



## Boy chorister finds new outlet for musical talent



Colne Valley has just welcomed a new second tenor, **Jay Hayes-Smith**.

Jay has been singing with us for a few weeks and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April sailed through his test and was formally invited into membership.

Jay told Voice of the Valley: "I started singing as a boy many years ago when I joined my local church choir in **Spalding, Lincolnshire** as a young treble. It was an excellent church choir, winning the '**Bishop's Choir Award**' when I was 13½.



I won the 'Dean's Choir Award' when I was 12 and, later, still as a treble, the highest chorister award that can be achieved, the **Saint Nicolas Chorister Award**. I auditioned for the **Royal School of Music**, was accepted and I trained there for the next 8 ½ years, man and boy."

As a tenor, Jay took the same award again and once more passed with distinction. He went on to sing solos at the **Royal Albert Hall**, at **St. Paul's Cathedral** and in duet at **Westminster Abbey**."

Now 46, Jay's a Yorkshireman, born and bred. He moved back north about 16 years ago and works as a Production & Operations Manager at a food manufacturers.

"**There was a time when I lost touch with singing.**" he adds. "In my thirties I was diagnosed with a brain tumour but, fortunately, I was given the all-clear about 18 months ago. So now, I find myself renewing my love for music and, here I am, a fully-fledged member of this wonderful Choir."

**You are very welcome, Jay.** We wish you many happy years singing with us.

## New members arriving

Jay is one of a good handful of new singers who have appeared following the Choir's recruitment drive over the last couple of months. It looks like we'll up the membership by at least 10% and, of course, recruitment is ongoing.

Naturally, we don't expect the musical background that Jay is bringing. Most of us are just ordinary blokes without any training. (Jay hastens to add, he's an ordinary bloke, too - except for the musical education.) No, it's enough that you can hold a tune and are interested in singing with a choir. Our Musical Director, **Thom Meredith** is a fine vocal coach and patiently guides the Choir through learning new music even if many of us are not quite at ease with reading the scores.

You will be made very welcome any Monday evening at our rehearsal room above the 'Con' Club' in Slaithwaite. (Women:- send your man along. It'll do him good!)

**Joe Stones**, our recruitment guy, will guide you through the process. Sit in and listen or better still sing along with us in rehearsals. You'll soon know if it's for you - and if it is, in a few weeks - whenever you are ready - there will be a brief test to confirm your membership and to allocate you formally to the Choir section that best suits your voice.

## Jay will join our next performance

As for Jay, supposing he can be fitted out with a Choir uniform in time, he'll be performing with us on **Saturday May 12th** at our next concert in Lindley. Come and see him and the rest of us.



**For Sat Nav- enter Lidget Street, HD3 3JB**



# The Rose

You probably thought it was an old song. The Editor certainly did. This fine - slightly sentimental - old ballad definitely has a 'vintage' feel. One imagines a moustachioed Edwardian composer setting the music to an old poem by a Victorian Lady.

## *The Rose*

*Some say love, it is a river  
That drowns the tender reed.*

*Some say love, it is a razor  
That leaves your soul to bleed.*

*Some say love, it is a hunger,  
An endless aching need.*

*I say love, it is a flower,  
And you its only seed.*

She was an actor, entertainer and singer- and still is seemingly- and she claims to have written the song in just 45 minutes.

"It is just one verse, musically, repeated three times." she says. "When I finished it, I realised it didn't have a 'bridge' section but I couldn't think of anything to add."

*When the night has been too lonely  
And the road has been too long,*

*And you think that love is only  
For the lucky and the strong,*

*Just remember in the winter  
Far beneath the bitter snows  
Lies the seed that with the sun's love  
In the spring becomes the rose.*

Well not a bit of it.....the song surfaced in 1978 so it's much more recent than you might think.

It was recorded and made famous by **Bette Midler** (who's cool) for a 1979 film called 'The Rose' and she has made it a kind of signature tune, demanded by her audiences whenever she performs.

And no Victorian poet's were involved either.... In fact, both words and music came from a woman by the name of **Amanda McBroom**.

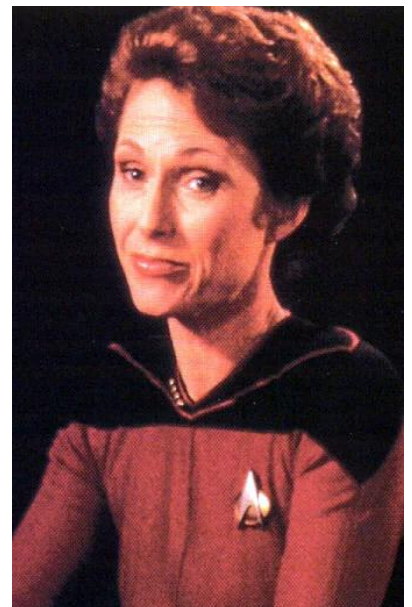
*It's the heart afraid of breaking  
That never learns to dance.*

*It's the dream afraid of waking  
That never takes the chance.*

*It's the one who won't be taken,  
Who cannot seem to give,*

*And the soul afraid of dyin'  
That never learns to live.*

Amanda - seen here in her role in **Star-trek: The Next Generation** has also appeared in many American TV series - not least, 'Hawaii Five-O', 'M\*A\*S\*H' and 'Charlie's Angels'.





When Bette Midler's recording and the film came out, the song became very popular, reaching the No1 spot in many American charts and winning Bette Midler a 'Grammy' award.

Since then it's been rerecorded dozens of times.

One version by an Irish boy-band became a No1 hit in the UK in 2006

It's certainly been in the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir repertoire from that time, sung for a while and then 'rested'.



It's back in to our 2018 summer season song-list and readers can see us perform it for the first time in a while at the **Lindley Church** concert on **Saturday May12th**.



When it's sung well, (as Colne Valley usually does) it's piercingly beautiful if a little melancholy. When it's sung badly (as Colne valley hardly ever does) it's an awful sinking dirge. There are some terrible versions on 'You-tube' to avoid but go to this **Bette Midler video**, where Bette reprises onstage her biggest hit. (And come and see us on Saturday night at Lindley.)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oR6okRuOLc8>

## Grand Charity Concert

Colne Valley men will be soon joining with eight other male voice choirs – and the wonderful **Black Dyke Band**.

What a sound that will be!

We'll be onstage at Huddersfield's magnificent Town Hall on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:15

Conducted by **Thom Meredith** and **Steven Roberts**, the massed male voices will present some of the all-time favourite choir anthems to stir the heart and soul of a true northern audience, by gum!

In addition to our prize-winning band there will be our lovely local diva, **Sarah Ogden**.



It'll be a grand night and given that all our choirs will be performing without fees, there will also be the satisfaction of knowing that you will be helping raise a great deal of money for research into **Alzheimer's Research UK** - the power to defeat dementia.

# Gordon's Lunchtime recitals attract Sponsors

Many Choir members know that spending a lunchtime down at the Town Hall listening to Maestro **Gordon Stewart**, playing one of his brilliant organ recitals, is a great way to spend an otherwise dismal Monday.

Local readers will also be painfully aware that Kirklees Council, which organises Gordon's lunchtime appearances, has been financially very hard-hit in recent years.

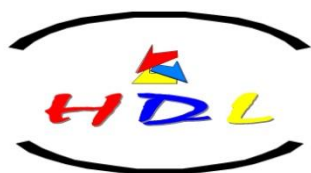
So it's interesting to note that for the following concert season that starts in September, Kirklees has developed a **sponsorship scheme**.

Enthusiastic recital-goers are invited to sponsor a specific concert in the season, have their individual contribution noted in publicity and programme, get a few free tickets for guests and - mainly - have the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting the Town Hall, Gordon's wonderful music and the cultural life of the district - and all for £500.

Cynics amongst us might say, 'No chance, that won't work' but VotV has learned that **at least seven concerts have already attracted sponsors** several months ahead of the season start.




## Maybe a concert sponsorship scheme for CVMVC, too?



Maybe, it's something Colne Valley Male Voice Choir could consider afresh. We have succeeded in attracting sponsors to our big Christmas concert. Last year, **Holmfirth Dyers Ltd** took over a long-standing arrangement with **C&J Antich**. We are very pleased to have their support.

We have been very grateful, too, to **Brook and Learoyd** who have underwritten so many of our printing costs in recent years and whose generous sponsorship is now coming to an end.

 <p><b>BROOK &amp; LEAROYD</b></p> <p>DIGITAL, LITHO &amp; SPECIALIST LABEL PRINTERS</p> <p><b>Brook &amp; Learoyd Limited</b></p> <p>7 Chancery Lane . Huddersfield . HD1 2DT</p>	<p>Proud supporters of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir</p> <p>sales@<a href="mailto:sales@brookandlearoyd.co.uk">brookandlearoyd.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.brookandlearoyd.co.uk">www.brookandlearoyd.co.uk</a></p>
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In a similar way, supporters **sponsor new pieces of music** to help keep our repertoire fresh.

But perhaps seeking sponsors from our audience for specific concerts in our annual programme might be a possibility.



If you think you might be interested in sponsoring a concert - there's no need to wait for a 'scheme' to be announced. VotV is sure that if you contact secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, she'll be more than happy to help you out.

And don't forget, when making online purchases, you can sign up to '**Give as You Live**' and nominate Colne Valley Male Voice Choir as your 'good cause'. Then when you click through to Amazon or John Lewis or whatever, you can buy your stuff in the usual way and, without anyone knowing your business, a small percentage of the money you have spent will be discounted by the retailer and routed to Choir funds.



[Click here to check out – and maybe sign up - to Give As You Live](#)

## And another thing ....

When the Choir goes on its travels, the coach always does its Slaithwaite pickup at the **Star Inn** on Manchester Road. Nowadays it's 'Nobles' restaurant but the less said about that the better.

Anyway, this old picture shows the '**Star**', as it was some years ago.

VotV isn't sure, but is that **Wilf Hansom** in the cap?



# “We are stayin’ up, we are stayin’ up”



We are stayin’ up, we are stayin’ up” sang a thousand Town fans at Manchester City’s ground on Sunday.

Well they probably aren’t. Their chant spoke more of hope and passion than of any impartial appraisal of the Premiership table.

But they did get another huge point from a dogged defensive performance against the champions.

Their season in the top flight isn’t over yet and strange things can happen in football.

VotV wishes the Terriers the best of luck - we’d love them to beat Arsenal.

And if they don’t make it - thanks for giving it a gallant try. It feels like you put us on the map.

**Manchester City      0**



**Huddersfield Town      0**



# So where was Thom?



For two weeks in April Thom wasn't leading rehearsals at Slaithwaite.

We all know no one works harder than Thom and everyone deserves a break.

VotV can reveal

Thom and family went back to the **Magic Kingdom** - Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

We all had a bit of that Thom magic when he got back on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Here is the family group: Thom, Lynn Hudson (Mrs Thom), son, Harry and daughter in law, Ellie. The green turtle is not a family member.





# And one more thing.... spring finally seems to be coming to the Colne Valley

(This is the River Colne at Marsden, with the buds beginning to unfurl their leaves)



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## And don't forget to see our website

Get the details about the Choir, our music, our background and our plans

<http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk/>

