

Tone's Tidings

April 2016 Issue 9



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



T'was 5.30 in the morning that we started on our trip,
Over to Holyhead we went, to board our ferry ship.
For we were off to Ireland, in concerts three to sing.
In Dublin and in Belfast we let our voices ring.
At the Guinness Storehouse our music we did render
And then having sung our hearts out some went on a 'bender'.
Our grateful thanks we all must give to Ian, Rob and Ivor,
And also to our patron, the Earl of Iveagh.



A sunny Anglesey and we're on time for the ferry

Thursday 31 March—Monday 4 April, Irish Tour

The Choir's long awaited Ireland tour has now been and gone and an enjoyable and memorable one it was. Memorable for many reasons, the long coach trip, the eagerness of Richard to get into the Portmarnock Hotel by going into the glass door instead of through it, the warmth of our reception in Dublin and in Belfast, the taste of the Guinness, (it does taste better in Dublin) and those dancers; how do they manage it?

The Titanic experience was for me both interesting, fascinating and thought provoking all at once, and not to be missed. Thank you Hugh for giving us the benefit of your knowledge of the shipyard.

Congratulation and thanks to Ian, Rob and Ivor for putting the tour together, what a marvellous hotel you found, and also big thanks to Mark and Calvin for steering us through the musical course. TF.

Friday 1 April, Dublin



Lunchtime recital, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Concert in St Thérèse, Mount Merrion with the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir

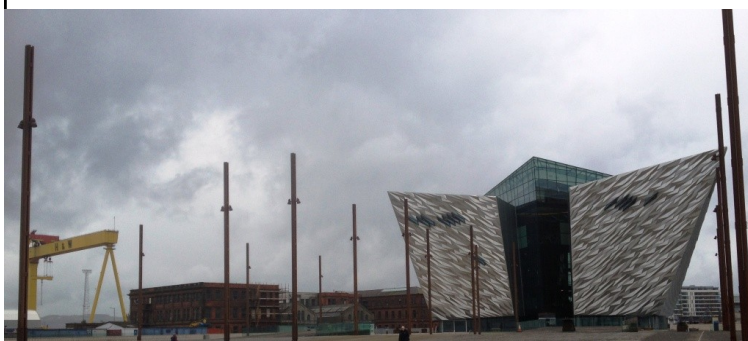
Friday 1st April was a day of Firsts for the SEMVC.
The first first: a new Irish formation for the choir.
The second first: Mark's booming voice inaudible in the church because of the acoustic.
The third first: simply their best concert to date in over 25 years of listening.



The Dublin Welsh MVC sang a Welsh *Benedictus*, based on St Luke's Gospel, followed by Schubert's *Sanctus*, *Holy, Holy, Holy*. The acoustic was immediately appreciated as the sound resonated around the cavernous church. Quite wonderful was their piece from *Under Milkwood*. Whilst the choir gently provided a background, a beautiful Welsh voice gently recited the well-known lines, 'Time passes. Listen. Come closer now to the hot-water bottled body in the sleepy town'. The choir then took up the singing, 'Every morning when I awake, Dear Lord a little prayer I make, Blessings on this town' etc. It was magical, made all the more so by the reverberation of sound travelling around the

church walls. SEMVC responded with a varied programme, including *What would I do without my music?*, *With a Voice of Singing*, and goodness, what a voice it was, followed by *Sure on this Shining night*, as Mark said, a difficult piece, and beautifully sung. The final number was a Medieval Madrigal, eagerly awaited by the Dublin Welsh as a piece they did not know - *Mustang Sally* was then sung with wide smiles, gusto, a huge amount of pleasure and enthusiasm, topped off by Ross' uncontrollable American drawl. It was quite brilliant, and the other choir were clearly greatly taken with it. They will, of course, be singing it in the foreseeable future! A wonderful evening. Thank you SEMVC! Margaret Fielder

Saturday 2 April, Belfast



Titanic Exhibition and Harland and Wolff shipyard



Suffolk supporters fill the front rows in St John's Church, Newtownbreda in anticipation of another fine concert

Concert with Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir

We set off for Belfast on Saturday morning for the concert with the Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir, at St John's Presbyterian Church, Newtownbreda.



It was a great setting for the two choirs, their conductors and a young soprano, Sarah-Jane Gibson. Both choirs sang from the heart and their combined songs were so good together, giving us a great display of dynamics and sound. When it came to our choir – well they did us proud. All thirty eight of them sang their hearts out under Mark's conducting. The applause after each song was so

encouraging. The addition of *You Raise Me Up* was just beautiful and of course, for me was very emotional. I have never sat so close to the Choir before!!!

After a short but noisy afterglow at the local Golf Club, our young coach driver Alan got us back to Dublin, and I am sure that everyone, although tired, had had a most enjoyable day and concert. Roll on the next one! Helen Bray

PS £2,002.64 was raised towards the new NI Hospice.

Sunday night wind down time in the hotel



Last songs in Ireland



Dublin City Dancers, one of whom, Joy O'Neil, is the current Irish Dancing World Champion

Sunday 3 April, Guinness Store House



Monday 4 April

Couldn't these two baritones face crossing the Irish Sea by ferry again?

OR

Maybe they were making the most of the beautiful beach side location of the luxurious Portmarnock Hotel!



I had an email some time ago from our Kiwi bass, Mike Burns to say that they are now settled back down under the "Long Cloud" and he has joined a local Choir. I was going to print out his email, but as usual I can't find it when I want it. TF

Dates for your diary

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's Church, Ixworth, IP31 2HH. In aid of church funds.

Tu 5 July - Downham Preparatory School Summer Show

Th 14 July – Mini concert for Over 55's Club, Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell, IP30 9UH.

Sa 27 August - 'One Good Turn', The Apex, BSE, 7 p.m.

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

Sa 22 October - Concert with The Orpheus Singers, Salvation Army Temple, Hadleigh, Essex (nr Southend) SS7 2PF

Sa 19 November – Concert, St Lawrence's Church, Little Walsingham CO10 0SP

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Sun 14 May - Concert with Amersfoort MVC, SS Peter & Paul Church, Clare

On our website, under 'Member's Appeals', there is a heading 'Ten 10ks in Ten Months'. This is my son Paul and his wife Billie with two friends trying to raise funds for the Air Ambulance.

They all completed a very muddy course at the Ickworth Hoohah last Sunday 17th April. If you would like to swell the coffers for them the Just Giving details are on the website. Only 7 more to go!! TF



Reports and pictures for Tidings are welcome. Please contact Chairman Tony Farr, 01440 704179, lolandtony@talktalk.net