

MULAG

MUSIC LIBRARIES ACTION GROUP

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NEWSLETTER No. 4 March 2007

Dear Members, Friends, Music Lovers,

You may have thought, after such a long silence, that MULAG had simply faded away, so this is just to remind you that we do still exist! We have been quietly working behind the scenes to maintain, promote and improve our much valued County Music Library Service ever since we campaigned successfully, with your help and support, to save it from closure five years ago.

Your Mulag committee has continued to hold 6 monthly meetings with representatives of East Sussex Libraries and Information (ESLI), namely Valerie Wright (Assistant Head of Libraries – Customer Service), Barry Forster (Area Manager West) and Chris Desmond (Reader Development Manager). This dialogue has helped both users and providers of the Music Library Service to understand better the needs and problems of the other. We (Mulag) have been able to put forward requests from ML users (e.g. for improvements to the online catalogue, for staff training, for better signage and organisation of scores on shelves), to discuss ways of further improving the service and to explore the possible use of volunteers to assist Library Staff with special projects.

PROGRESS REPORT

1. LEWES: The new Lewes Library opened in September 2005 and there has been a huge increase in membership (5,381 new members) and borrowing figures since then. The Music CDs, DVDs and Videos are housed downstairs, and the Music Section upstairs has books, scores and reference materials, as well listening posts and the computer for Sibelius, which are well used. Please encourage your friends, colleagues and students to explore, browse, use and enjoy our hard won Music Library!

2. EASTBOURNE: We campaigned successfully to get music back into Eastbourne Library, where the scores are now housed in the mezzanine area at the back of the ground floor. Books on music and CDs are in nearby stacks, and music reference materials are kept upstairs in the Reference Section, but may be taken downstairs for use in the Music Area. We are currently working with ESLI to improve signage and shelving at Eastbourne.

NB. In both Lewes and Eastbourne there are single copies from the sets of scores which can be ordered for choirs/orchestras etc. from the county store. These are to enable conductors, teachers et al. to research the works they may wish to study and/or perform.

3. HASTINGS: ESCC hopes to find new premises for Hastings Library, but this may take some years to achieve. Meanwhile we continue to press for the restoration of Music to Hastings, and now Mulag committee members in the east of the county are planning to mount a campaign with press and media coverage. Please add your voices to support this campaign!

(NB. As there is no music collection Hastings Library users can, for a limited trial period, make Free Reservations on music items.)

4. MUSIC ON LINE: Music, books, CDs etc. may be ordered **online**, or by telephone, to be sent to any library in the county for collection. Every library user can ask for a **PIN number** to use online. Ask for details in your own library.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MULAG?

1. Remember to spread the word: please tell your friends, colleagues, students, pupils about the Music Libraries. Many people borrow CDs without realising that there is a wealth of sheet music upstairs in Lewes Library and on the mezzanine floor in Eastbourne Library.

2. Remember the “browsing habit”: if you peruse a music volume in the library but do not actually borrow it this still counts as “use”, so please mark the date (preferably in pencil) on the borrowing slip inside the front cover. This ensures that the library staff know that the stock is being consulted and it will count towards the all important “user statistics”.

3. Remember that you can ring the library to check that the item you want is available before making a journey. Library staff recommend that you ask them to fetch the item and keep it at the desk for you to collect.

4. Remember to use your pin number to research the catalogue and order online. Please also note any discrepancies/anomalies you may find in the catalogue and/or stock and pass them on to library staff via a “comments” card, or online.

5. Remember that the Lewes library has listening posts and a computer with Sibelius Software. At Mulag’s request ESLI is now looking into the possibility of installing a listening post for CDs at Eastbourne.

6. Remember to make suggestions for new stock. ESLI actively welcome requests from users, including requests for new sets of scores. We are told that many new items may be purchased in response to requests if they cannot be obtained through other libraries.

7. Donations – however small – would be most gratefully received, to help with the cost of the website, travel, postage, photocopying etc. May we suggest £5 (or more) per household? Or £10 for corporate members – Choirs and other Music Groups? (Please use the form below)

8. Please pass this Newsletter on to friends and encourage them to join Mulag, to help us to safeguard our County Music Service for the future. Remember that user/borrowing statistics are the best argument, so PLEASE use and enjoy it as much as possible to show ESCC that we really do value our Music Libraries!

Thank you very much for your past, present and future support in saving our Music Library Service.

With best wishes for your enjoyment of music making and listening,

Yours sincerely,

**Cynthia Eraut
(Hon. Secretary)**

SPONSORS: We are most grateful to Robin Houghton for setting up and maintaining the website, and to Mike Goss, Lisa Hallewell Designs, Brighthelm Business Solutions and Conquest Supplies.

Please send this form to

**Cynthia Eraut, (Hon. Sec.)
49 St. Anne's Crescent,
Lewes, BN7 1SD (or respond by email)**

I/we wish to join MULAG Renew membership (Please tick)

I/we enclose a donation/subscription to help with expenses:

£5 per household

£10 corporate membership (e.g. choirs)

Name:

Address

Telephone

Email

Are you willing to receive Newsletters by Email?

Please add any comments and suggestions you wish to make: