

Voice *of the* Valley

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Newsletter

The Ghosts' High Noon



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e0OtWYNfXo>

When the night wind howls in the chimney cowl, and the bat in the moonlight flies,
And inky clouds, like funeral shrouds, sail over the midnight skies
When the footpads quail at the night-bird's wail, and black dogs bay at the moon,
Then is the spectres' holiday ñ then is the ghosts' high-noon! Ha! ha!

This fine song from Gilbert & Sullivan's Ruddigore is back in the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir repertoire.

I'm told it's well over 400 years since we last performed it but it's a great piece to dig up for this season's concerts. Ha Ha!

Hitting the wrong note! Council cuts could make the music stop in Huddersfield



Kirklees Music School

A leading music expert in Huddersfield has voiced fears over the town's musical heritage. Simon Jacobs, head of music at Greenhead College is worried that future generations will not be able to uphold the magnificent musical traditions.

He and the college principal, Anton McGrath, expressed deep concerns as Kirklees Council debates whether to slash funding to the Kirklees Music School centres around the district.

And Mr Jacobs summed it up when he said: "The implications for the future are simple. If we stop getting young people involved in music, in years to come, the music stops."

Kirklees faces having to make millions of pounds in cuts to its budget and is looking at axing the £300,000 it currently gives to the Music school.

More than 7,000 students – both schoolchildren and adults – take lessons from 60 teachers. Based in Huddersfield, the music school has centres at Netherhall Learning Campus in Huddersfield; Holmfirth High School; **Colne Valley High School**; Mirfield Free Grammar School; Shelley College; Whitcliffe Mount College, Cleckheaton; and Batley Salvation Army HQ.



Spring Concert by Greenhead College students in partnership with the Kirklees Music School.

Mr Jacobs said: “At Greenhead we have a large cohort of students studying music and music technology at A-level.

“This is, in part, due to the hard work that goes on in the seven music centres across Kirklees. These centres are essential for getting younger students enthusiastic and involved in making music.

“Learning to play and particularly how to play within an ensemble are essential in generating enthusiasm when starting to play an instrument.

“If some of these centres are axed I am extremely concerned about the numbers of students who will be getting enthusiastic about music at a young age across Kirklees.

“This in turn, of course, could affect our numbers studying music in years to come.

“Performance and performing within an ensemble are essential skills for young musicians studying at GCSE and at A-level.

“The work of these centres is a fantastic supplement to schools and colleges across Kirklees in helping our students to achieve the very best results in their music examinations.

“Many of our students studying music at A-level decide to pursue music at university or conservatoire level. Last year we had students leaving Greenhead to study at The Guildhall School of Music, The Royal College of Music, Birmingham Conservatoire and The Royal Northern College of Music.

“All of these students had been involved with one of the Kirklees music centres at some point during their musical development. That statistic itself should give you a good understanding of the calibre of students being produced under the present system.

“Huddersfield and its surrounding area has a large and significant musical heritage. There is so much music making in these valleys! The implications for the future are simple. If we stop getting young people involved in music, in years to come, the music stops.”



Anton McGrath, principal of Greenhead College

Mr McGrath and Mr Jacobs have sent a letter to Kirklees about their concerns.

Mr McGrath added: “We have worked in other parts of the country where the music centres have not been of the standard of Kirklees (due to funding cuts) and can assure you this has a direct correlation with how successful the students are in schools and colleges.

“With the proposed funding cuts we worry that our young people will lose out on the some of the fantastic opportunities currently afforded to them.

“We also worry for the long term impact this will have upon the musical community in West Yorkshire.”

This article is excerpted from an article in local newspaper, The Huddersfield Examiner, of 8/12/2015

The Editor writes:

There are many supporters of the Music Centres not only in the community but also among the decision makers. No doubt they face tough choices but I think it does no harm to remind them that our music services are greatly valued.



The Music Centre in the Colne Valley was at the heart of my children's education and social development. I hate the idea that this might be lost to current and future generations. What makes Kirklees a special place is its rich musical heritage - let's not throw it away!

If you, too, think our music service is worth supporting, there's an online petition you can sign. But don't delay, the crucial budget meeting is set for February 18th. Just click on the owl to access the link.

Contacted by the Editor, Thom Meredith adds, "I have been encouraged and moved by the depth of support from those who have been part of KMS in the past and those currently accessing the system. It's wonderful to see how many people have such fond memories of their time at KMS and how it has helped so many to achieve great things in their careers - both in and out of music"

Getting Ready for Cornwall

The Choir will be heading down to Newquay to take part in the Cornwall international Male Voice Choir Festival at the end of April.

We're already starting to prepare a programme of concerts and competitions.

But it's not too late to be part of it. Just come down to our Monday night rehearsals and sing in. New members are always welcome and you'll soon know whether it's right for you.

You could ring Matt Houston (01484) 658188 for a chat. (We don't provide the surfboard, though.)



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir: our next two concerts



Kirkwood
The Hospice for Kirklees
Mayor's Charity of the Year

Music for Mother's Day
Huddersfield Town Hall
15th March 2015
4.30pm

Compered by Barry Clark, of D'Oyly Carte Opera and 'Phantom of the Opera'

Music from
Colne Valley Male Voice Choir
.....
Members of the Huddersfield Choral Junior Choirs
.....
Serenata
.....
Hope Bank Youth Band

VIP tickets available
£35 adult & £20 children
Includes afternoon tea at 3pm, a VIP box seat and a personalised message for mum in the programme.
Available from Kirkwood Reception

Kindly Supported by
BARCLAYS

Tickets available from all Kirklees Box Offices
Tickets available from as little as £8 for adults and £5 for children
Queries - Contact Gabrielle on 01484 557911

Registered Charity Number 512987

Charity Music Concert

Join us for a fantastic evening of music, featuring the internationally acclaimed Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, and Lindley Junior School Choir.



Saturday 21st March at 7.15pm at
The Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street,
Huddersfield

Tickets are £10, please contact Gina on **07979900809**

Organised by Friends of Forget Me Not

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Friends of forget me not children's hospice

Colne Valley Boys with Huddersfield Boys Choir



COLNE
VALLEY
BOYS

Will be performing at Saint Patrick's Church
Huddersfield (HD1 5JY) on February 8th at 3:00 pm

And another thing



Huddersfield U3A (Mixed Voice) Choir are promoting a

Come and Sing Messiah

We are starting 2.pm Lindley Methodist. Saturday March 28

The Soloists are.

Rachael Morgan Soprano

Lorraine Mawby Alto

Michael Benn/ Bertie Yates Tenors

Sam Blagborough Bass

Alan Brierley is conducting and Ian Abbott is the organist.

All are welcome. No charge but a retiring collection to help with costs,

Eric Cooper

Musical Director.

Voice
of the **Valley**

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