

# Voice



of the

# Valley



**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Newsletter**

**Christmas Special**

**CHOIR CHAIRMAN, PETER DENBY, INVITES YOU TO COME TO OUR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL IN HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL AT A QUARTER PAST SEVEN ON DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> AND - TO WHET YOUR APPETITE - OFFERS A FEW WELCOMING REMARKS ON THE PLEASURES IN STORE FOR OUR AUDIENCE.**



Like many of you I have often been asked what or who was my favourite composer or piece of music. This is an impossible question to answer. So much depends on our mood, emotional state and of course our age. Without doubt, during the course of our lives, our taste in music does change but happily the Sunday night concert will have something for everyone.



From the opening "Fanfare for Christmas" sung by the Choir to the Grand Finale in which the Choir, Band and our star soloist, **Victoria Sharp**, join in the ever popular "Holy City" the programme is packed with traditional Christmas music.

You too will have the opportunity to have a sing in that great opening carol "Christians Awake" and in the second half "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing".

**Dr Simon Lindley**, our compere for the evening, will, as always, educate and amuse in his usual effervescent manner.





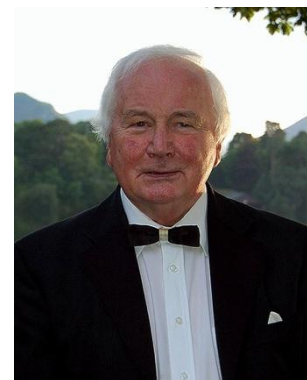
As our main guests we welcome, again, the world-famous **Brighouse & Rastrick Band**, led by their new Resident Conductor, **Leigh Baker**.



We also welcome, together with their talented accompanist, **Chris Pullein**, our very own **Colne Valley Boys**. They will, no doubt, do their best to upstage the men and they usually do!



Our Musical director, **Thom Meredith**, will be conducting his 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive Christmas concert. And, believe it or not, **Keith Swallow** will be accompanying his 47<sup>th</sup> (Not too sure Keith will thank me for imparting this information!)



Once again we are delighted that **C & J Antich**, manufacturers of the finest British cloth, have considered this concert worthy of their sponsorship.

We sincerely hope that Chris and Janet, our guests and all of our audience will enjoy Sunday night's concert.

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Peter




# **STOP PRESS**

**Ticketing Supremo, Roger Fielding** tells me there are a few tickets left in the Area at £12.50 and in the Area side seats and Gallery for £10.00

And there's a special offer for Children and Students: - Gallery tickets just £5.00.


The Gallery, by the way, probably offers the most spectacular view over the stage and arguably the fullest sound anywhere in the auditorium. It's just a long climb up there! (Though there is a lift.)

You can book online or phone Kirklees on 223200



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### Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

Colne Valley MVC Christmas Concert

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Colne Valley Male Voice Choir with Brighouse & Rastrick Band, Colne Valley Boys, Victoria Sharpe (Soloist) & Simon Lindley as Compere.

DEC 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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<https://tickets.kirklees.gov.uk/en-GB/shows/colne%20valley%20male%20voice%20choir/info>



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# BARBARIANS



An unusual recording session took place on Monday at our rehearsal room upstairs in the Conservative Club in Slaithwaite.

We were visited by **Peter Rice**, the Sound Designer for an imminent drama performance at London's '**Young Vic**' theatre. He explained:



"The play is *Barbarians* by Barry Keeffe, who most famously wrote the film *The Long Good Friday*.

In the bit we are recording three young men are stood outside Wembley area on the day of the FA Cup Final 1976, without tickets. The play takes place with the men stood continuously outside the ground unable to get into the match. At one point we hear the crowd singing 'Que Sera, Sera' and at another 'Abide With Me'. For this song the boys stand in reverential silence initially and then join in singing from outside the stadium. It is sung as a tradition at the FA Cup final so that is why we hear this piece specifically.

I am trying to capture the essence of a group of football fans singing the Hymn, so the more disjointed, slightly raucous, out of time and tune the better it would be! I realise this is the opposite of what you seek to achieve most of the time but hope that being able to work with a respected choir like yourselves we can have fun and capture something like the play demands."

Peter made us record it several times, saying, “You’re still too good – give me the four-pint version.”

I’m pleased to report that the “**Colne Valley ‘Ale Voice Choir**” rose to the occasion magnificently. At one point Carol, the Club Steward, from downstairs, burst in to complain about the row and all the stamping and yelling.

**“What on earth are you lot up to?”**

## **BARBARIANS**



**“We will not be ignored. They’ll talk about us, write about us, hate us.”**

A dingy corner of 1970s London. Three unruly lads from Lewisham leave school without hope or ambition. A life of petty crime beckons.

Darkly comic anarchy follows as Jan, Paul and Louis try to fight their way into a society rife with unemployment and rejection. Bubbling tensions erupt with chilling consequences.

Liz Stevenson directs this trilogy of gripping and timeless plays by Barrie Keeffe.

27<sup>th</sup> November to 19<sup>th</sup> December at Young Vic’

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## **And another thing.....**

You would be very welcome, too, at this event put on by our very own CVMVC Junior division.

It’s not just us ‘Old Men’ who can sing!

# **Colne Valley Boys Christmas Concert**

**When** Sat, 5 December, 15:00 – 17:00

**Where** St James Church, Slaithwaite

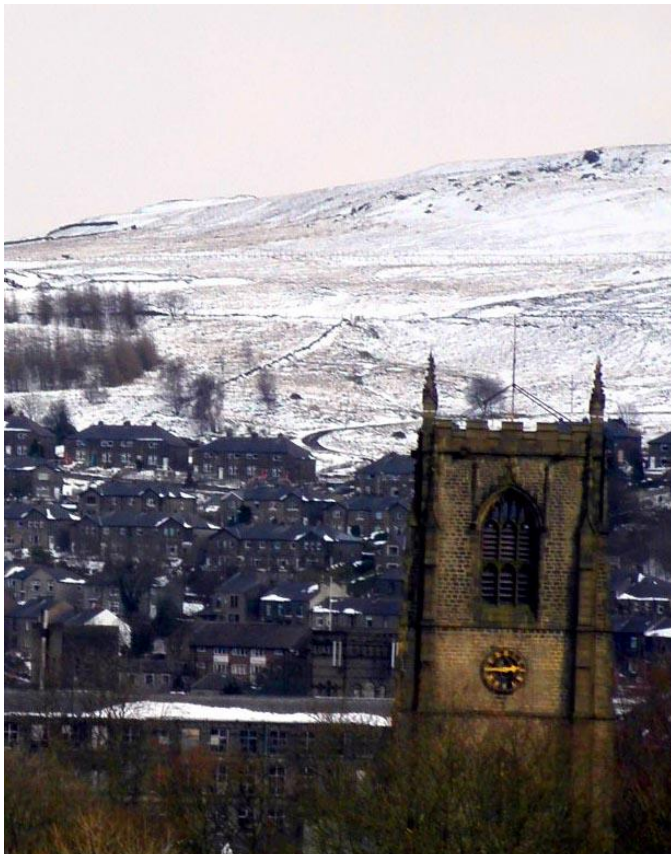
Features the Boys Choir with their guests Kirklees Youth Brass Band and Kirklees Teachers' Choir



# Harriet Astbury joins CV Rehearsal



Harriet will be joining with the Choir to sing Thom Meredith's arrangement of 'O Holy Night' and - going by the rehearsal with Harriet - it will be one of the highlights of a great night of music and entertainment.



The Choir had the pleasure of the company of **Harriet Astbury** at rehearsal the other night.

This fine soprano is to be the star guest singer at the Christmas concert by the wonderful **Marsden Silver Prize Band** at Marsden's parish church on **Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>**. (7:30 pm start)

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir have been the band's guest performers on this joyful annual occasion for many years now – lots of people say it's the concert that really gets them in the mood for Christmas.





# Thom is 50

At our Monday rehearsal on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the Choir sang 'Happy Birthday' to Thom who has reached his half-century.

But, we learn, it was as nothing compared to the climax to his Birthday Party, held that weekend at his parents' home: a stunning display **Harry, Ellie** and the **Meredith family** laid on to mark his anniversary.



**Harry Writes**, "It was my Dad's 50th Yesterday so the whole family celebrated by blowing up their childhood home!

Massive thanks to Emma and Duncan Brown for the amazing food and Hester and William Meredith for putting up with the cold and helping to organise the firework display.

Also can't forget filming work from Ellie Pike an expert on both sides of the camera.

This was one of **The Switch's** biggest productions yet! A huge Laser, Firework and Light display all synced to music.

I was watching the display through tears, it was so moving. I think we have done our job!

This was for the end of a 50th Birthday party as a surprise for the Birthday boy. We used all his favourite music and designed the Lasers and the Fireworks to fit in perfectly."

VotV Editor says: 'You've just got to watch this.'

<https://vimeo.com/146578968>



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
THOM  
AND  
MANY HAPPY  
RETURNS**