



Echoes Report: 2012 -2013

Echoes morphed into a two-district choir (the Manchester District Association and the East Cheshire Union) in January 2012. Since then it has gone from strength to strength. Whilst staying small in size we have performed in a number of places and brought joy to those listening, and to those singing.

The first public outing was at the Annual Meetings at Keele where Echoes did a hymn-flash one tea break. We sang four hymns – the last being a benediction which we encouraged people to sing as a round. It was great to see so many people participating. Our logo was created in July and we had folders provided by one member with it on the front. Our first service was the Send a Child to Hucklow service at Dukinfield on 10th June 2012 which the choir created and led. We repeated this at Macclesfield on Sunday 16th September.

We had planned a Thanksgiving service in mid-November for both Districts but, because the chapel where it was to be held was holding its own, we had to cancel this. Also we were to sing at Macclesfield Chapel's celebrations for the completion of their building works on 1st December, but as they were not finished by the due date so the event was cancelled.

The beginning of 2013 has seen a flurry of activity. We decided to have sweatshirts with our logo on – we are grateful to both the ECU and the MDA for their sponsorship of these. On 17th February we sang at Michael Dadson's rededication with the Macclesfield community in a service led by Bill Darlison. On 28th February many attended the retirement do of an Echoes' member at Tameside Magistrates Court. We sang, 'For everyone born' – this went down very well and was a novel way to publicise Unitarianism. On 10th March Newcastle-under-Lyme had a Mothering Sunday and International Women's Day service combined, with Echoes leading the service. And then Echoes attended the ECU Songs of Praise on Sunday 17th March at Flowery Fields. We are just getting ourselves ready for the Annual Meetings in Nottingham in April where we'll be singing at another tea-break.

All this has been achieved through monthly, two-hour rehearsals. Members pay £2 each time which covers the room hire and refreshments. We meet at the King Edward Street Chapel on the first Saturday of the month from 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. New singers always welcome.



We would like to thank both Districts and their congregations for their financial support and for asking us to perform. With this support and the commitment of each singer we are achieving what we set out to do – to bring Districts and congregations closer together. And we're having fun. We look forward to 2013/14.