



RSCM Scotland Newsletter

Issue 1 – January 2006

What's on in Scotland

- The big event in the next year is going to be the **RSCM Scotland Triennial Festival**. It will be held on **November 4 2006 at St Michael's Church, Linlithgow**. We are very pleased that Gordon Stewart (organist of Huddersfield Town Hall, conductor, recitalist and broadcaster) is going to be our Director.
Admission to the Triennial is by music booklet and these should be going on sale soon after Easter. We will be holding area rehearsals in the early autumn. Watch out for more details on the website and the next edition of the newsletter.
- We are going to hold a **Voice for Life training day** for children, young people, adults and trainers on **Saturday 25 February at St Mary's Church, Haddington**. Cost will be £6 for affiliates and members, £8 for non members and £4 for students and children. Please bring a packed lunch – soup and drinks will be provided.
- There will be a **sight singing day** for adults on **Saturday 20 May at Dunblane Cathedral**. Cost will be £5 for affiliates and members, £7 for non members.

If you are interested in registering for any of these events, please contact Kathleen on 01620 893245 or Kathleen@rscmscotland.org.

Contact details

You may contact any of the committee members by email - the addresses are firstname@rscmscotland.org – e.g. Matthew@rscmscotland.org
Any telephone enquiries should be to Pat in the first instance on 01620 892228. Our website is www.rscmscotland.org. – please make use of the available posters and do keep checking for updated information.

Welcome to our first RSCM Scotland newsletter. We are planning to send out these newsletters twice a year - in January and June. We will include RSCM news and details of forthcoming events, but we also want to include your news – let us know of your stories and achievements. Please send contributions or suggestions to Pat.
This letter may be copied and shared. Why not pin yours on a notice board?

RSCM For those new to the RSCM (or as a reminder to others), the Royal School of Church Music is an educational charity, dedicated to raising the standards of and promoting the use of music in Christian Worship. Since its foundation in 1927, RSCM has grown into an international organization providing inspiration and guidance to more than 8,500 affiliated members in over 40 countries. RSCM members are drawn from different denominations; they worship in different ways; they enjoy different musical styles, but what they have in common is the belief that good music, used effectively, greatly enriches Christian Worship.

New committee The RSCM Scotland committee is presently made up of 6 members with a wealth of backgrounds and skills.

Most importantly, we share a vision of aspiring to improve church music and the opportunities for music making in Scotland. The new committee had its first meeting in Dunblane on November 5th. The Chairman is Matthew Beetschen, and other committee members are: Mary Birch (Awards Administrator and Young Person's Officer), Sheila Robertson, Nicola Corbishley, Kathleen Whitton (Treasurer), Pat Lynch (Secretary). We hope that more people will be recruited to serve on the committee in due course. Gordon Appleton, RSCM Director of Voluntary Networks and Alistair Warwick, RSCM Coordinator for Scotland also attended the meeting.

From the Chairman, Matthew Beetschen.

Many thanks to Pat for putting together this first Newsletter. I think it's important in such a large area as Scotland that members feel part of what's going on. Hopefully over the next four years we can organize events throughout the country –let us know what might be done in YOUR area.

My priority as Chairman will be to see what we can do to encourage young people in their music making in church. I appreciate that not all church choirs in Scotland involve children, but it would be great to encourage and help those that do. Our first event will be a Training Day for the excellent Voice for Life scheme in February (see back page). Although Voice for Life is aimed at all ages, it would be especially good to welcome young people on that day. Please contact Kathleen to register. There will also be a Sight-Singing day for adults at Dunblane in May and of course our Triennial Festival in November. All these events are detailed below.

In each Newsletter we will aim to introduce a member of the Committee. This time...

Alistair Warwick - is in the Education team at the RSCM, currently as a tutor on the Sacred Music Studies Course. Previously he was part of the team writing the Voice for Life programme. He has engraved music and typeset text for seven volumes of Music for Common Worship, in addition to the main

President's Edition. He is also Coordinator of RSCM Scotland, supporting the new committee in its role of enabling the RSCM's education mission (singing, skills, understanding of music and worship). Finally(!) he is currently working on the new design for the RSCM website (due for launch early 2006).

Alistair was formerly Director of Music at Arundel Cathedral and musical consultant to the RC Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Since returning to Scotland Alistair has continued to work with smaller churches to enable them to make best use of the resources available to them.

Dunblane Singing Day Some 100 singers came to Dunblane on November 5th for this year's Singing Day and had an enjoyable afternoon's singing led by Gordon Appleton. This year, the day was made extra special by the presentations of gifts to Douglas Galbraith, the retiring Chairman of RSCM Scotland and to Bridget Black who has retired as Treasurer. Both Douglas and Bridget have worked tirelessly for the RSCM in Scotland and we were pleased to have Gordon present them each with a commemorative quail.

Fundraising

Many thanks to **Christina Dougan** (*St Adrian's Gullane*), who hosted a 'Coffee and Chat' morning at her home and raised £77-76 for our funds. Any ideas for Fundraising let us know!

St Andrew's awards Congratulations to the following people who have had success in the St Andrew's Awards scheme.
St Andrew's Gold award: **Pamela Barrowman**.
St Andrew's Silver award: **Michael Bamforth** (*Dunblane Cathedral*) and **Ruth Williams** (*Christchurch Morningside*)
St Andrew's Bronze award: **Adam Wilson** (*Dunblane Cathedral*)
We hope to see many more candidates coming forward to take the St Andrew's awards as more choirs get started on the Voice for Life training scheme. Remember that the awards are open to adults as well as young people, so if you would like to know more about the awards, come along to the training day.