

Voice of the Valley

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Newsletter

Website Special – April 2015

Announcing the All New Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Website



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Our greatest pleasure comes from performing in front of an appreciative public, from giving of our best, from translating the hard work of rehearsal into a stage performance of high quality, sharing fine music and hearing the response.

We also enter choir competitions, in order to challenge ourselves, maintain high standards and measure ourselves against other quality choirs. Competition does make you try that little bit harder, aim for that elusive perfection.

"Led by Thom Meredith, Colne Valley Male Voice Choir is a well oiled musical machine – a Rolls Royce if you like"....

Events



Recordings



Our Rich History



Yes, it's here at last, our new website. You can get it by clicking this link or by copying our new website name into your browser:

colnevalleymvc.org.uk

Voice of the Valley Editor and member of the development group, John Clark, said,

“We’re pleased its ready and we hope people will like it. We don’t claim it’s complete and final - that’s not the way with websites - but we do say it’s ready enough to launch and, we hope, good enough not to let down the Choir’s reputation for excellence.

We need feedback now and so we invite your reactions, comments - and maybe criticisms – so that we can edit and improve it. (We also want a few volunteers to join the editorial team.)

I won’t say it hasn’t been a long hard slog! For quite a time we put our efforts into chasing control of the old website before realising it was a wild goose chase. When we gave up and started from scratch things began to really progress.

A new group, Matt Houston, John Lees and I, redefined our criteria and went on to select Nicola Elvin and Karin Dubois of Huddersfield Website Design to build our new site’s operating framework and overall look.



Nicola and Karin came up with an excellent draft design. After some discussions this became the final structure; within which, the Choir can add and modify content as it sees fit.

We are grateful to them for their excellent work. We also want to thank David Hirst for his support and James Cooke for his most useful technical advice.

<http://huddersfieldwebsitedesigner.co.uk>

The ‘Dummy Site’ went up on the designer’s server some weeks ago and a process of bug-fixing and content review followed. Matt took on the role of liaison with the designers and, a couple of weeks ago, oversaw the process of taking the site ‘live’. Since then there have been many content changes and some technical development as we have prepared the site for launch. This reworking has given the team confidence that - this time - the website really is under the Choir’s control. Our designers can slip into the background, their job well-done – and leave it to us.

We think everything works - and on many platforms. Let us know if you see different.”

Navigation Tip

We hope you enjoy it. Here’s a tip: when you are navigating the site, you won’t see a ‘Home’ button to take you back to the ‘Homepage’. You click on the Colne Valley logo to get home - it’s the modern way.



Navigation Tip 2



Love, could I only tell thee

Under the ‘Information’ heading there’s a section called, ‘Repertoire’ Enter that and you get to pick and listen to several samples from the wide range of music that the Choir has in its performance list.

The Mighty Sky

Those harbouring doubts about the health of young people's music in Kirklees would have been much reassured, had they been present at a recent 'son et lumiere' spectacular at the Town Hall.



Massed Junior Choirs, The Kirklees Youth Symphony Orchestra and a few invited guests, including Beth Nielson and 'The Switch Duo' (Harry Meredith and Ellie Pike) performed under our very own, Thom Meredith, in a night to remember.

The title was, 'The Mighty Sky' and took on astronomical and cosmic themes. The assembled participants filled the stage and the risers. They were initially bathed in as livid pink light and half obscured in a mist from the smoke machines. Then the concert started with - what else - 'Also Sprach Zarathustra', Richard Strauss's striking piece used to such good effect in Kubrick's '2001 - A Space Odyssey'. As the music started, so did a stunning laser light display, picking up the rhythms of the tympani. What a beginning! Then came the 'Star Wars' music. Later we had 'Mars: the Bringer of War' from Holst's Planet Suite.



Between items, an astronomer and a poet picked out cosmic (and comic) themes. These ideas were also illustrated in a range of songs by Beth and the school choirs.

The audience loved it and all the kids involved must have felt they were part of a great event.

Funding may be tough - but here was evidence that our young people's music is in good condition.

Ron Lee makes 40 years

Colne Valley singer, Ron Lees, was tonight awarded a certificate not only to mark his 40 years with us but also to confer on him Honorary Life Membership.

Choir Chaplain and baritone, John Radcliffe, said, "As the longest serving member - bar one - it falls to me to congratulate Ron on his achieving 40 years in the Choir.

I remember, back in 1975 or thereabouts, sitting with him on an arduous coach ride to Germany. By, he has got long legs!

But he's also got a good voice and it's been great to know him as a singer and as a friend."

Ron responded, "It's been an absolute pleasure – every week and every year. Thank you"



Cornwall Next

The Choir's about ready now for another tour down to Newquay.



Once again we'll be taking part in the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival.

We'll be there at the end of April to defend – if we can – our current title of 'Overall Best UK Choir':- the title we won when we were last there two years ago.

Our Competition pieces are chosen and close to the standard we aspire to.

So, bring it on!

Our Programme includes these highlights:

*Friday May 1st (Evening) Concert at
St Neot's Church in the village of St Neots*

*Saturday May 2nd after the afternoon
competition we hope to take part in the
**Gala Concert at the Hall for Cornwall in
Truro that evening***

*Sunday May 3rd sees us in a free late
morning performance at **Land's End**
And that evening we'll be performing again
at **All Saints' Church in Falmouth.***



Above you can see the Choir on our last trip in 2013 – our first competition with our new smart suits,

And on the left, the 2007 Chairman, Peter Denby, and Connie are seen protecting the cups we won on our first visit to the Cornwall Festival in Spring of that year.

Joint Concert with Lindley

March 21st saw us doing a charity concert with the young stars from Lindley Junior School.

They are a class outfit! And they were just freshly back from upholding their proud record at the BBC Songs of Praise: School Choir of the Year competition.



(The photo shows them in the 2014 contest.)

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

The concert was held to raise funds for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice. Lindley conductor, Alison North, spoke movingly about how important the Hospice is to its young users and their families.

At the finale, Choir members, interspersed with the Juniors arranged themselves around the perimeter of the hall and sang the 'Irish Blessing' directly to members of the audience.

*And until we meet again,
And until we meet again,
May the God that loves us all,
Hold you in the palm of his hand.*

And another thing.....



There'll be celebrations ahead of our trip to Cornwall, when our friends in Saddleworth Male Voice Choir invoke Saint George at a concert in Saddleworth's Civic Hall

On Saturday night, April the 25th 2015

The Hometowners and Tony Downes will do their thing and join in song with the Saddleworth chaps (some few of whom are also stalwart members of our own Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.)

It'll be a fun night!

Voice of the **Valley**

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