

Tone's Tidings

September 2015 Issue: 2



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



So, it's September and off we go again, straight into rehearsals for The Melody Girls. This term's objectives are to accelerando our learning skills, diminuendo our chattering and crescendo our attention to Mark and John. Then all our performances will be bravissimo and we can all have a few bars rest or should that be a few rest(ing in) bars.

'Songs from the War Years', presented by Downham Preparatory School and Montessori Nursery, 30 June 2015

Though given the task to report on the above, I would like to mention the concert at Barton Mills Church on a warm 6th June. As a member of the audience I found the singing to be well balanced and of good standard, despite fewer singers than anticipated.

This also proved to be the case at Downham where a small, select choir presented themselves well, even though the heat drove the audience to seek the shade in which to settle and eat their picnics. The repertoire was very different from the MVC's usual selection but most appropriate for the evening's theme, and as an accompaniment for the children, who performed with panache and confidence. They appeared to thoroughly enjoy the experience, especially the very young whose rendering of 'Run rabbit run' was delightful with bunny ears flopping everywhere about their heads.

'Our lads' performed their three numbers in the first section of the long first half, between 'We're going to hang the washing on the Siegfried Line' and 'Don't sit under the apple tree' by very young 'Andrews Sisters'.

The quiet expression and compassion in the sound that the MVC made in their rendering of 'Tipperary', 'Keep the home fires burning' and 'There's a long long trail a winding', brought much applause from those watching. The second group of songs in the first half were quite a surprise to those expecting the usual male voice choir to resound through the warmth of the evening. The size of the group permitted the sound, similar to that of Barber Shop, to emanate successfully across to those sitting around the field, and 'Begin the beguine', 'Ain't misbehavin' and 'Moonlight serenade' made the feet tap silently on the grass. To me it seemed as though the MVC were very much restrained when singing 'Chattanooga choo choo' with the children but that was only to be expected as it was the children's show. The men led the children and the children led the men in the audience sing-a-long and together they provided a very pleasant summer night's entertainment, despite reminding us all of the horrors of war. Now, thankfully, there are only a few very elderly people left who can say they know about the world wars. We are grateful to those who sacrificed everything so that now, several generations have been brought up in peace in this country.

(Report from Diane Farthing)



Edric (Eddie) John Bray (Second tenor) 8 April 1946 – 19 July 2015

New Zealand born, he left his homeland in 1970. Joined the MVC in January 2013, was profiled in 'Ramblings, 11, July 2013' and became Treasurer.

From Eddie's widow, Helen:- To all of you that sang at Eddie's funeral, I just want to say a huge thank you from me, Simon and Ben. It was a true celebration of his life. Eddie would have been so chuffed with the whole thing and appreciated American Trilogy beyond all measure. He had always told me that he wanted an Elvis send off! And you did him proud. I have to admit that The Lord's Prayer was really for me - a most beautiful version, which always reduces me to tears.

Having you there made the hymn singing more of a joyous occasion, and I have had some wonderful comments from friends and family, who have never heard you sing before - perhaps I can encourage more folk to come to your concerts now.

Thank you once again, and as I am now on the rehearsal tea rota, I look forward to seeing you soon.

With love - Helen

Peter Whelan (Baritone) 1926 – 18 July 2015

Peter was made an Honorary Life Member of SEMVC in 2010. He had held positions on the Committee and for many years was the soloist in 'Nothing like a dame'. Several choir members attended Peter's funeral at St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Bury St Edmunds on 31 July.

The Reverend Dr Brian Raistrick

Brian, a founding member of the choir and our first chairman, is regularly seen at Breakfast Club but following an enquiry from a choir member, he's sent us this message (abridged!)

I had to take the extremely hard decision to leave the MVC a few years ago when, following throat problems, a Harley Street diagnosis said I had polyps and the sound box was not closing correctly (same problem as Julie Andrews!). I could lead a church service or sing in the MVC. It was very sad to leave the fellowship and comradeship of my many friends in the choir.

Today I walk 4 miles before 6.00 a.m., I continue in my ministry and I travel extensively to support Reinhold in her Art work. Shortly I'll drive up to the Black Isle in Scotland to visit my son. On the journey of 580 miles, the music I play is a no-brainer - CDs of the St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir - Basingstoke - Ely Cathedral - etc.'

Keep on singing for those of us who would like to continue.

Every good wish.

Brian



SEMVC Barbecue, Depden

After much to-ing and fro-ing with marquees, tables, chairs etc. beforehand the choir barbecue at 'Tim's Place' got going on 31 July. According to bought and ordered tickets we should have had 78 in attendance, but some people must have got their dates wrong as the promised number was short.

The food was great, the beer was good, the company was? well, it is the Choir after all. It was Nick's turn this year to conduct the singing, but without a chicken leg this time. A little more heat from the sun would have made us all feel a lot better but, at least it didn't rain. Thank you Tim for all your hard work slaving away over a hot barbie and thank you Paul for those fattening sweets.

My personal thanks to Paul D, Paul H, Ross, Rhys, Nick, Robin and Den for your help to erect and dismantle the marquee as well as transporting the same.

President's Fund

Our president, Paul Deane, wants to actively support the choir rather than just being a titular figure. He has therefore set up a President's Fund to which he is contributing financially. The aim of this fund is to support choir members who need help when the choir travels to 'away' events, be they for a weekend or an extended tour.

If lack of finance is stopping you attending an 'away' event please contact any of the people below. These are the only people who will know about your application as we appreciate that confidentiality is important. It is also important that we take the largest choir as possible on our 'away' adventures.

President – Paul Deane, 140 Fornham Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6AX 01284 766337
ultraquietman@talktalk.net

Chairman – Tony Farr, 15 Barton Grove, Kedington, CB9 7PT 01440 704179 lolandtony@talktalk.net

Treasurer – Richard Leveritt, 4 Eleanor Place, Great Barton, IP31 2TQ 01284 787556 irleveritt@gmail.com

Diary Dates

Th 24 September – Melody Girls of Ukraine arrive

Fr 25 September – Concert, Melody Girls of Ukraine & TUBE, St Giles Church, Cambridge CB3 0AQ

Sa 26 September – Concert with Melody Girls of Ukraine, St Mary's, BSE IP33 1RT

Sa 3 October – Choir workshop with Gill Garside, Fornham All Saints

Fr 23 October – Sing at Mark Whitehead's 25th Wedding Anniversary, BSE Rugby Club

Sa 21 November – Concert with Suffolk Constabulary MVC, St Gregory's, Sudbury, CO10 1BA. Commemorate 75th anniversary of Battle of Britain.

Sa 28 November – BSE Christmas Fayre

Fr 4 December – SEMVC Christmas Dinner, Golf Club, Tut Hill, BSE

Th 17 December – Carols & Chips, The Woolpack, Fornham St Martin

2016

Sa 16 January – Mayor's Charity concert, The Apex, BSE tbc

Su 31 January – Concert with Leigh Orpheus and other choirs, Cliffs Pavilion, Southend

Sa 20 February – Concert with Laura Wright and Downham Preparatory School choir, The Apex, BSE

Sa 19 March – Concert, Trinity Methodist Church, Looms Lane, BSE IP33 1EB. Solo spot – Trio Sospirato (www.triosospirato.com)

Th 31 March – M 4 April – Proposed tour to Dublin and Belfast tbc

Sa 21 May – Concert, St Nicholas Church, Rattlesden, IP30 0RG

Sa 22 October – Concert with The Orpheus Singers, Hadleigh, Essex (near Southend)

Tony's summer dinner, The One Bull, BSE

Monday 10 August, 8.00 for an 8.30 meal was the instruction to those who had booked. As usual the beer flowed and the conversation was lively and I think that a good time was had by all - even a certain Bob caused havoc with the whitebait order!



Ivor's summer stroll, Tuesday 18 August

It was a 'shall we go', 'shall we stay' start to the day, mainly because here in Kedington, it was stair rodding it down, as it managed to do all day, unfortunately.

Anyway, a small but doughty band gathered at the Stag, West Acre fully kitted out in wet weather gear. On a dry day it would be a lovely walk from West Acre over the fields to Castle Acre and its ruins. Ivor's intimate knowledge of Castle Acre was evident as he told us some of the history of the castle and the area.

At this point I baled out and got a lift back to the Stag car park. The rest of the intrepid band arrived approx. 1 hour afterwards. This was the cue for thirst quenching and hunger abating in the Stag. If you are ever in the area give it a look, the food is great (especially the steak and stilton pie!!) and the beer good.



Choir uniform – Brian Raistrick is offering his choir 'gear' to any interested choir member. Perhaps a donation to the charity of your choice if you are interested?

Blue blazer (silver buttons) – 46" chest, brand new condition and
Blue sweater (incl. badge) – XL, brand new. (Both were regulation issue under Jack Atkins!)

Yellow waistcoat – XL, never worn

Dress suit (double breasted) – 46" chest, 33" inside leg.

'50 Shades not Grey', Edmund Gallery, Angel Hill, BSE

Ed Wilson (Top tenor) and his friend Moira Hazel are holding an exhibition, 19-24 September. He will be showing his recent woodcut and carborundum prints alongside paintings by Mo. It would be great if choir friends could come and have a look.



The Melody Girls of Ukraine are singing with TUBE at St Giles Church, Cambridge on Friday 25 September and with SEMVC at St Mary's Church, BSE on Saturday 26 September. Please promote these events.

Reports and pictures for Tidings are welcome. Please contact Chairman Tony Farr, 01440704179, lolandtony@talktalk.net