

Tone's Tidings

January 2017 Issue 17



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



As you are all too well aware, 2016 finished on a sad note for the Choir with the announcements of Bob Moulding and John Ottley's passing.

2017 started with us saying our final farewells to them both. Our sorrow was deepened further with the news of Robin Pott's demise. So now we must remember them fondly and let the music we are making be their memorial.

Press report from March 1988

Welcoming voice

MALE voices are wanted for the newly formed St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir which meets every Thursday evening at 7.30 pm in the Howard Middle School, Bury St Edmunds. The choir has been running for eight weeks and has achieved a total membership of 35.

Conductor of the choir, Stephen Linden, Head of Music at County Upper and Howard Middle Schools said, "My aim is eventually to have a choir of 60-80 voices singing the traditional male voice repertoire."

So far the choir has concentrated on

each part of a Gilbert and Sullivan chorus, the chorus of the Hebrew Slaves *Speed your Journey* (as heard on the British Airways advert), the folksong *Farmer's Boy* and a Welsh Hymn (sung in English). A song from South Pacific, *There Is Nothing Like a Dame* complements the selection.

Members of the public who want to join should contact Stephen Linden on Great Barton 8159 or Brian Raistrick on Great Barton 372 or just turn up on a Thursday when you will be made very welcome.



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir in full song during rehearsal.

Review of concert, Little Waldingfield, 19 November

On a chilly Saturday evening in November we were treated to some warming singing by the choir. The concert started with one of my personal favourites, *Every time I feel the spirit*, always a jolly opening to any concert. A traditional mix of lullabies and songs typically associated with Male Voice Choirs followed.

The first half concluded with another of my favourites, *The African Trilogy*. I think this song has been a big success for the choir over the last few years, quite a departure from usual choir repertoire. It is always lovely to hear the solo voice of David Sadler coming over the top of the other voices.

In the second half we heard some new music, a collection of well known Burt Bacharach songs, which I am sure will become a mainstay of the choir's repertoire in the future. It was the first time I had heard another new piece for the choir, *Up Town Funk*, and although I was not expecting to like this, it turned out to be one of my favourites for the evening! You never know what SEMVC will serve up next!

The evening was more than ably complemented by 'Classic Femme', a ladies quartet of the highest standard, singing in perfect harmony and joining the men in some joint numbers.

Debbie F



Andy Sheppard, LWHS, wrote:

"I am absolutely delighted that the proceeds from the brilliant concert come to £1,567.25, a fantastic result.

Sincere thanks of LWHS trustees go to John Sparkes, whose idea it was to hold a fund raising concert, and who very kindly sponsored the choir. It was such a superb performance, which was most favourably commented upon by everyone I spoke with."



Accompanist and Deputy Musical Director

John Richard Ottley

22 February 1947 – 18 December 2016

From Mark Jefferson (Musical Director):

We all knew John wasn't well, but I know we were all shocked to lose him so quickly. The sense of family amongst us all is unique and the experiences that bind us together are to be cherished; so also are the memories of John. He was a key member of the choir and, at times, he was the driving force behind it. Sometimes impish, and at others - focussed, determined and unwavering, his work, support and love of the choir was unquestionable. In many ways he was an ambassador for the choir keeping his many friends both at home and abroad updated with news of his exploits at concerts and rehearsals; exploits that were always steeped with pride.

Personally, he was my musical right hand man. Never afraid to speak his mind, he frequently kept me grounded and attempted, not always successfully, to keep me on the straight and narrow - focussed on the next goal, the next piece of repertoire to be learnt or the next concert to be planned. He frequently covered for my mistakes and I know he covered for some of the choir's.

We shall miss him. I shall miss him tremendously.



Robert William Moulding (Top tenor)

3 March 1935 – 13 December 2016

From Ken Sawyer: Known as Bob to his friends, I knew him for 40 years; a great friend, we have seen many highs and lows together. A charismatic character, always ready for a laugh and a joke, Bob was well known for his one line quips. He would throw in the odd eloquent long word to impress us with his command and knowledge of the English language.

He was very proud of his family, Vanessa, Andrea and Neil. His grandchildren were always mentioned, especially the twins and he would never tire of telling us about Neil playing rugby for Culford.

Bob had many interests, football, cricket, acting and singing, subjects covered at Great Barton Men's Breakfast at a table regarded as solely for the SEMVC (Bob M, Ed B, Chris F, Ed's mate Phil and myself).

Later we were joined by Nick G, Bob E and Richard E. A great start to a Saturday morning. The gaps now left on the table are sorely missed. Bob first trod the boards with Barton Players in 1976. He played the part of Honest Tom Malone, a salesman of Magic Health Potions, a part made for him. I was Marshall Tricky Dicky and had to keep my eye on him and have been doing so ever since.

With Chris and I, he joined Bury Operatic where we performed together many times. Bob again played a character part he was made for in *Anything Goes*, as Moonface Martin, a gangster who disguises himself as a vicar.

Goaded into SEMVC, he had always said "Not for me" but once introduced to the Tenors, he never looked back. It enabled him to tread the boards again with his good mate Ed B where they became infamous for their stand-up comedy of one liners; they will go down in the SEMVC archives.

Bob was a singer in his own right, with a passion for Frank Sinatra. He performed in Barton Players Old Time Musicals, Showstoppers, pantomimes and SEMVC's Sing for your supper with solo numbers. Memories of sketches will always stay with us - *The Old Bazaar in Cairo*, Bob, Chris and me in nightshirt, fez and fluffy slippers. *The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God* with two gin-filled Colonels, Bob and I, barracking the Poet, Chris, trying to recite poem. It was a great friendship with many memories to treasure.

Christmas Round up
BSE Christmas Fayre, 26 November



Carols and Chips, 15 December

In a break from our usual venue for our Carols and Chips and with a flash of inspiration we moved to the Bury Rugby Club for this annual event. A very enjoyable and successful evening ensued and, judging by comments all round, it could well be repeated this year.



Christmas Dinner, 16 December



Exam success



One member of our intrepid band of Second Tenors, namely Simon Loughe, decided that he would try his hand at the grading system for voices. It is normal to start at grade One, but, Simon being Simon, he went straight in at grade 5, and he passed with distinction. Well done him; he now needs to pass the theory grades to allow to progress further. They are a clever bunch these Second Tenors.

Dates for your Diary

Sa 18 March – Concert with Anglian Accents Harmony Chorus, The Beeches, Mill Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5RY supporting community hall funding.

M 17-M 24 April – French tour

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 with Lights Music Action

Sa 8 July – St Mary's Church, Redgrave, Diss IP22 1RJ

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

2018

Sa 14 April - Concert with Suffolk Constabulary MVC, Ipswich venue tbc

Th 12 July - Elmswell Over 55s Club, Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell IP30 9GY

Used stamps for AGSD-UK update

From Ed and Sylvia Wilson:

Thank you to all those of you who ask after our granddaughter, Nora. She continues to do well. There is no treatment for her disease, only careful management and constant monitoring of her food intake. She cannot eat sugars and that doesn't just mean cakes and biscuits! Sugar is present in almost all foods so this presents a real challenge. Every food label has to be read in case of hidden sugars and her diet largely consists of meat, fish and water. Unlike most children with GSD 3a she does not need to be tube fed during the night.

At this year's annual conference, organized by AGSD-UK, we met Dr David Chung from Florida who is passionately researching a way of reducing the storage of glycogen in the livers of people with GSD 3a. He works closely with AGSD-UK and since the conference we have heard that he (under the auspices of Dover Life Sciences) has won one of three prestigious awards to conduct experiments on the International Space Station. David's research has the potential to help other diseases such as cancer.

Please save your stamps for us. If you could trim them it would help and if you could sort them into UK and foreign it would help even more.

Many thanks.

PS Please contact Ed & Sylvia for full details of the research

AGSD-UK supports adults and children who live with one of twelve ultra-rare glycogen storage diseases. These conditions can be extremely disabling and in some cases, fatal if not diagnosed and treated at their early stages. Sadly, because they are rare in nature they are not widely understood, even within the healthcare community. This means that diagnosis is often very late which can result in life changing damage to the liver, heart, kidneys and muscles.

An annual conference and workshops to help patients and families understand their condition are held. The charity also employs a Specialist Care Advisor who will support patients in the community to ensure they have the appropriate benefits, home adaptations and other measures to improve their quality of life. AGSD-UK is seeking to build a greater awareness within the healthcare community whilst continuing to offer patient and family support, advice on managing symptoms and support for new research. Like many charities we would like to grow our service to enable many more individuals to benefit from a more informed and timely intervention.



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If this sounds like you or someone you know please call us on 0207 013 4411 or by email at drivers@rdftelevision.com



Reports and pictures for Tidings are welcome.
Please contact Chairman Tony Farr, 01440 704179,
lolandtony@talktalk.net