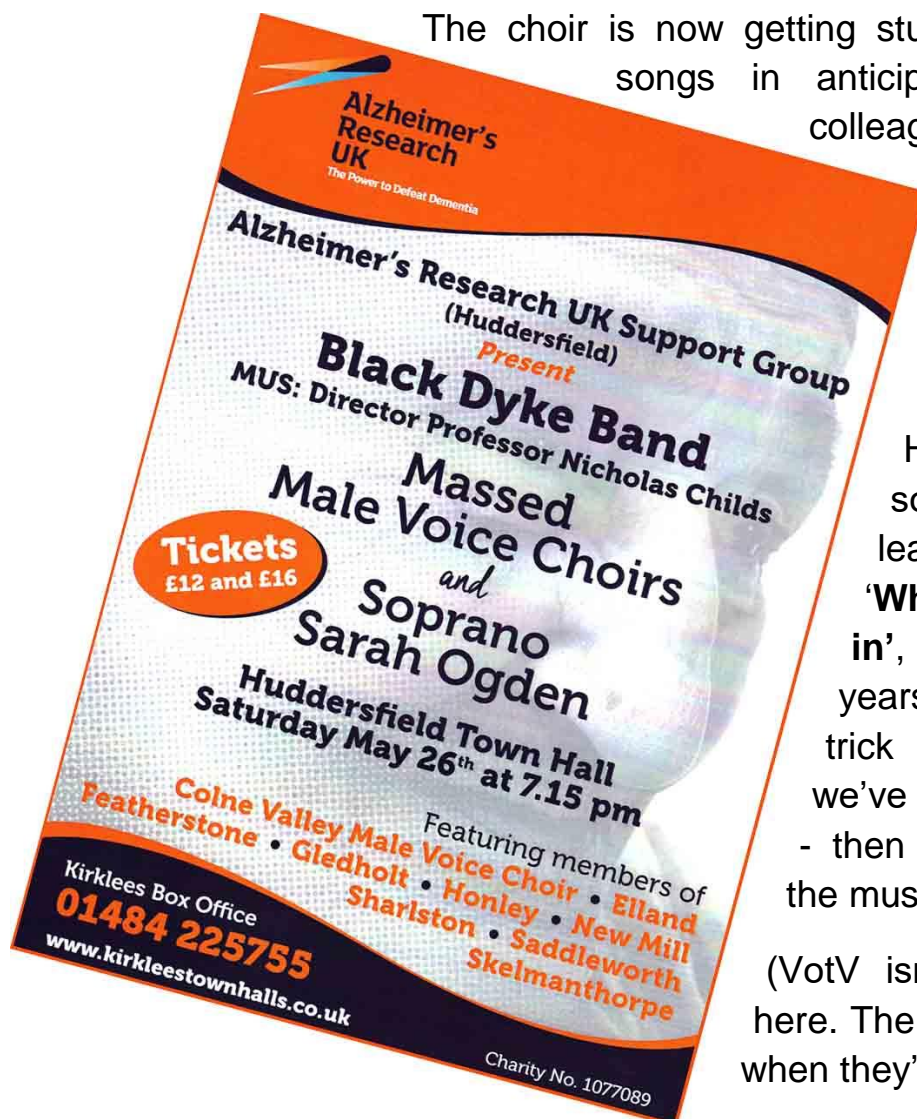




A pleasure in store

In May, Colne Valley men will be joining with male voice singers from across the area to help raise funds for **Alzheimer's Research**. With that very fine brass band, **Black Dyke**, and our sometime, guest conductor and wonderful soprano, **Sarah Ogden**, we'll be entertaining our audience at the **Huddersfield Town Hall**. Get your tickets now - for the **26th of May** - it'll be a good night.

The choir is now getting stuck into re-learning some fine songs in anticipation of meeting with our colleagues for joint rehearsals.



Look forward to - amongst others - '**Speed your Journey**' Verdi's popular chorus from 'Nabucco', to **Cwm Rhondda** in Arwel Hughes' great arrangement - some terrific 'Amens'. And, not least, to Denys Hood's version of '**When the Saints Go Marching in**', one we haven't sung for ten years or more - the one with the trick ending. The audience thinks we've finished and begin applauding - then comes the final flourish from the musicians.

(VotV isn't trying to spoil a surprise here. The audience always forgets, even when they've heard the piece before!).



The picture (thanks to the Guardian) shows some players from **Black Dyke Band**, warming up backstage at the Town Hall, prior to competing in the Regional Finals earlier this month. Readers will be pleased to know that **Black Dyke** and our friends **Brighouse & Rastrick** will progress - along with **Grimethorpe** - to represent Yorkshire at the National Brass Band Championships later this year.

Les and Joan celebrate being married for 60 years

60 years ago on March 1st, **Les Stones** married **Joan** at the **Zion Baptist Church** on Olney Street in Slaithwaite. The church is long gone now but the building remains - now a block of flats.

As for **Les and Joan** - they are very much still in business and going strong after 60 years of togetherness.





Les tells VotV, "That week in 1958; it snowed then, too. This year, our 60th anniversary, we'd planned to go out for a meal but this was the day the '**Beast from the East**' was in full rage. So we thought, maybe not."

We did manage a good celebration, though, a few days later - we went for a theatre break, down in London, to see the musical, '**42nd Street**'. It was a great trip".



Those with internet connections should put in the following link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8Q7vcnU9nc>

Les and Joan have always shared a love of music. They sang with the **Slaithwaite Operatic society**, and the **Huddersfield Methodist Choir**. Joan was in the **Pennine Singers** and still sings with the **U3A Choir**. As for Les, he's been with **Colne Valley** for something over 30 years.

Many congratulations to you, Les and Joan for a real achievement.

Nowadays, Les manages our **200 Club** and does a fine job. At the moment he's reminding friends and members, that many - perhaps most - **200 Club Memberships** are due for renewal.

Readers will know that the **200 Club** is a good way for the Choir to earn a bit of brass, that helps keep our 'subs' at one of the lowest levels in the Country. (The recent national Male Voice Choir Conference questionnaire, discussed in Peterborough the other day, suggests that the average fee is around £108 per year - quite a bit more than CVMVC's.)

So if you need to renew, it's time to get in touch with Les and sort it out.
"You've got to be in it, to win it!"

And if you haven't yet bought a **200 Club** number, let **Jenny Baxter** know as soon as you can.



Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.

There's a good chance of winning:
£45 in prize money weekly,
£185 in the monthly draw and two whopping £1,000 draws each year.

Even if you don't win, you win - because half of the fund supports Choir concerts and performances.

Contact Choir Secretary, Jenny, on **01484 645192**

And don't forget our next gig....



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

At
**St
Stephen's
Parish
Church
Lindley
Huddersfield**



Saturday evening 17th March at Lindley.

Ticket price of just £10.00 includes a glass of wine.

(Not for singers, obviously – our glass of wine comes after the concert!) What a bargain! This concert will help raise funds for the Church, which has suffered recent financial setbacks.

Sat-nav users should put **HD3 3JB** into their devices. The Church is just opposite **Lindley Clock Tower**.

The evening will include at least two songs new to our repertoire. To get a flavour try this youtube version of '[This is the Moment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v51xw3J4deY)' from the musical, 'Jekyll and Hyde'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v51xw3J4deY>



Pontypridd Male Choir - This is the Moment

'Harold'

A former singer, Harold Clough died, peacefully, at home, on the last day of February.

Harold had many friends in the Choir who were very much saddened by the news, announced last rehearsal by Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**. And indeed, many other readers of Voice of the Valley and many more, all across the district will be equally saddened to hear that a lovely man has passed away. The Choir sang the 'four-fold Amen' in his memory.



Harold was one of the stalwarts of Blackley Baptist Church near Elland, so it is natural that his funeral will take place there on Friday **March 23rd**. The Choir will be singing again in his honour.



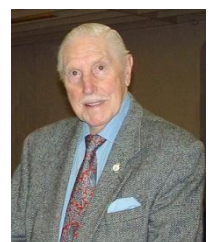
The Church recently celebrated its 225th Anniversary. Harold, with the memory of his dear wife, Betty, also in mind, organised '**A Bit of a Do**' there in 2014. At this special concert, Harold presented the church with a new piano and got keyboard maestro, **Keith Swallow**, in to play it - just one of those who were happy to turn up and perform at his request; Harry and Ellie (**The Switch**), **Christopher Pulleyn** and **Thom Meredith** included. (Use this link for Keith's **Schubert Impromptu**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv9yJcE0sIA&feature=youtu.be&t=14>

Harold joined Colne Valley Male Voice Choir in 1961. During almost 57 years with CVMC, he was a faithful member of the First Tenor section, until his failing health meant that he went on the 'inactive list' for the last few years. But he remained a '**Life Member**' and a regular visitor to rehearsals and concerts until fairly recently and always took an enthusiastic and jovial interest in what the Choir was up to.

Musically and socially, Harold was a well-loved and respected member of the Choir and those of us who were lucky enough to know him have happy memories of his time with us.

His life in music began before CVMVC: for example, he also sang in a quartet called Concorde with former member, **Norman Dearnley**, Roy Firth, Muriel McKean, and Freda Jessop. The pianist was Harold's sister, also Muriel. In 1956 the quartet won the **Mrs Sunderland** competition and the same year Harold won the '**Operatic Singer**' and also '**Tenor Singer**' contests.



He was awarded the Drake Rose Bowl as “Singer of the Competition’. Harold is also an **Honorary Life Member** of the **Huddersfield Choral Society**, which he joined as far back as 1947.



Perhaps he would have said that the highlights of his time with the Choir would have been twice winning the Eisteddfod at Llangollen, travelling & singing in Germany, Czechoslovakia and, in 1984, on a Choir tour to California.

This picture, above shows the Choir at Llangollen in 1962, (Harold is front row left.)

On the right we see Harold, always a joker, risking arrest in the newly liberated Czech Republic, during a Choir tour in 1994.)



Harold's church - Blackley Baptist Church - nearly 230 years old, where his funeral is to be held on **Friday 23rd**. The time is **10:00am**.

Sat nav users should input the postcode for Elland, HX5 0TD.

Even Trappist Monks like Messiah

I rather doubt this 'silent order' is completely genuine but their performance is terrific.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxXW54V7R2c>

An Event for Easter

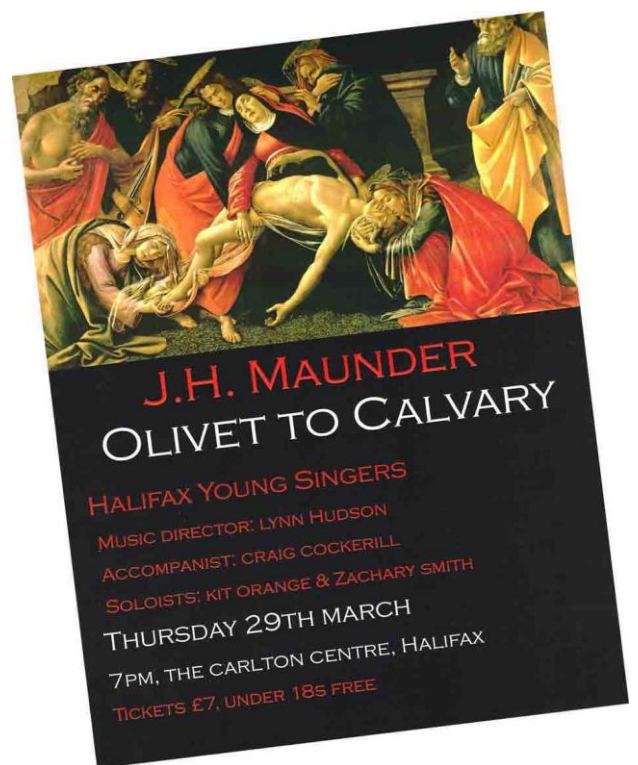
Lynn Hudson (Mrs Thom Meredith) is well regarded by Choir members as a perceptive and highly skilled Choir conductor.



Her ensemble, the wonderful, **Halifax Young Singers**, will be performing 'Olivet to Calvary' on Thursday 29th March at Halifax's **Carlton Centre**. The Carlton Centre is on Carlton Terrace, Harrison Road, HX1 2AD.

It's a terrific piece and we know from the HYS's reputation that it will be a very accomplished performance.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=122&v=HpTQKRk6dio



Kilner Bank

First Tenor, **John Kilner**, asked the VotV Editor, the other night, whether I knew where the name **Kilner Bank** comes from. Maybe it's the fund John uses to buy his **200 Club** numbers, was my first idea. But it set me thinking a bit more....



Kilner

This unusual and interesting **name** is a variant form of the English occupational surname "**Kilner**". Originally the word referred to either a potter or one who was in charge of a Kiln.



Kilner Bank runs just a stone's throw from the centre of Huddersfield, alongside the River Calder for about a mile or so. As well as being the name of the area and the hillside, it is also the name of a road which runs the length of it. **Huddersfield Town** built a new stadium there, the '**John Smith**' (no relation to our second-tenor) just across the river and they called one stand, the **Kilner End**.

Two theories emerge:

- 1 That the area was named after a site where kilns were operated, probably using the timber that still characterises the forest site – the area is now partly a 'nature reserve'.



- 2 That **Kilner Bank** is named after a family called Kilner.

Perhaps the most famous Kilner family with connections to Kirklees is the one that invented the 'Kilner Jar – the glass jar, either screw-top or with the rubber seal that is clamped tight with a metal fastener and is used for preserving fruit and pickles.

John Kilner, he of the jars, was born in 1782 and was an employee in a glass factory. He set up a glassworks with friends and through thrift and skill turned the business into a massive success. Industrialisation and growing prosperity increased the demand for the production of glasses, jars and bottles and soon John possessed two factories in Yorkshire. He died in 1857 and the firm was taken over by his four sons, George, (famous naughty boy, **Jeremy Clarkson's** great-great-grandfather) William, John and Caleb. Each learned their trade on the factory floor and the firm, then known as '**Kilner Brothers**', continues to thrive.



And another thing....



Readers with time could do worse than see a fine production of **Dad's Army** at the **Halifax Playhouse**, between **13th** and **17th** of **March**.

All your favourite characters realised in a live performance.

What could be better?

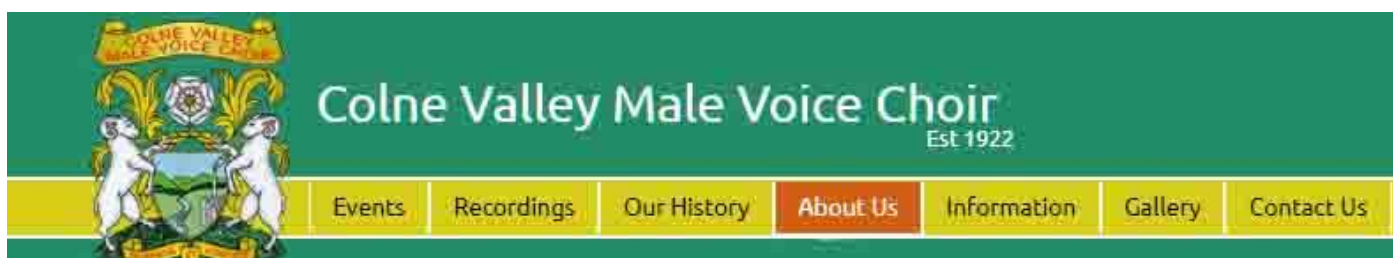
www.ticketsource.co.uk/halifaxplayhouse

And don't forget to see our website with our updated history of Festival Successes

1923	Batley 1st, Thornhill 2nd
1924	West Ardsley 1st and Challenge Cup
1925	Mrs Sunderland Musical Competition 2nd, Gomersal 1st, Milnsbridge 1st
1926	Mrs Sunderland 2nd, York 3rd,
1927	Mrs Sunderland 2nd, Keighley 3 rd
1928	Milnsbridge 1st
1929	Mrs Sunderland 1st

.....

2018	Mrs Sunderland 1st
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<http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Competition-successes-updated.pdf>