

# Tone's Tidings

Special Euro tour edition  
August 2015



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir  
 Patron: The Rt. Hon The Earl of Iveagh; President: Paul Deane  
 Vice Presidents: John Balaam, Dr John Meers and  
 The Very Reverend Dr Frances Ward  
 Registered Charity No. 1028123

## Euro tour – Belgium, Germany and France, Thursday 16 July – Thursday 23 July, 2015

Here are some thoughts, photos and reports of what was a truly memorable experience. The concert reports are from our ladies on the Tour, which, with the photos will help to capture the atmosphere of the occasions.

### Thursday 16 July

Left Bury St Edmunds bus station at 7 a.m.  
 Here we are at Dover raring to go.  
 Due to hold ups we didn't make it in time  
 for the Basilica concert in Hasselt.  
 We went for R and R instead!



### Friday 17 July Hasselt. Kath Heaton's report of our concert in St Quentin's Cathedral.



KH – "It was a short walk on a lovely sunny morning, to St Quentin's Cathedral in Hasselt. The Cathedral building ranges in date from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

After a short rehearsal the rest of the party joined the audience in the Cathedral. As the concert began it was clear that the acoustics were superb. The voices soared as they sang in harmony. David Sadler's solo of *Paris Angelicus* was incredible and very moving. Many in the audience were moved to tears by the beautiful sound of the Choir and its music. An unforgettable experience."



### Saturday 18 July Wetzlar, and the Werdorf Choirs 150 anniversary celebrations. Diane Farthing's report followed by that of Jenny Rogers.

DF – "The morning had been spent having a guided tour of Weilburg, a very pretty hilltop town dating back to mediaeval times and surrounded by Voice Choir. Singing in the At 5.30 pm on resplendent in jackets. On and warm hall practice. We choirs made in the second



At last SEMVC went on stage and went straight into *Mustang Sally* which enlivened the evening's atmosphere and which was greeted by just as enthusiastic applause. *Sure on this Shining night* was followed by *You raise me up* (this latter must have been the favourite of the evening and in fact of the whole tour as it transpired), was greeted by thunderous applause from the 500 strong audience. During *Rhythm of Life* several choirs from the audience joined in flying way up high with arms flapping wildly. *E'en as a lovely flower* quietened the audience and again the appreciation was quite overwhelming, maybe especially so as it had been sung in German. When two of the choirs joined for the finale there was still yet to come as they insisted on closing the evening by joining together with SEMVC in another sing of *You raise me up*. The welcome that we received and the enthusiasm of all those involved was to follow us on our journey through Germany, Belgium and France. It cannot ever be forgotten."

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JR – "With around 15 different types of entertainers which included choirs, an a cappella group, and a trio of musicians performing throughout the night, the atmosphere within the hall was electric. For the next 5 hours, from concert start at 6 pm, until the final notes rang out at 11 pm, we were entertained by many different and enjoyable styles of singing. It was very professional and had the whole audience wanting more!

Somewhat biased, own choir came. All they didn't let us with *Mustang Sally*, and ended with *E'en* their performance, more.....what else pleasing encore!"

but the highlight of the evening was when the turn of our the groupies, (that is us lady folk), cheered our men on, and down. They were, as usual, magnificent. The choir started showing the audience a different style to their repertoire, *as a lovely flower* in both English and German. At the end of the audience cheered, applauded and asked for could the appreciative choir do but oblige with a crowd



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**Sunday 19 July Kevelaer.** When we arrived here the area around the Basilica was crammed full of motorbikes and their owners. Eve Burrows reports.

EB – “Sunday 19 July 2015 saw us in Kevelaer for a short service and concert in the basilica. Kevelaer has been twinned with Bury St Edmunds since the 1980s. The cathedral was given basilica ‘status’ by Pope John Paul the second, when he made a visit there and then it became known as ‘Marienbasilika’ and is a centre for pilgrims, attracting over 800,000 a year. The afternoon service was presided over by a priest, assisted by several servers – one of whom approached Nettie Davies afterwards to say that he would very much like to visit Bury St. Edmunds!



The service was well attended, despite the rainy weather outside. SEMVC were situated in the organ loft of the basilica which seemed a very long way into the distance (through a cloud of incense) from where Nettie Davies, Debbie Farrell and I were seated with Dr. Paul Günther Oberhauser. We had been led to these seats, behind the first altar by Dr. Oberhauser who had very kindly given us three ladies a guided tour of Kevelaer before the service and concert. The singing was superb and we felt privileged to sit and listen in such a beautiful basilica. The choir sang two items during the service and then gave a short concert which went off very well without any hitches. Another musical success for

Mark Jefferson and the SEMVC.”

It was after we had sung here that the sad news of Eddie Bray's demise came through. We paid our respects to him and to Peter Whelan with 'Angels watching over me' and Richard Leveritt led us in a short reflection before we had our evening meal at the Krefelder Hof Hotel.

**Monday 20 July Cologne.** should have today. The plan on the Rhine. The Tourist the lunch and followed that



Sorry to say that things didn't really go as they was for a tour of the city before a lunch time trip Office proved to be rather elusive so we just had with a three party guided tour of the Cathedral.



**Tuesday 21 July** An early morning rehearsal for today's concert in Marl. Gilly Garside's report follows.



GG – “I Love Marl. Our trip to a post-war industrial town in Northern Germany on a very hot day started with a talk on the seventh floor of the town hall; it was explained to us that the building was designed with openness as a central feature, where democracy was of paramount importance. Moving to the church hall we were greeted by the host choir (mainly



ladies) and by the sight of an amazing selection of German cakes, which we tucked into with gusto! SEMVC was allowed to wear shirt sleeves and gold bow ties as the church was like a furnace. The audience flooded in and filled every available space all ready to enjoy this special concert in aid of FIAN – a charity helping to feed people in the third world.

SEMVC certainly showed their musical talent: from the beautifully controlled *Embraceable You* to the wilder reaches of *Mustang Sally*, the choir was on fine form. The audience was ecstatic about Calvin's wonderful playing. The Germans appreciated SEMVC singing *Du bist wie eine Blume* in German and English.

The Marl choir was put together specially for this concert and sang *Siyahamba*, known to us all from the *African Trilogy*, which our men sang later. However, the Germans animated performance was enhanced by movement, which I believe Mark may be considering.....

*You Raise me up*, as a choirs from the them to a huge climax. Mark, who gave a the choir ladies and standing ovation



joint number, saw Mark take the sustained unison opening and take

the end everyone was thanking everyone else for being there. The fun continued outside in the warm night air as both choirs sang until the last possible moment. It was a brilliant evening!”

speech in German, was adored by received a rose and a bottle. A brought the concert to a close. By

**Wednesday 22 July Ypres.** Following a long and rather hot journey we arrived at the Hotel O, an interesting place with rooms in the 'Bunker' style. The Champagne reception on our arrival was more than welcome. I think that the debut performance of *The Soldier* went well, but that somehow the respect and emotion of the occasion was rather muted.



**Thursday 23 July Le Cateau.** Our second rendition of *The Soldier* on a sunny hill, at the memorial to the Suffolk Regiment, was a more emotive experience for all of us and incomparable to the hell that those who fell there went through.



He said one more vapour before getting on the bus. Colin Burrows

