

Rob's Review



St Edmundsbury
Male Voice Choir

2019

Issue No. 9

Thursday 2 May, 28th CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival, The Apex

For the first time ever we were invited to take part in the Festival. We lined up on the top floor of the Apex for what turned out to be a good, enthusiastic sing. Mark was playing as Calvin could not make the event in time so Paul was conducting. A small, appreciative audience but our singing could be heard throughout the building and was well received by all. If invited back next year, hopefully it will be later in the evening when we would all need to remember that alcohol is not good for the voice or concentration so save the drinking until the end. IT

Friday 17 May, Sing For Your Supper, Horringer

Anonymous critique:-

"..... and then there was our first Sing For Your Supper! (We still have the programme!) Oh what an absolute delight, so unpredictable, so exciting! Do please pass on our congratulations below.

The soloists, obviously nervous, such courage to mount the stage and sing to a full house. Ian, Rob, Tony, Richard, Ross, John's magnificent bass voice, Den's curious and unique rendition of *Fields of Gold* and the Octet's harmonies, all absolutely marvellous! Then the "professionals", adding a bit of class to the evening, Calvin, Gill, Paul and Simon, the first time we've ever seen three pianists perform together, wow! Finally, the other gems, Peter's incredible monologue, Beryl's "ouses in between" and surely the star of the whole evening, Jim's hilarious "Children's Hour"!

We returned home, still chuckling over "back to back DVDs" and "his enormous correction!" Do hope we're in Suffolk for next year's show!"

(Chairman's comment - Next year it will be less risqué and more family friendly.)

Thursday 30 May, Suffolk Show, Ipswich

A very appreciative and at times energetic audience



watched our two extended performances at the Suffolk Show. The flash dance ladies were excellent and seemed to fit with us very well.

Robert George Emery

(Baritone)

9 April 1936 - 22 April 2019

SEMVC Chairman 1994 - 1997



Memories from Rob, current SEMVC Chairman:

When I joined the choir in 2008 it was suggested that I should stand next to Bob because he was good and usually right. Bob was all of this and much more. After six months I had to move and make way for another new member.

He was a great friend, we shared an interest in music, rugby, good food and drink.

Every Monday afternoon Bob and I met with Nick and rehearsed baritone pieces for the choir and the Edmund Octet.

After the memorial concert on 21 September a full page of the Rob's Review will be devoted to Bob. If you have anything that you would like included please send it to me.

Suffolk Show continued



We all enjoyed the opportunity to see one of the best agricultural shows in the country. Thank you to Calvin and Paul for playing and conducting and to James and Ian for transporting and setting up the keyboard

Saturday 6 July, Concert with the Jubilee Ladies Choir, Stowmarket United Reform Church,

Joan Hill, long-time supporter of SEMVC and member of the Jubilee Ladies Choir had her dream of a joint concert fulfilled.

The following was posted on Facebook:-

"Well, what a fantastic evening we had at last night's concert. It was so encouraging to see such a large audience who were so appreciative of both choirs. The SEMVC who joined us for the evening sang a varied programme to the delight of everyone present. Our own performances too were very well received, as were the three songs the two choirs sang together. The 'after show' refreshments were enjoyed by all. It's quite possible that last night won't be the only time we join forces with the men. Watch this space!!"

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

Choir Member's Wedding



Subsequent to his surprise marriage proposal at Sing For Your Supper in 2018, the day after their marriage on 7 June, Top Tenor Simon Loughe and Cybèle de Jong had a blessing service in Ickworth Church. This was followed by a reception, to which the choir were

invited, at BSE Golf Club where we witnessed the longest groom's speech in history (!) and several songs from the choir, accompanied by Riff Raff, Baritone Glen Warriner's group.

Thursday 18 July, Neville's Loud Shirt Night

The last rehearsal of the summer term attracted a number of friends and guests. The choir did their best to accommodate the requests for songs but some seemed to be rather old and difficult to resurrect. The ever popular Neville's Shirt competition was won by Ash Seaborne

(second left) with the section winners being Graham, Nigel and Tony.



We welcomed Mrs Ros Pitcher,

recently appointed SEMVC Deputy Accompanist, to play for the evening, a fairly amazing effort as most songs were new to her. We were all very glad to be conducted by Musical Director Mark who had been in and out of King's Lynn hospital.



Thursday 1 August, matinée of The Worst Witch, Vaudeville Theatre, London



Bass Tony Heaton's daughter, Rachel, luckily has inherited her mother's ability and is a superb actress currently starring in the Worst Witch. She plays Miss Hardbroom in this classic children's tale in a wonderful show which has

received rave reviews. 21 adults and 1 child boarded a coach in BSE to see the performance. Whilst the show was memorable for many of us the navigational skills of our coach driver will live long in the memory as, when forced off the M11 by an accident, he drove the coach down country lanes and suddenly appeared back on the M11 with only 30 minutes lost. Time for lunch, a great show and a safe return with no further excitement.



I suppose Rachel could have become a cyclist!!! IT

Thursday 8 August, Ivor's Norfolk Walk, Wiveton

What a difference a year makes! Last August pouring with rain, this year probably a little too hot. 22 intrepid hikers met in Wiveton. Some walked straight to Blakeney via a shorter route but the majority walked through the Wiveton Downs into Blakeney via the coastal path. After light refreshments, they continued along the coastal route to Cley and then back inland to Wiveton - just under 8 miles. A lovely meal at The Bell where drinks and conversation flowed. Sadly not a balanced choir to have a sing but what will next year bring? IT

Sunday 11 August, SEMVC Barbecue

Once again we were fortunate to be invited to the Depden Care Farm by our hosts Top Tenor Tim Freathy and Mark. After having good weather for quite some time, we doubted it would last through Sunday but it did, just. Huge thanks to all those helping with the excellent food - Tim, Mark, Ann, Ross and Paul. It was good to see so many friends, wives and partners; a great chance to catch up.

SEMVC 2020 Tour



The Austria tour plans are progressing. The deposits have been paid and we should soon have our flight details. More details by email as soon as they are available. RB

Dates for your Diary

2019

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.

F14 February - SEMVC Valentine's Day Dinner, BSE Golf Club

Th2-W 8 April - Austria Tour

Sa 2 May - Concert with Braintree MVC, St Peter's Church, Sudbury

Sa 6 June - Concert, St Nicholas' Church, Rattlesden.

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

Su 27 September - Afternoon Concert in Ickworth Church

Sa 17 October - Concert with Men2Sing, William de Ferrers Centre, Trinity Square, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5JX

Sa 7 November - Concert with Honington Military Wives Choir and Lift, The Apex, BSE

PLEASE HELP if you went on the Liverpool and Isle of Man Tour, April 2019

To complete the SEMVC archive of the Tour, we need to fill one side only of A4 with your memories/highlights/concert reviews/photos. A few words from you would make it interesting.



Please email your contribution to Rob by **21 September** as it will go on the same sheet as the one devoted to the late Bob Emery.



Please send your reports and pictures to:-

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