

Rob's Review

St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir
Registered Charity No. 1028123
Patron: The Rt. Hon The Earl of Iveagh
President: Paul Deane
Vice Presidents: John Balaam and
Dr John Meers
Chairman: Rob Bream



St Edmundsbury
Male Voice Choir

2020

Issue No. 12

(16 October)

As we head towards Christmas and the festive season we find ourselves in a position no better than in March, if not actually worse. At present there seems no way that the choir can meet to sing with even further restraints currently being considered by Her Majesty's Government (HMG). Every proposal to meet is discussed via Zoom by the committee and Ian Cooper, our member elected to administer health and safety. We will only go ahead if we consider it is as safe as possible for the whole choir.

Thank you to the members who contributed to the virtual choir and the joint production with the Bury Friendly Orchestra. Huge thanks to Mark for the VLOG's, these are really good - please keep them coming. Thank you to Ivor, Ash, Malcolm and others for the Zoom quiz nights, it's good to keep in touch.

We all want to get back and will as soon as possible but within the legislation in place at the time. Rob

Virtual AGM, Thursday 20 August 2020

The first ever virtual AGM took place on 20 August 2020 after seeking permission from the membership so that the administration could move forward and we could file our audited accounts with the Charity Commission. The minutes of the previous AGM were signed as a true record.

Reports from the Chair and the Musical Director were circulated in advance by email, as was the Treasurer's report and accounts. The accounts were then approved by the membership.

One application for each of the Committee posts had been received and the following people were voted in place.

Chair:	Rob Bream
Vice Chair:	Ross Van de Zande
Secretary:	Malcolm Lodge
Treasurer:	Andrew Conquest
Concert Secretary:	Ivor Thulborn
Membership Secretary:	Nick Gane

After many years of excellent service, Ian Robertson retired from the position of Concert Manager. Ashley Seaborn was nominated for the position and was voted into place. Ash had spent the previous year working with Ian in preparation to take over this demanding role.

A huge vote of thanks was given to Ian together with a clock radio and Lifetime Membership of the choir. The actual presentation was at a committee meeting in Rob's garden (to comply with the virus regulations). The handover was photographed in Ian's Great Barton garden by Judy who has been a great support to him. Since 2015 she has produced a most useful pocket-guide for our annual tour and has kindly agreed to continue helping with these.

Members submitted questions and these were addressed. An independent account examiner was appointed. Rob Bream thanked all those who had taken part in this Zoom meeting and brought the meeting to a close.



Julia Skinner, wife of Top tenor Keith, died 28 August, aged 81

We are all so sad at the passing of Julia. A really lovely lady with a smile that used to light up the room, such a joy to be with, we all miss her so much. Julia supported the choir at concerts, rehearsals and social events, and with the everyday refreshments. Rob From Keith: *"My heartfelt thanks to choir members who sent cards and messages on the passing of my wife Julia who loved the choir and always enjoyed concerts, trips and social activities. Warm wishes to you all and stay safe"*.

Joan Kime

Sadly recently frail Joan died at home around 14 September, her 92nd birthday. She was devoted to husband Bernard (d. 2006) who was a Bass and SEMVC Chairman (1997-2000). Joan was described as 'effervescent'; she loved to sing and dance and to party and attended many of the choir's social gatherings and concerts. Ian R

From Anne Boothby: *"Joan was the only daughter of parents who were also only children, so she had no relatives at all, something that worried Bernard. She went to a Catholic school and remained a staunch Catholic always going to the Westgate church, always walking. Joan trained as a typist in WW2 and worked at Bletchley Park; although not involved in the Enigma Project, she knew by sight those who were. I don't know how she met Bernard but she adored him. Her other love was red wine; after he died she kept his ashes under the hall table and when she took her glass of wine up to the sitting room, she always took Bernard's ashes with her and presumably to her bedside as well. I used to visit fairly regularly with my homemade marmalade and jam and sometimes just for a chat, until recently when she was seeing a lot of the neighbours who took her shopping and seemed to be looking after her."*

Our condolences to the families of two special women.



SEMVC Concert Manager

Bass Ian Robertson has served in this position since 2010. (Rob presenting Ian with a thank-you gift - elbows bumped.)



Our new Concert Manager is Second Tenor Ash Seaborne.

Please contact him for matters relating to the staging and keyboard.



Baritone Graham Poole

Graham is now home having had a knee operation (second time it has been replaced). He will be out of action for 6 weeks but feels he is on the road to recovery. We wish Graham a speedy recuperation.