



Choir revels in Cornwall tour

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir enjoyed a great trip to Cornwall earlier this month.

We travelled to a fine hotel on the coast to take part in the recent 'Cornwall International Male Choral Festival' - a series of concerts, competitions, seaside and holiday fun across the county and for the Colne Valley choirmen, wives and friends, a great opportunity to bond more closely over great music and convivial company.

Two coaches left Huddersfield early on Thursday morning; plus other members in cars or planes and all converged on Newquay's **Pentire Hotel** in time to enjoy the rolling breakers crashing on Fistral Beach in late afternoon sunshine.



First Concert



Friday saw our first performance at Saint Michael's Church, about half an hour of fine singing, one of 5 choirs on display - **and we were very good!**

It was at this gig that we heard a Finnish choir, **Muntra Musikanter** (the merry music-makers) from **Helsinki**. They were fabulous.

They were to be our opposition on Saturday's competition and many of us felt that, while we had a chance, ceding first place to their sublime precision would not be a bad thing. It was just as clear that when they heard us, they knew they couldn't take the title for granted.

It was a great night!



Muntra Musikanter



Have a listen to their best competition piece, one that - as it turned out on contest day - won them the prize as best large choir in 2019 - well done to them!

<https://youtu.be/PDkiAlpBGh0>

It's a version of the U2 Song, MLK - an anthem noting the death of Martin Luther King. The Muntra Musikanter lift it to new heights of beauty; their acapella performance hugely enhanced by flawless solo contributions.

(The video is a bit dodgy. VotV has done what it can with the glitches in the original festival feed. It's well worth a listen: the quality of this fine choir comes through.)

Competition Day

Saturday saw the Choir travel to Truro for the contests in Truro's fine cathedral.



Here we see Choir members gathering in anticipation in the cathedral grounds prior to going before the judges and spectators.

We sang our three pieces very well: the narrative poem, first, '**Lord Lovelace**', followed by the unaccompanied and hauntingly beautiful medieval Italian piece, '**O sanctum Convivium**'. Then came our dramatic new version of favourite hymn, '**How Great Thou Art**'. This was powerful singing with a fabulous piano accompaniment from maestro, **Keith Swallow**.



We finished our set to enthusiastic applause – and better still – with a sense of satisfaction, that we had given of our best.



You can tell we sang terrifically from the video. (Once again the technical quality isn't the best but don't worry about the flaws. Just enjoy the flavour of fine singing by the Choir.)

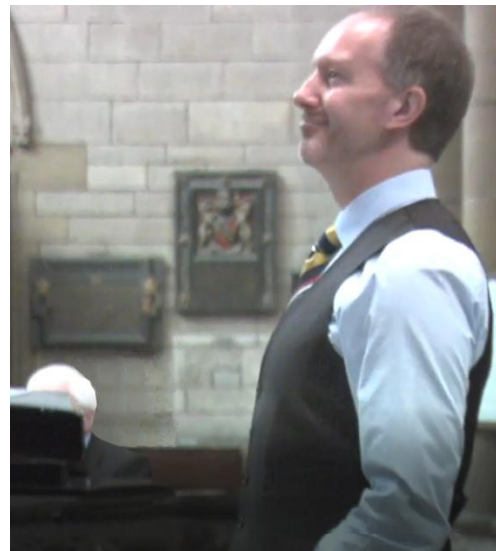
<https://youtu.be/OZU9F1CM2nA>

So, this year, we weren't victorious - no matter. **Thom** was content we'd done ourselves proud and most of our singers and audience agreed.

In the end just 3 points separated us from the glory we've had in every previous appearance in Cornwall.

It must be hard for the adjudicators!

That evening saw us performing again at the **Grand Gala Concert** in Truro. We had been picked to perform with the cream of the Festival, performing on a bill with choirs of international calibre - and we didn't look out of place - far from it!



Eden Project



The following morning, we made our way to the Eden Centre, where we gave a fine concert in the **Mediterranean Dome** - quite different material - quite different in character – and hugely enjoyed not only by the audience in the dome but also by the hundreds in the gardens beyond as the sound resonated across the whole huge hollow.

Our last number - accompanied by drums and shakers - '**Let the River Run**' was the 14th piece of music performed - all from memory - this trip.



Fun and Frolics



That evening everyone gathered in the hotel's function room for a social. Funny man, **Raymond Ellis** hosted the event, supported by singer and Karaoke provider, **James Cooke**.

It was a terrific evening of light-hearted fun and entertainment. Many Choir members - not to mention the wives and friends - sang their party pieces. And, quite apart from Raymond's anecdotes, several members gave us stories and monologues.

Michael Parkinson told an outrageous 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' story but perhaps the monologue star was **Trevor Bowers** with his risqué tale of social friction in a community of snakes. "I knew 'er, when she didn't have a pit to hiss in."



Big thanks to Raymond and James. And by universal acclamation a huge thankyou to secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, who led the team effort that produced a flawlessly smooth tour for everyone involved. Well done, Jenny!

Queen to join Choir's summer season



Back to Yorkshire and new pieces for the upcoming summer season of concerts.

This year's new material includes new arrangements of Queen's big hits, including, 'Crazy little Thing called Love' and 'Somebody to Love'.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zO6D_BAuYCI

Choir members will want to check out the Queen originals to fix the rhythms in the brain.

Audiences will want to remind themselves of the treats they have in store.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kijpcUv-b8M>

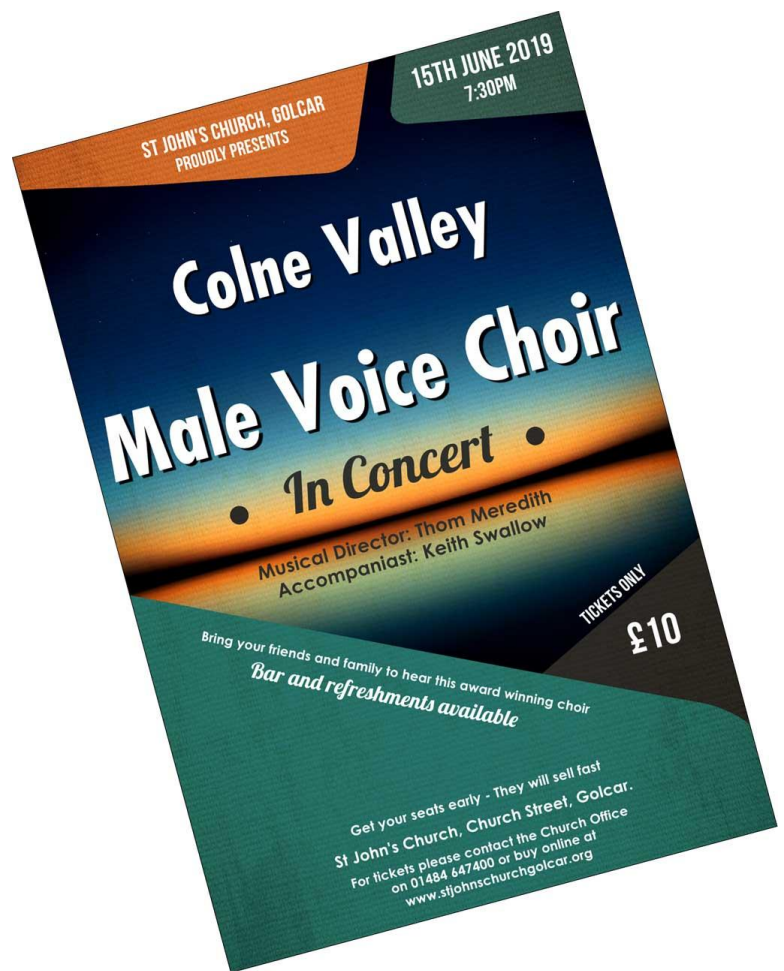


Golcar Concert

Our first performance of these new pieces will be at the 'Colne Valley in Concert' gig on **Saturday evening, 15th June**, at **Golcar**. Then there the annual 'Lions' Charity Concert the following Monday June 17th at Slaithwaite **St James' Church**.

Tickets online at

<http://www.stjohnschurchgolcar.org.uk>



Who is the Mystery Man?

This cool guy – not 'Sting' nor Tommy Steele is one of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.



Can you recognise him?

The man in question tells me this picture was taken in 1956.

He also adds that his aspirations to be a 'pop star' were only partly realised.

He has enjoyed an outlet for his musical talents, however via the Choir, which he has been part of – hint – hint – for getting on for thirty years

Answer – scroll down

Health-giving walk

Some old men and a dog gathered outside CVMVC's rehearsal rooms in Slaithwaite the other day and went for a walk in the Valley.

Readers will recognise your Editor, **John Clark** and bass, **Brian Fairclough**.

(The dog is Lily.)



The party had a super nine mile walk up towards Deer Hill, then down through Marsden.

Up, again, above Tunnel End to a fine lunch at Cop Hill Rose & Crown.

Then a gentle amble back down the hill, through Rocher's bluebell woods back to Slaithwaite.

Choir members may recall being invited to join in and maybe bring a pal. Several members expressed an interest but couldn't make the date. **Here's the question.**

If we set up another such walk, would you like to join in? Please email me via this link. Let me know your thoughts.

cvmvc_newsletter@yahoo.co.uk



The Mystery Man is **Ralph Munt**



Well, it made me smile....

Date
for
the
diary



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