



Yes, it's that time of year, again, when Colne Valley Male Voice Choir gets in holiday mood and heads for the seaside.

August 20th is the date for another Scarborough Music Festival appearance. **Thom Meredith, Keith Swallow** and the **Choir**, compered by all-round musical genius, **Dr Simon Lindley**, will perform with cornet-supremo, **Phillip McCann**, and that wonderful soprano, **Victoria Sharp**.



It all happens, at the Central Mission, close by the sea on Scarborough's Queen Street at 7:15 on Saturday 20th and it will be fabulous!

Put YO11 1HQ into your satnav if you don't know the way.

And better, still, why not take a few days to enjoy Scarborough's many delights



Chris Antich RIP



Peter Denby, Choir Chairman, told members at rehearsal that it was his sad duty to let us know that **Chris Antich** had passed away.



He called on Choir members to stand in a minute's silence in quiet contemplation of a man who had been a friend of the Choir for many years.

Chris, entrepreneur and leading local textile manufacturer, was a keen supporter of the Choir and sponsor of our big Christmas concert at Huddersfield Town Hall. Those with internet access can read a full obituary in the Huddersfield Examiner, whose photo we use above.

<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/chris-antich-obituary-he-pushed-11651391>

Those members of the Choir, who can attend the funeral service for Chris at noon on Friday 29th July at St Patrick's Church, Huddersfield (HD1 5JY) will sing 'The Irish Blessing' in his honour at the close of the service. The Choir is in touch with Janet and has passed on our condolences to her and to Chris's other family.



John Gulley Returns



John Gulley with Thom, his successor and Keith Swallow, who joined long before either of them.

Older members of the Choir, especially, were delighted to see former Colne Valley Musical Director, **John Gulley**, return to visit a recent rehearsal.



Maestro John Gulley led us to great successes from 1969 to 1980 and again from 1983 to 1989.

John was invited to take to the podium and to lead us in Choir favourite, '**Love Could I Only Tell Thee**'. For John, now retired and living in Devon, it was clearly an emotional experience and he remarked

how pleased he was to see us again and to hear the Choir, "Still in fine voice".

This fine photo shows John at a Choir concert, probably at Huddersfield Town Hall, in 1976. With him is organist, John Wood, and soloist, Dorothy Ross.

Keith Swallow, always dapper, sports flared trousers and a velvet jacket.

Below we see John, returning for his second spell as conductor, at rehearsal in Slaithwaite in 1983.

Readers, with internet access, interested in seeing more of the Choir's rich history, can check out our website at the link below

<http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk/our-history/>



Colne Valley Boys in Schools' Tour

Many a Choir member will view with mixed feelings the news that our boys' choir has recently been on a promotional tour of local primary schools. We're proud, of course that the Boys are now a choir well-capable of promoting choral singing to young people - and to young men in particular. But also, we are a bit sad. For a few years the men did this tour and had a lot of fun visiting and entertaining the children and this year we didn't get that pleasure.

The Boys are looked after by **Linda Houston** and husband and first tenor, **Matt Houston**.

Linda writes:-

Phew what a week!!

*We started out at 8.00am on Monday morning 4th July 2016.
One of the few lovely, sunny days we have had for a while.*

26 of us set out in convoy and starting at Marsden, we visited seven schools finishing with Golcar Manor Road, (who have so many pupils we did the concert twice!)

We had a great response from all the children who joined in with some of the songs and the staff were very welcoming too.



At lunchtime we had a picnic lunch at Broad Oak Play Park to let some steam off, then off again in convoy to do the next 4 concerts, all looking slightly dishevelled... me especially!

At the end of the day everyone was exhausted including us adults, but we were all elated, we'd had a great day, and it proved to be an excellent bonding exercise for the boys who normally only meet altogether for half an hour a week.



***Next on the agenda** was the end of term concert at St James Church, Slaithwaite, who always welcome us with open arms! The concert was timed to slot in between the Men's Wimbledon final and the Euro Football final.....and what a great concert it was!*

Our boys sang well, in spite of reduced numbers, the extra 8 rehearsals - from the Schools' Tour - giving them added confidence and enthusiasm.

*We were joined by **Kirklees Schools Strings Orchestra** fresh from their appearance in Birmingham for the **Music for Youth festival**. They were simply magnificent, the audience were held in awe, the standard of this Orchestra is so high. At the end of the concert everyone left with smiles on their faces.*

***What came next?** The day after the concert we had our **Open Night rehearsal** for our Youth section of the choir, three very enthusiastic 8 year old boys joined us for a great end of term rehearsal, and with a view to more joining in September, we are now looking to continuing our 7th year of Colne Valley Boys.*

Among the commitments in the autumn term, we have appearances planned at Marsden in October, then in December, Wakefield Cathedral for the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, St James Church Slaithwaite and Town Hall Huddersfield.

Bring it on!

Happy holidays everyone!

*Linda Houston
CVB administrator*

Flying Scotsman in the Colne Valley

The most famous locomotive in the world was in our area in June. Marsden photographer, **Steve Challenger**, took this fine picture of the engine steaming through Marsden before disappearing under the Pennines at Tunnel End.



Flying Scotsman, photographed by local lensman, Stephen Challenger, at Marsden - June 2016

A higher resolution version of this picture and more of Stephen's work is accessible here -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/109091358@N06/28328368445/in/photostream/lightbox/>



VotV's Railway Correspondent, **Barry Slater** could have written:-

"More than 10,000 Flying Scotsman fans, including yours truly, flocked to see the famous locomotive this week at its opening at the **National Railway Museum** in **Shildon**.

The Museum has just bought it for £2.3 million. It's been drawing crowds since the completion of its decade-long, £4.2m restoration. The aim is to operate **Flying Scotsman**, the oldest working steam locomotive on the mainline, as a working museum exhibit."

But that's not the only connection with the Choir. Here we see, 'Birdman' **Eddie Asquith** on the footplate – a top tenor in a top locomotive! Thanks to baritone, Raymond Ellis for this photo.



Llangollen International Music Festival – 70th Anniversary

The 70th Anniversary of the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod took place this year between July 5th and 10th. The organisers invited representatives from CVMVC to attend as guests on 'Concert Saturday' in honour of the Choir's long history of involvement.



Barry Slater, baritone and the Choir's Stage Manager tells **VotV**, "I was pleased to accept the invitation to attend on behalf of the Choir and Val accompanied me.

In spite of the poor weather forecast the rain stayed away and the day was fine. We enjoyed seeing the variety of competitors in the pavilion during the day and at 3.30pm attended afternoon tea as guests of the Chairman.

It was obvious from the reception and welcome we received that CVMVC is very special to them and they recalled the past history of involvement since 1947 and the 1960, 1961 and 1962 hat-trick of wins. (Photo shows the hat-trick winners.)



We were surprised to see **Terry Waite** walk in to join us. He is the President of the Eisteddfod and has been for the past eleven years. He is a man of such presence, stature and friendliness, even I had to look up to his great height.

Nick Jenkins, the Vice Chairman was our host and made us very welcome and we were invited to a photographic session with the President and Chairman, Dr Rhys Davies.

We returned to the pavilion and heard the Male Voice Choirs section and stayed for the results. After another reception, where we met representatives from past winners of the event and several adjudicators, we made our way to the evening concert and were shown to our seats in the front row. The concert consisted of the winners of the choir sections including Female Voices, Mixed Choirs, Open Choir and Male Voice, all competing for the Choir of the World Trophy. Sadly, only three Male Voice choirs competed in their section and the standard was average.



The winners claiming the title of Choir of the World were **The Bob Cole Conservatory Chamber Choir** from the U.S.A. and they were exceptional. The guest performers opening the first and second half of proceedings were **The Swingles**, the outstanding *à capella* group from way back, obviously with new singers taking over the tradition. We felt very privileged to have experienced such a feast of music and hospitality which came about through being a part of and representing CVMVC. It was an exceptional, memorable day."

And another thing.....



Choir stalwart, first tenor, and prominent local architect, **Arthur Quarmby**, is putting up his semi-subterranean hobbit-hole for sale. "It's time to down-size." says Arthur.

Readers with about £700,000 to spare can buy it. For the full story click on the logo.

The Huddersfield Daily
Examiner

<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/underground-house-huddersfield-amazing-views-11641977>



Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

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to join our Readers' List
or for other queries



See our new website to get the full story
colnevalleymvc.org.uk