



## Special event at St Paul's

That's the Service of Remembrance, organised by the staff of the **HRI Intensive Care Unit** for the friends and relatives of patients who didn't make it.

"Not everybody who comes in survives," says ICU Consultant, **Tim Jackson**. "It's the toughest part of my job and for the whole team of staff too."

But he is also amazed by the courage and the kindness of the patients and their loved ones, who so often seem to find, despite the grief, something positive and uplifting in the experience. We are here, he said, to celebrate the lives of the departed, to mark their passing and to seek solace in our sadness.

Family and friend were invited to light a candle in their memory.





And, once again, the Choir was proud to help this moving event along with suitable music.



It's a moving experience for Choir members, too.



## Christmas is coming

And with it comes that indispensable musical beginning to the Christmas season - **Colne Valley's Male Voice Choir's Town Hall Christmas Festival**.

This year we have the very popular **Colne Valley Boys** and, arguably the World's Best Brass Band, **Brighouse and Rastrick Band** as our guests.

That's **December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Get your tickets now from **Kirklees** – (If you are stuck, it's well worth ringing **Roger Fielding** on **01484 84626**. He can generally find you one or two.)

Here's the link-

<https://tickets.kirklees.gov.uk/en-GB/shows/colne%20valley%20mvc%20christmas%20concert%202018/events>



And as a taster....

We'll be doing that old audience-participation favourite: 'Schneewalzer.'



Get in the mood with an original Austrian accordion version:

Click on this link for an Alpine experience nearly as good as what you'll get in the Town Hall:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFx2Bmsa72E#>

*Snow waltz, snow waltz, dancing to and fro  
Snow, snow, snow and I love you so.*

*Snow waltz, snow waltz,  
arm-in-arm we sway,  
When you're close, close to me,  
Oh the winter is warm, Yo-de-ley.*

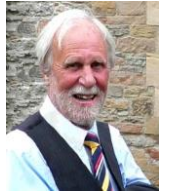




# My Life in Music

**Trevor Bowers, new second tenor (& already a veteran) tells VotV about his singing history**

I was born in Linthwaite in 1935, the youngest of three brothers and joined Linthwaite Church choir at 7 years old. Among my older peers there were former choir members, **Norman Dearnley**, **Hubert Sykes**, and **Philip Baxter** and a very hard Choir master called Gledhill Sykes.



At the age of 15 we moved to Bradford, where I joined the choir of St Mark's, Low Moor. My voice never broke and I sang soprano till the age of 18. I was then called up for National Service and served in the **RAF 208 Squadron**, Middle East.

Whilst in **Malta**, I had the chance to study with **Oreste** - all paid for by the RAF. Oreste (Kircop) was quite a famous tenor, who later replaced Mario Lanza in one of his films '**The Vagabond King**'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVmCREFBllc> (Film Trailer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHqM-2tosBg> (Only a Rose)

On return to 'Civvy Street', I had singing lessons from Charles Wood in Leeds, a base-baritone, who could sit at the piano and sing from bottom D to top C, and was very strict. I used to ride there on my on my bike in all weathers.

At the age of 21 I was self-employed with a shoe shop at Low moor. But I kept up with my singing in Operatic Societies in Brighouse, Bradford, and Halifax

**I then got on to the Club circuit** and was very successful for about 20 years. **Batley Variety Club** was one of my favourites. With having staff in my shops I was able to do this, without going full time.

I then bought a shop in Sunderland and ran it with my wife. So I was able to work the North east clubs for another 5 years.

They were hard audiences but it was very rewarding.





(Incidentally, **writes VOTV Editor, John Clark**, Trevor was not alone amongst CVMVC members who once spent time, singing on the 'Club scene'. **David Hirst** did it quite successfully, as did **Ken Farr**. And, still at it, are **James Cooke** and **Steve Uttley** who still do regular gigs with Frank Sinatra standards. That's not to mention **Simon Durrans** and **Tom Law** on the rock & pop scene.)

I then sold my shops and became a fulltime fundraiser for **The Stroke Association** and one of my ways of raising money was to sing at residential homes, WI meetings, Townswomen's Guilds etc. in return for donations to the charity. Unfortunately my wife died of leukaemia and I returned to Yorkshire, settling in Cleckheaton, near my family.

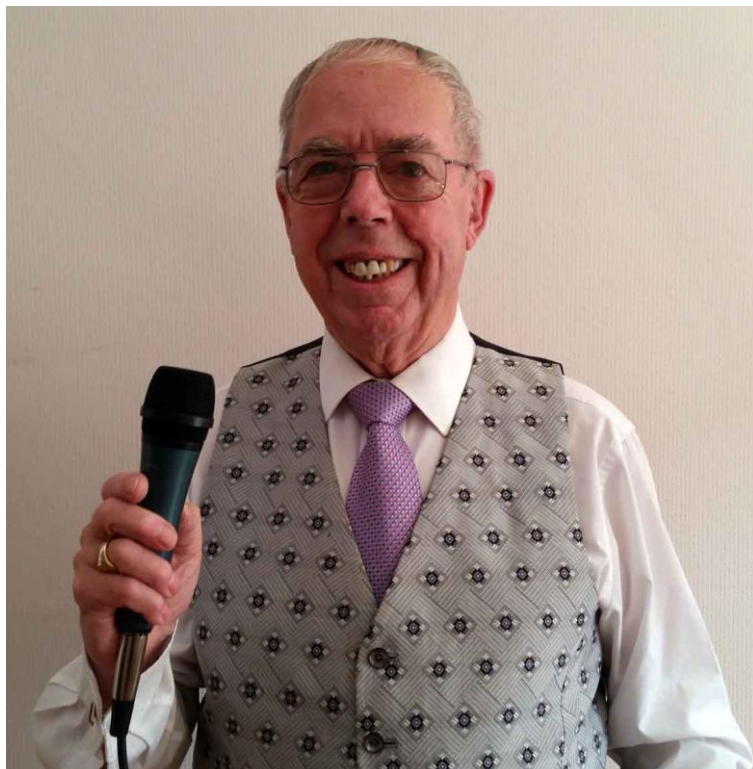


I continued singing at residential homes and other places and I was lucky enough to meet a lovely lady called Beth at the **Ritz Ballroom, Brighouse**. (Now, sadly, forced to rename as 'Venue:73' - the Ritz Hotel in London apparently fearing the competition).

We got married and joined Whitechapel Church at Cleckheaton, where we joined the choir and had 11 happy years together. Once again tragedy struck and Beth was killed in a road accident in Huddersfield. I was on my own again.

So I joined Westfield Male voice Choir where I met **Basil Hirst** and we sang together for many years. Basil was also a member at Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

When we had to disband due to lack of membership, Basil said to me, "If you're going to join another choir, join the best."



So here I am with CVMVC and really enjoying it.

I also play and sing in two ukulele bands.

**VotV says, we are pleased to have you in our ranks, Trevor**



## The friendliest concert we do?

Once again we will be the guests of the fabulous **Marsden Silver Prize Band** at the Parish Church in the village.

(No mean band, this: they've just won 7 prizes at the **Saddleworth and Oldham Whit Friday Brass band Contests**, beating scores of other contestants for the trophies.)

It's always relaxed, convivial and full of the festive spirit.

If you are a regular, you won't want to miss it and if you've never been before, do come. You'll really enjoy it



*"Last night we performed our final full band concert of 2017 and what a fabulous evening it was! We were joined by **Colne Valley Male voice Choir** and Soprano Soloist, Stephanie Ball.*

*Playing in a packed church in our own village is always special and to have such an appreciative audience makes it even better."* (a band-member's comment)

---



# Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!



Many a Voice of the Valley reader will recall, with greater or lesser degrees of fondness, '**Bill and Ben, the Flower Pot Men**.'

In the clip that follows, the voice of Bill and Ben, **Peter Hawkins**, is interviewed by **Professor Stanley Unwin** about his characters.



Professor Unwin, recorded in 1962, interrogates his interlocutor with a level of charm and clarity only matched by Hawkins' concise and helpful explanations.

Well worth a look...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bfe4RwkNB5I>

---

# Our Boys in concert



Our very own Boys' Choir has been going through difficult times recently. Many of the older boys left for college this autumn and it has proved more than usually demanding to recruit new boys.

At a recent Committee meeting for the Adult Choir, Boy's Organiser **Matt Houston** explained how they were at a low point. Matt and **Linda** were urged not to get disheartened. 'We stand behind the Boys, said the Committee 'And we'll tide them over in the hope of better days to come'.



What we do know is that the Boys Concert at **Slaithwaite, St James's** will be a cracker. Once again the amazingly talented children of **Musica Youth Brass** will be joining the Boys. "This is one of the best of the Christmas events" says Choir Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, "And I urge everybody to go. That's **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30** - a lovely afternoon."





And another thing....

I thought it was fake news ....

I wish it was.



Well it made me smile...



## Voice of the Valley

Editor: John C Clark      Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, is on 01484 645192.

Ring her to join our Readers' List or for other queries. Our fine website is at [colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)

