

FRMS NEWSLETTER



Issue No 8

March 2008

Daventry Musical Weekend

We have been most successful this year in attracting delegates including many who are coming for the first time. As a result all our available hotel rooms are taken. We are keeping a reserve list in case of any cancellations and are still happy to welcome **day visitors**. Anyone who is interested should contact Tony Baines as soon as possible on 01782 251460 or by email at secretary@thefrms.co.uk. Details of the programme are available on the FRMS website (address below).

Bulletin

The Spring 2008 Bulletin should be out very shortly with its usual compliment of news and information.

Newsletter distribution

80 societies will be receiving this Newsletter by email saving the Federation a considerable amount in postage, stationery and printing costs, not to mention time. If your society is willing to receive its Newsletter by email would you please email the Secretary with contact details: secretary@thefrms.co.uk

New email addresses

We now have new email addresses for the officers and committee members

chairman@thefrms.co.uk
secretary@thefrms.co.uk
treasurer@thefrms.co.uk
technical@thefrms.co.uk
webmaster@thefrms.co.uk
allan.child@thefrms.co.uk

john.maidment@thefrms.co.uk

tony.pook@thefrms.co.uk

jim.bostwick@thefrms.co.uk

FRMS Website (www.thefrms.co.uk)

In the past 6 months the **FRMS website** has undergone major design changes as our new WebMaster, George Steele, has attempted to improve the logic and clarity of the website and to provide much more information of interest to FRMS affiliates and their members.

Many of you have already expressed your approval of the new website but those of you who have not looked are encouraged to do so. The following is a summary of changes you will see some of which are our response to the survey carried out by Sarah Polfreman last year which was reported in *Bulletin 147* on pp33 to 37.

As before the core of the website is information on **Society programmes**, meetings places and contact points. You supply the information to the WebMaster who integrates it into your existing page or creates a new page for you.

Society Web Pages

The WebMaster tries to reproduce faithfully what you send him (hopefully in electronic form) but even if you send a printed programme he will copy it onto your web page. There are, however, some technical problems because the Internet cannot easily handle a wide range of font styles. Best practice recommends the use of the limited range of fonts which are

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available on all computers ensuring that what is put on the website is what appears on the reader's screen.

Most websites today use **sans serif** fonts rather than **serif fonts** such as this article uses. This is because sans serif fonts are more easily read on a computer screen, especially if the size is small.

The range of colours available can also be a limiting factor but every attempt is made to meet your needs.

We are currently working to resolve anomalies caused by the fact that the FRMS Website was originally owned by its former designer who had copyright on some of the pages. **If any of you feel that there are problems with your society web page please do not hesitate to contact George Steele who will endeavour to meet your wishes.**

Obviously we would welcome any affiliates who do not as yet have their own web page. You can submit a ready prepared design or we can do this for you. Please contact the WebMaster for any information and advice.

Societies with pages that show out-of-date information are encouraged to let the WebMaster have current society and programme details to ensure that their page is as beneficial to them as possible.

A Wider Range of Information

The FRMS Committee has always been concerned to preserve the integrity of individual affiliates and has as a result not always broadcast widely enough the range of valuable information and benefits which it holds for the benefit of affiliates. This has been addressed on the website by publishing the key FRMS policy documents on its **Strategy, Copyright and Regeneration**.

There has also been a lack of knowledge about the people managing the Federation's affairs and this is being addressed by the **Committee** page including profiles of each of the Committee members, so that people have an idea who is performing that function. These profiles are similar to those supplied when Committee members are first elected.

External links

A wider range of links including **music courses** is included again to improve the information available and the WebMaster would welcome suggestions for appropriate links to consider for inclusion in future.

Latest News and Pictures

Latest news advises affiliates about what is new and it is planned to have more pictures of FRMS events such as was done with the **AGM** and will be done after **Daventry**.

The website has regularly shown up to date information on **Daventry** and may well have contributed to this year's 'sell-out' position.

Other Information

A new **Presenters Panel** and list of **Significant Anniversaries** has been produced and is available on the website as is an update of the **FRMS History** and other information such as '**How to start a recorded music society**'.

All in all the Committee is very pleased with the new website as our main 'organ' of information supported by the twice-yearly **Bulletin**. We hope that you are equally happy but suggestions for improvements will always be considered and implemented if appropriate.

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