

# Rob's Review



*St Edmundsbury  
Male Voice Choir*

2019  
Issue 7

## Presentation - Every Heart Matters campaign



Members of the West Suffolk Hospital Staff Choir 'Lift' together with members of SEMVC at the presentation of a cheque for £1,350 to the My Wish charity on 22 January at the hospital Chapel, following a sell out joint concert at St John's Church Bury St Edmunds on 17 November 2018.

## Carols and Chips - Thursday 20 December

Our Carols and Chips event continues to grow in



popularity. A crowded Bury St Edmunds rugby club was treated to a wall of song which grew more raucous and less tuneful as the evening went along. Nevertheless the bonhomie reigned supreme and with a guest appearance from Santa, this was a fine, if somewhat noisy way, to start the Christmas festivities.

Ivor T

## Concert for former school caretaker, Colin White Thursday 7 February, Howard Primary School

There was an excellent attendance of choir members for this free concert. The retiring collection raised funds towards Colin's welfare and comfort following his tragic accident. There was also a raffle and refreshments were on sale.

A full report in the next edition of the Review.

## Terence Robert Mills (Bass)

known as Terry

18 January 1927 - 8 December 2018



Terry was a stalwart member of the choir for many years after joining the ranks in late 1989. In the early 1990s under the Chairman Tony Lowndes, Terry became secretary, a position that he held for a number of years. One of the ex-officio duties of the secretary was to be the choir's representative at meetings of the local area branch of The National Association of Choirs (NAC) and I remember Terry always wore with pride the NAC badge on his lapel. He later became chairman of the local area of NAC; in those days it was quite a thriving group and many older SEMVC members will remember several concerts across the region when we joined member choirs, the organisation of which Terry was deeply involved. Terry wrote a book which he entitled "Memories" and during the years that he served as Secretary, the book is littered with mention of arrangements for visiting choirs, as well as the choir's own tours both within the UK and abroad. Involvement as chairman of the NAC as already mentioned took up a lot of his time too.

A most successful businessman as an architect he was involved in plans for the cathedral extension and the refurbishment of Bury railway station. Terry always had a keen sense of humour. When I was Vice-Chairman over twenty years ago, he always referred to me as 'Edelweiss' and I in turn invariably called him 'Dark Satanic Mills' - both adjectives in retrospect being wholly inappropriate! I recall when now over ten years ago, Terry announced that he had breast cancer, a disease thought an illness almost exclusively affecting only the fairer sex.

Apparently one of only four men in East Anglia known to have had this illness, he was interviewed by BBC Look East who even sent a reporter to visit us at Howard Middle School (as it was then) to interview Terry and to highlight the symptoms and to obtain an early diagnosis. Sadly due to advancing years and the age old problem of not being able to keep alternatively standing up and sitting down Terry gave up singing but as a Friend of the Choir, he and Elizabeth kept in touch and were often seen at concerts.

Some thirty members attended Terry's funeral and three songs from our CD "Colours" were played at the service. Terry leaves a widow Elizabeth and we hope very much that she will maintain the link with the choir.

Richard Everett

## **Annual Dinner - Friday 25 January 2019**

Choir members, wives, partners and friends of the choir enjoyed an excellent Annual Dinner which this year fell on Burns Night. Thanks to a huge amount of work by Concert Manager Ian, it was a really good evening. The food provided by BSE Golf Club staff was excellent, as was the service. The varied themed clothing suggested was followed by several people and we all really enjoyed the evening.

A highlight was the parade of the haggis by Ross in full Scottish outfit, followed by honoured reader Scottish Margaret and bearer of the dagger Ian.

Margaret read some of Burns' 'To a Haggis' and then Ian stabbed the haggis and revealed the contents.



Most people had a taste of the haggis plus 'neeps and tatties' and whisky gravy. With 11 pm rapidly approaching, there was a very brief and interesting sing which probably reflected how much we had enjoyed what was on offer at the bar!?



The idea of a 'themed' evening seemed to be very well received and well worth considering something similar next year.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **2019**

**Sa 23 March** - 'Male Voices at The Minster', Southwell Minster, NG25 0HD with Mansfield and Bestwood MVCs

**Tu 2 - M 8 April** - Liverpool & Isle of Man tour

**Th 25 - M 29 April** - Les Canards Sauvages (The Wild Ducks from Uzes) visit SEMVC

**Sa 27 April** - Concert with Les Canards Sauvages, St Peter's Church, Hospital Road, BSE IP33 3JT

**W 1 - Sa 4 May** - Sing at West Suffolk Beer Festival, Apex, BSE, tbc

**Sa 8 June** - Sing at wedding reception (private event)

**Sa 6 July** - Concert with the Jubilee Ladies Choir, Stowmarket United Reform Church, IP14 1AD

**Sa 2 November** - Concert with The VIPs in St Mary's Church, Honey Hill, BSE IP33 1RT, in aid of Tearfund

## **Mike Mason (Bass)**

**1937 - 30 November 2018**

SEMVC Chairman 2003-2006



The chancel of Fornham All Saints Church was filled to capacity on 17 December with SEMVC choir members for the funeral service of past Chairman Mike Mason.

The sun managed to shine on this sad occasion when we celebrated the life of this long term member and supporter of the Male Voice Choir. Some past choir members had travelled considerable distances to attend the funeral indicating just how much they and we appreciated his friendship and the work he and Dawn had done for the choir.

It is hoped to have a full tribute to Mike in the next edition of the Review.



**Liverpool and Isle of Man**  
**Tuesday 2 - Monday 8 April**



With 62 people committing to the 2019 tour, the reservations have been made at both hotels and the concert programme is nearing completion.

I plan to visit the Isle of Man at the end of February to check that everything is in place and the venues are as we expect. If you have any queries or things you would like checked out, please let me know at the latest by Thursday 21 February.

Rob B

With kind permission of the Dean & Chapter of Southwell Minster  
**The Rotary Club of Southwell**  
presents

## **"Male Voices at The Minster"**

**featuring**

**Mansfield & District, St. Edmundsbury and Bestwood Male Voice Choirs**  
With Special Guest: Flautist Chris Hill

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 7:30pm**

**Mansfield & District M.V.C.**



**Tickets £15**

from :  
Southwell Minster 01636 812933 + Southwell Rotary Club 07899 008009  
M. & D.M.V.C. 01623 455373 + on line @ [www.mansfieldmvc.co.uk](http://www.mansfieldmvc.co.uk)

Proceeds in aid of:-



Southwell Reach Project + Live at Home Scheme + Local Rotary supported charities

### **Please send your reports and pictures to:-**

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