



## Terry Pickering RIP: Dianne's Eulogy

When Uncle Terry asked if I would present his eulogy I agreed but only if he provided key biographical details to ensure this very important task was properly fulfilled. I know he found it hard but duly delivered a sealed envelope which resided in my safe. When I opened it on Saturday afternoon it was beautifully typed in his chosen large font. Written at the top in his distinctive writing was.... "Dianne, modify as necessary, TP"

Well, would I dare? So I shall read his script and then add a few reflections.

### Terry - in his own words

*3rd April 1935 Born at 131 Aversroyd, Radcliffe Road, Golcar. (Dunnock). Went to Wellhouse School until we went to live at 16, Royd Street, Hill Top, Slaithwaite and was educated at Slaithwaite National C of E School until leaving, aged 15, at Easter 1950.*

*Started work at Edwin Shaw & Sons Clough House Mills as an apprentice Carding Engineer. My father died later that year 08/10/1950 from a First World War related illness.*

*My wage was increased at that point from £2-0-0 to £2-5-0 shillings a week. (£2-25 pence)*

**TWO BOTTLES OF WATER AT TODAY'S VALUES!**

*1951 to 1954 studied at Huddersfield College of Technology gaining my City & Guilds finals in Woollen and Worsted Yarn Manufacture.*



November 1954 I started my 2 years' **National Service** in the RAF completing my training as a wireless operator before being posted to RAF Wytham, on the outskirts of Birmingham where we had to sign the "Official Secrets Act" before receiving specialist training prior to being posted to Hong Kong in December 1955.

It took 7 days to fly to Hong Kong via Tripoli, Iraq, Bahrain, Karachi, Ceylon and Singapore. We worked long hours in Hong Kong having only one weekend off in three of duty but time passed quickly and it was a great experience.

On leaving the RAF in November 1956 I returned to Clough House Mills and that's where I first met **Valerie**, who worked in the office. We were **engaged in December 1957** and married on the 10th October 1959 at Slaithwaite Church after buying our first house at Ainley Place for £50!



### **50 BOTTLES OF WATER AT TODAY'S VALUES!**

Dec 1961, we moved into our next house - how different - from a tiny farm cottage to a large detached house overlooking Hill Top reservoir. This was where we were living when our first son, **Chris**, was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1962.

1962 to 1964 I lectured one evening a week at Huddersfield Tech, before **moving to Hawick** in the Scottish Borders where we lived for 5 years. We didn't have plans for any more children but we were advised that in a sleepy place like Hawick, things might happen and indeed **Gareth** (31st March 1966) and **Nigel** (7th September 1967) were born whilst we were there.

Whilst in Hawick I set and administered the first practical examination in Carding and Spinning for the City and Guilds London Institute and the Scottish Technical College in Galashiels as well as serving on the advisory panel.

On our **return to Slaithwaite**, following a short period in Horsforth, Valerie bought a Delicatessen which we later developed into a **crumpet bake-house**. In 1972 I decided to come out of textiles in order to see more of my family and bought a small general store selling groceries and vegetables. These were happy years; Chris had started his education in Hawick and had a lovely Border accent when we moved to Horsforth. This in turn quickly became rather posh after 12 months but on our return to Slaithwaite within weeks he had developed our local dialect. How quickly children learn!

Whilst we had the shops we also kept a few cattle and pigs at Valerie's Mum and Dad's farm at Wilberlee. This was also the time when Gareth became interested in playing a brass instrument and he joined **Slaithwaite Junior Band** quickly followed by Chris, then Nigel and then myself. We had some very happy times but it must have been hard for Valerie keeping up with all those uniforms and white shirts as well as starting baking at 6-00am during the winter months.

With the growing popularity of supermarkets, the small shops became less viable and I was approached to go **back into textiles**, which I did as manager of a mill in Elland from 1978 up to my retirement in 1996. Our youngest son, Nigel, worked with me for a few years during this period before going to work in the Scottish Highlands.

During this time I took up **golf** again and was a member of Elland Golf Club for some 25 years. I was fortunate to have stayed and played at both Gleneagles and Turnberry golf hotels whilst on business.

Also, this was the time Valerie and I took up **sequence dancing** which we enjoyed for 25 years. We made many friends and had great fun. As chairman of the fund raising committee, we raised over £3,000 for hospital equipment (scanners etc,) over a 3 year period.

One of our other pastimes was **caravanning** which we did for over 32 years, touring the country from Cornwall to the north of Scotland before buying a static caravan in **Malvern**, which over the years had become one of our favourite destinations giving us many happy memories.

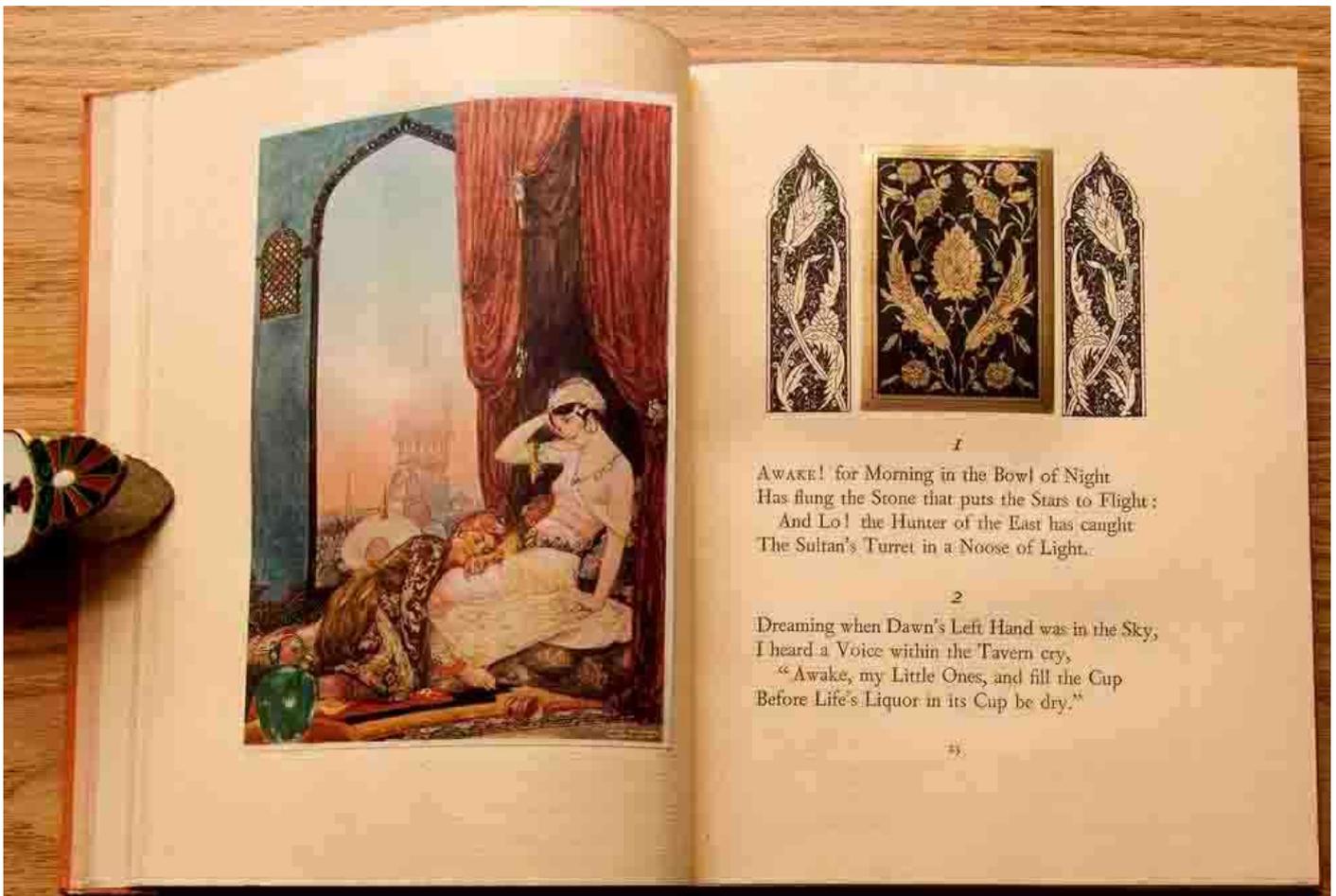
Looking back, I was always interested in sport, both football and cricket but a collapsed lung in 1958 stopped me being actively involved. At 13 I had received cornet lessons from a Mr Ives Feildshead who was a past conductor of Brighthouse and Rastrick but I was much more interested in sport. Both my elder brothers were accomplished cornet players. It was only when our sons became interested in playing a brass instrument that I began playing again, helping in the Slaithwaite Junior Band on E flat bass.

Having the opportunity to join **Colne Valley MVC** in 2001 has really allowed me to fully enjoy and appreciate music under the professional guidance of Thom Meredith and also the opportunity for us to meet new friends.

We only live our lives once and Valerie and myself have always worked on the principle that you should never be afraid of trying to reach your dream. It resulted in us moving around the country and indeed, this is the 10<sup>th</sup> house of our married life.

Needless to say, I think this is my final move!

**To our sons and grandsons I would say;**



# Dianne's Reflections

With his tall stature and sonorous voice he could appear to be a little imperious at times, but up until the very end that twinkle in his eye and a sense of mischief was always there, close to the surface, never more so than when he teamed up with my Dad, Kenneth, his older brother, when they both regressed to naughty school boys at family gatherings. He also delighted in engaging his grandsons in the elephant walk from the jungle book long after it could be considered dignified for a granddad to do that. He knew some pretty terrible jokes but some of them still make us giggle.

His approach to life was typical of someone with a health and safety role, he was a great one for lists and notes. When Aunty Valerie became very ill his care and patience was only matched by his medication management skills; I told him he should be awarded an honorary RGN qualification.

**A life-long Town supporter**, he experienced the pure joy and delight of Town becoming a premiership team. In my 66 years the strongest exclamation I had ever heard Uncle Terry utter at times of stress or joy was 'GOODNESS ME'. On that fateful night Wednesday 17th of May when we beat Sheffield Wednesday to secure a place in the final I rang him after the shoot out and his first words were something slightly stronger much to my amazement demonstrating his pure delight.

When I told him during the last days of his life I was going to place a bet on Town staying higher than eighth in the premiership he said put one on for me, engaged and interested to the end. That bet has been placed.

He was very proud of his beautiful garden and you will realise you had better keep it immaculate or else. A talented gardener then but perhaps technology was not such a strength it was always half time by the time he located the Town match on radio Leeds alternative Waveband and he only mastered the sat-nav on its maiden voyage when he pressed the 'on' button as they turned back into Henry Fredrick Avenue at which point the voice said, "You have reached your destination."

Uncle Terry had enormous pride in his sons, grandsons and their families, perhaps we don't tell our loved ones as often as we should how proud we are and certainly for men of his generation those conversations would be difficult, But you have all brought uncle terry and Aunty Valerie more happiness than you can ever imagine.

We have heard poetry from the Rubayyat of Omar Khayyam. Overleaf is a piece of verse sourced more locally?

## **The poet we can only surmise!**

He battled every step of the way during this illness; he was certainly not ready to go but he was weary of the challenges of his recent illnesses and now he is released from that struggle to cheer Town on from his cloud.

He will be missed so much leaving each of us with our precious memories of him but we shall hear him saying 'HAVE FAITH', as he often did and be thankful that we were fortunate enough to have had his great presence in our lives.

Thank you

Dianne

## THE TERRIER'S DREAM

No time to reflect on defeats of the past  
With losses from the jaws of victory grasped

We should never deride an occasional draw  
It did not drain the spirit of king, Denis Law

Seventy one points is all that we need  
The blue and white warriors are bound to succeed

A wealth of support from so many sources  
With Rolls Royce choir members adding quality voices

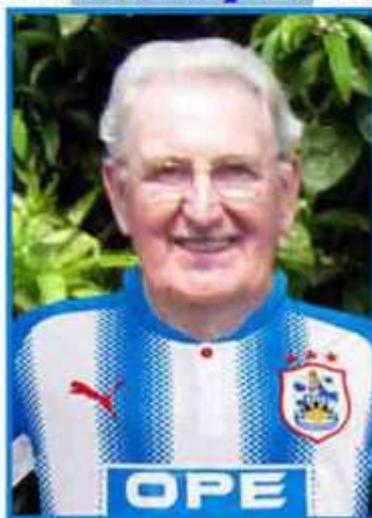
Thom Meredith leading the choir on the pitch  
What more could guarantee a game without hitch

So sit in your armchair all comfy and warm  
A large glass of wine and devoid of all scorn

Four up at half time, how can we lose  
Be gone all you pessimists and banish those blues

The crowds will be rushing through turn-style gates  
Gird up your loins the premiership awaits

A star player in waiting since forty eight /forty nine  
Don your blue and white strip and all will be fine.



## That Wedding - the Official Photo



Credit to Jonny Draper, wedding photographer, for this fine portrait of the happy bride, Ellie, with new spouse, Harry, and his proud parents, Lynn and Thom.



### John's One Faith, One hope, One Lord

**Baritone stalwart, John Radcliffe,** has achieved the near impossible – singing with the Choir for 60 years. To mark the anniversary last month John and wife Enid presented the Choir with a new piece of music: **'One Faith, One hope, One Lord'**, which is even now in rehearsal.



**David Hirst** says, 'It will probably be performed for the first time at the Christmas Concerts'. The piece was obtained from the USA. The composer is **Craig Courtney**". The recording **VotV** has selected is of **Lycoming College Choir**, Pennsylvania, singing with trumpet and piano. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGm-h0Ch9eA>



**Craig Courtney:** Born in 1954, went on to study at **Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music**, in **Milan**, Italy, with additional piano performance and vocal work. He then was invited to join the music faculty of the highly acclaimed **Mozarteum** in **Salzburg**, Austria

Courtney's list of published music is extensive, with more than 70 choral anthems, five vocal collections, and four larger works for choir and orchestra.

Courtney lives in **Columbus, Ohio**, with his family and teaches at **Capital University**

**As a choral composer, Craig Courtney has significant insight into the impact of music education.** In this you tube extract, he discusses the unique qualities of choirs, the marriage of music and text, and how it allows many different people to act as one organism.

**“Learning music has a profound effect”** in Courtney's estimation. **“One cannot make music and remain unchanged.”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4QqeKIEuW>



The piece donated by the **Reverend Radcliffe**, with text drawn from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, no doubt reflects John's firm beliefs. No bad thing at a time when the British Social Attitudes Survey revealed last week that, for the first time, a majority of those asked the question, “Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion?” answered “No religion”.

Here we see the future Choir chaplain, on the right, apparently turning water into wine at a Choir picnic in France in 1975, when he'd been in the Choir for a mere 18 years.

## Dennis Nutton: yet another sad departure.

More sad news - this time it's veteran first tenor, Dennis, whose life came to an end, suddenly, on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

In November 2015 **Dennis**, celebrated 25 years with the Choir. Presented by Choir Chaplain, **John Radcliffe**, with a long-service badge, Dennis told *VotV* he didn't really regard it as much of an achievement. "I came in the same year as Thom Meredith arrived and he is so easy-going and patient, rehearsals and concerts are just no hardship. The years tick over but the pleasure remains."



"I'd been a first tenor with another choir for a few years beforehand." said Dennis. "But I'd given it up. At that time I was a governor at Beech School in Golcar along with **Raymond Ellis**, and Raymond was always urging me to join Colne Valley. Also I worked quite a bit with **Wilf Hansom** - we were both in the plumbing and heating trade - and he too was keen for me to sign up. So I got persuaded to come along to a rehearsal. I thought I'd just sit at the back and have a listen but Wilf grabbed me and said 'You'll sit here alongside me in the first tenors' and I've never looked back.'

It's just magic when the audience responds to our performance. When they enjoy it it's the best feeling. Our Christmas concert at the **Town Hall** and the even more relaxed one after in **Marsden** after are probably the highlights of my Choir year. Though, I do look back with pride to our victories at **Llangollen**."



Dennis, a keen gardener, but not quite as big a 'Town Fan' as his wife, had recently returned to the Choir after a period of ill health, and we anticipated a few more happy years performing with the Choir.

Sadly it was not to be. His health issues returned, sapping his energy and enthusiasm

Nonetheless, members will be shocked at his sudden demise just short of 80. He was a well-liked colleague.

He loved being with his grandchildren and our commiserations go out to them, to his children and to his wife of many years, **Barbara**.



## Tom's new family

To complete our 'hatch, match and despatch' edition....readers will recall that second tenor, **Tom Law**, became a first-time father the other day, when wife, **Emma**, brought **Betsy Marie** into the world. Here's a charming picture.

## And another thing...

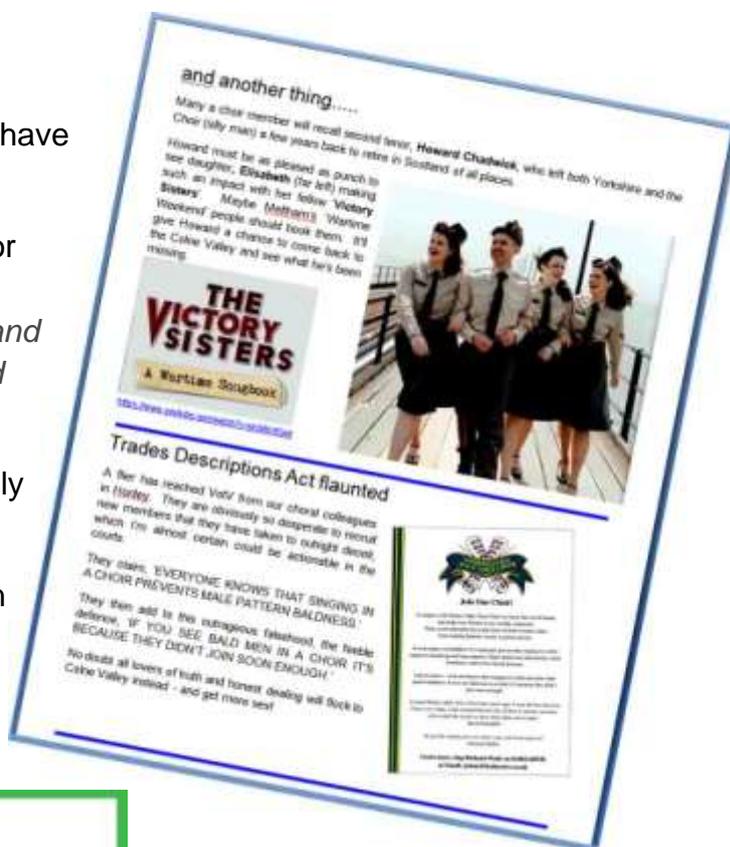
VotV doesn't lose many readers - indeed we now have 5 times the readership we had when we started.

But last week we lost one. She said her reason for unsubscribing was: *'Inappropriate remarks concerning Scotland and Honley MVC. Childish and not becoming to a publication I previously enjoyed receiving.'*

Well it was a silly piece but intended to be vaguely humorous.

VotV is grateful for the feedback but you can contact the Editor without unsubscribing.

Please do.



## And yet another thing...

Our very own junior branch, 'Colne Valley Boys' is currently on a recruitment drive to seek new singers for the new school year.

Members and readers already know how good singing is for the health and well-being of adult men. They'll also know how beneficial it is to the development of younger males.

Votv urges all readers to encourage males of all ages to come along to join in with choral singing - whether senior or junior.

You can be sure that new singers will be warmly welcomed.



**Colne Valley Boys Choir  
are looking for new members!**

All boys welcome from age 7+ to try the choir.  
We sing anything & everything from  
traditional songs to pop & rock.

Our first rehearsal back is on  
Monday September 11th 2017  
Slaithwaite Conservative Club 5:30 - 6:30pm

For further details email  
[info@colnevalleyboys.com](mailto:info@colnevalleyboys.com) or message us on Facebook

**And see our website to get the full story: [colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)**