

Rob's Review



**St Edmundsbury
Male Voice Choir**

*Issue 2
July 2018*



Alan Messem

It was very pleasing as one of my first official duties to present Alan with his 25-year award cufflinks. With the qualifying period being such a long time, it makes the award very special.

(Chairman Rob and Alan)

Alan, a lifetime second tenor named "statto" by Mark also kept details of when and how often songs were performed, a job which now I believe has passed to Ian (bass) Robertson. We were pleased that Alan's wife, Jean, could be there to share the event. Rob B



(Jean and Alan, surrounded by some of their many friends in SEMVC, were wearing bright shirts in memory of Neville Rogers)

Thank you

I have been meaning to write this ever since the AGM. but never found time. Well, that's my excuse. So it's now time for a grut big "Thank-you" to all of the Choir, the



Committee, the Music Team and the Friends, for their/your support in all aspects of Choir Life, its ups and its downs (and there have been many of both). It has not been the easiest of Choir times, emotionally that is, but we have pulled through and as the saying goes

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger", so before I start getting maudlin I'll finish.

Thank you all for everything. Tony F

10th Annual Relay for Life

Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds, Saturday 7 July

Nowton Park was hot, very hot, but at least we were able to sing in the shade. Those taking part in the Relay were in full sun doing endless laps of a designated circuit in aid of Cancer Research (over £26k raised). It must have been quite hard but everyone was enthusiastic and there was a great atmosphere.

Singing without leadership was difficult at the beginning but we rapidly improved, providing a rousing concert which was very well received by those taking part in the Relay, with several walking in time and singing with us.



This photograph was taken by Lol who was one of a number of "survivors" taking part on the day. A special thank you to all of them which also included some very young children.



Many thanks to Ian for transporting the keyboard, Calvin and Sylvia for playing and page-turning and to all those in the choir who turned up on a very hot day which also involved the World Cup football.. Rob B

Message from Vauxhall MVC

Treasurer Dave Sage of Vauxhall MVC sent his personal thanks to SEMVC for helping to make their 75th Anniversary Concert on 16 June such a memorable occasion. He said there had been many complimentary comments on the event from audience members. He also thanked us for our support at the afterglow at The Old Palace Lodge.

Studying Simon

It so happens that if you want to go beyond Grade 5 in any musical instrument or voice, you have to pass a theory exam first, so as I want to try Grade 6 singing in December, I had to 'go back to school' and hit the books!



With the help of Gill Garside, and a university musician friend (Ant) plus all the Grade exercise theory books, I buried my head in academia once more, and it worked out rather well! A few days before the exam I feared for my sanity when I made a lot of silly mistakes in a practice paper, but that was the ideal kick in the pants that I needed, and I scored 93% on the day. I was by far the oldest person in the room, but the

two hours flew by, largely because I knew how to answer the questions, and relaxed into it. And I forgot my ruler! I had to improvise....

Simon L

Congratulations Simon on passing with Distinction.

Has the heat affected their heads?

At choir practice a few weeks ago Nick selected three random members and asked them to stand. It transpired that not only did they have hair but it also had colour, other than grey.

What does it take to be awarded a position in the front row? Intensive singing lessons, total security with the words and music?

It seems that thick black hair is the answer as modelled here by members of the front row of first and second tenors.



If there is sufficient call we can ask Ivor to add them to the choir wardrobe and then we will be able to offer them at a really good price.

I think there may be a supplier in Stowmarket!

Dates for your Diary

Th 9 August - Ivor's Norfolk Walk, Stiffkey

Su 19 August - SEMVC Barbecue lunch, Tim Freathy's, Depden

Th 23 August - Summer Meal, The Horseshoes Inn, Cockfield

Th 6 September - Rehearsals resume

Sa 22 September - Concert, Kedington Community Centre, CB9 7QQ, in aid of Kedington Air Memorial Fund

Sa 13 October - Concert, Castle Manor Academy, Haverhill, CB9 9JE, with TUBE and Boys That Sing

Sa 17 November - Concert, St John's Church, BSE, IP33 1JY, in aid of 'Every Heart Matters' appeal, West Suffolk Hospital

Sa 24 November - BSE Christmas Fayre, Angel Hill, 10 a.m.

Th 20 December - Carols and Chips, BSE Rugby Club

2019

? February - Query CD recording, Abbey Road

Sa 23 March—Three Choirs Festival, Southwell Minster

About 4/5 April - Holland tour *tbc*

Th 25 - M 29 April - Les Canards Sauvages visit BSE *tbc*

Sa 8 June - Sing at Simon and Cybele's wedding reception, BSE Golf Club

Neville's Night, 5 July



There is no doubt that Neville was unique and it's hard to find any shirts which come close to what was in his extensive wardrobe. However, on Neville's Night we had a very good try.

Our group of guests selected one shirt from each section -

Top tenor

Ed Wilson

Second tenor

Simon Loughe

Baritone

Colin Burrows

Bass

Jules Mills

The overall winner was Dr Simon Loughe wearing what was probably one of his every day shirts!

Rob

Stay in touch over the summer

Th 9 August, Ivor's walk, 3 pm, The Stiffkey Red Lion, NR23 1AJ. Meal at 7 pm, meal booking closed 23 July.

Sun 19 August, SEMVC Barbecue Lunch, Depden Care Farm, IP29 4BU, tickets £8 from Barry Cole.

Thur 23 August, SEMVC Summer Dinner, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, The Horseshoes Inn, Cockfield, IP30 0JB, closing date for booking with Tony Farr is Thursday 2 August.

Reports and pictures are most welcome, please.

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