

## Tour to Brussels and Germany April 2017

This year, Cambrian Male Voice Choir (Tonypandy), celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary since reforming after World War Two writes Committee member Roy Gibbins . To commemorate this event, the Choir, along with with wives, partners and friends embarked on a celebratory tour to Belgium and Germany.



The tour was over nine days and started with a two day stop in Brussels. There, the group had ample time to explore the sights and sounds of one of Europe's most vibrant cities, with a mandatory visit to The Mannekin.



Then it was onto to Rudesheim in Germany. A number of events was planned for our stay including a cruise up the Rhine. We had time to explore the beautiful Rhine village of



Bacharach with its narrow streets and 14<sup>th</sup> century buildings.



Next, there followed one of the official events of the tour, our concert in the Evangelische Kirche in Argenthal. This was a tremendous occasion with a full congregation, which included old friends of the choir from previous tours. Musical Director Fred Nicholas, invited them to join the choir in a rendition of Aus De Traubor.

Needless to say the reception at the end almost took the roof off the church.



The remainder of the time in Germany included a wine tasting event and a cable car ride to view the enormous sculpture of Germania.



The last part of the tour saw us return to Belgium and stay in Roeslare in the Ypres Salient. During our stay we were honoured to be able to sing at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. We sang the beautiful "Soldiers Farewell" while wreaths were laid in remembrance of the fallen. This was an unforgettable emotional experience and one which will stay in the memory of our party members forever.



Our last planned visit was to TyneCot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the World. From there, we then visited the World War One Museum in Passchendaele. As with all visitors to these places you are left with a feeling of sorrow, gratitude and overwhelming humbleness.

The final evening saw the group gather for the end of tour party. It was a time for recalling funny and serious moments, for thanking our trip organisers, namely Chairman Linden Evans, Secretary Peter Davey and his wife Steph, and for looking forward to the future, where we will, hopefully, have the opportunity to enhance the magnificent history of this famous Choir.

