

# Rob's Review



*St Edmundsbury  
Male Voice Choir*

*2019*

*Issue No. 8*

## **Fundraising concert, Thursday 7 February**



After Colin White fell down the stairs at his home in December 2017 he remained bed and chair ridden following severe damage to his central spinal cord.

Colin who was Howard School Caretaker had worked to help the choir during practice nights and rehearsals. He needed funds to help make life a little easier and more pleasant. The choir decided to hold a fund raising concert at Howard School which resulted in a sum exceeding £1,000 being presented to his wife Jo. Together with other fund raising events, the concert helped to fund a conservatory and establish an easier access to their house.

## **Mike Mason (Bass)**

**1937 - 30 November 2018**

**SEMVC Chairman 2003-2006**



Mike was very proud to have been a founder member of St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir. The son of a clergyman, he was born in Devon and educated at King's School Taunton. He then joined the regular army in the Somerset Regiment and served in Germany and Malaya before being discharged during 1964.

Mike married Dawn during 1965 and was an auditor with the NHS until they moved to Bury St Edmunds in 1978 to run Suffolk Age Concern. In retirement he undertook a number of voluntary jobs including Chair of 'Friends of the Hospital', Meals on Wheels and part time driving jobs. Mike and Dawn enjoyed travelling and walking holidays.

## **'Male Voices at The Minster' Saturday 23 March 2019**



Geoff Mansfield, Concert Manager for Mansfield and District MVC thanked us for our considerable contribution to the concert. He complimented the Musical Directors of Mansfield,

Bestwood and St Edmundsbury MVCs on their skilful guidance and interpretation of the music who had transformed three choirs into one. Southwell Rotary club hosted the concert in Southwell Minster which was in aid of Reach, Live at Home and other local charities. Afterwards there was a great afterglow at the Southwell Golf Club.

Geoff was most grateful and proud to witness the depth of SEMVC's capability in their performances - "truly spellbinding". He said the long history of making music together will continue as there is a return match in 2020. He considered that Bestwood MVC also gave their usual professional and accomplished performance and that it was great to sing with them once again.

Following an overnight stay in Nottingham, SEMVC called in at Burghley House and sang in the Great Hall before returning home.



## **Robert George Emery (Baritone)**

**9 April 1936 - 22 April 2019**

**SEMVC Chairman 1994 - 1997**



Known to all as Bob, we were saddened to hear of his death. We send condolences to his family. In the next issue of the Review there will be a tribute to Bob.

## **MAGPAS Air Ambulance AW169 helicopter**

SEMVC members and Downham Prep school choir sang on 24 April when the helicopter arrived at the school.

Musical Director Mark sent his thanks to the 'lads' from the choir and said "I was proud to have my 'family' round for the day." MAGPAS representative Antonia Brickell also said thank you, as the milestone in the future of lifesaving care was celebrated. The Air Ambulance only exists because of the communities within which it works. Without the supporters, they wouldn't have been able to bring this new aircraft to the region. See FurtherFasterGreater to support Magpas Air Ambulance and help keep the new helicopter flying  
<https://magpas.org.uk/furtherfastergreater>.



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 Ladies Group

After two very successful Christmas wreath making sessions with Pat Fuller, two further trips were organised, one to Wimpole Hall and one to Chippenham Hall. Three of us took off to Wimpole Hall on a gloriously sunny day in February. The house and gardens were just beautiful and we enjoyed a good lunch, sitting outside. Then in March, a group of us went off to Chippenham Hall. Again, a nice day and a good walk all round the grounds. We had lunch in the little café and some of us came away with a few lovely plants. There are a lot of outings in the pipeline for the next six months, so if any other ladies would like to join in, please get in touch.

Helen Bray, 25 April

## Annual General Meeting, Thursday 23 May 2019

### Chairman



Rob  
Bream

### Vice Chairman



Ross  
Van de Zande

### Treasurer



Andrew  
Conquest

### Secretary



Malcolm  
Lodge

### Concert Secretary



Ivor  
Thulborn

### Concert Manager



Ian  
Robertson

### Membership Secretary



Nick  
Gane



Ash Seaborne is shadowing Ian as Concert Manager for a year

### Section Leaders

Top Tenor - Ed Wilson; Second Tenor - Den Cartwright  
Baritone - Justin Ballam; Bass - Andrew Mackenzie

## Dates for your Diary

### 2019

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

**Th 11 July** - SEMVC photo

**Th 18 July** - End of Term. Neville's Loud Shirt Night.

**Th 8 August** - Ivor's Norfolk walk

**Sa 21 September** - Bob Emery Memorial Concert, Lower Hall of King Edward School, Grove Road, BSE, IP33 3BH with violinist Elena Lyutserina, accompanied by Stephen Cook. Proceeds to cancer charities.

**Sa 12 October** - Concert St Peter & St Paul Church, Clare, CO10 8NY. Guest soloist Gemma Alexander. In aid of Church funds.

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

### 2020

**Sa 25 January** - Recording for CD at The Apex, BSE.

**Sa 16 May** - Concert with Men2Sing in South Woodham Ferrers.

**Sa 27 June** - Concert with Mansfield and District MVC at St John's Church, BSE IP33 3QW.

## Visit by Les Canards Sauvages (The Wild Ducks) from Uzes, France, Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 April



A joint concert was held in St Peter's Church, Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 27 April followed by a lively afterglow at BSE Rugby Club where there was much singing and even dancing! The previous evening, 'The Wild Ducks' performed with TUBE on the stage of Kedington Community Centre.

Marie, The Wild Ducks organiser, sent the following: "I must say that what happened this weekend has been unbelievable. We enjoyed so much the joint concerts with TUBE and the SEMVC; playing and listening to music is just what we love to do. And when we share these moments with so good musicians, and kind-hearted people, the moment is just perfect! We thank you for your warm welcoming (apparently, every Wild Duck has found a cosy nest to rest in Suffolk) and all this big organization you displayed. Hopefully we meet again, in France, in UK, or somewhere else, who knows."

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



The City of Liverpool



Another successful tour and in due course it is hoped to issue a special edition of the Review with reports and pictures. If you can contribute anything, please contact me. Rob B  
In the meantime see pictures on website  
[www.semvc.com/our-concerts/gallery/](http://www.semvc.com/our-concerts/gallery/)

## Ivor's Norfolk Walk



This year the walk will take place on **Thursday 8 August**. Ivor has started planning this (he has printed off a map !!). The likely destination is

Blakeney. Details to be issued mid July.

## For Sale - MVC uniform jacket

Have you lost weight like SEMVC Secretary Malcolm? He would like to sell his **42" double-breasted jacket** for £20. Please contact Malcolm on [lodge0206@btinternet.com](mailto:lodge0206@btinternet.com)>



## Please send your reports and pictures to:-

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