Admittedly it was Easter Day, but then again it was evensong, so why was the cathedral quite so full? The quire, the chancel and the entire nave were packed to capacity. So what was the attraction? Was it to hear the Dean announce that the peregrines had now laid a third egg that very day (which he did)? No, it was rather that a large number of people wished to celebrate with Alan Thurlow, his final service as Organist and Master of the Choristers of Chichester Cathedral.

Evensong proceeded in its traditional custom, with the choir in excellent voice. Mark Wardell was in charge of the organ loft, ably assisted by Colin Gray, whilst Alan was conducting, wearing his full doctoral gown for the occasion.

Promptly following the dismissal, sung from the south transept, the choir members, together with chancel congregation grouped around the Bell Arundel screen for the ceremony that was to be Alan’s dismissal.

The Dean announced that as we could not afford to stay listening to him for the next few days, he could but regale us with a condensed precise of Alan’s (and Tina’s) much appreciated and greatly successful contribution not only to the life and music of the cathedral but also to the whole of English church music. As only the Rev’d Frayling can, and my efforts to report the occasion can’t, the Dean offered us a very apt and succinct portrayal of Alan’s work, locally and nationally. Full of superlatives and comments of endearment, the Dean painted a picture of the man we all know as very capable, far sighted, loyal, sin-
cere, and focussed, with personal goals and opinions that were always well thought out and expressed politely, logically and sympathetically even (especially?) when in opposition to those of others. The Dean expressed admiration for Alan’s contribution to the cathedral’s management and to his much respected musicianship, for which the Archbishop of Canterbury had awarded him his Lambeth doctorate. Such was Alan’s ability that the cathedral maintained a choral foundation that was second to none, attracting the very best of singers both lay vicar and chorister, at times when other choirs were struggling. Tina’s role in not only supporting Alan but also contributing in her own right to the many and several of her cathedral ention. The cathedral had indeed been very fortunate in having such an able and sociable team at No 2 St Richard’s Walk.

Several small packages and envelopes were presented to Alan and Tina, on behalf of the cathedral congregation, the contents of most remaining undisclosed at the time. The most publicly displayed gift was that from the Seffrid Guild, (the cathedral embroiderers) who had created a small cushion sampler depicting aspects of Alan’s affiliations (see photo). Apart from the obvious; the music (Bach’s D minor Toccatata), the organ pipes, a chorister and the cathedral spire, it depicts (top left) a beer tankard, Durham Cathedral, the RSCM and the Friends of Cathedral Music logo.

Alan’s brief words of thanks included comments about all those people and organisations that had made his stay in Chichester so special. Regarding Alan’s relationship with CCCA, I think it appropriate to quote from a letter he recently wrote to me...

“The CCCA has been a real joy to me throughout my time here … I can't begin to thank you all enough for your tremendous commitment to the cathedral and to the choir, or to tell you how much your support and encouragement has meant to me during this long period. Although I shall not be far away I shall miss it all enormously.” As always Alan is very generous in his compliments.

It had been the plan for the choir to sing some songs at this presentation, but in typical Alan fashion, he had advised against it, preferring that the last rendering from the choir during his tenure as Organist and Master of the Choristers should be memories of music from the liturgy of evensong.

Tea and very scrumptious cake was then served in the south transept, whilst Tina and Alan circulated amongst their well-wishers, where reminiscences were exchanged and more farewells said.

The tapestry presented to Alan by the Dean
Sarah Baldock, the new Organist and Master of the Choristers

Sarah writes:
I am married to David Hurley who was a former chorister at Winchester Cathedral, and is now one of the King’s Singers. We have just moved into No 2 St Richard’s Walk and despite the many unopened boxes we are enjoying life in the house and among the people of the Close. The garden is a particular delight – and we are still enjoying Alan & Tina’s hard work in that respect. We’ve had a tremendous welcome from the Cathedral community.

Before Chichester I was Assistant Director of Music at Winchester, working with Andrew Lumsden and before that David Hill. A particular highlight of my time in Winchester was playing the organ for tours to America, Salzburg and Goettingen. We also made some recordings and did some fairly terrifying broadcasts including the Durufle Requiem live on Remembrance Day. I also set up and directed the Girls’ Choir there.

In my spare time (I’m not totally sure there has been any yet…..) I play the organ as much as possible: I have recitals this year in Eastbourne, Henfield, Bath Abbey, Southwell Minster and concerts in Guernsey and Sark in the summer. I’m off to New York next year to direct a course at St Thomas Fifth Avenue and I love travelling abroad to work.

I am really enjoying the music – the Choir and organists are a great group of people and I am looking forward to what the coming years will bring.

Below:
Sarah Baldock

Events in the Cathedral

3rd - 5th October 2008

The Cathedral’s 900th Anniversary Weekend attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury which includes:

3rd October
Sung Eucharist and service of thanksgiving, 6.30pm.

4th October
900th Birthday Party for all the family. 10.30 - 3.30pm.

5th October
Sung Eucharist in celebration of Bishop George Bell.

Celebrant: The Bishop Preacher: The Archbishop of Canterbury

Christmas 2008

Sunday 21 Dec.
Carol Service 1
at 6.00pm

Monday 22 Dec.
Carol Service 2
at 6.00pm

Tuesday 23 Dec.
Carol Service 3
at 3.00 pm

Please apply for Carol Service tickets to: The Royal Chantry Cathedral Cloisters Chichester
West Sussex PO19 1PX
01243 782595
info@chichestercathedral.org.uk
Summer Reunion Photos

Nick, Margaret and Tom Skew, Tom was in the choir from 1992—98

Choristers from the 90s, from left to right. Adam Hyslop, Peter Buisseret, Benjamin Ruffer, Philip Craven and Tom Skew

CCCA Chairman presents the Probationer prize to Matthew Hares and between them is Sarah Baldock

Dr. Thurlow with his own choir book, presented to him by the CCCA.

One of the two Dartington glasses engraved with the CCCA logo presented to Tina

On the right is the title page of the book

We have had another successful year financially. We ended the year with an excess of income of £350. We are committed to putting aside £200 per year towards our sponsorship of the SCF organ recital when it comes to Chichester. This along with our continued upkeep of the Choral Foundation book means we have come down handsomely on the plus side. This is quite reassuring seeing that this year we have paid towards two batches of *Once a Chorister*, which does not come cheap these days.

We have maintained our usual level of income from banker’s orders but are slightly down on ad hoc cash payments and the occasional pre-payment that we get. I continue to chase those members who have not adjusted their standing order over the years to keep up with increases in subscription rate. Also I advise people to check the little code letters between the chevrons on your address label. If there in an “E” or an “O” it means that your current pre-payment is expiring and I would very much appreciate your getting in touch to take out a banker’s order to maintain your membership. We would be very sorry to lose you from our mailing list.

Our method of raising funds for the Scholarship Trust via overpayment of subscriptions has been working well and this year we transferred £670 compared to £380 last year. The Trust Fund achieved a total income from personal donations of £2,355 which was augmented by a Gift Aid tax reclamation of £350. During the year we also received a substantial donation of £80,000 from the Elizabeth Emily Biggs trust fund to help support part of a second scholarship. Our currently sponsored chorister leaves at the end of this year and the Dean and Chapter and the organist will on our behalf, award one and a half scholarships to 2 of the new intake. This current year’s scholarship payments amounted to £6,950 taken from investment interest of £11,700. Next year we expect to have commitments of £10,900.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Andrew Porter
Hon. Treasurer.
April 2008.

CCCA Secretary, Dily Ruffer to run a marathon

I am the current Secretary to the Association qualifying as a member by being a past chorister parent and wife to the Chairman!

I am running in a special centenary marathon to mark the revision of the distance to 26 miles 200 yards at the 1908 London Olympics.

The event will take place in Hastings on Sunday 14 December 2008 and I am seeking sponsorship to raise money in aid of the CCCA Scholarship Trust Fund.

If you would like to sponsor me, please either use this on-line link:

http://www.justgiving.com/ccca_scholarship_trust

or complete the sponsorship form enclosed and return to me at 40 Beaufort Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 5AN Thank you for your sponsorship in advance

PS Do come and support me if you are in Hastings, Battle, Bexhill or surrounding area on 14 December!
News from past choristers

Ben Woodgates (95-99)
Congratulations on his award of a first in Music from Oxford.

Charlie Wallace (92-98)
Charlie has finished his law degree from Southampton. He has bought a boat and is preparing to take part in a race across the Atlantic before he sails around the world.

Huw Edwards (92-96)
Huw has been working in the American Embassy for a short time, which he is enjoying.

Steve Stagg (94-98)
Steve is a Web master, working from his mother’s home. He also helps with the Scouts at Christ Hospital.

Josh Wynter (96-01)
Has just finished his second year at university and has taken up playing the piano again.

Brendan Bates (93-98)
Brendan is still at Cambridge studying medicine with 18 months before he finishes.

Thank you letters from Alan and Tina Thurlow

It was lovely to see everyone on Saturday (Summer Reunion) and I do want to express my sincere and warmest thanks for the hospitality given to Tina and to myself, but more particularly for the presentation that you all made to me. The Choral Foundation Book was an inspired idea and something that I shall really treasure for the rest of my life. It is so beautifully bound and inscribed and glancing through its pages in the future will instantly bring back so many memories.

As if that were not enough, I was also given an envelope containing a very generous cheque. It is hard to know how to make an adequate response to people’s kindness. It was an enormous pleasure to be able to serve in such a wonderful place as Chichester, but I was only doing what I loved and what, from childhood, I had really wanted to do. I was, however, surrounded by such wonderfully kind and supporting friends, who gave me confidence in what I was trying to achieve, and who constantly gave unstintingly of their time and talents to help the music of our beloved Cathedral thrive and grow.

I have been very grateful for all the support given by the CCCA over the past 28 years. The Choristers Association was of course just a couple of years old at the time of my arrival in Chichester. Over the years it has become, as I said on Saturday, not just a club for former choir members to re-live happy memories (important though this is) but a real strength in encouraging and supporting there at the Cathedral who have the present responsibility for carrying the great tradition forward. That has meant a great deal to me.

Please convey my thanks to all the members for their generous gift, which is greatly appreciated. Tina is writing separately to express her own thanks, but we both join in wishing a prosperous future to the CCCA and will continue to give our support to you in all that you do.

With very best wishes to all,
Yours, Alan

Where do I start? Alan and I were very touched to have been invited back to the Reunion on Saturday. It was so good to soak up once again the very special atmosphere of the CCCA and to see so many friends, some of whom we have not met up with for many years.

We were, though, quite frankly staggered by the beautiful, generous and very personal gifts with which you presented us. I know that Alan is writing but I wanted to say how absolutely lovely the glasses are. They will have pride of place in our new display cabinet and will be a constant reminder of the people, place and friendships we have enjoyed and expect to continue to enjoy.

Chichester is very special (and especially blessed) place and Alan and I have enjoyed every moment of our lives at the cathedral.

I know that nowadays most cathedrals have an old Chorister Association, but there can be few which are as lively, friendly and still passionate about the day-to-day life of the choir and its prosperity. However, that aside, having shared Alan’s life at the Cathedral, I know so well that amid all the inevitable pressures and strains of his busy routine, the support, dedication and fun which the CCCA has bought him has been an enormous source of strength and encouragement. The committees over the years have been inspired, not least of course through sheer hard work ensuring that its funding is secure and even increasing. I think that of all the meetings which Alan attended, CCCA ones were far and away a highlight!

Please pass on to all the committee and members, Alan’s and my thanks for the most wonderful farewell gifts, they will be treasured and enjoyed. With much love from us both, Tina
I cannot remember it ever raining on the CCCA Summer Reunion; the sun duly obliged and although this has been the wettest summer for over 40 years, it did not rain on our parade.

Drinks at 2 St. Richard’s Walk was of course hosted this year by the new Organist and Master of the Choristers, Sarah Baldock, which retained a tradition that stretches back to the first CCCA Reunion in 1977, thank you for that Sarah.

The Reunion this year also marked the Association’s formal farewell to Dr. and Mrs Thurlow after a remarkable 28 years tenure of office.

There was a good turn out of Alan’s former choristers especially from the 1990s in gathering that numbered fifty in all.

Drinks were followed by a buffet lunch at the newly refurbished George Bell House in Canon Lane. The House is due to be formerly opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury during the Bishop Luffa celebrations.

The venue was superb as was the lunch which led us on the main event of the day, the presentation to Alan and Tina. Tina was given a pair of Dartington wine goblets engraved with the CCCA logo and Alan his very own choir book with a record of all those who had served in the Foundation since he took up his appointment in September 1980. The book, handmade paper, bound by a leather cover was inscribed by a local calligrapher, Ivan Brenton.

After the Presentation we adjourned to the Cathedral where most of the past choristers helped/hindered in singing Walmsley in D minor Mag and Nunc. Even-song was attended by a veritable bench of bishops, 13 of them, who were in England to attend the Lambeth Conference.

Tea and the AGM followed held at Prebendal School.

Past choristers present at the reunion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bell</td>
<td>2001-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bruisset</td>
<td>1993-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Codd</td>
<td>1950-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Cooke</td>
<td>1980-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Cowin</td>
<td>1981-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Craven</td>
<td>1995-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Graebe</td>
<td>1945-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Hamilton</td>
<td>1987-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Howse</td>
<td>1944-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Hyslop</td>
<td>1993-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Kimber</td>
<td>2004-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Porter</td>
<td>1962-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Ruffer</td>
<td>1963-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Ruffer</td>
<td>1993-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Skew</td>
<td>1992-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Sutcliffe</td>
<td>1952-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Watts</td>
<td>1950-1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advent Reunion
Saturday 29 November

The Advent Procession, starts at 6.00pm with the reunion to be held after the service in the Cloisters Café.

If you are attending the service, you are requested to be in your seats by 5.45pm, at the very latest. We will have seats reserved for us, as usual in the Quire.

The Service normally ends at about 7.10pm.

Please apply for the Reunion using the enclosed form. Please return by Friday 21 November

Menu for the Advent Reunion

Beef Stew
Cubes of Beef, cooked in Stout Gravy, topped with Carrots, Turnips, Button Onions, Mushrooms & Beans

Goulash of Vegetables
A selection of Vegetables cooked in a Paprika Cream Sauce, topped with fresh Pasta

Medley of Seasonal Vegetables
Creamed Potato

* * *

Apple Crumble
With Custard or thick Cream

Coffee & Mince Pie

£15 per person

Dates for your diary

Carol Services

Sunday
21 December
6.00pm

Monday
22 December
6.00pm

Tuesday
23 December
3.00pm

Beer and Skittles
We have yet to arrange a date for this annual match between the Committee, Cathedral and Chorister Parents. We usually meet at the Four Chesnuts, just off the Hornet for an exciting match, together with good beer, food at reasonable prices and of course excellent company! It is a fun evening. We hope to hold the event on Saturday 4 April, 2009. Final details in the next newsletter.

Summer Reunion
This will take place on Saturday 11th July 2009. It will follow the same format as this year. Look out for the booking form and more information in the next newsletter.

Here is an easy way you can help generate funds for the CCCA Scholarship Trust fund without costing you a penny. Register with www.everyclick.com and use this search engine. Every time you use it the association gets a contribution. You can even use it to find Google if that is your preferred search engine. So far there are 15 CCCA members who use the site, and who have raised over £90 in a short space of time. This could be a steady source of income if more members signed up.