

# Rob's Review



The crew of No. 186 Squadron Lancaster B.1 (NG 147) who crashed near Great Wilsey Farm.



**St Edmundsbury  
Male Voice Choir**

**Issue 4  
September 2018**

**First concert of the season  
hosted by the Kedington Air Memorial Group  
Saturday 22 September, Kedington Community Centre  
A fitting and moving concert to the  
memory of the casualties of war**

This report is from an audience member (Peter) who had not heard SEMVC before.

When asked to write some notes reviewing the concert, I was both pleased and apprehensive. I am no musician or expert on music, simply a music lover. This love extends across many genres and I convince myself that I know good from poor. Because a person is tuned to a particular genre he/she should never accept that all music of that genre is good. Some good music is poorly performed, and some poor music is performed well. However, the best of all is when good music is very well performed. That's what we were privileged to witness in Kedington.

The hall was full of a good cross-section from the community which included local dignitaries and sponsors. Three excellent choirs were involved - St Edmundsbury MVC, the Pembroke College Choir and Kedington Primary Academy Choir.

Before the music commenced Kevin Betts, leader of the Air Memorial Group, outlined the aims of the Group and thanked the choirs for their wonderful efforts in bringing the concert together. The concert opened with the National Anthem and three other pieces from SEMVC. For those of us hearing them for the first time we were so pleasantly surprised by their powerful, controlled voices and by the beauty of their close harmonies. Choral singing is so uplifting and rewarding. I also recognise the quality of the choir accompanists, Calvin Goymer (keyboard) and Simon Shirm (guitar).



How were the Kedington youngsters from the academy going to follow that we wondered? Wonderfully well as it happened. Their rendition of four pieces, including two Second World War favourites, had most of us close to tears. These children are all volunteers and choir practice takes place outside school hours. Let us hope that their current love of music stays with them. They were also well-versed regarding the tragic events in Kedington during WW2.

## Rougham Churchyard



Some choir members had expressed concern that our late Accompanist John Ottley's grave looked rather neglected. However, his Executors have now added a headstone and a framed plaque with the inscription 'Schola Buriensis'.

The dulcet tones of five members of the Pembroke College Choir followed. Not to be outdone, they performed three numbers and it was a joy to listen to them. One of the singers was Mollie Betts, the daughter of Group leader Kevin and his wife Carrie. Was that a tear I saw in Kevin's eye?



The first half ended with all choirs singing *You Raise Me Up*. Not a dry eye in the house. The interval gave us a chance to gather ourselves. (A busy bar in the interval - Yes really!!) Pembroke College Choir started the second half and got us in the mood with two old wartime favourites. Mollie Betts gave a sweet and faultless solo, much to the delight of all present. SEMVC then entertained us with iconic numbers such as *This Little Light of Mine*, *Shenandoah*, *Anthem from Chess*, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, *Kings of Swing* and *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables*. The second half was as wonderfully uplifting as the first. The build up to the finale was superb as Pembroke College Choir started singing *Do You Hear The People Sing*, without accompaniment, from the hall lobby, walking, still singing, into the main hall where SEMVC joined in. The effect was awesome and loud applause greeted the ending of the number. Finally, young music student Noah gave a truly wonderful rendition of the *Last Post*. A superb ending to the concert. The whole evening was a complete joy and I felt very privileged to have been there. Perhaps I shouldn't have used the word 'finally' as the afterglow was a thing to behold and went on for a considerable time. We must convince people to do it again.

St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir (Registered Charity No. 1028123)

Patron: The Rt. Hon The Earl of Iveagh. President: Paul Deane, Vice Presidents: John Balaam, Dr John Meers

## SEMVC Summer Fun!

**Thursday 9 August**



Rain god Ivor Thulborn, did it again! Months of hot dry weather and Ivor picked the only day in the summer when the temperature dropped and the skies opened for the choir's Norfolk walk. This year over 20 intrepid souls walked alongside the marshes at

Stiffkey to Morston. Eight also managed to walk back whilst others sought the solace of the Coasthopper bus or Ivor's car. Tony's complexion was much improved after his mud bath and some were sensible enough to bring a change of clothes. A lovely meal followed at the Red Lion in Stiffkey where Nick manfully held his part in the closing sing-song as he was the only baritone mad enough to take part!

Thank you one and all. Ivor

**Thursday 16 August**

Four adventurers cycled the 14 miles of forest trails and slaloms in Den's "summer" SEMVC bike ride from Brandon Country Park. Sadly another wet Thursday and for the four men, "rats, drowned" came to mind!!

**Sunday 19 August**

The seemingly endless summer sun decided not to shine too much on the choir barbecue, very kindly hosted by Tim and Mark at their Depden Care Farm.



We collected under Andrew's event shelter and enjoyed excellent barbecued food, prepared and cooked by Tim and Mark under the watchful eye of Arthur, their golden retriever who later decided that it was warm enough for him to jump into the pond to remove

some of the mud!

The largest strawberry desert I have ever seen appeared, carried carefully by one of its creators. After a couple of beers and some wine, the wind seemed less cool and the event proved to be very enjoyable.

Thank you to everyone who made it happen. Rob



## Dates for your Diary

**Sa 3 November** - Concert, Castle Manor Academy, Haverhill, CB9 9JE, in aid of Stour Valley Explorer Scout Unit

**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**

**Th 3 January** - Rehearsals resume *tbc*

**F 25 January** - Dinner, BSE Golf Club, Tut Hill, *tbc*

**Sa 23 March** - Three Choirs Festival, Southwell Minster, NG25 0HD with Mansfield and Bestwood MVCs

**W 3 - Tu 9 April** - Liverpool & Isle of Man tour, *tbc*

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

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

## The Summer Fun is rounded off

**Thursday 23 August**

A mid-summer dinner is always a good idea and this year was attended by 14 singers and 13 groupies. The Horseshoes at Cockfield have a very good selection of beer and their food is good, well presented and served quickly.



Many thanks Tony for organising this. It was good to see so many people during the summer break. Rob

## Cancellation of proposed Dutch Tour 2019

Disappointingly the proposed Dutch Tour has been postponed because it would have occurred within two weeks of Brexit.

Whilst we are sure that it can go ahead in the future we could not chance the delays we might encounter passing through borders when no one yet can tell us what we have to do. We can imagine huge queues of traffic with no-one in charge. SEMVC Committee are currently looking at a replacement tour including Liverpool and the Isle of Man. More information as soon as we can.

## CD recording, Abbey Road

The Committee are also looking at the date and venue of the proposed recording. Abbey Road are less than helpful offering their studio on the basis of 30 days notice to be given by them. This makes it virtually impossible for perhaps 70 choir members and 10 music team to be organised. More details should be available after the next committee meeting.

## Forthcoming Concerts

**Saturday 3 November**

Concert starts at 7 p.m. in Castle Manor Academy, **Haverhill**, CB9 9JE, raising funds for the Stour Valley Explorer Scout Unit's activities and expeditions. Pembroke College Chapel Choir are the supporting act.

**Saturday 17 November**

In St John's Church, **Bury St Edmunds**, IP33 1JY. It is in aid of West Suffolk Hospital's 'Every Heart Matters' appeal.

If you read our local paper you will have seen that **Depden Care Farm** were victims of a second theft of money generated from the sale of their produce.

Many choir members plan to attend the '60s Songbook' event (Joanna Eden and Chris Ingham, sing and play) arranged at the Hunter Club, St Andrew's Street South, BSE on **Saturday 13 October, 7.30 p.m.** to help replace some of the lost funds.

## Stop Press

We have just heard the very sad news of the tragic and sudden death of Männergessangverein 1865 Werdorf's Musical Director, Reiner Genz. He was an extremely talented musician. Condolences.



Reports and pictures are most welcome, please.

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