



Guess the Mystery Man



A quiz for Choir members and keen readers of the Voice of the Valley – can you identify this Colne Valley singer?

Want a clue?

He doesn't look like this now.

Another?

He figured in a 'Voice of the Valley' edition some time in 2018.

No prizes – answer further down the page.

Lord Lovelace

*Lord Lovelace rode home from the wars,
His wounds were black as ice,
While overheard the winter sun
Hung out its pale device.*

*The lance was tattered in his hands,
Sundered his axe and blade,
And in a bloody coat of war
Lord Lovelace was arrayed.*

*And he was sick and he was sore
But never sad was he,
And whistled bright as any bird
Upon an April tree.*

*'Soon, soon,' he cried, 'at Lovelace Hall
Fair Ellen I shall greet,
And she with loving heart and hand
Will make my sharp wounds sweet.*

*'And Young Jehan the serving-man
Will bring the wine and bread,
And with a yellow link will light us to
The bridal bed.'*



The poem was written by fellow Cornishman, **Charles Causley** in the same year. This terrific piece will figure in Colne Valley Male Voice Choir's trip to Cornwall in May. Indeed, it will

be one of three competition pieces that we will offer at the **Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival**.

For a taster, see this dramatised video of the piece from the Choir's own CD recording, with Thom Meredith and Keith Swallow at the piano.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7N-tmjexVo>

Lord Lovelace



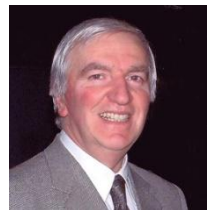
This fine poem tells the tale of a knight, who makes his way home from grim conflict.

He expects a blissful reunion. But all he finds is his home destroyed and his lover gone.

Embittered and wretched he goes back to war with a ruthless disregard for himself and his opponents.

There's a twist in the tale though!

It was set to music by Cornishman and composer, **Goff Richards**.



*But when he got to Lovelace Hall
Burned were both wall and stack,
And in the stinking moat the tower
Had tumbled on its back.*

*And none welcomed Lord Lovelace home
Within the castle shell,
And ravaged was the land about
That Lord Lovelace knew well.*

*Long in his stirrups Lovelace stood
Before this broken door,
And slowly rode he down the hill
Back to the bitter war.*

*No mercy showed he from that day,
Nor tear fell from his eye,
And rich and poor both fearful were
When Black Lovelace rode by.*

*This tale is true that now I tell
To woman and to man,
As Fair Ellen is my wife's name
And mine is Young Jehan.*

Choir loses an old friend

KENNETH DENTON

16th May 1929 - 1st January 2019

It took the editor, fully five minutes' walk along a line of parked cars on the country lane outside the upland village of Holme before I reached the little church, where friends and family had come to say goodbye to a fine man and a long-standing member of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

The reason for the walk? - Well ... so many were those who had come to 'see him off' that the church was packed. Like dozens of those who didn't get there early, the Editor found it was standing-room only.

Not that I begrudged the lack of seats. I was just pleased to be there - along with more than a handful of Colne Valley members, to remember and celebrate the life of a lovely man - one who had enjoyed almost his whole nearly 90 years in this Pennine hamlet, as 'hefted' to the land as the sheep he spent so many years tending.

Not that Ken was a simple farmer: he was successful in the work world - in media relations, in journalism and business promotion. **David Brown Tractors** employed him and **Hepworth Pipe** and **Kirklees Chamber of Commerce** are other examples.



But apart from family and the land, there was nothing he loved more than music.

He joined Colne Valley Male Voice Choir as a tenor in 1972 and stuck with it loyally until his health began to fail some 41 years later.

At one point, Ken was elected **Chairman** of the Choir and as such supported the young **Thom Meredith** through the glory years of his early successes with the Choir in concert and competition. Here we see Ken with Thom and the many cups and first prizes we won at Blackpool in 2001.

Ken, it seems, has written a biography, which would be most interesting to see.

VotV has one of his important Choir memories recorded in his own words in 2014:

“On Good Friday 1984, a Choir of 45, some with their wives, flew from Heathrow to San Francisco for a fortnight’s concert tour, staying overnight with families from churches.

Having had a tour of San Francisco and daily concerts en-route, we had journeyed a hundred miles south to our Day 4 destination in Martinez. From a mid-morning civic reception we were allocated to our overnight host.

With a fellow second tenor I was introduced to Shaaron - a single parent with a teenage son. Her employment was as secretary to the town judge. Needing to make preparations for lunch, Shaaron suggested that we might like to visit the nearby Viano Winery. With little ado we were invited to sample the rows of wines, from light whites to dark reds, which we did with great pleasure. The half-mile walk back took us to join Shaaron and neighbour, Dot, at a table sagging under the weight of a large turkey.

Sharing our winery purchases as we went along, we were abruptly disturbed at 1.16pm, when the world started to do odd things.

*My first thought was that the wine must have caught up with me, so I was relieved when Shaaron said, “**Gee, Dot, we’re having a quake.**” We were led to stand under door frameworks, one of a house’s strongest quake-resistant points.*

As swinging lampshades settled down and cups stopped rattling, television and radio announced that the quake was centred 30 miles away on the San Andreas Fault; it had lasted for ten seconds and, at 6.2 on the Richter scale, was the strongest for over 60 years.”

That same evening the local Martinez newspaper’s review of the previous evening’s concert was headed “English Choir’s Sonorous Tone Moved the Earth”.



1989 San Francisco Earthquake



1984 Morgan Hill Earthquake



Lodovico Grossi da Viadana

Why is this pre-baroque composer important to Colne Valley Male Voice Choir?

Well ... Lodovico Viadana - he took his surname from the Italian town of his birth - lived from about 1560 to 1627 and during his long life in the Catholic Church as chorister, organist and choir-master, wrote one piece that, in its modern notation, is key to the Choir's current repertoire.

It's called '**O sanctum Convivium**'.

It's not known when exactly 'Sanctum' was written. Viadana's career began in 1558 when he entered the order of the 'Minor Observants' in his home town.

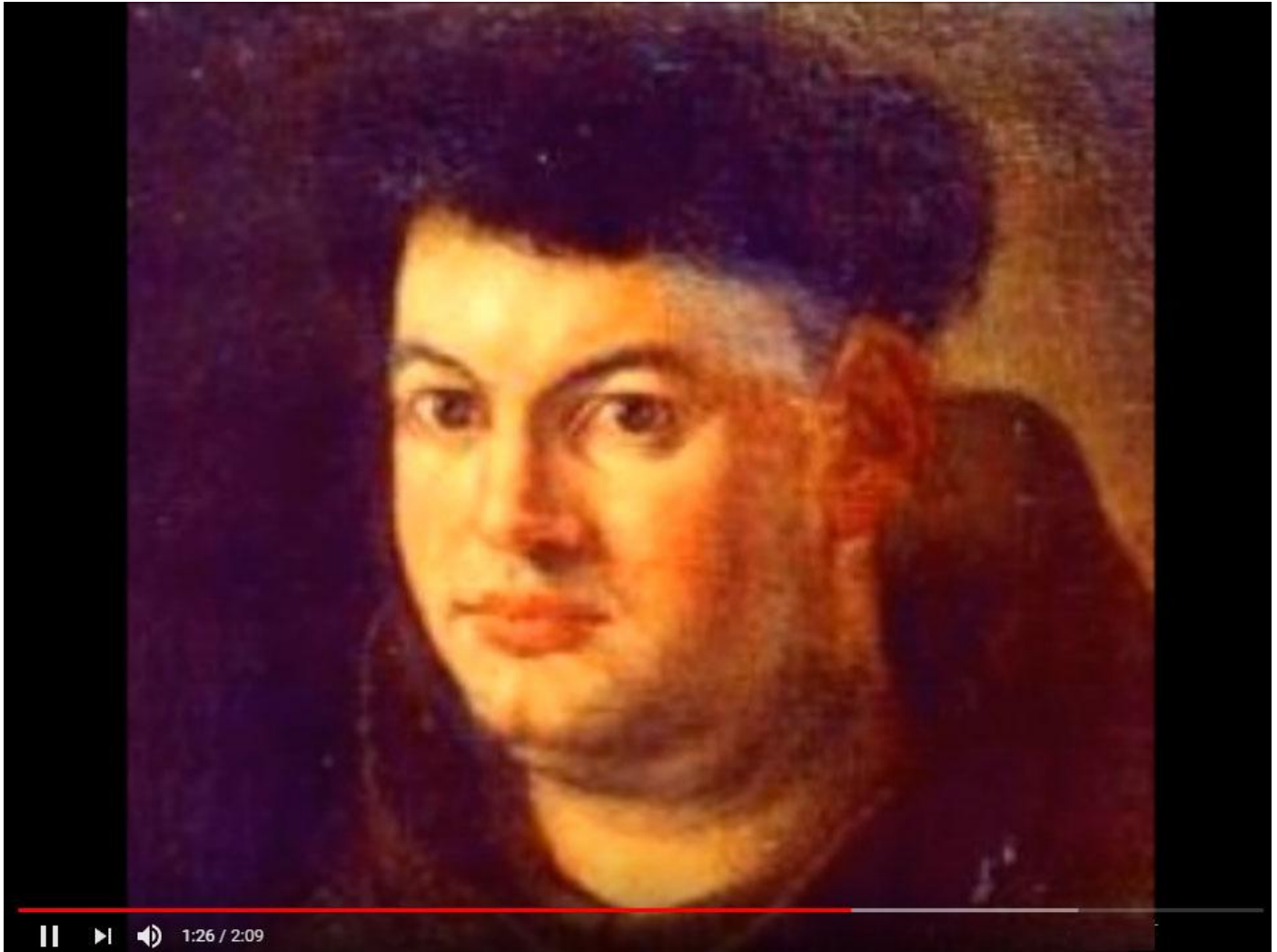


His work took him to Cremona, Venice, Rome, Padua and Mantua and, finally, to Gualtieri, near Parma, where his busy life ended.

The piece is sung unaccompanied. Four parts weave in and out creating satisfying harmonies. Self-evidently, the text is entirely Christian in character but singers don't need any sense of religion to revel in the delicious interchange of themes, nor in the dissonances and resolutions of chords as the work progresses.

Of course, it is a challenge to keep tuning and unity of tone. The Choir is keen to rise to the challenge and sufficiently confident that we can meet it that we have chosen this piece to be a part of our competition programme in the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival in May.

Hear the piece performed in 1999 by Corala Barbateasca Ortodoxa '**TE DEUM LAUDAMUS**', directed by **Dan Mihai GOIA**. It's well worth a listen.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOruBTmeSY8>

Interesting things to
do with a dead sheep.
N°1:- Play a tarantella



Youtube link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob6vUFDO2o0&feature=youtu.be>

Seven ages of man?

"All the world's a stage" begins that famous monologue from Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, 'As You Like It' spoken by the melancholy Jaques. Your Editor, sadly, feels he's rushing towards 'melancholy Jaques' final glum prediction. Anybody want a job?



"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything."

Space: the final frontier.



These are the concerts of the

Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra

Its continuing mission: to explore (occasionally strange) new composers, to seek out new music and new audiences.

To boldly go where no orchestra has gone before!

Family-friendly fun at the Town Hall

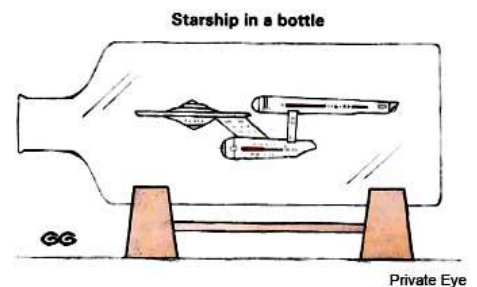
Features **Thom Meredith** as compère

... not to mention, second tenor, **Eric**

Cooper, on double-bass, **Kate**, **John Morrison's** grand-daughter on cello and Vice Chairman and second tenor, **Joe Stones'**, **Judith**, on French horn

Why, it's almost as Colne Valley event!

That's Sunday February 10th at 2:30 pm
- beam yourself up!



Voice of the Valley says: “农历新年快乐”



And another thing ...

Here's a date for your diary. The Colne Valley men join the Colne Valley boys for a happy afternoon of music and singing in our home village.

What could be better?



And one more thing....

Evocative train picture from bygone days



*Stockport Edgely's 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No 45596 'Bahamas' waits in Blackburn for the plough to clear heavy snow before its journey north can continue. Peter Fitton's photo from the Oldham / Welch collection was furnished by steam enthusiast and baritone, **Barry Slater**.*



.....and the mystery man?

Second tenor, Trevor Bowers

See, he's hardly changed at all.



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