

Tone's Tidings

October/November 2016 Issue 15



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir
Patron: The Rt. Hon The Earl of Iveagh; President: Paul Deane
Vice Presidents: John Balaam, Dr John Meers and
The Very Reverend Dr Frances Ward
Registered Charity No. 1028123



November's here and September's been,
We've all survived another Halloween.
Winter is next with many a cold night,
And when sitting by the fireside bright
You may recall the merry banter and quip,
Which is the basis of Choir friendship.

Concert with Orpheus Singers, Saturday 22 October Report from a Top Tenor:-

Two coaches, 78 miles down to Hadleigh Essex. After a brief tour of Hadleigh the bus finally arrived at the Salvation Army Temple; what a great acoustic. How we ever managed to sing after consuming the pre-glow food laid on by the wonderful ladies I'll never know. I think all the choir enjoyed the welcome. But sing we did; a bit lacking in the bass section (makes a change for them to do some work) only limited numbers, they did very well. The other three sections were all, for a change, well manned, even in the Seconds. The ladies (126 of them) sang a good mix of numbers.

Then it came to our turn and did we do well? Yes! The second half was an eye opener. The ladies gave a very good performance of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, there must have been six harmonies at one point, wow. Then again SEMVC with our new numbers, all well received and finally *Uptown Funk* went down a storm. The



audience gave very positive feedback at the end. We were a bit disappointed that only four of the ladies from the Orpheus choir came to The Woodmans Arms, Thundersley for the afterglow. Again we had a little sing, and for a nice change, conducted by Mark Jefferson. *Uptown Funk* acappella - oh yes we can!
Saturday night hit the spot. One of the best concerts I've been part of in a long time. The choir seems to be working well, keep it up chaps; and keep your eye on Mark. Peter B (Top Tenor)

An email sent to our Secretary, Malcolm, from a member of the Orpheus Singers:-

I was one of the ladies singing in the concert on Saturday night. I just wanted to send a message for you to pass on please to your amazing choir that having only been singing with Orpheus for the last year, it was one of my best choir experiences so far, so a big thank you!!

Your repertoire was superb and I will never listen to Burt Bacharach in the same way!

I don't think those of us who attended the Woodmans Arms to join you in a drink afterwards will ever forget the impromptu rendition of *Uptown Funk*, *Rhythm of Life* etc. Nor will the barmaid and the customers on Saturday night! Bound to make local headline news!

A special thanks to Mark, Calvin, Justin, and many others (apologies I cannot remember all the many names) who entertained us at the bar. A great fun group.

Best wishes

Victoria (an amateur soprano)

John C V Kendall (Bass), 1947 - 2016

Secretary MVC, May 2015-2016

John Charles Vicary Kendall died peacefully surrounded by his close family on Sunday 9 October having bravely faced what for him and the rest of his family was "a journey". This latest phase of his journey in life started when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer 3 years ago. However, in character with his general philosophy on life and a desire to live it to the full and enjoy the many blessings granted to him, with the devoted support of his wife Liz, they resolved to soldier on with a positive attitude. It is a measure of the high regard with which he was held, not only within his family but also by many friends and an even larger circle of colleagues, that their attitude won amazing love and support until the end. Indeed, the gathering at his thanksgiving service, of such a large number of people, was testimony in itself.

What made John so special? I'm not sure how qualified I am to answer that as everyone will have their own special memories. It was an honour to have been asked by Tony to write a piece for this newsletter, because John is the reason I joined SEMVC. At a family function 6 years ago he said that he thought I would enjoy singing with the choir and he brought me along. I've never looked back. This characteristic of continually looking out for ways in which he could enhance other people's life experiences stands out as a particular virtue.

John's working career was dominated by his role as a highly respected criminal defence lawyer based in Grantham; a man of great integrity, who looked down on no one and held that, within our legal system, everyone was entitled to a fair hearing. He rubbed shoulders with many 'alleged' criminals but in spite of this he was a devoted family man, who always made time for "the present Mrs. Kendall" as he often endearingly referred to Liz: there never was another! Edward observed that his parents were a "formidable team – soulmates, confidantes and more". This teamwork allowed JK to be active in many other circles, from singing to sport, holidays and active roles in charitable, community and taking up a seat on the local bench as a magistrate after retiring to Suffolk. In all his activities people respected his insightful wisdom and charming manner. He was a respected gentleman, whom we all had the privilege of knowing. God Bless you John. Our sympathy goes out to Liz and the family. James B (Baritone)



Brian Wimshurst (Second tenor), died 9 October 2016, aged 80

Brian was born and grew up in Brighton. He and his brother both served as choir boys in the local church. After grammar school, Brian finished an apprenticeship with Vickers Armstrong and qualified as an aircraft engineer. Always looking for new challenges, Brian got a job as computer sales manager at Burroughs Computers. After a few years, he changed again and went into antiques and restoration. He ran the Diss Antiques shop and restoration for 30 years. The shop is still there, now run by his son.

Brian had strong connections with Denmark, as his wife Karin, was Danish and he kept in touch with her Danish family after Karin sadly died 7 years ago.

Brian had a very fine tenor voice and was a long time member of the MVC as well as the Burgate Singers and the Reickman Choir. Edda Broadhurst

Where have we sung since we enjoyed our first concert back in July 1988?

October 2015's Tone's Tidings, included some facts about the popularity of our music by tabulating how often we had performed them. This month, my goal is to provide a few ideas of the popularity of the places we have actually performed.

Our last concert at Hadleigh was our 300th! Bury St. Edmunds had hosted 111 of them. Up to 20-miles out of town, 112 took place. 52 in the rest of the UK and 25 abroad.

In the town's 23 sites, we've sung at the Cathedral 21 times, St Mary's 17, Athenaeum 9, Apex and Trinity Methodist 6 and St. John's Church 4 times.

Out of town up to a radius of 20 miles, the most concerts in one place are Stowmarket 12, Newmarket and Mildenhall 7 (one of them on the US Air Base), Great Barton 6, Woolpit 6, Barton Mills 5 and Kedington 5.

More than 3 times at Clare, Mendlesham, Cotton, Elveden, Haverhill, Lawshall, Rattlesden, Rougham and Thetford. Twice at Exning, Garboldisham, Hadleigh (last concert there July 1993), Long Melford, Redgrave, Sudbury, Thurston and Wickhambrook.

Further afield, the most is 4 at Cambridge between 1996 and 2003. King's Lynn, Ipswich and Ely all had 3 concerts together with South Woodham Ferrers as early as 1994 - 1997.

All 2 times were at Basingstoke, Colchester, Mansfield, Martlesham Heath, Peterborough, Snape Maltings, Southend and Warwick.

When taking all of East Anglia into account before Mark's first performance at our 116th concert at St Mary's in September 2000, we have done, omitting Bury St. Edmunds - **Norfolk - 2, Essex - 7, Suffolk - 41** (The 2 in Norfolk were both at King's Lynn.)

Since then, excluding the three recent weekday ones at Downham Market,

Norfolk - 7, Essex - 13, Suffolk - 114

Of the 7 in Norfolk, Thetford, East Harling, Garboldisham and Bressingham are just over the rivers Waveney and Ouse county boundary.

Food for Thought? Could more Norfolk Concerts be considered?
Alan M (Second Tenor)

Dates for your Diary

Sa 19 November - Concert at St Lawrence's Church, Little Waldingfield, CO10 0SP in aid of Church Restoration Fund.

Sa 26 November - BSE Christmas Fayre

Th 15 December - End of term, Carols and Chips, BSE Rugby Club

Fri 16 December - SEMVC Christmas Dinner, BSE Golf Club, Tut Hill

2017

Sa 18 March - Concert with Isleham Primary School Band, The Beeches, Mill Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5RY supporting community hall funding

M 17-Mon 24 April - French tour *tbc*

Sa 13 May - Sing for your Supper, All Saints, BSE

Su 21 May - Concert with Amersfoort MVC from Holland, St Peter and St Paul Church, Clare CO10 8NY

Sa 3 June - King's Lynn MVC 60th Anniversary Mass Choir, St Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn PE301NH

Sa 17 June - Woolpit Festival *tbc*

Sa 8 July - St Mary's Church, Redgrave, Diss IP22 1RJ *tbc*

Sa 30 September - Concert at St Mary's Church, Stratford St Mary CO7 6LS in aid of church funds

Sa 14 October - Three Choirs Festival with The Dalesmen MVC and Mansfield and District MVC, Derby Cathedral Centre, 18-19 Iron Gate, Derby DE1 3GP

Sa 18 November - St Peter's Church, Market Hill, Sudbury CO10 2EA in aid of RAFA

Den's 'Autumn Colours' Bike Ride

Since this year's unseasonably warm and wet weather made predicting the onset of autumn rather difficult, I decided to hold three rides on consecutive Thursdays, 20th & 27th October and 3rd November. Each of the rides was enjoyed by all who took part, with one person actually joining me for all three! I would love to regale you all with tales of mishaps and hilarious incidents, but all three rides were boringly uneventful.

However, eventually, by the time we arrived at the last ride, the autumn caught up with us and we were treated to one of the most colourful displays of foliage and fungi that has been seen



for a number of years. Fly Agaric toadstools, (that's the red one with white spots, usually seen illustrated in fairy tales) were in profusion all over the forest, but unfortunately we failed to catch sight

of the obligatory fairy or gnome sitting atop them. Birch, beech, chestnut and sycamore leaves were in many autumn shades ranging from bright yellow, through light and dark browns to deep red. At one point we passed an oak tree which had been ravaged by Sudden Oak Death disease, but appeared to be recovering. Ross (who knows about such things) informed us that yes, the trees do seem to be fighting back and hopefully becoming resistant to these diseases which for the last decade or more have been decimating the population of some of our endemic tree species. The dying bracken was a beautiful bronze colour, streaked with yellow and green.

We saw and/or heard a variety of birds, including Green Woodpeckers, Jays, Robins, Great Tits, Coal Tits, Long Tailed Tits and of course Pigeons. At one point I think I heard a Blackcap, which should have left the country for warmer parts weeks ago!

Everyone who took part agreed that a 'Spring Bloom' ride would be great. Watch this space! Den C (Second Tenor)



A new venue and format for our now traditional **Carols and Chips**. We will be at the Bury Rugby Club on **Thursday 15 December**. Doors open at 6:30 pm so why not bring the grandchildren along to the earlier session. Tickets are £4.00 for food. After the food break we will probably have another go at the Carols. The Rugby Club, I think you'll find, will be more user-friendly with a bit more room.

Rural Watch

I had this recent reminder from our local Rural Watch chappie.

'Following a spate of 'Drive by' break-ins in isolated rural locations i.e. edge of villages or in poorly lit areas, the culprits are spotting dark houses as the occupants are at work.' He suggests that the use of timers on lights is a good way of deterring would-be thieves. We use timers when we go on our hols but don't think to use them as a deterrent during winter.

Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre

We have been invited to sing on the Greene King stage, Angel Hill on **Saturday 25 November from 10 am to 11 am**.

Details of arrangements will be available shortly.

The Fayre runs from the afternoon of Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th teatime. www.burystedmundschristmasfayre.co.uk

Reports and pictures for Tidings are welcome.

Please contact Chairman Tony Farr, 01440 704179, lolandtony@talktalk.net