

Voice



of the

Valley



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Newsletter

September 2015

Bridge over Troubled Water

It went down well at 'Concert on the Hill' in July. We'll be singing our version again at Poulton le Fylde on Saturday 19th September. But first listen to the original and the best.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_a46WJ1viA

Simon and Garfunkel - Bridge Over Troubled Water



Bridge over Troubled Water was the title song to the fifth and final studio album by American folk rock duo Simon & Garfunkel. Described as both their 'most effortless record and their most ambitious', it was released on January 26, 1970 and several re-releases followed.

Despite numerous accolades, the duo decided to split up, and parted company later in 1970; Garfunkel continued his film career, while Simon carried on as singer, songwriter and performer.

Both critically and commercially successful, the album topped the charts in over ten countries and received two Grammy Awards, plus four more for the title song. It sold around 25 million records. 'Bridge over Troubled Water' was listed in 'Rolling Stones' 500 Greatest Songs of All Time'.

New Boys?



The Choir was pleased to welcome two new members to the Bass section, **Chris Rigg** (on the right).and **Chris Hartley**.

How did you come to join, asked VotV?

Says Chris Rigg, "That Jeff Bamforth! He's has been on my case for years! I told him, when I give up work - we'll see - maybe I'll give it a try. So, here I am."

The other Chris told Voice of the Valley, "It was Raymond Ellis who lured him in. I've known him for years. I came to live in this area about eighteen months ago and Raymond would mention it whenever I saw him."

Then just recently he said, "OK Chris, when are you coming to join us – and no excuses."

He enjoyed his debut concert with the Choir at Scarborough.

It does seem that the personal touch still works in recruiting new singers.

We wish them both many happy years with us.

Scarborough 2015

Inspired by the extraordinary **Christine Cox**, the Scarborough Music Festival went ahead again this August. It was an extra special event said compere, **Simon Lindley**, because this year marks forty years of her organising musical events in and around Scarborough.

It's always a special event for Colne Valley Male Voice Choir – a highlight of our summer programme – to join with the other performers in a wonderful venue with its enthusiastic audience.



At Christine's special request we sang, '**Some Enchanted Evening**' from Rogers and Hammerstein's 'South Pacific' – a glorious love song.

Thom and soprano, Victoria Sharpe, stoked up the romance with '**All I Ask of You**' from 'Phantom of the Opera'.

*"Say you'll share with me,
One love, one lifetime.
Say the word and I will follow you.
Share each day with me,
Each night, each morning.
Say you love me.
That's all I ask of you."*



A super set from Opera North's, **Victoria Sharpe**, included to great acclaim, '**You'll Never Walk Alone**'

Colne Valley men joined in, of course!

Phillip McCann, skilfully accompanied by Dr Lindley, once again amazed the audience by his beauty of his cornet playing.



The finale: **'The Battle Hymn of the Republic'** gave an opportunity for the whole ensemble to join in: Simon on the Organ, the inimitable Keith Swallow on piano, the trumpet accompaniment from Phillip and the Choir and Victoria on the vocals, as always led with flair by Thom.



There's video to watch – see Val Coles' capture of the event on her mobile phone of some of 'The Ghosts' High Noon' a fine comic song from Gilbert and Sullivan.

Access it at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mGn1uC5oJM

Big thanks to Harry Meredith for the Scarborough photos.

Unkind Cricket Jokes

much less relevant than they were a couple of weeks ago



*What do you call an Australian who can handle a bat?
A vet*

*What's the difference between an Australian batsman and Cinderella?
Cinderella knows when to leave the ball.*

Jim Morgan & the Spooky Men's Chorale



Much-respected Guest Conductor, Jim Morgan, returned to the Choir the other week to lead us in rehearsal for our Scarborough Concert.

He's always welcome.

And not least for the occasional anecdotes and musical observations.

Amongst his many enthusiasms, he warmly recommended members look out for the Australian Male Voice Choir, **'The Spooky Men's Chorale'** – an extraordinarily talented and polished group currently on tour in the UK.

You might still get to see them in Penistone on Tuesday night, September 1st.

It will be a great night of vocal skill, comedy and musical entertainment.

Click [here](#) on or on the image to bring up the Spooky Men's fantastic version of what they claim is an 'Old Swedish Folksong'.



Access it at: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNrAgbzMXOI>

Tickets: www.onlinecinematickets.com/index.php?s=PENISTONE&p=details&eventCode=17041

So what does the Music Committee get up to?

An edited report from David Hirst



There are six Music Committee members - Thom Meredith, Philip Baxter, James Blagbrough, Raymond Ellis, Keith Holland and myself as Chairman. Our agendas cover the selection of items of music for competitions and concerts as well as other related things such as the consideration of new music etc,

I can inform you that in 2014, **46 different items were performed by the Choir at thirteen events.**

Three items of music were at the 'top of the league'. **Benedictus** was performed ten times. **Funiculi Funicula** and **The Lost Chord** were performed eight times each. By contrast 13 of the 46 items were performed only once.

This perhaps illustrates that the Music Committee has always endeavoured to ring the changes. This is even more apparent when considering concert venues where the Choir has repeat engagements. For example at Scarborough on August 22nd, five of the already selected programme items will be performed there for the first time, making a total of 74 different items of music in eight visits.



David - with twirly moustache – about 40 years ago

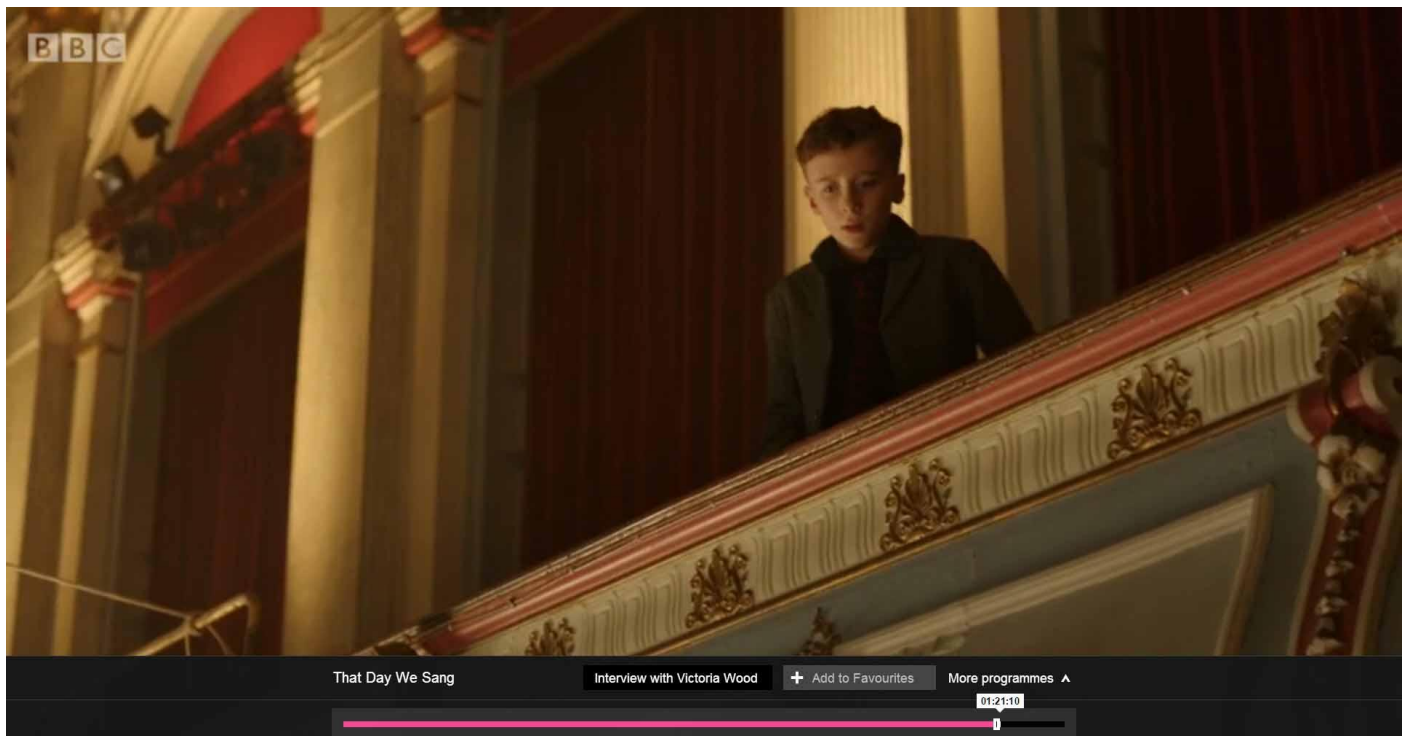
And at Poulton-le-Fylde on 19th September, nine of the 16 programme items selected have not been sung there previously. That means, that in the five visits to Poulton, 56 different items will have been performed.

At the recent **Cornwall Festival** the compere's introduction of Worcester Male Voice Choir included the information that they had an 'impressive repertoire' of 160 items.

Big deal! By comparison, just in the 25 years of Thom Meredith's conductorship Colne Valley has performed a total number of 306 different songs. That information was mentioned to **David Peters**, the compere of the Sunday evening's concert at Falmouth Church. He was absolutely amazed at that number, and included it in his introduction of the Choir to the large Falmouth audience as we took to the stage.

He might have been perhaps even more amazed if he had also been informed that a total of some 560 different items have been performed by the Choir since 1960. The record goes to, '**Love Could I Only Tell Thee**' which has been performed 139 times, 87 times under Thom Meredith. We'll be singing it again at Poulton le Fylde.

And another thing.....



The sharp-eyed amongst you will recognise Huddersfield Town Hall, masquerading as the **Manchester Free Trade Hall** in **Victoria Wood**'s terrific BBC production, '**That Day We Sang**'.

It's set in 1969, with flashbacks to 1929. A middle-aged couple find love after meeting on a TV programme about a choir they both sang in as children. The title refers to the day of a famous recording of **Nymphs and Shepherds** in 1929 by **The Manchester Children's Choir**. (Listen to the original by accessing the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vkpgHECZtE)

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir members (some of whom must have sung **Nymphs and Shepherds** as boy sopranos many years ago) will be delighted to see that many of the scenes are played out on the stage we know the best - at the **Huddersfield Town Hall**.

It's on the **BBC i-player** until mid September – so if you missed it on BBC 2 the other week – seek it out. You'll enjoy it.



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www.colnevalleymvc.org.uk

And another thing.....

Choir Members take note:

You may welcome the holiday - or you may see it as cruel deprivation – but there will be no rehearsal on Monday 31st August.

We meet again on the 7th of September.

And Choir Secretary, Jenny Baxter, adds.....

Hello,

If you intend to go to the 200 Club Dinner on Friday 4th September but have not yet told Trevor Sykes please ring him on 652760 or, if you find it easier, email me and I will pass on the message.

Best regards

Jenny

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