

# Rob's Review



St Edmundsbury  
Male Voice Choir

2020

Issue No. 10

Welcome to a new year and a very full programme of events

On **Saturday 25 January** we begin making our latest recording at the Apex followed by two or three recording sessions at the Granary studios before the release of the recording and our launch party later in the year. Chairman Rob

Last year rapidly drew to a close with Bob Emery's **Memorial concert** at King Edward School on **Saturday 21 September** which included music chosen by Bob and featured Elena Lyutserina playing the violin, with Steve's guitar accompaniment, specially requested by Bob during his last few days with us. Bob's grand-daughter Georgie Emery writes:

*I just wanted to get in touch and say what a wonderful occasion Saturday was. I certainly didn't expect to come away from it feeling closer to Papa and like I knew him better than I did before, so I was pleasantly surprised in that regard!*

*You and the rest of the choir were like his extended family and it was a joy to celebrate the wonderful man that he was with you all. I'm sorry for not saying this to you all in person but as you probably noticed, I was a little bit wobbly on the night...*

*As I think Dad has already said to you, we are keen to keep in touch and come and see the choir whenever we can. Thank you again for the fantastic music. "*

On **Saturday 12 October** we enjoyed an excellent concert at St Peter and St Paul Church, Clare where we were joined by the soloist Gemma Alexander who not only proved to be fantastic but indicated that she would be very happy to be involved with us on a regular basis. After the concert some of us enjoyed the after glimmer at the Swan, definitely not to be repeated at this venue.

Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre, **23 November**



Bookings are being taken for SEMVC Annual Dinner which is to be held on **Friday 14 February** at the Bury St Edmunds Golf Club.

Cost - £26 for two courses and £30 for three courses  
Menu and booking form available from Concert Manager Ian Robertson or see Nick Gane's email of 14 January.

**For catering and administrative purposes, please note closing date for booking is Thursday 30 January.**



**Concert St Mary's Church  
Saturday 2 November**

**Man on a mission**

Such a man is bass Edward Coningsby. Back in 2018 Edward asked the choir to perform in St Mary's for

Tearfund. Elizabeth, his wife, is the local representative of this charity. What could not be predicted so far in advance were the events being held elsewhere in Bury St Edmunds that night. The Apex and the Theatre Royal are obviously going to be busy but there were also concerts in the Unitarian and St John's churches as well as a firework display in the Abbey gardens (we heard!).

This did not deter Edward, striding around Bury St Edmunds with advertising materials for weeks before, accosting anyone in the street he knew, sheer willpower ensured that the nave in St Mary's (not a small church!) was full.

Edward chose a very traditional programme with Mark's approval and it was lovely again to sing songs such as *Shall We Gather at the River* and the *Pilgrim's Chorus* which we do not sing very often. An added bonus was that this concert was the first time we sang with The VIPS, an acapella choir formed in 2013. They sang some traditional barbershop numbers such as *Java Jive* but also more modern songs. Lovely to hear a different version of *Do You Hear the People Sing* compared to the one we do. Second tenor Phil Kemp also sings with the VIPs.

With £2,000.00 being raised for the Tearfund and a great night being had by all, Edward (and Elizabeth) can indeed be very proud of what he achieved. IT

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

## Carols and Chips, Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club Thursday 19 December

This event is becoming something of an institution. Having outgrown The Woolpack, over 100 people filled the rugby club. Some were members of the rugby club, but the majority were choir members and Friends. What made this year particularly special was the fact that not only did we consume chips and sausages but that peas were added to the menu! A wide variety of carols and Christmas songs were sung; some were melodious, some perhaps not but that did not matter. A good time was had by all and for many, Christmas had begun! IT

Chairman's comment - it was probably the best Carols and Chips event we have had. Also it was really good hearing some of the choir members partners singing descant to the carols very well.

Our guitarist, Simon Shirm, celebrating a special birthday!



### Dates for your Diary

#### 2020

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

**F 14 February** - SEMVC Annual Dinner, BSE Golf Club

**Sa 7 March** - Concert with Gemma Alexander, Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton, IP31 2QS. In aid of pancreatic and cystic fibrosis charities.

**Sa 28 March** - Concert with Gilly Morgan, St Peter's Church, Felsham, IP30 0PJ. In aid of church funds.

**Sa 29 February** - Sing for your supper, Horringer.

**Th 2-W 8 April** - Austria Tour (Salzburg and Vienna)

**Su 3 May** - Concert with Braintree MVC, St Peter's Church, Sudbury, CO10 2EH

**Th 28 May** - Suffolk Show, Ipswich. 50-minute concerts at 11 am and 3 pm

**Sa 6 June** - Concert, St Nicholas' Church, Rattlesden, IP30 0RG. In aid of church funds.

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

**Th 23 July** - Concert Elmswell Over 55s Club, Elmswell, IP30 9UH

**Su 27 September** - Afternoon Concert in Ickworth Church, Ickworth Park, IP29 5QE

**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

**Sa 28 November** - BSE Christmas Fayre, Angel Hill

**Th 17 December** - Carols and Chips, BSE Rugby Club

**SEMVC Ladies report** from Helen Bray  
2019 was an interesting and busy year for us, visiting some lovely locations.

In February, we visited Wimpole Hall and March saw us off to Chippenham Hall.

In July, a few of us went to Wyken Vineyards, where we had a lovely lunch and walked round the gardens. We also had an interesting trip to Wyken Fen and then an open garden trip to Dereham.

We had two visits in August, Fullers Mill and to The Place for Plants at East Bergholt – due to a very high wind, the gardens were closed but a good time was had in the café and shop!

September saw a group of us visiting The Manor, Hemingford Grey. After an excellent lunch at The Cock Inn, we were shown round the house, a fascinating place with a lot of Lucy Boston's quilts on show.

Our last meeting of the year was another Christmas wreath/table decoration session under Pat Fuller's very able guidance. So, a good year and plans for 2020 already going around in my mind!

### Sing for your Supper, Saturday 29 February Horringer Village Hall

Register your act with Ash Seaborne (Second Tenor).

Please bring one plate of food each as follows:

Baritone and Bass - Savoury

Tenor - Sweet

Tickets will be on sale shortly at £10.

Drink will be provided.

### Thursday 2 - Wednesday 8 April Austria Tour, Salzburg and Vienna

The next monthly payment is due by the end of January.



Further details of this visit will be released very soon.

As you can see from the diary, a busy year of concerts is planned.

This 'Review' is a means of keeping singers, and your family and friends informed of choir activities and news.

Please assist by writing a few paragraphs and supplying suitable photographs to make each edition lively and interesting.

Thank you.

### Please send your reports and pictures to:-

Chairman Rob Bream, [robbream@btinternet.com](mailto:robbream@btinternet.com)  
01284 702336 / 07881 046476