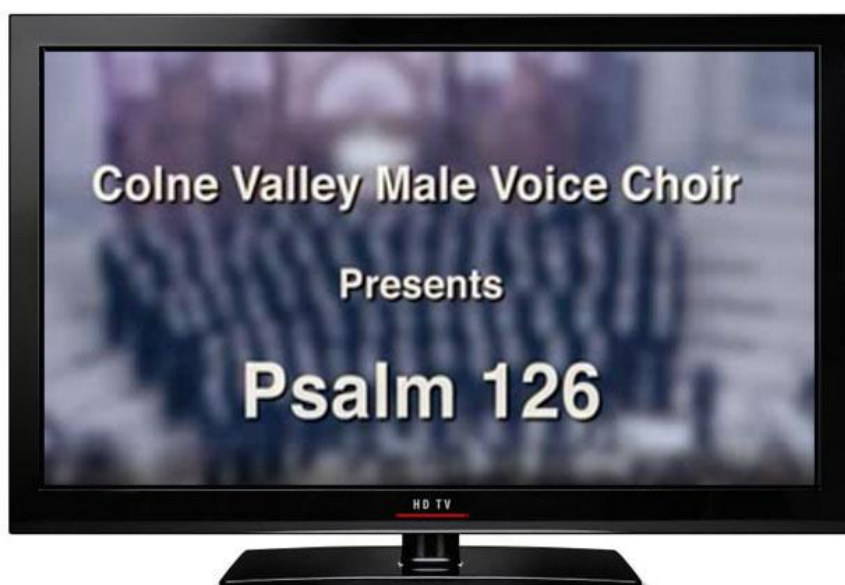


# Voice of the Valley

## Psalm 126 video rediscovered

A video of the CVMVC singing **Psalm 126**, believed long-lost, has turned up.

Second Tenor, **Joe Stones**, told Voice of the Valley that, years ago, he liked the video so much, when he saw it on the old Choir website, that he made a copy of it.



And recently it turned up again. He was happy to make a copy available, which VotV has slightly re-edited, and is happy to present it to members and friends of the Choir.

Whether you remember it from first time around or whether it's quite new to you, it's well worth a look! Click here or on the TV.

<https://youtu.be/c11Vo70yc0M>

**David Hirst** tells VotV, "It was on the 12th December 2004 that the filming of our performance for the Choir's new website took place. It was at the Town Hall Christmas Concert, when the guest Band was the **Grimethorpe Colliery Band**, conducted that evening by **Richard Evans**. The compère, who isn't shown, was Borough Organist, **Gordon Stewart**.

The concert video is intercut with shots of rehearsals upstairs in the Slaithwaite Conservative Club and scenes of social activity in the bar below. The filming and editing was professionally done by a firm called 'Leagus'. They had been commissioned by the Choir to set up and administer the Choir's first website, which was launched in early 2005."



He adds the following extra information: "Psalm 126 was composed in 1964 by the then conductor of CVMVC, **George E Stead**, especially in order to be able to be used as the Choir's own choice test-piece at the July 1964 **Llangollen International Eisteddfod** alongside the MVC Class set test-pieces of Adoramus Te (Palestrina) and Matona My Beloved (Orlando di Lasso).



The Choir was placed second to a male choir from Pisa, Italy - **Societa Corale Pisana** with marks of 88, 88, 91 (Psalm 126) as against the Italian Choir's marks of 90, 89, 91 (their own choice item).

The prize monies were 1st Place £100, 2nd Place £50, 3rd Place £25. That looks 'small fry today but £50, fifty years ago, would be worth about £850 today. However, it's still small compared to the First Prize money we won at the 1966 inaugural Tees-side Industrial International Eisteddfod held in Middlesborough - £500 - which is equivalent to about £8,500 at current prices."

He concludes, "I was able spend time turning up all this information, as I was at home all day sheltering from the snowy, wet weather."

'Time well-spent, David.' says VotV.



## 'Luck be a Lady'

Luck might be Brian's lady anyway.

Choir members may have noticed a citation on the the folder for 'Luck, be a Lady' that the music was kindly donated by the comparatively new member and bass, **Brian Fairclough**, who joined us officially in July 2016.

At the sectional rehearsals the other night, we were grappling with the tricky rhythms and getting lost with the repeated sections which aren't quite repeats but subtly different variants. We were having a torrid time with the way the piece rattles forward at seemingly hectic speed – at least when you are trying to read the score.

It'll start making sense in a couple of weeks and it will be a brilliant addition to the repertoire this spring.

And it's all thanks to Brian for making out a cheque to treasurer, Keith Fielding.

Thank you, Brian. Your generosity is appreciated.

**And it seems Lady Luck is definitely on Brian's side.** He won most of his sponsorship money back the other night when his number came up on the **200 Club draw**.



Of course, any other members or readers of VotV can get that same warm glow of appreciation. The Choir is always keen to get new music and to buy a new piece costs quite a bit but not too much.

Contact Secretary, Jenny, if you think you might like to sponsor some music and she'll be happy to help. And she'll also arrange to get you 200 Club Membership. You know it makes sense!



# Joe's still looking for new singers

Joe Stones, the Choir's new Vice Chairman and Recruitment Secretary has been on the look-out for new members. "At January's first Open Rehearsals we saw four new chaps." he reports "And that's terrific. But we are still looking. If you know a bloke, who might enjoy it, bring him along on a Monday night, soon. We'll make him very welcome."



## Calling all men with good singing voice!

*Open rehearsals in the New Year  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>*



Colne Valley MVC are looking to increase their already strong and existing membership in the New Year says Joe Stones, the new Vice Chair and recruitment secretary. Joe says that if you enjoy singing and wonder whether Colne Valley MVC is right for you then the best way is come down and join for few rehearsals and find out! It's that simple! The choir is opening its doors to prospective singers in the New Year to join in its rehearsals on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

The choir has a strong coaching ethic towards developing singing talent, lead by Thom Meredith and supported by a number of key people within the choir which makes it easier to support new members and develop the talent and reputation which Colne Valley is well known for. Joe says that often it is not the 'finished article' in a singer the choir is looking for but someone who will be able to develop their singing and choral talent within the supportive culture the choir has to offer.

Joe says Colne Valley MVC would also like to widen its diversity particularly in terms of both age and ethnicity. Most men join in their mid forties but years ago it would have been mid twenties and it would be great to again welcome some younger singers as well. Colne Valley also do not have any black singers within its membership which is also something we would like to change he says.

So if you are a man with a passion to sing or know someone that might be interested then the open rehearsals on the dates above (Monday nights 7.30-9.30pm at Slaithwaite Conservative Club) are an ideal time to come and find out more.

*See below for more information or contact Joe Stones 01484 323431/07889 658365*

### Rehearsal & contact details.

Rehearsals for both Men & Boys are on Monday evenings in Slaithwaite at the Conservative Club. Boys 5.30 - 7.00pm & Mens 7.30 - 9.30pm  
see our websites for more details and contact information

<http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk>

<http://www.colnevalleyboys.com>



# Gloomy January

People claim that mid-to-late January is the most dismal time of the year. Christmas is long-gone. New Year's Resolutions have depressingly fallen away. Or maybe you are sticking to 'Dry January' which is differently miserable. In any case, the weather's dull, wet and dreary and there's no sign of spring.

They talk about 'Blue Mondays'- though for us Choir members Mondays are rehearsal nights so, for us its blue Tuesday to Thursdays.

Well VotV is happy to bring a little respite from the gloom. The Editor defies anyone to watch this clip and not feel a little lifted. It's **Marsden's Cuckoo Day** and the **Frumptarn Guggenband** is giving their very individual version of 'Speed your Journey'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNPcp8kOICs>



This aria - from **Giuseppe Verdi's Nabucco** - was just handed out by the Choir librarians the other night at rehearsal. It's a joy to sing. I guess it will be making a welcome return to our performance repertoire for the summer.



There are a lot of woeful videos of it on the internet but to hear how it should be done, enjoy this fine singing by the **Peterborough Male Voice Choir**.

Incidentally, we are preparing for competition once again in the **Mrs Sunderland Huddersfield Music Festival**. We won in 2016 but we were well beaten by **Will Prideaux's** men from Peterborough in 2017. CVMVC has 49 First Place victories to our credit at this festival alone and we'll be striving to make it 50 on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNBeEw1n5bl>

# The last words of David

As one of our competition pieces for the '**Mrs Sunderland**', we are re-learning, under Thom's tutelage, this wonderful piece. It's a masterful work for demonstrating the range of choral skills that a choir needs to demonstrate in competition.

This version is by the **Baylor Men's University Choir**, which has been singing in Waco, Texas, for almost as long as we have here in Slaithwaite. It's not at all bad - maybe a tad too fast for my taste. If you want a really wonderful version, CVMVC recorded it on our CD, '**Classic Colne Valley**' but, of course, there's no video. Go to the 'recordings section' on our website and hear it in i-Tunes. <http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk/recordings/>



**Randall Thompson** created this dramatic, dynamically-varied and beautifully-harmonised male voice choir composition in 1949.

It has been relearned, every few years, by several different generations of Colne Valley singers as the years go by.

To see the Baylor recording click on the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOrJuK3TIC0>

Randall Thompson, best remembered for his choral music, was a student at Harvard and taught there in later years. He died in 1984.

One of his students, incidentally was Leonard Bernstein, who went on to a very distinguished musical career, including writing the music for 'West Side Story'.



Randall Thompson



# Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho

Our other piece for the 'Mrs Sunderland' competition is 'Joshua fit the battle of Jericho' – but our version is rather special.

It's a terrific arrangement by John Rutter of this old gospel number one of a suite of seven – but John Rutter only wrote them for mixed voices.

Colne Valley's Music Director, **Thom Meredith** got in touch with John Rutter and sought permission to transcribe the work for a male voice choir - specifically for CVMVC. Unsurprisingly, Thom's transcription met with John Rutter's approval and so it's now part of the Colne Valley repertoire.

As far as I can tell, there's no male voice performance on the internet and CVMVC has never recorded it.

Our version is terrific - perhaps we should!

The version below is one of the best the Editor came across. It is by an ensemble of men and women from **Citrus College**, California. Based in Glendora - a suburb of Los Angeles - its 19,000 strong student body includes a highly-regarded Performing Arts Faculty.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IRmnpNZ3-Y>

Well, it cheered me up a bit....



stolen from Private Eye

## *Interesting Archive Photo*

*Stuart Baxter at the wheel of his 1920 Vauxhall*

*Photo: Ian Baxter*



	<h1>Colne Valley Male Voice Choir</h1> <p>Est 1922</p>				
	Events	Recordings	Our History	About Us	Information
	Newsletters				
And see the website to get the full story: <a href="http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk">colnevalleymvc.org.uk</a>					