



Triumph in competition



Colne Valley won the **Brighthouse Trophy** and **First Prize** in the male voice choir class at the **Mrs Sunderland Huddersfield Music Festival** on Saturday afternoon.

Wow! Last year we had been well beaten by Will Prideaux's men from Peterborough Male Voice Choir and the competition on Saturday came down to a contest between the two.

We had been backstage when Peterborough were singing but their recent reputation is high and reports began to reach us that they had put in a top-class performance.

Well, the Huddersfield Town Hall is our 'home turf' and we were ready to own the stage. So, if we were going down again it wouldn't be for lack of trying.

And we were pretty wonderful and our Music Committee's choice of repertoire was magnificent!



The Adjudicator, **David Hoult**, took the stage: "**This is between two excellent choirs,**" he said. "**And either of these two would be worthy winners.**"

In competition you need both disciplined singing and musicality in performance. The very best show both at the same time! Both these two leading choirs managed to achieve this."

He talked about Peterborough; admiring the way the choir had spread out to confidently fill the space. (We had spread out only a bit – were we to be marked down?)

"Peterborough's first piece, '**Hunker Down**' was simple but effective and richly interpreted. '**Demon in my View**' showed very expressive phrasing.

"**One quibble**," he added, "Syllabic singing - a tendency to come across as too metronomically accurate in the breakdown of phrases instead of letting the musical quality of a lovely legato line come through." He went on to demonstrate, singing a line at first chopped-up then again in all its musical flow. (He could have been quoting our conductor, **Thom Meredith** who tells us the same thing about 20 times a rehearsal and again in the backstage warm-up. And I thought, - just maybe we are in with a shout here.)



"**And now I come to Colne Valley**, he said. A bigger choir - didn't need to spread out too far to fill the stage and to fill the hall with a very full sound and lots of musical pleasure and enjoyment. Not that the '**Last Words of David**' was 'all welly'. Far from it; there was lots of good detail and dynamic variety - very impressive.

‘Joshua fit the battle of Jericho’ We all know the story but Colne Valley told us it in a convincing, energetic, disciplined way - beautifully articulated, we could hear every word. Well done.

These are two A grade choirs, he said. So in second place, Peterborough Male Voice Choir “Well, the place erupted because, of course, it meant Colne Valley were the winners. Tom took to the stage to collect the cup to warm applause.

The Editor can’t tell you how made up he was to win this, **our 50th First Prize at the Mrs Sunderland.**



And we also won the privilege of singing again in the Choirs of Choirs contest in the evening’s gala prize-winners concert.

We did the Goff Richard’s **‘Let there be Light’** and that stirring, Buddhist anthem. **‘We Rise Again’** with star soloist, James Cooke, (seen here, front right preparing to take the stage.)

The evening concert was a joy to be part of – so many excellent performances from individual prize-winners and choirs. The Colne valley men sang well, we enjoyed ourselves and we entertained the crowd.

In the Editor’s view one Choir stood out head and shoulders above the rest of us. That was from **The Chanterelles**. And clearly there was not much room for doubt in the adjudicator’s mind, either, for he awarded them top spot in the Choir Challenge and the prize for best single item of the day. They were very entertainingly choreographed, waving their fans in the Spanish number, ‘El Vito’ and they sang with great skill and precision.



What a good day for the Choir Valley MVC. (And incidentally, in the football, **Huddersfield Town** won as well)

David Morrison makes it 25 years



Longest-serving member and Choir Chaplain, **John Radcliffe** (right) said how pleased he was on behalf of the Choir to acknowledge a quarter century of music-making and presented David with his badge for 25 years of membership.

Said David, smiling, "It's been a real pleasure being in the Choir. It doesn't feel like 25 years. If truth be told, I just wish I joined sooner. Being in the Choir - it's taken me places I never thought I'd go to.

It's quite a few years since I was chosen as section leader of the second tenors. That's been an honour, too. They're a good bunch, the second tenors - always ready to give me support when I need something from them. It's great to be part of it."

And I would walk 500 miles.....



Well, maybe not, but here's an interesting fact. Baritone Michael Parkinson has driven more than 7,000 miles in recent times to attend every one of the 10 concerts we have done since last May and to make 29 rehearsals - only David Hirst and John Garner got to every single one - and they are locals. Michael comes from the other side of Doncaster.

When you consider there's a few of us who can't manage to get to Choir, when we live 'just across the road', it makes Michael's commitment all the more praiseworthy.

Well done Michael



“It’s like this.”
says Joe, “Talk
to your
mates....”

Joe was briefing the Choir about progress in the campaign to recruit new singers to join us.

“We are doing pretty well.” he said. “There’s half a dozen chaps here tonight who are singing in with us. Most have been coming now for a few weeks and we hope they will soon become members.”

(One of them **Doug Shuttleworth**, VotV learns, took his test last week and joined the Baritones. Doug has got lots of experience singing in choirs and so he was able to enjoy his first performance with the Choir at this weekend’s Mrs Sunderland Competition. Welcome Doug!)



“So how have we done it?” Joe continued. “You know about our Facebook and Twitter posts about our advertising initiatives and so on and they are going well.

But it’s clear that that there’s **one common factor in our recruitment successes – the personal factor**. It’s talking to your mates and work-colleagues and neighbours that works better than anything. Use your contacts, chat to your relations, have a friendly word with your pals - let them know it’s good fun and it’s for ordinary blokes like us.

Some people, we know, are a wee bit scared to put themselves forward - they think they won’t be good enough. But we know that quite ordinary voices can come together to make something wonderful collectively - especially when we’ve got that magician, **Thom Meredith**, to bring out the best in us.

We are still welcoming newcomers. So talk to your friends. Bring them along on a Monday night. They will be most welcome.

Matt Houston puts out new flyer.

Says Matt, "If you can distribute a handful, I'd be pleased. I've got lots in the new print run and I'm keen to get to all parts of the locality, where potential boy singers or their parents might see 'em."

A flyer for the Colne Valley Boys choir. The background is black with several small, glowing blue spheres. The title 'Colne Valley Boys' is at the top in a large, green, cursive font. Below it, 'Singing Is Fun!' is written in a blue, slanted font. To the left, 'Why not Join Us!' is in a yellow, slanted font. At the bottom left, 'Boys "Can" Sing!' is in a blue, slanted font. On the right side, contact information is listed in yellow: 'Slaithwaite Conservative Club', '19 Britannia Road', 'Slaithwaite', 'Huddersfield', 'HD7 5HF', 'Monday nights in term time', 'Youth Choir 5:30 to 6:30pm', 'Seniors 6:00 to 7:00pm', 'Doors open 5.15pm', 'For more information', 'www.colnevalleyboys.com', and 'or call 01484 658188'. At the bottom right, in a smaller green font, it says 'CVB supported by Colne Valley Male Choir'.

Colne Valley Boys

The boys were established in April 2010 and have performed in a number of concerts and venues throughout the area under the directorship of Thom Meredith. Including : Huddersfield Town Hall, Marsden Jazz Festival, Golcar Lily Day and numerous concerts in the Colne Valley. The current age range is between 8 to 20 years. *It is an open choir, no auditions.* They perform music in a wide number of musical styles including folk, music theatre, classical, pop repertoire and world music with the emphasis firmly on having fun at the same time as creating a top class ensemble.

If you enjoy singing why not come along to one of our rehearsals at 5.30pm any Monday night in term time @ Slaithwaite Conservative Club, 19 Britannia Road, Slaithwaite.

parents/carers/guardians/grandparents welcome!

For info: www.colnevalleyboys.com see our facebook page

Two new dates for the Choir Diary

It has just been confirmed that we will be filling an unusually slim concert timetable for 2108 with two new bookings. Members should put a marker in their diary against the first one, **Saturday 17th March**, which comes up quite soon.

VotV has just had final confirmation from our hosts. It came via our Assistant Chairman, Joe Stones, who is one of a number of Choir people who have personal contacts with the organisers. It's local but it's a venue we have not sung in before - **St Stephen's Church** in Lindley. The church has recently suffered a big loss so the Choir is keen to help out with their fund-raising. But most of all, we just love performing!



The poster features a blue background with a silhouette of a church tower on the left. At the top left is the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir crest, which includes two white dogs flanking a shield with a cross and a banner above reading 'COLNE VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR'. The text on the poster is as follows:

An evening with the
COLNE VALLEY
MALE VOICE CHOIR
A seasonal concert
Saturday
17th March 2018
7.30 PM

At
St
Stephen's
Parish
Church
Lindley
Huddersfield

Tickets
• Adults £10
(including wine/refreshments)
• Children & NUS card holders £5

*Tickets available through St Stephen's Church,
Colne Valley MVC members or contact either
the Choir or Church through Facebook.*

A Facebook logo is located to the right of the ticket information.





Sat-nav users who don't know the Church - it's just opposite the Lindley Clock Tower - should enter the following postcode to get there: **HD3 3JB**

The Choir has also just confirmed a further concert booking at **Stones Methodist Church** on **6th October**.

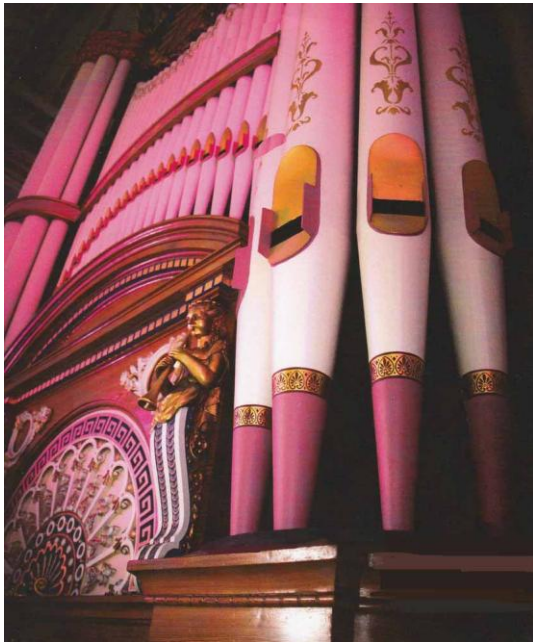


It's a Saturday night. The Church at Stones is in the country near Ripponden in Calderdale and has a great acoustic for a male voice choir to sing in. We look forward to giving a good show. More details will no doubt emerge in coming weeks. But write the date into diaries now.

Colne Valley February

What a difference a couple of weeks can make ...and we might be back to the top picture in a day or two.





Still the best way to spend a Monday lunchtime....

....at one of Gordon Stewart's one o'clock organ recitals.

The next one is March 12th.

Have a sandwich lunch in the Old Court Room then pop upstairs for a musical treat.

Terrific!

Well it made me smile....

