

# Chairman's Chat

Issue 1 Autumn 2022



**Patron: The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Iveagh**  
**President: Ian Morgan**  
**Vice President: John Balaam**  
**Registered Charity No.1028123**



Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of my term as Chairman. Much has happened since Rob Bream's last newsletter in September 2021. The choir has weathered the COVID storm, restarted rehearsals in different venues, elected a new committee, updated our online platforms, restarted our concerts and performed some new songs. I hope you enjoy this first newsletter which brings you up to date with all our news.

Ian Cooper,  
Chairman

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## 2022 AGM CHANGES

The meeting in early May saw two long serving committee members Ivor Thurlborn and Ian Robertson hand over their concert management reins after many years of service.

**Ivor Thurlborn, Concert Secretary.** Well known for his quiet demeanour and unswerving rugby devotion. He has worked tirelessly to create a long series of concerts both home and away. Ivor has given us some memorable experiences in this country and abroad.



**Ian Robertson, Concert Manager.** Over many years, Ian has done the set up and take down of our concert staging with a team of volunteers. He has marshalled us into line up order getting on and off the stage, (mostly with success). Another unseen role has been the hiring and collection of our staging system earning useful additions to our funds.

Thanks also to his wife Judy for creating the invaluable and detailed tour programmes together

with the previous newsletters.

At the Mansfield joint concert, SEMVC President Ian Morgan presented both with gifts in recognition of their services.



## AGM New Committee Members



Glenn Warriner  
Vice Chairman



Phil Kemp  
Concert Secretary



Ashley Seaborne  
Concert Manager

## Rehearsal Venues we have known

In late May 2021 we held our first post Covid outdoor rehearsals adhering to strict Government instructions St Mary's Church, Pakenham car park. In early September after finding Howard School unavailable (after 33 years), Edward Coningsby got us into St Marys Church, Bury St Edmunds which had a grand piano but was a large, cold church. In January 2022, we moved to All Saints Church which had an excellent kitchen and good heating, but we had to keep the fire doors open to maximise

ventilation (Covid rules again). We reinstated Neville's Night there and filmed a video for Ukraine, see our [YouTube page](#). Finally, in September we moved back to the renamed Howard Community Academy, 2 years and 6 months since our last rehearsal there. What a homecoming!

## Online Platforms Changed and Updated

To keep up with the ever-evolving electronic environment, we have made major changes to our online presence. I am now the main contact for our online platforms.

Our website [www.semvc.com](http://www.semvc.com) is now hosted locally by [Jabudesigns](#). We have replaced the old website with two linked websites, the main public website and a new *Members Lounge* for choir specific information such as the training songs and members contact details. The sites now use the latest software and have much better security features.

[Our Facebook page](#) has also been refreshed with new videos, photographs and concert announcements. There will be regular new posts to keep our 514 followers informed.

Our [YouTube page](#) is also being updated by amalgamating the previous pages.

Finally, we are now offering online ticket purchase for all the concerts we organise through [TicketSource](#) this facility offers easy ticket purchase by card.

## 2021 - 22 Concerts

Since the last newsletter we have sung six concerts, all greatly enjoyed after lockdown.

**Oct 21 The Apex** A joint concert with Honington Military Wives Choir, LIFT and Gemma Anderson supporting My Wish charity. Our first post Covid concert, videos (courtesy of Simon Crispin) [are on our Facebook page](#). Funds raised: £500 for the Royal British Legion and £990 for WISH.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> 22 Ed Wilson Memorial Concert** joint with The Edmund Octet at Elmswell's Blackbourne Centre and in aid of Blood Cancer UK. A full house for this emotional event which recognised Ed's massive contribution to both choirs. The concert raised an amazing £3,460 for Ed's charity.

**June 18<sup>th</sup> St John's Church** joint with Mansfield and District MVC in aid of Our Special Friends pet charity. Well supported on a very wet night! Over £1,000 raised for the charity.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup> Pakenham Church** a short notice concert in aid of church funds. £1,100 raised.

**September 17<sup>th</sup> Gt Barton** joint with Thursday Nights Ladies Vocal group and in aid of church funds. Another full house with a lovely interval buffet. Over £1,000 raised towards church funds.

**October 15<sup>th</sup> Rattlesden with Jess Hughes (Soprano)**. Our first performances of "Guardian Angel" and "Crazy Little thing Called Love" both very well received. Over £1,000 raised.

### Dates for your diary

**December 4<sup>th</sup> East Anglia's Children's Hospices Charity Concert**, Trinity College Chapel 4pm start

**Thursday 23 December - "Carols and Chips"** Bury Rugby Club 7pm

**2023**

**Thursday 19th January. Bring a Friend Night.** A recruitment event when you can bring a friend to take part in the rehearsal at no cost. If they enjoy the experience, they can continue at no cost for a further three rehearsals.

**Friday 20th January Choir Dinner** [Edmunds Restaurant](#), West Suffolk College 6.45 for 7.15 meal. Carriages 10.30 pm. £30 pp for a three course meal. Reservation to Andrew Conquest by 30/12.

**Saturday 29th April** - Concert at St Botolph's Church, Colchester *PROVISIONAL*

**Saturday 20th May** - [Wycombe Orpheus MVC](#) Centenary Concert with Luton & Vauxhall MVC. At [All Saints Church, High Wycombe](#) This will be a weekend trip with an overnight hotel stay. Details soon.