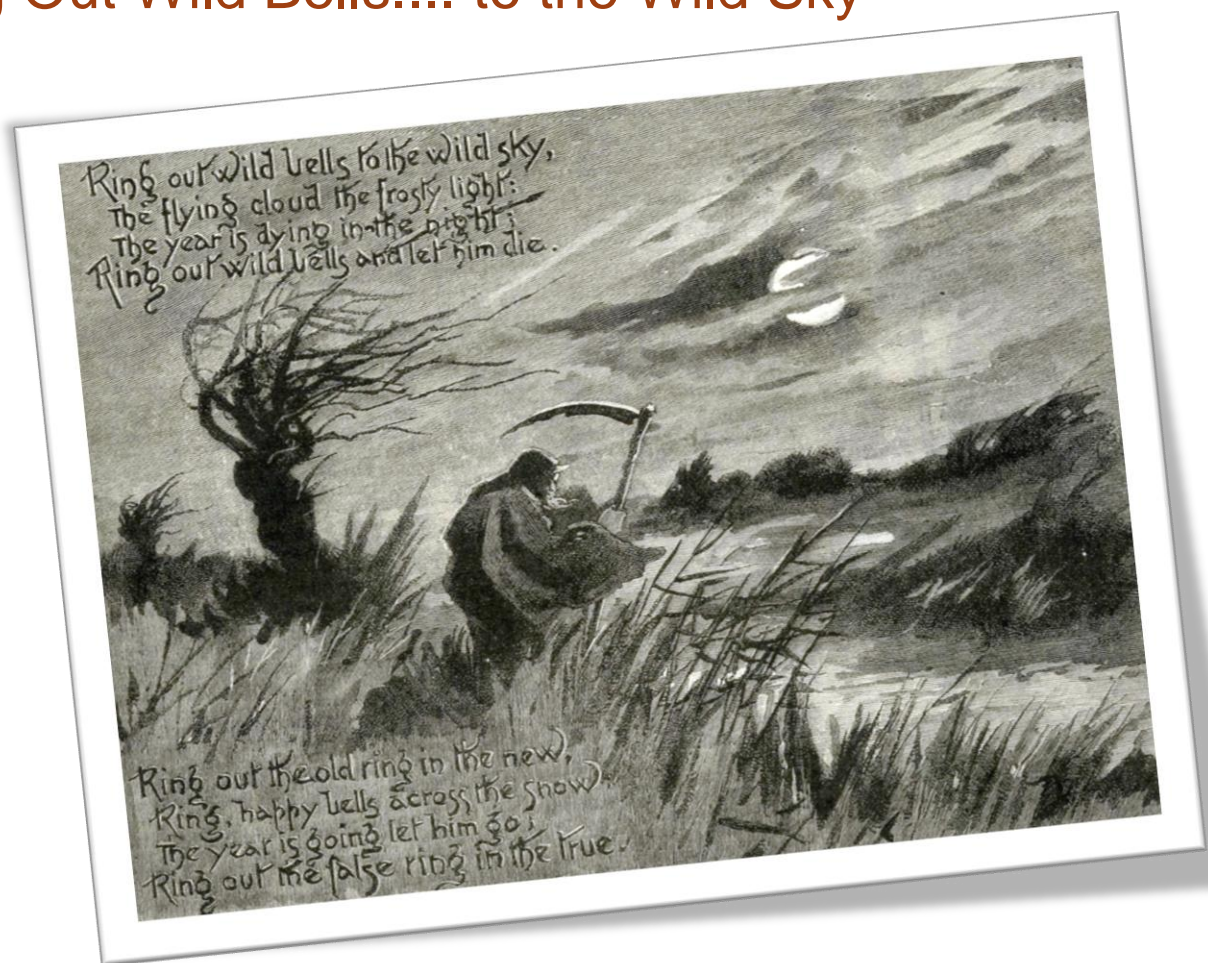




Ring Out Wild Bells.... to the Wild Sky



'Ring out wild bells to the wild sky', wrote **Alfred Lord Tennyson** in his poem of 1850. It's an energising call for renewal - a fresh start - for individuals and for all humanity.

In 1914 composer, **Percy Fletcher**, with great skill, set it to music and in the version for male voices it has been a stirring part of our Choir's repertoire for years. It was also quoted more recently in **Karl Jenkins**, 'Better is Peace' from his '**Armed Man**'.

We'll be bringing the poem out again at this year's Christmas concerts. It's a rousing composition and a fine and uplifting call to human progress.

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

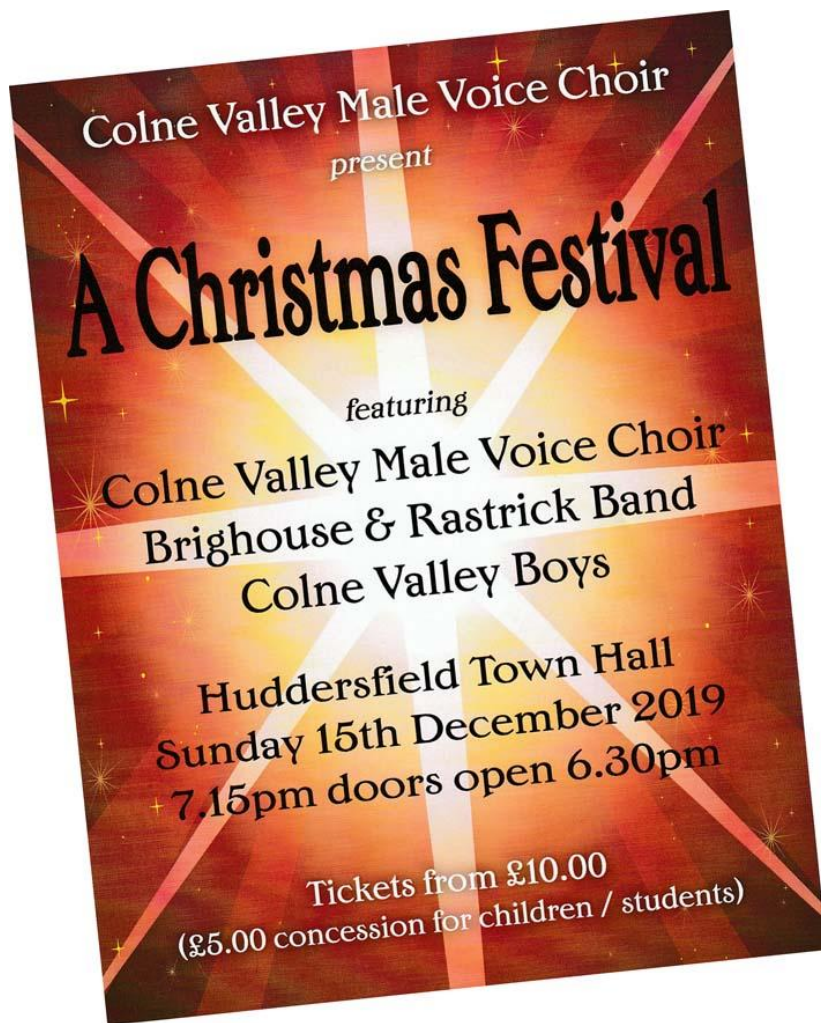
*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*





Christmas concerts

And talking of Christmas concerts, The Choir will once again be performing at Huddersfield Town Hall with Colne Valley Boys and the wonderful Brighouse & Rastrick Band.

You'll have to pull strings to have any chance of getting a Balcony ticket now but VotV knows there are still good seats available for the December 15th show in the Area and - at bargain prices - in the Gallery.

Tickets from Kirklees now - you can get them online at the link below or phone Kirklees on 225755.

<https://tickets.kirklees.gov.uk/en-GB/shows/colne%20valley%20mvc%20christmas%20concert%202019/events>

Colne Valley Boys & Guests Christmas Show

The terrific Colne Valley Boys & Guests will be getting us into the Christmas spirit on December 8th at the parish Church in Slaithwaite.

The Boys concerts are great - and getting better with each passing year.

Thom & Chris and their many helpers will put on a good show.



Be there!

Back in Marsden

The **Marsden Silver Prize Band** - seen here at the Whit Week Band Competitions in Diggle earlier this year - will be putting on their terrific **Christmas Concert** in Marsden's Parish Church on December 21st.

Once again **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** will be their guests and this year there'll be a solo spot from renowned baritone, **Thom Meredith**.

A festive poster for a Christmas concert. It features a large white bow at the top against a red background with a subtle floral pattern. The text is arranged in a circular fashion within a white dotted border. The event is presented by Marsden Parish Church and features the Marsden Silver Prize Band and the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir. It includes details about the soloist, accompanist, and compere, as well as the date, time, and ticket information.

MARSDEN PARISH CHURCH
presents a
Christmas Concert
featuring
MARSDEN SILVER PRIZE BAND
Musical Director: Andrew Lofthouse
COLNE VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR
Musical Director: Thom Meredith Accompanist: Keith Swallow
Soloist: **THOM MEREDITH** (Baritone)
Compere: **PETER ARMITAGE, M.B.E.**
St. Bartholomew's Church
Sat. 21st Dec. 2019 - 7.30pm
Wine & Soft Drinks served throughout the concert

Tickets £10.00 (including tea or coffee at the interval) - **Children £5.00**
Available from the Band, Choir, Church or
Enjoy Art, 12 Peel Street, Marsden (Thurs.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4pm - cash only)

Pitmen's chorus

Grimethorpe-born **Gary Clarke** is the driving force behind a dance theatre piece that picks up on some of the ongoing cultural reverberations that follow on from the Miners Strike and the subsequent pit closure programmes: events that led Grimethorpe to become one of the most deprived areas not only in South Yorkshire but in the country.

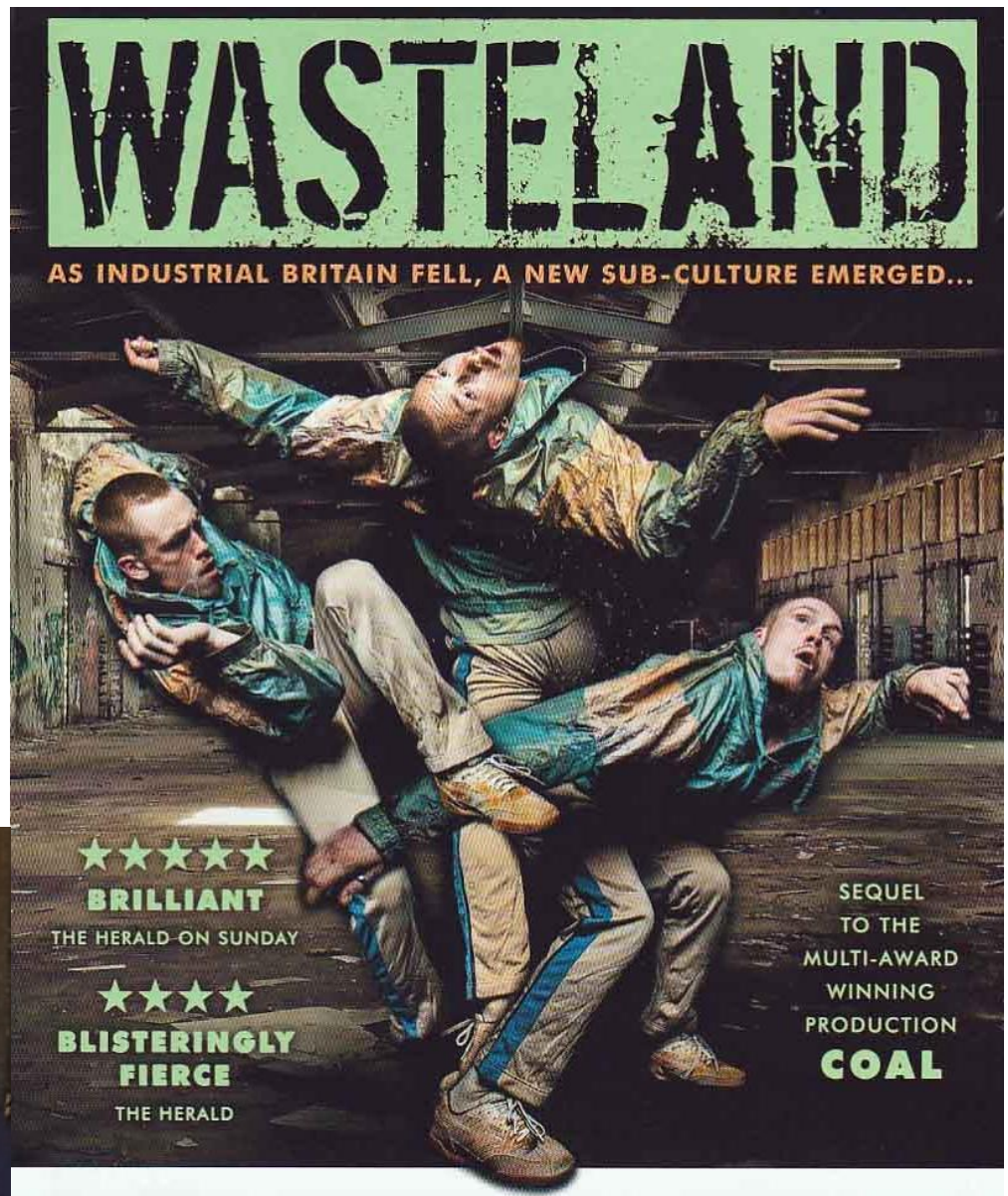
When the plan to bring the production to Huddersfield's **Lawrence Batley Theatre** was announced the call went out for likely-looking men to become a '**Pitmen's Chorus** ', singing the story of the pre-millennium generation that gave rise to the angry young Northerners of current times.

Recently- joined Colne Valley Male Voice Choir member, **Neil Frankland**, rose to the challenge and he was onstage on November 12th and 13th in **Wasteland**, described as a '**blisteringly fierce**' sequel to the award-winning dance theatre piece, '**Coal**'.

Neil told VotV, it was a great experience.

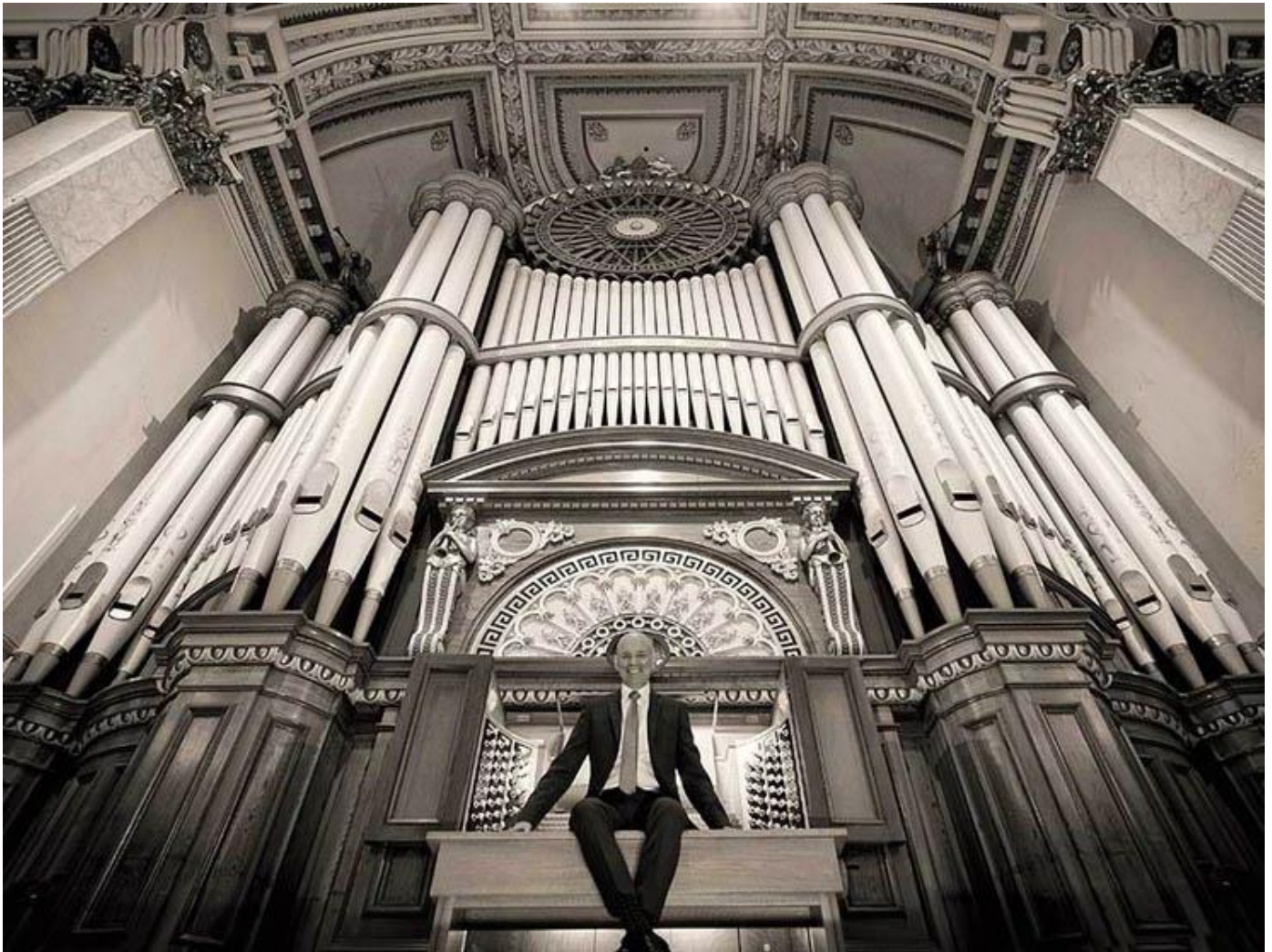
"It was good fun preparing for the performances and challenging too. I hadn't expected we would be choreographed and that I'd be dancing as well as singing but I loved every minute of it".

Sadly, the Lawrence Batley performances were the last of the tour, so you won't get to see our second tenor onstage.



Well done, Neil.

Gordon Stewart celebrates Andrew Carter's 80th birthday



It's been the best way to spend a Monday lunchtime for many a year, now and Monday, December 2nd will be a bit special for those who can get down to the Town Hall for the 1.00pm start.

Gordon Stewart's lunchtime recital will be a celebration of composer and organist, Andrew Carter.

Andrew has lived and worked in Yorkshire since attending Leeds University. A composer, choral director, singer, teacher and bell-ringer, Andrew has contributed greatly to the musical life of the county, and his choral works have been performed all over the world.



In this celebration concert Gordon is joined by trumpeter **Tom Osborne** and Andrew's daughter, the Mezzo soprano, **Elinor**.

Andrew is seen here with Tom Meredith, who conducted the Harrogate Festival Chorus and Orchestra in one Andrew's works, '**Musick's Jubilee**' at Ampleforth Abbey in 2014. The composer, himself, is expected to be present for the celebration.



Sainsbury's Perfect Christmas

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir recorded the soundtrack for Sainsbury's 'Perfect Christmas' Advert in 2010 and appeared briefly on TV every night, singing away.

The filming at Halton Gill in the Yorkshire Dales took about 14 hours til 2.00 o'clock in the morning.

Remind yourself of that, now distant adventure by clicking on this link:-



<https://youtu.be/KvbmEqYsDBg>



Reminder

Secretary, Jenny, reminds Choir members that they need to check their dinner jackets are as sharp as this chap's - or come think of it - as sharp as Neil's or Brian's at Halton Gill for the filming in 2008.

'Don't dig out your tuxedo in the middle of December and discover it needs cleaning - or God forbid - that it no longer covers your possibly more-rounded middle.

Have a look now and if anything needs to be done, do it in good time.

And another thing....

*Omnes clericali,
Pariter pueri,
Content ut angeli:
'Advenisti mundo'*

... as the Latin words to '**Personent Hodie**' have it.

I include this one 'little angel' for no better reason than a grandfatherly pride in our daughter, Harriet's, first born.

Truly baby Cleo has brought some cause for rejoicing.



And one more thing...



Those of us who live in the beautiful Colne Valley are doubly blessed - particularly if you have a dog to incentivise you to get out and about around Slaithwaite.

This autumn scene was made even more dramatic by the torrents down Kitchen Clough.



Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

Ring Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 01484 645192
to join us or join our Readers' List or for other queries

And see our website to get the full story

colnevalleymvc.org.uk

