



Summer season ends on a high at Poulton le Fylde

The Choir's run of spring and summer concerts came to a glorious conclusion with a fine concert near Blackpool at Poulton-le-Fylde on Saturday 16th.

The audience may have been a bit sparse but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm and their (and the performers') enjoyment was substantial. This is not just a VotV insider's view. Here's a message from an audience member, Hilary Holden:-

*Subject: **A BIG THANK YOU***

What a wonderful evening I had last night. Just at the last minute I purchased a ticket for the concert you were giving at Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church.

Having never seen or listened to Colne Valley Male Voice Choir previously I really didn't know what to expect.

May I congratulate each and every member of the choir for such a brilliant concert. The evening was over far too quickly.

Having spoken to one of the choir members in the interval I will now follow C.V.M.V.C. and look for more concerts in areas I can get to and hopefully will make the Christmas Concert this year.

Thank you for a delightful evening.

Best wishes

Hilary Holden

Again, a wonderful evening of entertainment by an excellent choir. Best wishes to you all.

So, summer's gone. Festive music is being handed out at rehearsals and - before you know it - Christmas concerts will be upon us. Time really does seem to fly by!



This was one of the concerts where the entertainment was provided not just by the Choir singing in ensemble but by the solo spots provided from within our own ranks. On this occasion it was **Johnny Kilner, Thom and David Hirst**, who were all brilliant.



Equally brilliant was soloist and keyboard maestro, **Keith Swallow** - who did a lovely spot - but ducked out of the way of the camera, once again..

Brian Hibbert reports....



There's an event coming up, which bass member, Brian, thinks will be of interest. We all know John Rutter pieces from our Colne Valley repertoire. His 'Requiem' is likely therefore to be a fine piece to listen to.

If you don't know it – or if you do - you will be welcome to join the audience for Brian's other Choir - **The Outlane Singers**. (I think wife, Sue, is also a member.) They'll be there at Holy Trinity on the 7th of October. 'Come along.' says Brian.



£1,000 win

for

John Wimpenny

On the 200 Club

The photo shows John, attempting to recreate the look of amazement that he felt on hearing he'd just won a £1,000 on the **200 Club** big prize draw.

John tells *VotV*, "I was delighted when Jenny gave me my cheque although initially I was in a bit of a daze. I am very grateful and plan to share it with my family."



John adds, "I was brought up in Cliffe Ash at the fish & chip shop, now part of the Colne Valley Museum. The Museum café was once our living room. Singing has always been part of my life. I joined the church choir at Golcar as a soprano when I was about eight and carried on years later as a bass, singing the anthem most Sundays.

We occasionally helped out in the choir at Westwood and it was there that I met my wife, Marlene, who lived at Bolster Moor, where we eventually bought a house and where we still live today. I had been an apprentice at the Yorkshire Electricity Board and I stayed there all my working life.

It was close on 50 years ago, when I joined CVMVC. It was in 1969, the year after **George Stead** died, so I never sang under him but I did sing with him once, when he came to help out in the choir at Westwood.

I have met some wonderful people in the Choir and made numerous friendships."

It's a great scheme - the 200 Club

It's one of the means by which the Choir's subs are kept so low. Friends and members buy a number for £50 a year and that gets you a chance in the weekly draw to win £45, or once a month £185 and best of all, twice a year, a huge £1,000 prize. The month, it was John Wimpenny. Next time it could be you!

Fully half of the money that comes in is paid out again as prizes – 'Eat your heart out, Lottery' our odds are much better. And, of course, if you don't win, you have the satisfaction of knowing that the cash that stays in the fund goes to underwrite the operating costs of a great choir – so it's a win-win scenario.



But it's not all good!

The 200 club is run by the inestimable, **Les Stones**

The job has its stresses and strains, trying to persuade hard-boiled Choir members and Friends to pick up the few numbers that remain unsold.



This, apparently, is what Les looked like just 5 years ago before he took on the job!

Help restore Les's youth - buy his remaining numbers.

If you don't know him, contact Choir Secretary, Jenny Baxter. She'll make sure that Les gets you a chance to win.

Give as you live

Another fund raising scheme to note is the 'Give as you Live' plan.

A Choir-Member told VotV he recently booked his holiday with **Saga Online**, he bought some exercise equipment from **Sports Direct** and some medicaments from **Amazon**.



But he went to each of these websites via **Give as you Live**. That's the business that recognises **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** as one of its charitable causes for cash back.

Later he got an email from **Give as you Live**, telling him **his recent purchases had raised £44.43 for the Choir**.

"It really does work and it's easy. You just register as a supporter of CVMVC. You get routed through their website to the usual ones you want to deal with. It doesn't cost you a penny more but the Choir gets a few quid. It's got to be good!"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7MEGx3R_0Y&feature=youtu.be

The Coventry Carol

The **Coventry Carol** will figure in our repertoire for this year's Christmas Concerts.

As a Choir, we haven't sung it for 18 years but there will be many members who will relish its return and our audiences will, we hope, respond to its harmonies.



The **Coventry Carol** is English and dates, probably from the 16th century. It was traditionally performed in Coventry as part of a 'mystery play called, 'The pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors'.

The play depicts the tragic episode in the Christmas story from the Gospel of Saint Matthew in which King Herod orders that all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem be killed - the so-called '**Massacre of the Innocents**' - in a vain attempt to ensure that no potential rival to his kingdom survives. This is how Pieter Breughel imagined it in 1567.

The carol takes the form of a lullaby, sung by the mothers of the doomed children. (In the 15th century, the mothers would have been voiced by male singers.)

Within the pageant, the carol is sung by three women of Bethlehem, who enter on stage with their children immediately after Joseph is warned by an angel to take his family to Egypt.

Original spelling of the lyrics	Modernised spelling
<i>Lully, lulla, thow littell tine child, By by, lully, lullay thow littell tyne child, By by, lully, lullay!</i>	<i>Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, Bye bye, lully, lullay. Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, Bye bye, lully, lullay.</i>
<i>O sisters too, how may we do For to preserve this day This pore yongling for whom we do singe By by, lully, lullay?</i>	<i>O sisters too, how may we do For to preserve this day This poor youngling for whom we sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay"?</i>
<i>Herod, the king, in his raging, Chargid he hath this day His men of might in his owne sight All yonge children to slay,—</i>	<i>Herod the king, in his raging, Chargèd he hath this day His men of might in his own sight All young children to slay.</i>
<i>That wo is me, pore child, for thee, And ever morne and may For thi parting nether say nor singe, By by, lully, lullay.</i>	<i>That woe is me, poor child, for thee And ever mourn and may For thy parting neither say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay."</i>

The music contains a well-known example of a **Picardy Third**. A **Picardy Third**, refers to the 'resolution' into a major chord which typically comes at the end of a musical section, which is in a minor key. This is achieved by raising the third of the expected minor triad by a semitone to create a major triad.

According to [one](#) musicologist, “Western composers, expressing the ‘rightness’ of happiness by means of a major third, expressed the ‘wrongness’ of grief by means of the minor third, and for centuries, pieces in a minor key had to have a ‘happy ending’ – a final major chord (the ‘tierce de Picardie’ or Picardy Third) . The grief of the mothers of the innocents, expressed in the minor key, yields eventually to the final ‘major chord’, indicating, perhaps, that there may be hope beyond the cruelty.”

Here’s a fine version by **Annie Lennox** and the **African Children’s Choir** to listen to.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltVWs4jDYsw>

‘A Distant Echo’ gets its Yorkshire premiere at last

International art-film-maker, George Clark, corralled CVMVC into helping create the sound-track of his movie ‘A Distant Echo’ some time in 2013.

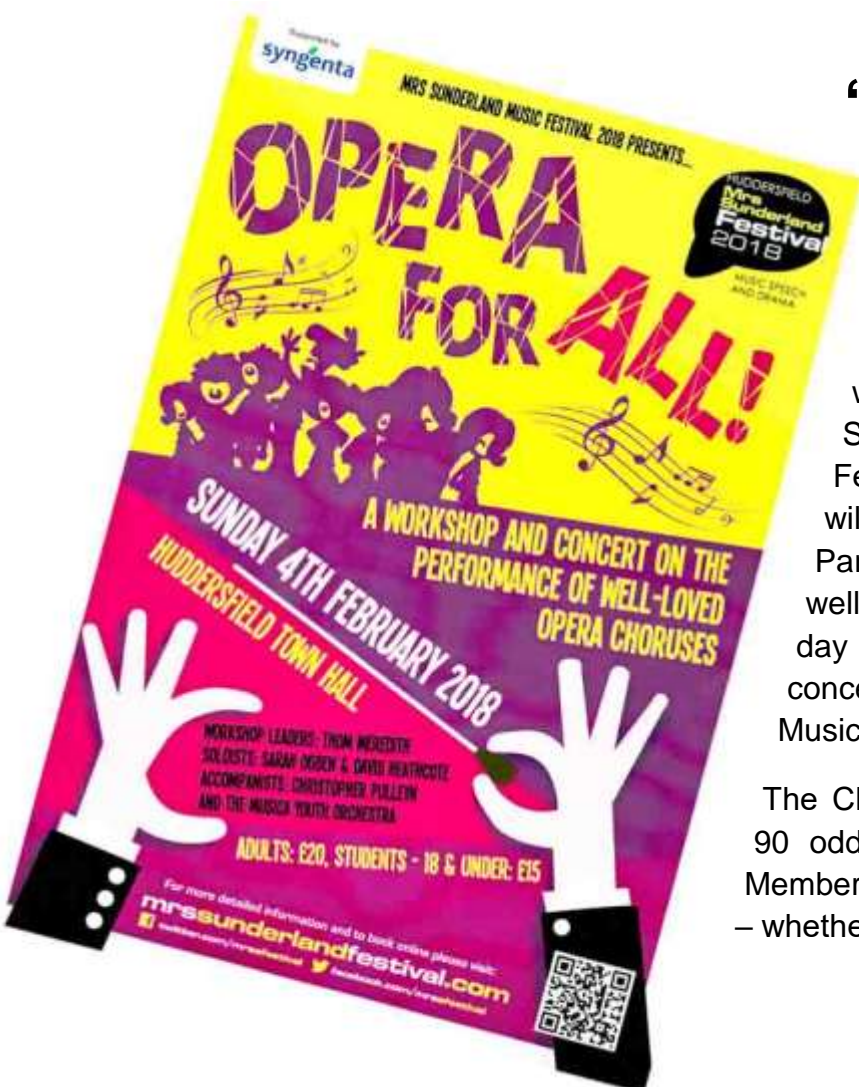
“I see myself as a ‘Citizen of the World.’” says George “But when it came to making ‘A Distant Echo’ I wanted very much to draw on my roots as a ‘Colne Valley lad’. And who better than CVMVC - the bastions of Yorkshire culture - to provide the background soundtrack. That’s why I - and fellow Marsdener and Jazz-man, Tom Challenger - were really pleased that the Choir was willing to help recording the specially-composed film music. In addition, half a dozen Choir members came forward to voice the dialogue in their own inimitable ‘Yorkshire’ style.



Now at last the film is to have its Yorkshire Premiere as part of the Leeds Film Festival. The film has been shown to date in many locations, including:-

Jihlava Festival, **Czech Republic** (Oct 2016)
Los Angeles Film Forum, **USA** (Jan 2017)
Goiania, **Brazil** (March 2017)
Courtisane Festival, **Belgium** (April 2017)
Images Festival, **Canada** (April 2017)
Edinburgh Film Festival (June 2017)
Jatiwangi Art Factory, **Indonesia** (August 2017)
Jakarta, Indonesia (Oct 2017)
DocLisboa, **Portugal** (Oct 2017)

And now it's Yorkshire. The showing will be at the **Hyde Park Cinema**, in Headingley, Leeds on **Tuesday, November 14th**. I would be very pleased to welcome as many CVMVC members and friends as can come to hear and see what you helped create. To that end, admission to CVMVC members and friends will be free."



'Opera for All' singing day

CVMVC's Musical Director, Thom Meredith, is leading a one-day workshop as part of the 2018 Mrs Sunderland Huddersfield Music Festival. It's called 'Opera for All' and it will happen on February 4th next year. Participants will be helped to work on well-known opera choruses during the day and then there will be a tea-time concert performance with the soloists and Musica Youth Orchestra.

The Choir has backed 'Mrs Sunderland' for 90 odd years and this is an event which Members and Friends will find most enjoyable – whether it's onstage or in the audience.

Apart from Thom, two others of the workshop team are sometime guest conductors of CVMVC - the good friends of the Choir, Sarah Ogden and Chris Pulleyn.

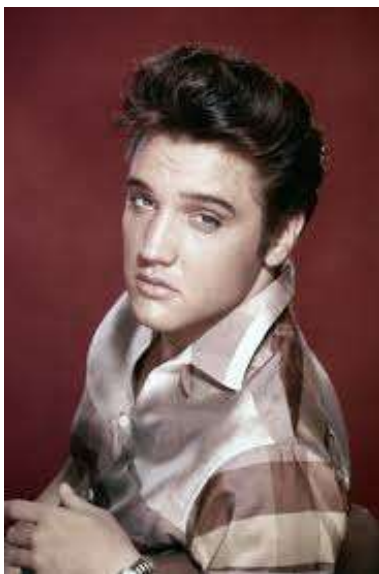
It'll be great!

Places are filling up rapidly, VoTV learns, but there will probably be space for male voices if you don't delay.

The screenshot shows the top section of the Mrs Sunderland Festival 2018 website. On the left, a large graphic says "Be part of it!" with the email address "info@mrsunderlandfestival.com" below it. On the right, a speech bubble contains the text "HUDDERSFIELD Mrs Sunderland Festival 2018" and "MUSIC SPEECH AND DRAMA". Below this is a navigation menu with links: "About Us", "The Festival", "How To Enter", "News", "Musical Workshops" (highlighted in purple), "Gallery", "Support", and "Links". A breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Adults Form". Below the menu is a banner for "OPERA FOR ALL!" featuring a group of children and the text "Sponsored by syngenta", "SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2018", and "HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL". To the left of the banner is a black button that says "Apply Online".

Click [here](#) or on the image above to link to the on-line sign-up page on the Mrs Sunderland website. Alternatively, Jenny Baxter has a few forms .

http://www.mrsunderlandfestival.com/home/adults_form/



Elvis Joke

So, Elvis was climbing out of his swimming pool and wife, Priscilla, remarks, "That's the tenth time today I've seen you getting out of the pool. What on Earth's going on?"

"I just can't help falling in, love." he replies.

Well it made me smile!

And see our website to get the full story

colnevalleymvc.org.uk

Voice of the Valley

Editor: John C Clark

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

The screenshot shows the website for the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir. The header is green with the choir's name and "Est 1922". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "Events", "Recordings", "Our History", "About Us", "Information", "Gallery", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a landscape image of the Colne Valley with the text "Welcome to the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, Yorkshire". On the right side, there are three buttons: "Join us >", "Contact us >", and "See Our Latest Newsletter >".