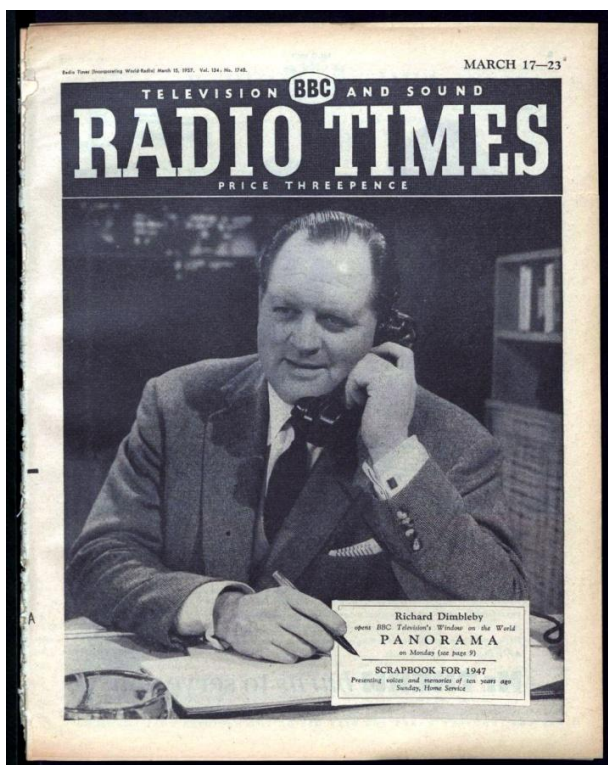




‘Concert Tribute to Keith’: the big event for March



For threepence, in 1957 (less than 2p) you could have bought your copy of the **Radio Times** and learned a bit more about the rising star of television journalism, **Richard Dimbleby** (and father to David and Jonathan of more recent repute.)

He presented the programme from its earliest days on our bulky black & white TV sets.



March 1957 now seems pretty ancient history - and so it is - but it was a significant month for Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

For that was when the choir had a test-run for a young chap with a growing reputation for playing the piano. They tried him out at a concert in the now defunct, Zion Chapel, in Slaithwaite's Olney Street, on March 13th, just to check he was OK and sound enough to go on tour with the Choir a couple of weeks later.



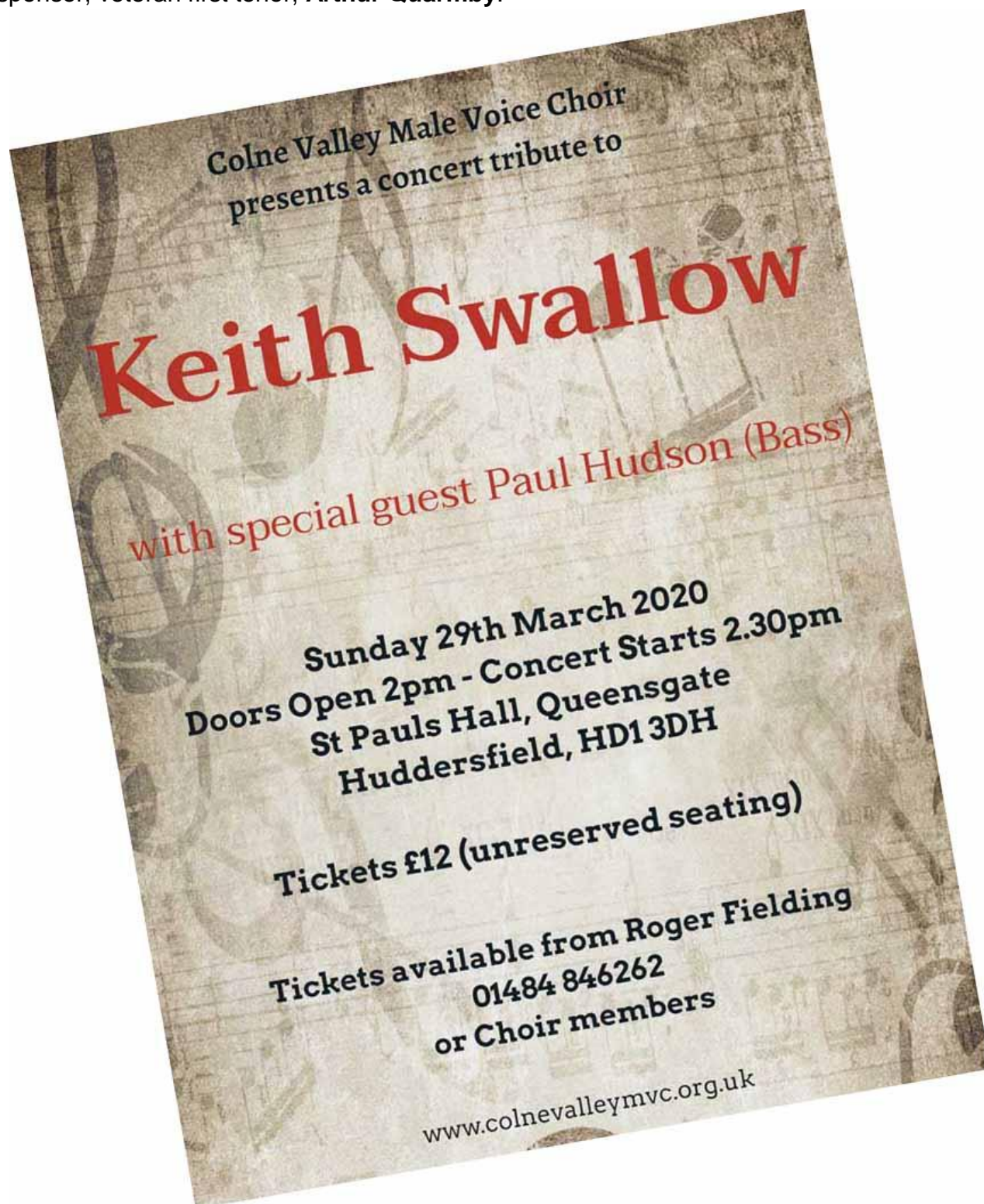
Well he was OK. He went with the Choir to Germany and impressed so much they took him on as the Choir's accompanist. The young man was **Keith Swallow**. That was 63 years ago. He's still going strong though he's just stepped down as our **main** accompanist.

The Choir can't let this remarkable achievement go unacknowledged, so we are holding a **Concert Tribute to Keith** on March 29th 2020.

It will happen at Huddersfield University's **Saint Paul's Hall** and starts at 2:30pm.

The Choir will be singing with new man, **Chris Pulleyn**, at the keyboard and Thom conducting. Raconteur, **Raymond Ellis** will be compère. Keith will be playing, too, both solo and in duet with old-friend of the Choir, **Dr. Simon Lindley**. He'll also be accompanying our special guest, operatic bass, **Paul Hudson**.

There is only room for about 400 people so get your tickets quick from **Roger Fielding** (01484 846262) or via any Choir member. At £12.00 each, they are very reasonable and VotV can announce that each ticket holder will get - completely free of charge - a high quality souvenir programme to remind you of a very special afternoon. That's courtesy of our generous concert sponsor, veteran first tenor, **Arthur Quarmby**.



Counting Stars



"Lately I been, I been losing sleep
Dreaming 'bout the things that we could be
Baby I been, I been prayin' hard
Said no more counting dollars
We'll be, we'll be counting stars"

"**Counting Stars**" is a song by American pop rock band **OneRepublic** from their third studio album, '*Native*'. The band, from Colorado Springs released the song in June 2013.

The song was written by lead singer **Ryan Tedder** and has been the band's most successful single, reaching number one in many countries including the United Kingdom, number two in the United States, and top ten in 20 countries. It has sold over 1 million copies in the United Kingdom.



The song's accompanying music video, directed by James Lees, features the band performing in the ground floor of a decrepit building beneath a revivalist church service going on upstairs.

Astonishingly, at January 2020, the video has had over 2.9 billion views on YouTube and is the 11th most watched video of all time on the site.

Filmed in New Orleans, Louisiana, it features the band performing their song in the gloomy ground floor of a decrepit building, surrounded by hanging light bulbs. The band shots are interspersed with scenes of several people in a religious revival service on the upper floor, dancing along with the song. At the end of the video, the ceiling falls in, causing one of the congregation to fall through the floor into the room where the band is performing.

For reasons that I am at a loss to explain, the video also mysteriously shows an alligator creeping round the ground floor.

It's a catchy piece, though, and it's been in '**Colne Valley Boys**' repertoire for some time. That's why we in the men's Choir have started learning it. The plan is to do it as a joint item with the boys when we perform together at their concert in May 2020.

VotV will provide more details later. Currently we have no plans to include any alligators. But that might change. Meanwhile, get the flavour by watching the video. Click here.

https://youtu.be/hT_nvWrelhg?list=RDhT_nvWrelhg



Choir in friendly competition again

The Choir will be at the Town Hall on Saturday February 22nd.

We'll be doing our best in two classes to add another prize to our trophy cabinet.

We didn't win a first prize until 1929 but our tally now stands at 50 first prizes.

Can we add to this? We'll see!

We'll be singing:-

Male Voice Choir Class:

'And can it be?
& 'Let the River Run'

Choir Programme Class:

'Lord Lovelace',
'O Sacrum Convivium'
&
'Crazy Little Thing called Love'

Wish us luck!



Arthur: front and centre

Arthur Quarmby has decided he can no longer continue as a singing member of the Choir. He arrived in 1964 and for well over half a century he's been front and centre in the Choir's many great events and competitions. For many years he was the leader of the first tenors and - often as a soloist - was a major contributor to our myriad of successful and memorable performances.

He writes:-

Dear VotV,

I remember my first CV rehearsal - not only the choir but also the superb conductor George E. Stead and the brilliant young pianist Keith Swallow.

I passed my entry test into the First Tenors and after that I remember the succession of brilliant wins at music competitions at Blackpool, Llangollen and Cornwall and more recently at the 2012 Mrs Sunderland competition where the choir won every class - which included my small solo contribution in Ride the Chariot.

Best wishes to the choir for the future

Arthur

Arthur's always there front and centre. We wish him well and hope to see him at Choir events for many a year yet!

VotV has sought out a sample of photographs, picking out some of the key events:

Arthur,
bearded and
in the front
row rehearses
under the
guidance of
legendary
conductor,
George Stead

1967





In 1972 front and centre - as again in 1983 with John Gulley in his second spell as conductor.



Golden haired, front and centre, when the Choir records the TV programme, 'Stars on Sunday'.

In 1998 Arthur shares the solo roles with **Raymond Ellis** in the Choir's performance of 'Rejoice in the Lord Always' at the **Llangollen Eisteddfod**.

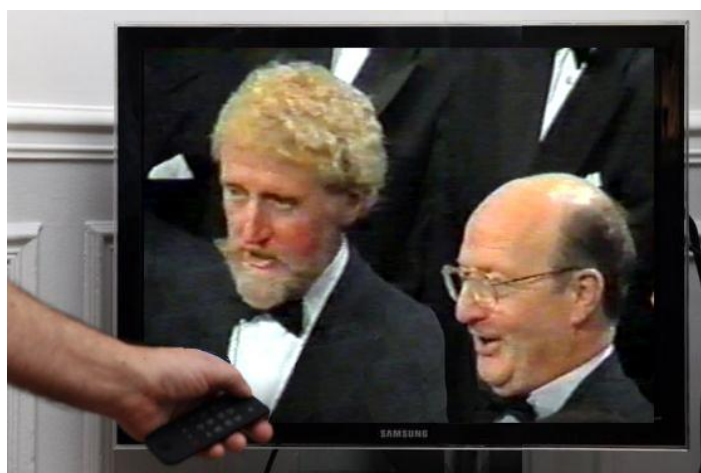
So good was the Choir's performance that we won first prize - our fifth. The next year, with Arthur there again, we won once more - 6 victories - a record no other choir is ever likely to beat.



You can see Arthur, Raymond, Keith, Thom and the Choir at Llangollen on this video. Click here on the TV to view.

<https://youtu.be/HYOjABxfr-U>

'Rejoice' with Arthur and Raymond



This century we have opted to compete more frequently in the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival.

King Arthur, centre but now in the fourth row, contributed to a run of successes which again will take some beating.





In 2012, Arthur's solo in 'Ride the Chariot' helped the Choir achieve a clean sweep of victories in the Mrs Sunderland Competition.

We have a recording of Arthur riding the Chariot which is set to some interesting old railway footage.

Click here to enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKyyj5kgyPU>



Well done, Arthur



Keeping track of us all

John Garner, bass stalwart, has been keeping the records for some years now. He knows how many members we have, how many singers are onstage at any concert and who misses rehearsals. It is an important task, monitoring our attendance, giving the Choir essential planning information.

He recently sent me a collation of statistics showing which members have attended most concerts since he started keeping the record.

It's interesting reading. Apparently John Garner himself came top of the list, having sung in every one of the last 96 events.

Obviously, it's a fiddle. The man keeping the records, coming out top of the list. So he must be discounted.

So who has attended most gigs? Well, modesty forbids from answering!

Attendance Record for CVMVC Concerts and Events												
Top Ten												
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total	% possible
Events possible		15	9	13	12	12	9	11	11	4	96	100.0
1	John Garner	15	9	13	12	12	9	11	11	4	96	100%
2	John Clark	15	8	13	12	12	9	11	11	4	95	99%
3	John Smith	15	8	12	12	12	9	11	11	4	94	98%
4	Ken Farr	13	9	13	12	12	9	11	10	4	93	97%
5	Brian Hibbert	15	9	12	11	11	9	11	10	4	92	96%
6	Ivan Smith	15	9	13	11	10	9	10	11	4	92	96%
7	Roger Fielding	15	9	12	11	11	9	11	10	4	92	96%
8	Leslie Stones	13	8	13	11	12	9	10	10	4	90	93.8
9	Stuart Baxter	13	9	12	11	10	8	11	11	4	89	92.7
10	Ken Parkin	14	9	12	10	10	9	11	10	4	89	92.7

Well, it made me smile.



Events update

2019 seemed a year unusually light on engagements - not so 2020. Readers will be delighted to hear that the 2020 diary is full of bookings, giving us an average of one event per month - just where we are most years and where we want to be. VotV says, 'Keep looking at the website for the details. But to help your planning here's an updated list of our bookings for the year ahead.'

CHOIR ENGAGEMENTS DIARY 2020

Saturday 22 February

Mrs. Sunderland Music Festival and competitions

Sunday 29 March

Afternoon at St Paul's Hall, Huddersfield: 'A Concert in Tribute to Keith Swallow'

Choir, Maestro Keith Swallow, operatic bass, Paul Hudson & other guests - 2.30pm

Sunday 17 May

Afternoon concert with Colne Valley Boys in Slaithwaite Church

Monday June 15

'Colne Valley Lions' charity concert – annual evening event in Slaithwaite

Saturday 27 June

Concert in Halifax Minster - evening

Saturday 4 July

Concert on the Hill - Music and Fireworks again at Salendine Nook

We're with Lindley Band, Lindley Junior School Choir and Honley MVC.

Saturday 12 July

Evening concert at '**Theatre by the Lake**', Keswick



Choir at Theatre by the Lake in 2008

Saturday 22 August

Concert at Scarborough Music Festival in Queen Street Methodist Hall

Saturday 19 September

Joint Concert with Marsh Ladies Choir at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 11 October

Private Remembrance event at St Paul's Hall with HRI Intensive Care staff, patients & families

Sunday 13 December

Christmas concert at Huddersfield Town Hall with guests B&R Band

Saturday 19 December

Christmas concert: guests of Marsden Silver Band at Marsden Church



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

