

Voice

of the

Valley

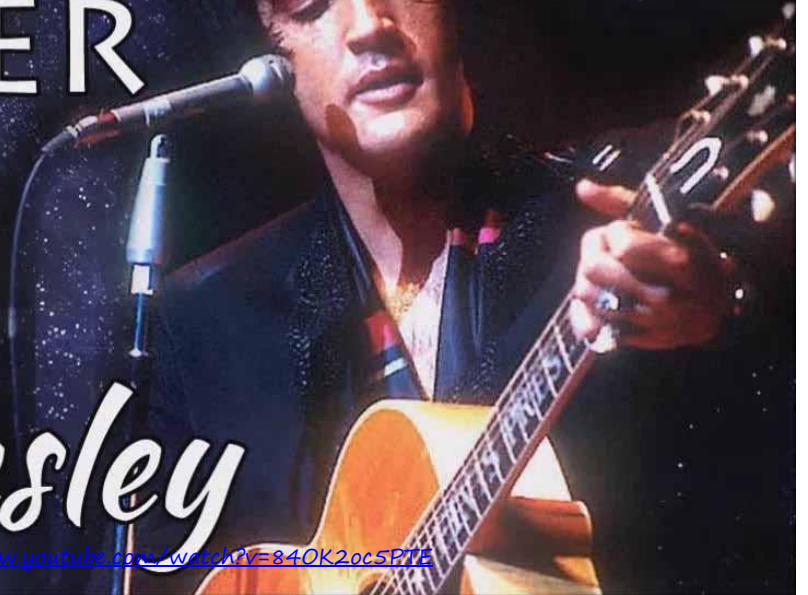


Colne Valley Male Voice Choir Newsletter

May 2016 Edition

THE WONDER OF YOU Elvis Presley

Access the music at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84OK2oc5PTE>



*And when you smile the world is brighter
You touch my hand and I'm a king
Your kiss to me is worth a fortune
Your love for me is everything*

*I guess, I'll never know
The reason why you love me as you do
That's the wonder, the wonder of you*

So sang Elvis in the spring of 1970. "***The Wonder of You***" was one of his most successful records in the UK, topping the UK Singles Chart for six weeks.

And you can hear the Men of the Colne Valley, in inimitable romantic mood, giving our version of this classic love song, complete with Simon Durrans, baritone and cool man, playing the guitar interlude. This song, another Elvis hit, '*Can't Help Falling in Love with You*' and other heart-tugging numbers all happen at the **Carding Shed on June 12th**. And there's a fair chance, that Thom Meredith, backed by the Choir will do his much-loved ballad, '**You Raise Me Up**' too.

It'll be a terrific way to spend a Sunday evening, with a pie and pea supper and fine musical entertainment from the Choir and our in-house soloists.

Access the Carding Shed's excellent website and find out more about this forthcoming and not-to-be-missed event! Tickets must be secured in advance to enable the caterers to prepare: so please contact the Carding Shed via the website or on (01484) 680400 or get in touch with Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 645192



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

New Members needed

Plans are afoot to bring in new members.

Deputy Chairman, **Rob Rosborough**, and Publicity Officer, **Ken Parkin**, have been putting together a new strategy for recruitment.

What's it about?

Says Rob, "Cut through all the details and basically we need to let people know we need some more singers. Anyone who comes along stands to have a good time and gain a lot of pleasure from singing and performing with us.

I think some people are a bit scared they won't be up to it and don't bother. We need to let them know they would be welcome, that most of us felt that way once. And we all get fabulous singing lessons from one of best and most patient choral tutors there is –Thom Meredith."

We've got lots of plans brewing so watch out for them – but don't wait – bring a friend along to a rehearsal soon. They'll thank you for it!"

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir
Why not come along and join in the fun?



Champions again: Best UK Choir at the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival, 2015

The choir welcomes new members of all ages. Don't worry if you can't read music or haven't sung since school days! Many of us started from that background.

"I wondered what to expect but I never thought it would be such a friendly outfit – as pleasant as it is rewarding – I'm getting the hang of it now."

If you enjoy singing you'll be made welcome at 7:30pm on Monday nights at Slaithwaite Conservative Club, Britannia Road, HD7 5HF. You choose; sing in or just listen. After a few rehearsals, when you're ready, we'll help you find the section that best suits your voice.

You'll have the pleasure of singing under **Thom Meredith**, a very fine choral trainer and conductor. Since 1989, Thom has helped cement our reputation as one of the **top male voice choirs** in the country.

For further information contact **Choir Secretary, Jenny Baxter**, on 01484 645192 and see our website: www.colnevalleymvc.org.uk



How To Build A Successful Choir: The Benefits Of Imaginative Programming

Choral director and author Tim Knight explains that if you want long term results, you need to sometimes take a risk with your programming.



State Choir Latvia

www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0WcXxXV13I&feature=youtu.be

‘We need bums on seats’ is the cry of many a choir, using this as a reason for sometimes frankly unimaginative programming, it is becoming quite clear that audiences are wanting more, becoming more knowledgeable, and we must cater for this otherwise those bums will remain firmly placed on the sofa at home! Countless performances of the old favourites (and a very limited selection of those) sometimes by choirs singing within a few miles of each other, may well keep the singers happy but are we exciting our audiences, are we happier to sing what we know than venture into the great unknown – which may of course be harder work?

Recently as a judge at an international choral festival I heard choirs imitating forest sounds, using percussion in their music, going from standing to sitting cross legged on the floor and silently restanding – all to serve the composer’s

intentions in a beautifully produced Latvian folk song, Es Gulu. The audience were captivated.

The range of music available to sing is enormous. By the time the standard orchestral repertoire was written some of our greatest choral composers had been dead 200 years. And what of supporting today's composers, (remembering that every piece of music was new at some time)?

We live at an exciting musical point where there are composers writing in all sorts of styles. We have access to recordings and YouTube performances of thousands of pieces of music from all over the world, (and so of course do our audiences). There are gems to be found for those prepared to look and these can and should be delivered to our audiences if we are to keep them interested and the choral art fresh and alive.

Personal favourites are subjective but I am as astounded by the beauty of some recent Baltic music as I am in the woeful neglect of some of our own lesser known composers.

For my choirs this week's music has included **Vivaldi** and **Scarlatti, Barton** and **Healey Willan, Weelkes** and **Vaughan Williams**, Randall Thompson and **Esenvalds**; (and a little bit of **Knight!**) some sublime English Tudor music and some from the Great American Songbook. Amongst these few examples are excitement and passion, melancholy and despair.

Yes – we need the seats at our concerts full, and since choral music has the power to thrill or entertain, to uplift or to thought provoke – the choir that seeks out fresh and interesting repertoire will go a long way to making that happen.



Tim Knight is a Composer, Choral Director and Best Selling Author of '365 Tips to a More Successful Choir'

www.timknightmusic.com/choral-director.html

A wanderer returns



Choir members gave a welcome cheer to First Tenor, **Ian Rex**, as he wandered in to rehearsal the other night.

What prompted this outburst of warm conviviality?

Simple: Ian's work had taken him away to foreign parts and this was his first Choir night for just over a year.

Ian tells **Voice of the Valley** what he's been up to:-

"I left the UK in May 2015 to spend a year in **South Korea** in a city called **Busan**. It was an exchange with another employee of my company, **Sulzer**, a pump manufacturer for the oil and gas industry. I work in the Leeds factory, based in **Beeston** as a Project Manager and it's my job to liaise between the client and factory, overseeing the design and build of the pump and skids to meet their requirements.

When I got the chance to go to Korea, it was too good an opportunity to miss. Sulzer Korea is a much smaller organisation than the UK factory and they can only package pumps made by the other Sulzer factories around the world. Most of my work entailed liaising with these factories in Germany, Brazil, Mexico and the UK. Due to the time differences this meant some unusual working hours.



South Korea is a pleasant country and **Busan**, its second city, is one of the largest ports in East Asia. The city was the only part of South Korea not to be overrun by the North in the Korean War and has many monuments to that period. My home for the 12 months was an apartment on the 10th floor of a complex, situated in **Jisa Dong**, some 15 km from the city centre.

Unfortunately I never found any choirs in Korea to join, though Busan had many international links. English is a popular second language and all pupils are taught English at school. In fact on the day of the national English aural exam, no planes fly for a period of one hour whilst that is underway.

People are most tolerant of visitors who do not speak Korean! Though I must confess I would not go to a Korean restaurant on my own. The diet there has a lot of sea food, obscure parts of the pig and cow, and many vegetables and seaweed eaten raw or cooked or pickled. The main side dish is pickled cabbage, **Kimchae**.



The year was most enjoyable and I learnt a lot about their culture, some of the history and their dynasties going back many hundreds of years. The trip to the capital, **Seoul**, and a visit to the Gyeongbokgung Palace was most interesting, especially the tale of the Ninja assassins who killed the Queen Mother and precipitated the Japanese takeover of the country in 1910.

I returned and was back at choir practice on the 16th May. It was like I had never been away, a warm welcome from the Choir members greeted me and the familiar music of, 'When I fall in love', 'Yellow bird,' and 'The wonder of you' were rehearsed.



Roll on the Carding Shed concert."

Colne Valley Boys

Colne Valley Boys joined in the fun at **Golcar Lily Day** on Saturday, May 14th, and gave a concert at St John's Church, which pleased the audience of revellers, wanting a brief break from dancing in the streets.

The Boys are on a high at the moment, having got a repertoire of fine songs together. Their performance at the recent '**Music for Youth**' auditions won them many accolades from the adjudicator – *"Great to hear you working".... "A warm and easy group sound that includes both broken and unbroken voices".... "Wonderful to hear you"* were just some of the positive comments.

This summer the Boys are going to take over from the men; doing the schools tour in Kirklees to promote the Choir to other young male singers. With Thom, they'll be visiting half a dozen primary schools in the area, showing first hand that boys' singing is a 'cool' thing to get involved with.



Yellow Birds Fly to Hepworth



Yes, on June 12th when we have our **Supper Concert** in **Hepworth**, there will be a hint of the Caribbean in the air.

Not from the 'Pie and Pea Supper' which is as 'Yorkshire' as you could wish for, but from the gentle Jamaican lilt of the song **Yellow Bird**

Those who can get online: follow this link to listen to a fabulous reggae version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfJXxZ1JBdu>



As always, we expect the trilling of bird song to come from the talented lips of tenor **Edward Asquith**, backed up by the gentle percussive stylings of **Barry Slater**, who is planning to shake his maracas.



Definitely not an event to be missed! So set your satnav for the **Carding Shed**, remembering, of course, to book in advance to secure a meal and a good night out.



To check out the many pleasures of the Carding Shed and the 'Oil-Can Café visit their website by clicking on the carding shed logo or accessing

<http://thecardingshed.co.uk/>

It's well worth a visit!



It's more interesting than the Brexit debate!

Choir secretary, **Jenny**, reminded members of the need to put up nominations for the Management Committee in advance of the Choir's **Annual General Meeting** coming up on **Wednesday June 15th at 8:00pm in Slaithwaite**. This is not the first time she has referred to the Rules and Constitution.

"Your Membership Card is a precious document," she said, not entirely tongue-in-cheek. It seemed to the Editor that the general view of the members present was confusion – several confessing they had not seen their cards for years!

But all is not lost! Now you can see the basis on which the Choir governs itself on the Choir's marvellous website.

Just click [here](#) or on the membership card picture to be instantly transported. It's worth checking the website on a regular basis anyway!

<http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk/rules-constitution>

and another thing just for fun



Spend a couple of minutes watching this fabulous 'mashup' mix of current pop music with classic dance scenes from the middle of last century - it's well worth it!

If you can get online, follow this link:

<https://youtu.be/M1F0IBnsnKE?t=210>

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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

