

# Tone's Tidings

August–September 2017 Issue 21



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



Welcome back all you choristers and a special welcome to Edward Wilson (TT), Dave Brown (Bari), Dan McKeown (Bari) and Nathan Leveritt who have come along to try us out. Well done and well sung for the first concert of our new season.

## First concert of the 2017/2018 season St Mary's Church, Stratford St Mary Saturday 30 September

The concert raised £1,300 for the Church Roof Fund. A full report will appear in the October issue of Tidings. We were pleased to receive this message from someone in the audience.



"We are sure you will be inundated with congratulatory emails following the Choir's performance in Stratford St Mary last night.

What a great show from all concerned. The dry wit and one-liners from Mark Jefferson were an added plus! A thoroughly enjoyable event."

## SEMVC Summer Meal

I have been asked to share my personal thoughts about the choir meal which took place on Thursday 10 August at the Cock Inn in Clare, so here goes:-

I was pleasantly surprised when I first entered the pub because it had clearly been refurbished and altered since I was last there, making it much lighter, brighter and more welcoming. It was good to have exclusive use of the downstairs room which was easily large enough to accommodate all of us, although the long tables made it more difficult for people sitting nearest the wall to leave their seats. As it was a long time since I had last eaten there (a prawn sandwich 20 years ago), I had no preconceived ideas about the food. Our menu choices were limited but varied, the service was good and my three courses were well-presented and in the case of the main course, well cooked. If I have a criticism of the food it would be that the starter and main course (prawn cocktail and chicken) were rather bland and lacking in taste – this resulted in a minor difference in the Parkes household as my husband thought his steak and ale pie was delicious.



As a social event I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and judging by the sound of laughter and the buzz of conversation during the meal, I assume that most people there felt the same.

Gill Parkes

## Another Baritone Retirement

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to tell you that Ernie, that great stalwart of the Baritone section has decided to put his tonsils on the shelf.

Fellow Baritone, Richard Everett has written the following:

Many members would have been saddened to read in the last edition of Tidings that Ernie Broom had decided to retire from membership of the Choir.

Like myself, Ernie had joined the choir in 1988 and it is always a sad occasion when a long-standing member decides to hand back his music. I know from conversations I have had with him that Ernie was very keen to complete 30 years' service and it is with some misgivings that he reached his decision to retire.

Few members have contributed more to the choir than Ernie who was, as Choir Rep a member of the committee for a number of years and has been the Baritone's Section Leader for longer than I care to remember. His deteriorating health in recent years and his thus enforced absence on Thursday evenings reluctantly culminated in his retirement decision. Ernie was ever-present both on Thursday evenings and at concerts where his enjoyment of singing was so apparent, personification if needed, on Nick's oft made request to smile when we sing and look as if we enjoy it!



Ernie was instrumental in recruiting several members to the choir, many from BT for whom Ernie had worked. Like so many members their wives have done so much to help the choir's success and Deidre was involved from an early stage with the tea making which we all value. Sadly Deidre died some years ago after a long illness.

Ernie has been involved for many years as Chairman of the Howard Estate Residents' Association and those who regularly take the local papers will be surprised at how frequently he appears in its pages while campaigning for the residents in some way to improve matters on the estate. His efforts in this regard culminated in his being awarded the BEM and several members of the choir were privileged to be invited to a gathering at Ashlar House to celebrate this richly deserved award. That Ernie touched so many people was obvious from the cross-section of people who attended the function, which was organised by his three children, who spoke so movingly of him.

Ernie we will miss you in the future but understand that you are to become a 'Friend' of the choir and look forward very much to seeing you on many future occasions.

## SEMVC Summer Barbecue, Sunday 20 August



The BBQ this year was an 'in house' do. Thankfully we started off well with Tim and Mark allowing us to explore their extensive and beautiful garden at Depden. Andrew brought his party tent, choir members brought the salads, Paul D made the sweets, Tim supervised the use of his BBQ and hey presto, there we are with a 'Flash Barbie'.



The sun shone on the 60 of us who attended and ate as much as we could of the fare provided and you cannot have a Choir 'Do' without a raffle.

The afternoon was rounded off playing croquet - a 'vicious' game which James Black demonstrated by dispatching his opponents' balls to the far end of the lawn. A new social activity for SEMVC?!

### The Dalesmen Male Voice Choir

Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year  
Mansfield & District Male Voice Choir  
St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir (punks)  
120 voices within the Cathedral's fabulous acoustics  
In Their Charity Concert



Derby Cathedral  
7.00 pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017

A full report of this concert and the visit to Crich will appear in October issue of Tidings.

### Dates for your Diary

**Sa 18 November** - Concert with Leigh Orpheus MVC, St Peter's Church, Sudbury CO10 2EA, in aid of RAFA  
**Sa 25 November** - BSE Christmas Fayre, Angel Hill  
**Th 21 December** - Carols and Chips, BSE Rugby ground  
**2018**

**Sa 20 January** - SEMVC 30th Anniversary Dinner, BSE  
**Sa 24 February** - Concert with Downham Preparatory School at St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn, PE30 1NH  
**Sa 24 March** - Concert St Botolph's Church, Colchester  
**Sa 14 April** - Concert with Suffolk Constabulary MVC, venue tbc, Ipswich  
**Sa 12 May** - Concert with MGW 1865 Werdorf e.v., venue tbc

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

**F 27 July - Tu 31** - Wales 2018 details tbc  
**2019**

**Sa 23 March** - Three Choir Festival with Mansfield and Bestwood MVCs, Southwell Minster, tbc

## Ivor's 'Norfolk Walk', Thursday 24 August



After a one-year absence, Ivor's Norfolk walk hit the road again, this time in the picturesque village of Great Massingham which is just north of Swaffham. With Ross and Viv putting in a guest appearance, 22 walkers and one dog hit the byways, lanes, and roads around the village with everyone completing the 6-mile circular route, which also included the village of Harpley, in 2½ hours. Amazing even himself, Nigel Farthing led the way back into the village!



Whilst the walk was completed on August 24, Ivor had managed to book the meal in the marvellous Dabbling Duck on September 24! Nevertheless, the staff coped and a wonderful meal was had by all. Back next year and heading for the coast!



### Fancy seeing you here!

Four SEMVC members bumped into each other at the Fornham All Saints roundabout having watched the Tour of Britain Cycle Race whizz through the village.



### Choir Uniform Dinner Jackets

Currently I have 3 double-breasted Dinner Jackets that would fit a chorister of slim build. Please contact me for further information on 01440 704179. Tony F



Reports and pictures for Tidings are welcome.

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