



# Beautiful Soup



*"Beautiful soup so rich and green,  
Waiting in a hot tureen!  
Who for such dainties would not stoop?  
Soup of the evening, beautiful soup."*

*Beautiful soup!  
Who cares for fish?  
Who cares for game or other dish?  
Soup, Soup  
Who would not give all else for  
Two-pennyworth only of....  
Beautiful soup? Soup .....Ahh!"*

## Robert Cockcroft's, 'Beautiful Soup'

Robert Cockcroft wrote the lyrics and music of this little piece, 'Beautiful Soup' for his friend, **Keith Swallow**, Colne Valley's maestro of the keyboard. The Choir has been slowly getting to grips with it.

And Robert knows a thing or two about soup. Huddersfield born composer, organist and – for four decades – a newsman, Robert was also, for many years, the restaurant critic for the **Yorkshire Post**.



Here he is extolling the virtues of soup in a 2013 Yorkshire Post article about a Kirkburton eatery. 'The Dyeworks':-

*"The chef is a Francophile and has plainly absorbed more than the surface manners of the cuisine he loves.*

*That became brilliantly apparent in the **onion soup**. I've criss-crossed France in search of good soupe à l'oignon, to be rewarded by feeble brews the colour of silt. Nothing feeble about this: armies could fuel ballistic missiles with it.*

*Richness doesn't start to describe it. The onions are reduced to a dark stickiness before being conjured into a mahogany broth. Some cheese-topped croutons are set afloat and that's it."*

I don't know whether soup will be available at the **Supper Concert**, the Choir is doing at the **Carding Shed** in **Hepworth** on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Nor, indeed whether this deceptively-straight-forward little musical piece will be ready for performance by then. But I can assure Readers that it will be an enjoyable evening, with good food and fine musical entertainment from the Choir and our in-house soloists.

The banner features a central white rounded rectangle with a red border, set against a background of blue and green diagonal stripes. At the top center is a circular logo with a steam engine and the text 'THE CARDING SHED HEPWORTH'. Below this is a navigation bar with links: HOME, EVENTS, GALLERY, WHERE WE ARE, MENUS, PRIVATE FUNCTIONS. The main text in the center reads 'Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Concert- Sunday 12th June from 6.30pm'. To the left of a central photograph of the choir is the 'Contact us...' section, and to the right is the 'Opening hours...' section. At the bottom of the white area is a 'Ticket Hotline' section. Below the white area is a blue ribbon banner with the address 'DOBROYD MILLS, HEPWORTH HOLMFIRTH HD9 1AF' and a small logo of a shed roof.

**THE CARDING SHED HEPWORTH**

HOME EVENTS GALLERY WHERE WE ARE MENUS PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Concert- Sunday 12th June from 6.30pm**

**Contact us...**

DOBROYD MILLS, HEPWORTH,  
HOLMFIRTH HD9 1AF  
TEL: 01484 680300  
E-MAIL:  
thecardingshed@gmail.com

**Ticket Hotline**

TEL: 01484 680400

**Opening hours...**

THE CARDING SHED IS OPEN  
7 DAYS A WEEK  
MONDAY TO SUNDAY  
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

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Dobroyd Mills, Hepworth, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire HD9 1AF  
Website by Owen Phillips

DOBROYD MILLS, HEPWORTH  
HOLMFIRTH HD9 1AF

<http://thecardingshed.co.uk/events/april-june-2016/colne-valley-male-voice-choir-fndraiser-sunday-12th-june-from-6-30pm>

Access the Carding Shed's fine website and find out more about this forth-coming and not-to-be-missed event! Tickets available from the Carding Shed on 680400 or from Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 645192



# Flight of Fancy



David's flight: what it might have looked like.

Music Committee Chairman, **David Hirst**, is back singing with the Choir following the trip he and his wife, Sylvia took, visiting their families in Australia and New Zealand.

Son, Garry, and family sprung a few surprises on them whilst in New Zealand, reports David.

The first was a 45 minutes flight over the Bay of Islands in a 1975 Cessna 172, single prop aeroplane.

The flight was at 1500 feet over and around the Bay of Islands, Northland.

At first, David admitted, he was a little apprehensive especially when he found he had to wear lifejackets, although perhaps it was understandable, he reasoned, when flying over so much water.

However later he described the flight as 'Absolutely Fantastic!'

## 200 Club winners

Says Les, "I'm pleased to report this year's winners.

I'd also like to make an appeal to readers. Buy a number or maybe a second number. We have a handful of numbers still available. It costs you just a pound a week and half the money goes to support the Choir's many activities.

[Choir Secretary, Jenny](#), on 01484 645192 will put you in touch.

Please do try your best"

| Les Stones announces the 200 Club Winners for 2016 |                 |                   |           |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Date   | 200 Club Number | Name              | Prize     |
| 4 January 2016                                     | 184             | John Lees         | £45.00    |
| 11 January 2016                                    | 99              | Gina Fielding     | £45.00    |
| 18 January 2016                                    | 122             | Gerald Stead      | £185.00   |
| 25 January 2016                                    | 6               | Dennis Nutton     | £45.00    |
| 1 February 2016                                    | 68              | Tony Bailey       | £45.00    |
| 8 February 2016                                    | 154             | Kay Dolan         | £45.00    |
| 15 February 2016                                   | 101             | J Walker Smith    | £45.00    |
| 22 February 2016                                   | 190             | Jeff Bamforth     | £45.00    |
| 29 February 2016                                   | 160             | Valerie Coles     | £1,000.00 |
| 7 March 2016                                       | 24              | Michael Parkinson | £45.00    |
| 14 March 2016                                      | 150             | Stella Beaumont   | £45.00    |
| 21 March 2016                                      | 25              | Vivian Haigh      | £45.00    |
| 28 March 2016                                      | 148             | Aileen Halstead   | £185.00   |





# Letters to the Editor

Re: Rising Stars: three young talents to look out for

Hi John,

Just read *VotV* and I will pass the congratulations of the choir on to Harry and Ellie. It is a most enjoyable read and I know Thom always appreciates what is written about him: it is always so warm and affectionate.

By the way, can I just note a misspelling for you in Chris's name: it's Chris Pulleyn with a 'y'.

Warmest regards,

Lynn,



+++++  
My compliments to *VotV* editor,

Hahahaha John! Fantastic!!

Sincerely,

Cries Polleen

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## Historic Return to Llangollen for Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

The Huddersfield Daily  
**Examiner**

*From the Huddersfield Examiner of 19/1/2016 by Neil Atkinson: Research by Ken Parkin*

The first ever choir to sing at the world-famous **Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod** is to make a symbolic return to celebrate the festival's 70th year.

**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** has scooped six titles at the historic festival over the years as well as five second places and two third prizes – but back in 1947 they missed out. The 70-strong choir, which was founded in Slaithwaite in 1922, **was the first to take to the Eisteddfod stage** in 1947 and it was up against choirs from Hungary, the eventual winners, Spain, Italy, Denmark and Holland as well as Wales and England.

**Now, seven decades later, representatives from the choir have been invited as special guests** to the 'Choir of the World' Finals at the 70th staging of the iconic festival. It will mark a symbolic return for the choir which has enjoyed a long relationship with the festival





The Choir of the World competition is now for the Pavarotti Trophy and although Colne Valley missed out on a prize in that first year, they went on to claim **a hat-trick of wins** in the 1960s and have become one of the UK's most successful male voice choirs with a host of titles at home and abroad.

They have sung without music sheets since **Thom Meredith** became the Musical Director as a 23-year-old in 1989 so they have performed more than 300 different songs from memory in 26 years – a feat unlikely to have been replicated elsewhere.

Eisteddfod Musical Director **Eilir Owen Griffiths** (left) said: "We'd be delighted to see the Colne Valley Choir here at the Eisteddfod again.



They are part of the history of the event and there will always be a welcome in Llangollen for the choir which started the great tradition of the Choir of the World competition."

Returning to Llangollen will also bring back happy memories for **David Hirst**, the second longest-serving member of the choir who joined aged 22 in November 1960 – just a few months after the first Llangollen success.



“Obviously, we have a special association with the Llangollen festival and it would be quite an honour to return”, he said. “As well as being the first male choir to sing at the Festival, there was a hat-trick of wins in 1960, 1961, 1962 and altogether there have been six wins, five seconds and two third prizes in the 23 visits by the Choir since 1947. Quite an achievement when you were up against 19 or 20 choirs.”



The Choir, which rehearses in **Slaithwaite Conservative Club** on Monday evenings, has only ever had five conductors during its 93 years of existence. The longest-serving was **George Stead** who led the Choir for 44 years and wrote the very popular Psalm 126, which is regularly performed by male voice choirs across the country.

The Choir's official accompanist is **Keith Swallow**, a celebrated solo pianist in his own right, who has been in the role since 1957. The longest-serving member is the **Rev John Radcliffe**, who joined the same year and is also the Choir Chaplain. The youngest singer is **Tom Law**, 24, while **Frank Littlewood** is the oldest at 86.

They have toured France, Germany, Ireland, Czechoslovakia and the USA, some of them exchange visits with choirs arising through relationships built at Llangollen.



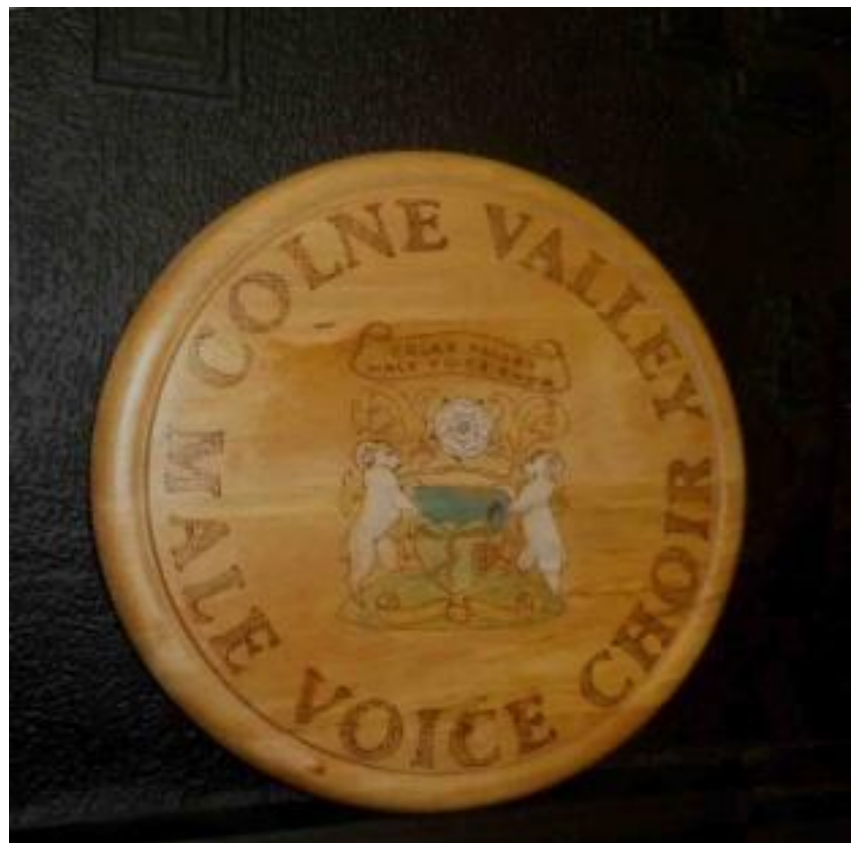
Next year's Llangollen event, the 70th to be held, will feature star names **Bryn Terfel**, **Katherine Jenkins** and **Jools Holland** and his **Rhythm and Blues Orchestra** who will bring the curtain down on the festival on Sunday, July 10



This finely-crafted wooden plaque was presented to the Choir recently by **Albert Hobson**.

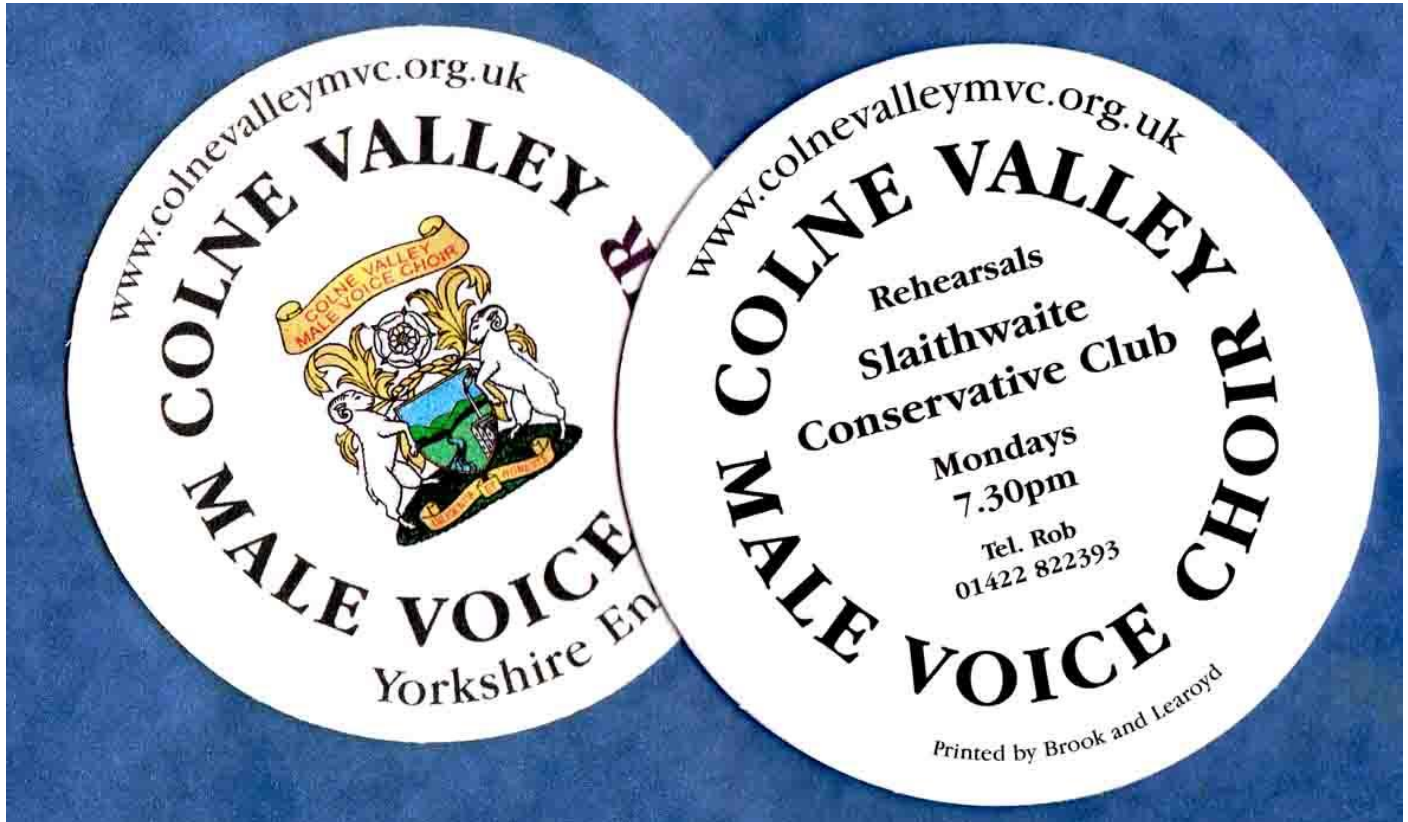
Albert, the expert hobbyist lathe-operator and pyrographer who made the 10 inch shield, is a mate of Choir stalwart, the now retired, **Ken Denton**, and the piece came to our trophy cabinet via **Arthur Quarmby**.

Thank you, Albert!





## Beer mats



Go for a meal of maybe a pint anywhere in the Colne Valley at the moment and you are likely to rest your glass on a CVMVC beer mat.

Ken Parkin, Colne Valley's recently appointed Publicity Officer is the man behind this bright idea. "We had 2,500 mats made," says Ken, "And then they went to 25 establishments in batches of 100 approx. Most of the beer mats were taken by committee members and I delivered about 1000 myself. We covered most Pubs and Clubs in Marsden, Slaithwaite and Linthwaite plus a few in Golcar and beyond. There are some, of course, downstairs in the Con Club.

*The mats were produced by my sons at **Brook and Learoyd Printers**, on Chancery Lane in Huddersfield. They produced the printed design but had to outsource the transfer of this onto beer mats as it is very specialised. The only firm in the country who used to do this was in Milnsbridge but it closed fairly recently and I think these were done in Holland."*

"It's all about making sure people know that we are there," says **Vice Chairman, Rob Rosborough**, "A bit of brand awareness."

Well done, Ken. If you have news or views on publicity, Ken would like to hear from you: either via the website ( <http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk/contact-us> ) or on 01484 682973

# Brook & Learoyd




Printers since 1840



# Give as you live

A scheme that could help support the Choir financially in these tough times

 **Give as you Live®**

Home   How it works   For charities   Install Shopping Bar   Help   Logout

## What is Give as you Live?


Give as you Live is a shopping and price comparison website with a heart. You can shop for products from thousands of leading online retailers; use our price comparison tool to ensure you get the best price and even save money by using the exclusive offers and deals available on our site.

Don't forget, a percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to charity.


### Where does the money come from?

Like other price comparison websites, we generate money through affiliate marketing. This means that retailers pay us commission each time a sale is generated for them through our site and we pass at least 50% of this on to the charity of the supporter's choice.


### How we make money for charities...



**Step 1**  
Shop at over 4,100 stores who have all signed up to donate a % of your total shop with them to your chosen charity, school, church or social clubs.



**Step 2**  
Simply search for your favourite store on Give as you Live and click to 'shop now' - you'll be directed to the store where you can make your purchase as normal.



**Step 3**  
That's it! You've made your purchase through your chosen store and they donated to either your favourite charity or our Charity of the Month. Best of all it didn't cost you any extra to raise this money as the retailer donates.

Here's a scheme you might like to consider. The Choir's Management Committee recently endorsed the idea, which could help support the Choir financially in these tough times.

Basically you buy online from companies, such as Amazon, in the usual way, except that you reach them via the 'Give as you Live' website. Then a fraction of the money you spend is forwarded by Amazon, through 'Give as you Live', to CVMVC. Small amounts can add up to a very useful contribution to the Choir's finances – and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Theoretically, we get £5 for each VotV reader who signs up and spends £5. On top of that, the Choir will get a small percentage of their spend on all online purchases, made through the 'Give as you live' site.

Not clear yet: Click on the poster to see a brief video of how it works. <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/howitworks>

Click here to sign up, <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/refer/R9UuZQk-2Bj3IKIO7DYol6qA7ahEy4NQ-3D-3D> including nominating **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir - Yorkshire** as your charity and then just start shopping – as you usually do.

Click here to see an article in the Guardian Business section which gives the background. <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/sustainability-case-studies-give-as-you-live-plugin>

Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 01484 645192 to join our Readers' List or for other queries

**See our new website to get the full story**

**[colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)**