

# Tone's Tidings

January & February 2016 Issues 6 & 7



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 here we are, it's February and you are only now reading our exploits in December and January, for which I apologise, but Christmas seemed to slow me mind down a bit.

One rehearsal until we perform at the Apex along with Laura Wright and the Downham Preparatory School Choir, so presto, presto with the words Chaps and pianissimo with the chatter on Thursday please.

## A great start to our concerts in 2016

### The Mayor's Charity Concert, Friday 22 January

It is always a pleasure to sing at the Apex and an honour to be part of the Mayor's Charity Concert so we were very grateful to the Bury St Edmunds Concert Band for their kind invitation to be part of this event.



Unfortunately time constraints meant that a joint number between the choir and band could not be organized but it was an exciting vibrant concert with the band demonstrating their versatility and skill in a varied programme. Our songs showed that *Every Time I feel The Spirit* is going to be a popular number with audiences but we rather let ourselves down with *My Lord What a Mornin'* – as Mark keeps telling us he is waving his arms about for a reason and we need to watch....and listen! Nevertheless a fun night was had by all and hopefully soon we can share a stage with the Bury Concert Band again.

## Singing for Life

Our grateful thanks to the Leigh Orpheus MVC for inviting us to take part in the concert at Cliffs Pavilion on Sunday 31 January and also for the huge effort they put into organising this event.

Yet when we piled on to the coach early that Sunday morning many questions still needed to be answered. Would baritone Nick Gane make it in time? Would the coach get to the Southend-on-Sea venue in time for our practice? Had all the basses learnt the words to *Angels* which they definitely had not the previous Thursday rehearsal!!?

The answers were in the affirmative as we actually had to wait to start our rehearsal - it gave us time to view the acres of mud stretching out into the Thames estuary! Our practice was rather cramped but Mark seemed pleased as we were able to stand in front of the chairs that Leigh Orpheus had asked us to sit on. For the joint practice we were mixed in with the choirs from Thurrock, Braintree and Leigh Orpheus; everyone seemed to find the right seat! Listening to other choristers showed for some that our singing is of good quality....most of the time! The importance of the rehearsal at Braintree a fortnight earlier was evident as this rehearsal finished early so giving us time to socialise with our ladies who had arrived from Bury St Edmunds.



(Singing for Life report continued) From the balcony we watched Leigh Orpheus perform and then we staggered down the stairs to line up for our turn. *Aberystwyth* gave us the confidence to cope well with our other pieces – *Sure On This Shining Night* and *Angels* (well done basses!) – and *Mustang Sally* which had the audience of over 1,000 in raptures.

The mass choir performed the second half. We had learnt *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* and *Some Enchanted Evening* for this performance and both went well. With 180 singers on stage there was a mighty sound which the audience appreciated. Our encore *What Would I Do Without My Music?* was a fitting end to an exciting concert which hopefully raised a lot of money for Prostate Cancer UK. One final question as we left the theatre on a wet, murky evening to find the coach – why was top tenor John Craig hiding in the toilets? IT



Photos from the concert accessed at <http://www.lomvc.org/pictures-of-the-singing-for-life-day/> **Please do not share these photos outside of the choir.** CDs of the concert (£10.00, all profits going to Prostate Cancer UK) can be purchased from <http://www.lomvc.org/shop/>. Individual tracks can be downloaded at 30p for each track.

**Concert Review** We came out of the Cliffs Pavilion in Southend on a high, proud of our men, knowing why we had been on that coach at 1 o'clock.

Three male voice choirs sang solo items starting with Leigh Orpheus, sporting their new uniforms, singing *Gwahoddiad*, which I eventually realised was in Welsh! Twenty singers from Braintree followed; they finished with *I write the songs* arranged specially for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. We heard some songs we knew well from SEMVC but *Angels* was only receiving its second performance and was much more confident than the first time. I particularly liked the new girly "Ah ha" in *Mustang Sally*!! Joint items with the four choirs singing were a triumph but *Softly as I leave you* was just too fast! Mark brought great control to *My Lord What a Morning* with about 200 mens' eyes glued to him.

The event was in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and as the speaker looked at the massed choir he joked that he had "never had such an audience of potential clients". However, a sobering thought is that by the age of 70, men have a 70% chance of having some kind of prostate cancer.

Once again the men stood and finished appropriately with *What would I do without my music?* but this could so easily say "What would I do without my companionship, friendship, laughter and fun" as a member of SEMVC. A good day out! GG

### Thank You to everyone from Leigh Orpheus MVC

On behalf of Leigh Orpheus MVC, especially the team that put the Singing for Life concert together, we are pleased to send our sincere thanks for your participation in the concert on Sunday. Thank you for all the work you did in preparing for the concert and for your first class performances on the day. We have already received a huge amount of positive feedback. The audience who numbered around 1000 clearly enjoyed it. We hope you did too. A picture of the mass choir is on the Singing for Life Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SingingForLife2016>). Further pictures will be available when they have been collected.

It will take a while to establish the total proceeds, but the bucket collection was an impressive £1,453! Our printer kindly printed programmes for practically nothing, enabling us to make about £300. We hope that the efforts of all of us will enable a large donation to go to Prostate Cancer UK.

Apologies again for no programme being available for you, more are being printed and we will send them to you. We shall also be sending an audio recording of the first half of the concert. You will be able to share the link with your own choir members, but it will be password-protected and is only for 'internal consumption', please. We also hope to send you a video recording of your choir in the first half (not such good sound quality, but you can see the action!). We will send you a CD of the entire concert once all the editing is done. It is planned to make the pieces the mass choir sang available for sale online at 30p per track, with proceeds going to Prostate Cancer UK. Potential buyers can hear a sample before they buy! If you don't want to pay to download, or think such techniques are the work of the Devil, you can buy the CD of the entire concert for £10.

All best wishes for the rest of this choir year and we look forward to singing with you again. Neil and Mick



### Secondhand choir uniform

Mike Mason, ex Bass has a Double Breasted Jacket size 48 long and trousers 42/32 which he is willing to donate to any largish recruit.

Whilst it would be buckshee, a donation to one of his charities would be most agreeable.

### Dates for your diary

**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. Soloist, Clare Mellor (flute). Accompanist, James Recknell.

**Th 31 March – M 4 April** – Irish tour with concerts in Dublin and Belfast

**Sa 23 April** – 'Sing for your Supper', All Saints, BSE

**Sa 21 May** – Concert, St Nicholas Church, Rattlesden, IP30 0RG. Soloist, Ross Van de Zande. In aid of church funds.

**Sa 18 June** – Concert, St Mary Church, Ixworth, IP31 2HH. In aid of church funds.

**Th 14 July** – Concert for Over 55s Club, Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell, IP30 9UH.

**Sa 24 September** – Concert with Haverhill Silver Band, St Mary's Church, BSE, IP33 1RT.

**Sa 22 October** – Concert with Orpheus Singers, Hadleigh, Essex (near Southend), Salvation Army Temple, Hadleigh

**Sa 19 November** – Concert, St Lawrence Church, Little Waldingfield.

### 2017

**Sun 14 May** – Concert with Amersfoort MVC, SS Peter & Paul Church, Clare, CO10 8NY

**July** – Possible tour, Orange and Limoges, Southern France



### Visits to the theatre

Ivor would like to organise a visit or two to the theatre for members of the choir, partners and Friends. Group rates for shows, plays etc are usually a lot cheaper than buying tickets individually. He thought he would start with Les Misérables as the choir sings some songs from this show. If you buy 10 or more tickets for this show, the £69.50 ones are currently available for £35.00. The day has to be a Monday, Tuesday or a Wednesday. Transport – if more than 40 people are interested then it is feasible to hire a coach. However, if less than 40 you would have to organize your own transport. Ivor's latest idea is to drive to Whittlesford Parkway and get a train from there. Car journeys can be shared. Matinee or evening show? Please let Ivor know what you think – preferably by email!

ijthulborn@btinternet.com

### Sudbury Concert at St Gregory's, November 2015

A nice little footnote to this concert which raised £2,090 for the RAF Benevolent Fund; another well done to John Sparkes (Top Tenor).



### Christmas visitor to our Vice-Chairman's house

Might one be our Concert Secretary??!!



The Melody Girls of Ukraine have put a video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TmVrJyaWvY>

A tribute to **Len Bass** (baritone) who died on 11 January will appear in the next issue of Tidings.

### Ten 10Ks

In the 'Members Appeals' section on SEMVC website there is a piece about Paul and Billie's ten 10k runs in ten months; well they've done the first one at Wymondham on New Year's Day. I have listed the next few if you fancy supporting them, please:



April 10<sup>th</sup> Haver10 - the Sanofi 10k, Haverhill

April 17<sup>th</sup> Ickworth Hoohaah 10k Run, Ickworth

May 1<sup>st</sup> Grand East Anglia Run, King's Lynn

Contrary to rumours Paul is not playing his Tuba whilst taking part.

### Saturday 20 February, 7.30 pm

Profits to the Nordoff Robbins charity, (transforms the lives of vulnerable children and adults). (SEMVC with Laura Wright and Downham Preparatory School choir)

**£20 / £18 upper balcony / £10 under 16s**

Tickets - 01284 758000 or from [boxoffice@theapex.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@theapex.co.uk)



Reports and pictures for Tidings are welcome. Please contact Chairman Tony Farr, 01440 704179, [lolandtony@talktalk.net](mailto:lolandtony@talktalk.net)