

**North West Regional Members
Retire from Committee**



PHOTO CREDIT: Andy Humphreys

John Fisher

At our Annual Regional Meeting in May, it was announced that John Fisher, one of our loyal and hard-working volunteers would be standing down from the Regional Committee. John has a long and distinguished record of service, having first been

elected to the Committee in 1993. He rapidly established himself as a conscientious and effective member of the team and within three years was elected to the position of Regional Chairman. In this capacity he developed increasingly strong links with the then North East Region of the Arts Council with whom he successfully negotiated a most beneficial funding package for his Cumbrian members.

The years 1996 to 2003 saw the Sage Arts Centre in Gateshead move from concept to reality. Throughout this period, and in all weathers, John frequently travelled from his home in Whitehaven to the North East coast, where he successfully kept the voice of the voluntary music sector to the fore. We all owe John a great deal for his hard work and dedication.

In 2002, the Cumbrian arm of Making Music's North East Region was reassigned to the North West, a move that followed a national government decision to change some of the traditional boundaries.

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This booklet can be made available in larger format and is available to view online on the Making Music NW website at www.makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk/

Since that time, John has continued to represent Cumbria on the North West Committee, where he has always been a most valuable member of the team. In particular he was a significant player in establishing the Development Grant scheme, which continues to provide a small source of funding available to member societies.

John continues to support his local society and we hope that he will now also be able to devote more time to his wife Joan and to his culinary and gardening interests, to say nothing of his regular forays onto the Cumbrian Fells. All of us in the region thank you for your valued contribution to voluntary music making, wish you all the best for the future and trust that you will continue to keep the hills alive with the sound of music.

Graham Crompton

Hugh Malkin

Hugh Malkin also recently retired from the MM NW Committee after over 25 years service.

I first knew Hugh when we were both in the same residence at University quite a long time ago. In fact we recently attended the 50th anniversary of graduation re-union together. Then in the mid eighties we met again at an NFMS AGM. I'm not sure quite how long Hugh had been active on the NFMS NW Committee at that time, but I know that he has contributed greatly to all our activities in the years since then.

Hugh was Secretary to the NW Committee between 1991 and 2001, during which time he was a strong support to the two chairmen he served with. He specialised in compact minutes which he executed with diligence and style. Between 1994 and 1997 Hugh was a member of the NFMS board acting as Research Director. This experience and his other background with music societies helped him to give valuable, informed advice always offered quietly and with a touch of humour. On a practical note, he printed the NW Newsletter for many years, which was greatly appreciated.

Thank you Hugh. The committee will miss your many contributions to our work and we wish you a healthy and happy retirement from Making Music – but not from all voluntary activities, I believe.

Berkeley Ranby

New Regional Development Officer



Hello. I am Maggie Potter and I'm happy to be making my first contribution to the Making Music North West Newsletter. Having taken over the reins from Sally Smith in March I have spent some time settling in, attending induction and RDO meetings in London, a two day away day with the other national RDOs and of course attending meetings of the North West Committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all and, now that the quiet summer months are coming to an end, am looking forward to putting into place events and activities.

Surgeries / Workshops

The first of these will be two surgery / workshop sessions on which we are putting a bit of a new spin. There was a successful presentation of the new MMNW website at the ARM in Altrincham in May and people expressed an interest in further hands on instruction. To this end I have booked two community centres with IT facilities so you can come along and have go at navigating and using the website with people present to guide you through the process on line.

In addition to the website guide we will also be looking at funding and grants. I have invited a fundraising professional to come along and give a guide to the do's and don'ts of applying for grants, how to make better applications and what opportunities may be available to you and their guidelines and restrictions. Again, there will be an opportunity for you to go live on line to look at sites and how the application process works.

Alongside these sessions will be an opportunity for one to one sessions with myself and another Committee member to look at more individual issues you may wish to chat through. We can offer 2 (up to 1 hour) of these on each evening.

Venues and Dates:

Haskayne Village Hall, Nr Down Holland, (Sefton, Formby, Ormskirk area) 30th September at 18:30 – 21:30 (Numbers restricted to 12 terminals).

Poynton Community Centre, (Stockport, Macclesfield, Wilmslow area) on 9th October at 18:30 – 21:30 (Only 14 terminals).

These will be booked on a first come first served basis so please contact me as soon as possible, and at the latest by **18 Sept**, on rdo.northwest@makingmusic.org.uk.

Orchestral Cluster

Sally Smith was convening meetings of Orchestral Societies and I would like to re establish these meetings. I have a list of individuals who attended a meeting last September but if you would like to be added to the list please contact me using the e mail link above.

Youth Music Cluster

I have been approached to bring together societies working with young people and in education settings. Issues suggested for discussion have been working with CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks, working with young people and recruiting and attracting younger people to choral and orchestral groups. I would see this as an exploratory meeting in the first instance. If you would like to be involved in this, again, contact me on the above e mail link and we can plan ahead from there. (If anyone could offer or suggest a venue central to the North West area this would be appreciated.)

Cheshire Libraries

Some of you may know that there is an issue arising from changes to the music loan arrangement from the Cheshire Library Service. Loans are restricted to 60 copies and 4 pieces per loan. This is affecting larger groups but necessitating going either elsewhere or to multiple suppliers for bigger works and could potentially restrict a varied repertoire.

Another worry is that they have stopped the loan of scores for one day workshops, severely affecting issues of access to music and joint aspirations for social inclusion and community development ideals.

I have met with 4 societies: Holmes Chapel, Nantwich, Prestbury and St Georges Singers. However it would be useful to hear from any other groups who are being adversely affected by this decision.....

... and add 'grist to the mill' for my approach to the powers that be in the local authority.

In Summary

That's it for now and quite a lot to be getting on with in the next few months. I am opening up conversations with both the Liverpool and BBC Philharmonics to explore future joint projects and there is an interesting initiative to work with the RNCM and their work in health settings, particularly a project with the Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Have you ever realised what positive benefits could ensue from a proactive Equal Opportunities Policy in your society? Equal opportunities are about membership and audience. Pursuing it could be the difference between a successful and happy 'Making Music' society and failure to grow thus contributing to loss and possibly decline. Basically it embraces everything that we do and helps to make our organisation user friendly by removing barriers.

These are some areas that could influence growth and ultimately financial viability:

Ticket Pricing

It is a good idea to fix Full ticket prices so that concessions can be economically managed within the overall structure. The full price may need to be higher to accommodate concessions within the overall budget. Concessions are important because they can encourage young people as well as those not earning to attend the event. This is a growth area.

Access

There are 9 million disabled people of whom 90,000 are registered wheelchair users. This adds up to a spending potential of about £42 billion. One in four families have a disabled member. The arts have a significant role in providing opportunity for participation, social networking and general well being for them. Make sure that your disability access is good at all venues and rehearsal space. Programmes and notices should be available in large type.

Hearing loops should also be considered where appropriate.

Venues

Buildings contribute to your public image. They should be heated and comfortable to sit in, but are barriers to audience when these matters are not properly addressed. Churches may not be suitable especially when trying to encourage young people to attend. They may feel intimidated by them. They are often the most uncomfortable places in which to sit for a prolonged period and pillars inhibit sight lines making it difficult to see the performers. Convenient parking space nearby and good public transport connections are factors, which increase audiences. A range of refreshments at the event and good toilet facilities also encourages ticket sales. Effective lighting in the performing areas enables music reading and highlights the performers, making it a better experience for everybody, thus increasing the pulling power of the event. Most events take place in the evening and it is important that people feel safe in the vicinity of the location.

Time scheduling

There may scope to attract other audiences at another time of day. These could be Lunchtime, Afternoon or Early evening to fit in with work patterns. Midday concerts encourage workers on lunch breaks; afternoon events, the retired and shift workers and, early evening at 6:00p.m., workers about to go home and those who prefer not to be out late.

Repertoire

It is important to note that a persistent sacred repertoire could also act as a barrier to development. There are numerous masterworks based on sacred texts but your choir and your audience may respond well to a change of style. There may be untapped growth in the performance of extracts from opera musicals and popular idioms in your area. The majority of the population does not have access to a theatre let alone concert hall.

Finally, an Equal Opportunities Policy is not an inconvenience and will not hurt your organisation. It offers the potential for the development of it through greater access and increased pulling

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).

Anne Shepherd	0125 373 7244	Chair
Graham Crompton	0161 928 6498	Vice-Chair
Una Talbot	0125 725 3689	Secretary
Alan Cantor	0125 372 4472	Treasurer
Sheena Williams	0197 875 2800	National Vice Chair
Maggie Potter	0796 872 3126	NW Regional Development Officer
Michael Bonsall	0125 746 3646	
Ian Coomber★	0161 973 5018	
Nancy Dale	0160 642 641	
Ken Griffin	0182 977 1533	
Andy Humphreys★	0177 274 2307	Newsletter Editor
Shirley Jarvis	0162 561 1594	
Shirley Mitchell	0170 665 5655	
John Perrin	0152 470 1500	
Bas Perrins	0147 753 7769	Liaison for hire of our Grand Piano with NW Pianos - 0161 225 4110
Mike Porter	0162 483 2143	
Berkeley Ranby★	0124 438 1995	Chair Strategy Committee, Communications sub-group & New Member Contact
Howard Rogerson		
Clive Walkley	0153 972 3482	

Non-Committee Volunteer

Victor Sumpter victor@sumpter.freeserve.co.uk - keeps concert list.

★ denotes member of the Communications sub-group and website administrators.

power. It is not enough to have good intentions it needs to be actively pursued.

John Perrin

Further information and advice can be found in Making Music Information Sheets (Nos: 45 and 45 a/b/c/d/e) are available in the Members area of the National website (www.makingmusic.org.uk).

Young Reviewer Programme

Unfortunately, due to space limitations this article cannot be covered in more detail in this Issue. In short, the scheme offers, through sponsorship of orchestras and venues across the UK, 2 free tickets for a 12 – 16 year old and a parent to attend a classical concert in return for a 300 – 500 word review which gets published on their site (<http://www.bachtrack.com/youngreviewer>), as a means of encouraging young people into concert halls.

Diary Dates 2009

Regional Committee Meetings - 24 Sep and 24 Nov in Fulwood.

Making Music Annual Conference - 5 Sep Leeds College of Music (more details from <http://www.makingmusic.org.uk/conference>).

Workshops – 30 Sep & 9 Oct - see page 3 & 4 of this Newsletter.

MMNW welcomes the following new members: Lancaster Community Steel Band, The Kirkham Singers, Rochdale Light Orchestra, The Sessions Rhythm and Blues Big Band, Brampton Players Choir, Tantara Taiko (Rochdale) and Abney Orchestra.

DEADLINE FOR CONTENT FOR NEXT ISSUE TO THE EDITOR: 14 Nov 09

Any views or opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the respective authors and may not necessarily represent the views, opinions or policies of Making Music.

Editor – Andy Humphreys – newsletter@makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk

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2-4 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3NW. Tel. 020 7422 8280 info@makingmusic.org.uk
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