee meetings, to enable them to hear at first hand the discussion that took place. At the conclusion of the Committee's meeting, thanks were expressed to Mike Bonsall, John Fisher, Sally Smith and Una Talbot who had arranged the day.

Anne Shepherd - Biography

Anne returned to the Fylde Coast when she took early retirement from her position as Head of a Performing Arts Faculty in an East End Comprehensive School. During her time in London she made full use of the cultural facilities, enjoying the theatre and art galleries as well as opera and concerts. She was a member of the London Philharmonic Choir for three years.

While studying at the Orff Institute (Salzburg) she met music colleagues from all over the world which fuelled her strong interest in travel for both pleasure and later to give papers at the International Seminar for Music in Education (ISME) Conferences.

Joining Lytham St. Annes Choral Society in 1991 she soon became its Deputy Conductor. She also conducts a mixed over 60s Choir and a Ladies Choir in Blackpool. She is a member of ABCD. (Association of British Choral Directors) and is Vice-Chairman of the Blackpool Festival for Music Dance & Speech.

Anne joined the NW Committee of Making Music in 1997, was the Youth Officer for a time and recently chaired the Music sub-committee. She became NW Regional Chair in June 2008.

She continues to enjoy travel and exotic cultures including Early Music and Making Music.

Anne Shepherd MA(Ed.) ARCM ATCL

Sally Smith

Regional Development Officer NW

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the new season!

The BIG thing that I am working on at the moment is the Making Music North West new website. Due to go live in September it will feature a member log-in area where you will be able to input your own concert and event details that will then appear on the calendar. You will be able to edit the information about your group and upload an image. It will be fully accessible and easy to use, and will contain all the regional information you need to know. If you have a new website and we have not got your web address, please let us know