



‘Don’t Rain’ on Thom, Chris, Harry and James



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv53NKveE2s>

We are rehearsing ‘**Don’t Rain on my Parade**’ for this spring and summer season of concerts.

Thom is urging us to add a dance routine. There’s a bit off reticence - ‘We don’t do choreography’, we chunter.

But you never know how much we might be inspired by this impromptu performance.

Members with an urge for terpsichorean celebrity should make themselves known to Thom. He says, not to worry, you won’t have to provide your own tops hats and canes.

Audiences might get to see this spectacle at ‘**The Carding Shed**’ gig on **May 21st**. Still some tickets left but phone Jenny Baxter soon – or the Carding Shed on 01484 680400 to book your cabaret table and a tasty pie and pea supper – full bar!





Disaster Strikes!

Not since **Thom Meredith** stepped out into traffic in Dewsbury in 2015 has the Choir been so threatened by an accident.

This time, it's our peerless pianist, **Keith Swallow** who is the victim.

In a domestic mishap Keith has fractured two fingers in his left hand. It's clearly a disaster for a pianist and it's a blow, too, for a choir that has come to utterly rely on his keyboard mastery.

Chairman, **Peter Denby**, told a shocked Choir rehearsal, that he had taken Keith to A&E in Huddersfield that afternoon and that X Rays had confirmed the damage. They had explained that Keith's profession and livelihood depends on his fingers and - well done the NHS - Keith is booked in to see a regional specialist "It's a bad break to one of the fingers," said Peter, "But we are hopeful the outcome will be good. He's in a temporary plaster and we'll see what the specialist has to say tomorrow."

But help is at hand

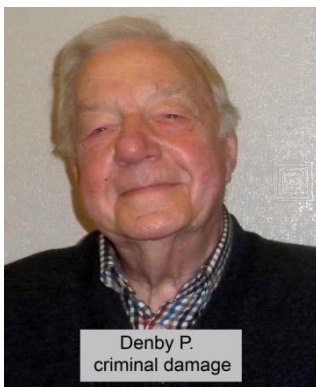
The good news is that another fine accompanist, pianist for Colne Valley Boys and friend of the Choir, **Chris Pulleyn**, was able to stand in for Keith on Monday and we are very hopeful that he will be available in coming weeks until Keith's recovery.



Update: maybe disaster didn't strike too hard

"We were straight in to see the specialist on Tuesday morning at Bradford Royal's 'Plastics Trauma & Orthopaedic Services' and that's where the better news started. Keith's injuries were thoroughly examined and the staff were very interested and specially alert to the need for treatment that would enable a musician's dexterity to be restored and preserved. The good news is that he won't be in another plaster cast but has been fitted with a special brace that will provide support and allow more mobility for ongoing physiotherapy ('Finger exercises' to maintain function while the healing progresses.) It'll still be a 4 -6 week job, even if all goes well and then he'll take a while to regain full skills.

It will mean he's out of action for a bit - but '**Fingers Crossed**' (if you will excuse the expression) he's taken on the target of being back at the keyboard for concerts in the Spring and Summer"



That's if he and Peter can keep out of mischief! VotV has heard that after the good news on Tuesday, they returned to Keith's New Mill home in high spirits - only to discover that, in the confusion of the previous day, Keith had lost his house keys.

There was nothing for it but a little **house-breaking**. Imagine the scene - two old codgers, one with a bad leg, the other a one-armed man - prising open a sash window with a garden hoe. Peter, obviously relishing the role of '**cat-burglar**', climbed in at the window and found himself in the sink with yesterday's washing up!

We wish you well, Keith and look forward to your prompt recovery.



Raising Some Extra Cash

The Choir is always keen to raise funds and here are three painless ways you can contribute.

1. Sponsor a piece of music

A big hit in the last year has been, '**We Rise Again**'. The music was sponsored by **Brian and Sue Hibbert**. Similarly, Choir member, **Keith Holland** recently sponsored, '**For the Beauty of the Earth**' in fond memory of his Mum and Dad, '**Wilf and Peggy**'. The sponsor's name and dedication is printed on each copy.



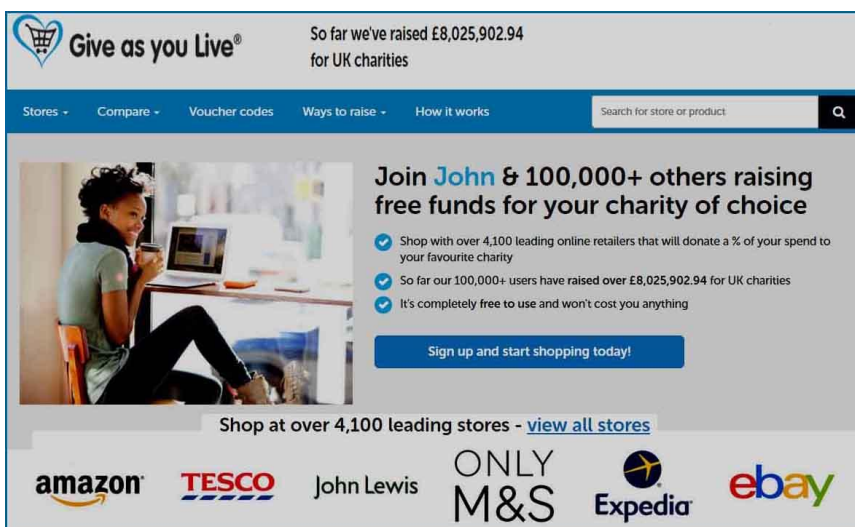
The Choir's Music Committee has a very large library of music to draw on but is always looking for ways to refresh our repertoire.

Sponsoring a new song would cost, maybe, £150 for a full set of scores. If you would like to help the Choir in this way - perhaps in memory of a departed friend or relative - you just need to get in touch with Choir Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, on 01484 645192 and she will be happy to talk it through.

2. Give as you Live

Keith Fielding recently reported, "The other day, I booked my summer holiday on the internet. I did it via '**Give as you live**'. The holiday cost me just the same as it would have done, but by logging onto the holiday company **via** the 'Give as you Live' website, a small percentage of the price of the holiday was rebated through GAYL to the Choir's account.

I was pleased to see that the Choir was a few quid better off as a result. It's a no-brainer, actually and it's dead easy to do.



The screenshot shows the Give as you Live website. At the top, a banner states "So far we've raised £8,025,902.94 for UK charities". Below this is a navigation bar with links: Stores, Compare, Voucher codes, Ways to raise, and How it works. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large image of a woman shopping online. To the right of the image, text reads: "Join **John** & 100,000+ others raising free funds for your charity of choice". Below this are three bullet points: "Shop with over 4,100 leading online retailers that will donate a % of your spend to your favourite charity", "So far our 100,000+ users have raised over £8,025,902.94 for UK charities", and "It's completely free to use and won't cost you anything". A blue button says "Sign up and start shopping today!". At the bottom, it says "Shop at over 4,100 leading stores - [view all stores](#)". Logos for Amazon, TESCO, John Lewis, ONLY M&S, Expedia, and ebay are displayed at the very bottom.

First you've got to register with 'Give as you Live' - not much more than putting in your name and email address.

At some point, you are asked to choose a good cause. Just start typing in **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** and our name will come up for selection.



Thereafter it's very straightforward.

You go to the GAYL website, log in and click through to 'Amazon' or whatever internet company you want to buy from. Then simply make your purchases in the usual way. GAYL then organises to pay a few pence in the pound to the Choir's funds.



<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/signup>

Click here or on the image above to go to the Give as you Live website.

It's easy, it works and small chunks of cash can quickly mount up."

3.Shop at the Co-op



You have probably heard that 1% of Co-op members' spend on Co-op products is routed through to community projects. What you may not know is that Colne Valley Male Voice Choir is one of the supported organisations in the Milnsbridge Co-op area.

If you live within 10 miles of the Milnsbridge Co-op - most of us do – you can specify that the Community Fund entitlement that goes with your spend in the Marsden Co-op (or wherever) should be allocated to the Choir.

Again, it's easy to do. Go to the Co-op website and register. You'll need your Membership Card and number. Then follow the website instructions and you'll get the option to pick CVMVC as your chosen local good cause. You just click on, '**Find Other Causes**' and search out Colne Valley Male Voice Choir - we're in, 'Arts & Culture'.

Once you've registered, then every time you shop at the Co-op and present your card at the till, **you'll get up to 5% back** and **the Choir will get up to 1%** - it depends on how much of what you buy is a Co-op product.

It's another case where a few pence attributable to your normal spend can accumulate into 100's of pounds when lots of people are doing it. It's raised us a good few pounds so far and it could easily be a good bit more!



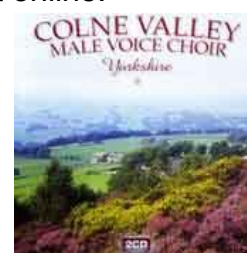
Old LP record discovered

This record cover - more than 40 years old – is from a recording the Choir made with John Gulley as conductor. (Of course, it's Keith Swallow at the pianoforte.)

It's a really good recording.

The Editor was pleased to discover, that you can still hear it online.

You can sample it on Deezer: <http://www.deezer.com/album/13935950> And you can still purchase it via 'itunes' on the **Choir website** – but, sadly, the cover art is the slightly less glorious



Not to be missed...

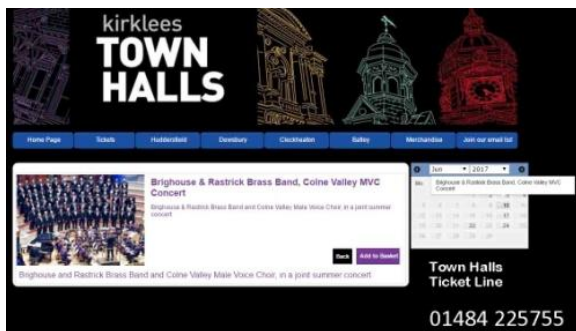
... is a special joint concert with what is, arguably, Britain's Best Brass Band, **Brighouse and Rastrick**.

We've been building our collaboration with them for several years and now we'll be putting on a fabulous event at **Huddersfield Town Hall** on **June 10th**.

It's not-to-be-missed - a Saturday night out with two great Yorkshire institutions making great music together.

Put the date in your diary now and take note that you can now purchase your tickets through the Choir's, **Roger Fielding**, or get them online via the Kirklees Ticket website or by phoning Kirklees 01484 225755.

Click here to get tickets online



<https://tickets.kirklees.gov.uk/en-GB/shows/brighouse%20-%20rastrick%20brass%20band%2c%20colne%20valley%20mvc%20concert/info>



Well, blow me down!

The Editor was waiting for the plumbers this morning, when who should rock up but second tenor, **Tom Law**.

Tom, it turns out, works with his father, Simon Law, in the family central-heating firm.

If you are in need of a power-flush, he's your man!

I can't say I noticed Tom singing while he worked, though! Here he is in Choir gear.



Babethandaza

"**Babethandaza**" is a traditional South African song sung in Zulu. The words translate to "Our mothers of old used to pray. Things are the way they are because of prayer."

We are praying we can get a bit of African style into our version – we just learnt it the other night in rehearsal. Maybe, one day, it'll be performance ready - and good fun it will be, too. Note how this fine Choir dances gently onstage, singing. We can do that - probably!



If we can match the energy of this lot, we'll do well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsdvVJr_BR4

Sin nje nje nje n'geme thandezo

Sin nje nje nje n'geme thandezo

Geme tandezo, geme tandezo

Geme tandezo, geme tandezo

Oh mama bagu dale babethandeza

Oh mama bagu dale babethandeza

Babethandeza, Babethandeza, Babethandeza, Babethandeza

And another thing.....

The Editor is a comer-in, having lived in the Huddesfield area for no more than 40 years. Some readers, though, will recall Huddersfield in 1962 from their youth. Some will find this film interesting as a cultural record of an era long gone by. Still others will just like the 1958 **Albion Clansman** 5-ton lorry and the 1960 **Commer Cob** Series 1 van on **Westgate**.



<https://vimeo.com/202277774/1b4fd6bd6e>

Voice of the Valley

Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny Baxter

on 01484 645192

to get your free email copy or for any other query

