

Tone's Tidings

December 2017 Issue 23



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

Patron: The Rt. Hon The Earl of Iveagh

President: Paul Deane

Vice Presidents: John Balaam, Dr John Meers

Registered Charity No. 1028123



Fast away the old year did pass,
And to the New we raise our glass.
What it will bring we cannot tell,
So let us hope we stay fit and well.



Concert with Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir Saturday 18 November 2017



It's been a long time since we sat in the audience and really appreciated the quality of the voices in SEMVC. We usually drag our children, Natasha and Ben along to brass music concerts, so tonight was about expanding their musical appreciation, to include the world of the male voice choir. It was also a treat for them to see their Grandad, Tony Farr, singing alongside other members of the Kedington mafia! Loaded with sweets and snacks, we squeezed in amongst a near capacity audience at St Peter's, Sudbury in anticipation.

Leigh's programme began with the very impressively sung Welsh hymn *Gwahoddiad*, and led onto *You raise me up* where they were joined by Vanessa Cozens. It was a shame that we didn't hear more of Vanessa. Unfortunately, she became a little swamped by the powerful male voices in the last verse. Leigh then entertained us with a medley from *South Pacific*. We particularly enjoyed the costume additions to *There is nothing like a dame*. Natasha thought Elvis was very cool! SEMVC then took the stage. Usually, your Chairman (being vertically challenged - genes he passed to his son...) is hidden from view, and is rarely seen. But not tonight! The grandchildren had direct line of sight, and we were absorbed by the quality and control of the singing. The much-anticipated *Cantique de Jean Racine* resonated in the fine acoustic, but didn't quite reach the level of performance we were hoping for (a particular favourite of ours and so I guess we critiqued this a little more than the others). Tempo and tuning issues just took the shine off what otherwise was a great performance. However, this was more than made up for with the rest of the first half which concluded with a toe-tapping, finger-clicking performance of *Amen* which definitely got the audience jiggling in their seats!

A really impressive performance from joint choirs of *Rhythm of Life* concluded the first half - how did you all manage to get your teeth around those words so precisely? A bunch of grown men looking very smart and serious, singing 'Doo Bee Doos' was a real treat. We partook in the lovely spread of refreshments offered at the interval - we specially liked the Cathedral City cheese bites - Thank you John.

A beautiful rendition of *Bridge over troubled water* opened the second half. SEMVC controlled the dynamics throughout and showed total concentration from the whole choir. Wait, was that a guitar we heard? We'd forgotten that Simon 'the Schirminator' was accompanying, and that is not meant as a negative

comment. His subtle accompanying skills, along with those of Calvin on the keys, provided the perfect foundation from which the choir could express themselves. And express they did with a couple of Burt Bacharach pieces - which had just the right amount of cheese, and would have made Cilla proud. Their programme finished with *Kings of Swing*, a nice medley for the audience to hum and sway along to.

Leigh's second half opened with some very *Magnificent men* entertaining us in their flying machines (one with a pair of goggles). They concluded with a selection of songs from the Sixties, taking Billie back to being a young lass, listening to her mum singing her heart out to these songs whilst dusting and Hoovering!



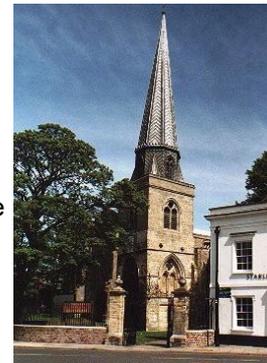
All too soon the finale was upon us. Some poignant words by Mark Jefferson reminded us all why we were there, and the concert concluded with *An American Trilogy*, a very moving tribute to those who lost their lives in battle. Congratulations to both choirs, their conductors and accompanists for a very entertaining yet moving concert. Our children were enthralled throughout, enjoying the livelier numbers, and appreciating the quieter ones. In fact, Ben found parts of the concert so relaxing he fell asleep towards the end! We promise not to leave it so long next time ...

Paul, Billie, Natasha and Ben Farr, November 2017

A return to King's Lynn

The first concert of 2018 will be held in St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn in aid of EACH. Please put Saturday 27 January in your diary.

Joining SEMVC on stage again are RAF Marham Military Wives Choir with whom we sang here in June 2017 and also the Downham Preparatory School Choir.



East Anglia's
Children's Hospices



Second Tenor Simon Loughe decided that he would take up the Mouvember Challenge and he had his moustache shaved off during rehearsal. He is delighted to announce that his efforts raised £650 plus for Prostate Cancer research.
Well done Simon.

**Carols and Chips, Christmas Revelry
Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club
21 December 2017**



And Simon Chrispin announced his engagement to Amanda.



Dates for your Diary

- Sa 20 January** - SEMVC 30th Anniversary Dinner, BSE
- Sa 27 January** - Concert with Downham Preparatory School and Marham Military Wives Choir, St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn, PE30 1NH, in aid of EACH
- Sa 24 February** - Concert St Mary's Church, Barton Mills
- Sa 24 March** - Concert St Botolph's Church, Colchester
- Sa 14 April** - Concert with Suffolk Constabulary MVC, St John the Baptist Church, Ipswich IP4 4QE
- Th 10 - Su 13 May** - Werdorf Choir visit SEMVC
- Sa 12 May** - Concert with MGV 1865 Werdorf e.v., St Mary's Church, BSE IP33 1RT
- Sa 9 June**—Concert with Men2Sing, St Mary's Church, Newmarket CB8 0HP, in aid of church funds
- Th 12 July** - Elmswell Over 55s Club, Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell IP30 9GY
- F 27 July - Tu 31** - Welsh Tour
2019
- Sa 23 March** - Three Choir Festival with Mansfield and Bestwood MVCs, Southwell Minster

**SEMVC 30th Anniversary Dinner
Saturday 20 January 2017, 7.00 for 7.30 pm**

Last opportunity to reserve your place for the dinner at Ashlar House, Eastern Way, BSE.
Please contact Ian (ijfrobertson@yahoo.co.uk)

Following a rush of blood to the head, I decided to ride my bike to the bottle shop to buy a bottle of Famous Grouse. After buying it, I had a thought, 'How can I safely get it home? If I fall off the bottle will break', so, I drank the bottle.
It was a good job that I did,..... I fell off 7 times on the way home.

Concert Secretary Ivor

You are all aware of Ivor's November 17 adventures with the Theatre Royal steps. At the time of writing he is still in leg braces but now has 90° movement in them. He is not allowed to climb steps or stairs until his knees get stronger but he has gone back home and would welcome visitors at
Stable Cottage, 46 Horsecroft Road,
Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2DY



BSE Christmas Fayre, 25 November

A good turnout again on a cold morning.
All good publicity for the choir.

Sign of the Times

Dearest Dad,
I am coming home to get married soon, so get your cheque book out. I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. As you know, I am in Australia and he lives in Scotland. We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on WhatsApp. He proposed to me on Skype, and now we've had two months of a relationship through Viber.
My beloved and favourite Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding.
Lots of love and thanks
Your favourite daughter,
Lilly

The Response

My Dear Lilly,
Like Wow! Really? Cool!
Whatever ... I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, buy your kids on Amazon, and pay for it all through PayPal.
And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on eBay.
Love,
Your Dad

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