



Choir's core activity appreciated

'Thanks to you, Jenny and the committee members

At a time when lots of the usual things are missing from our lives it is heart-warming when people are working to maintain interest and involvement in our core activity - singing!

Bless you all'.

Michael



Chickens observing 'Social Distancing' at Marsden's Tunnel End

Photo Jane Whitham

Drama on Chain



Your editor, in his usual confused and myopic state, was surprised last evening to see the road, outside his house, shut down and sealed off. There were fire engines and emergency vehicles aplenty. His first thought was that one of our stir-crazy neighbours, in an over-exuberant flurry of culinary experiment, had set fire to their kitchen.



But the number of Fire Service trucks made him think again.

And then he looked across **Chain Road**, (a mere 1 ½ miles from the CVMVC rehearsal room) and saw the sky filled with smoke.



The moor was ablaze.

The following day (Tuesday 7th) your fearless reporter ventured up the moor, accompanied only by the dog, Lily. (Incidentally, it's an excellent place to do Thom's vocal warm-up exercises. The curlew don't mind and the dog might even join in.)



The Fire Brigade have done a first-class job! While the damage is extensive, it's quite localised and - it seems - superficial. Well done, chaps!

They were still around at Deerhill, damping down and keeping a sharp-look-out for any embers re-igniting. It's pretty dry around there. We seem to have gone straight from floods to drought.

But it's also pretty beautiful up there!

Once again, your editor felt truly lucky that he has about 100,000 acres of moorland to 'isolate' in, more or less just outside his front door. He really feels for everybody 'locked down' in small flats in big cities and hopes they don't close the parks.





Life in lockdown

Ken Parkin, first tenor and Choir publicity officer, tells VotV what he gets up to now that he can't come to Slaithwaite to sing.

"Getting plenty of exercise including country walks and a weekly cycle ride. Due to the hilly terrain around Holmfirth we tend to use our Ebikes for local trips. (could be due to our age as well.)"



Ken exercising in the attic

*This is our craft/music room which is the top floor of our three-storey weavers cottage. We have now set it up as a gym where **Maggie** does yoga exercises (which I find impossible) and I do Pilates. The main beam in this king post arrangement is about 1 metre above the floor and is ideal for limbo dancing.*

This was the only exercise I could do on the gym ball without falling off before Maggie had time to take the photo.

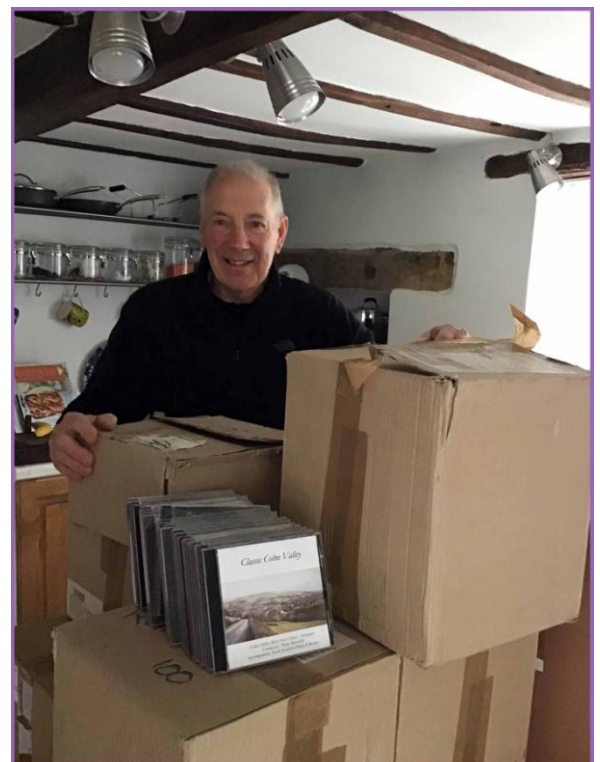
*Just as I was getting bored, I received an email from **Simon Durrans** (Choir treasurer and baritone) wanting an audit of the thousands of CD's we still have. So that certainly occupied a few hours.*



And then Maggie said 'If you're bored you could make a batch of scones.' They look a bit rustic but taste okay.

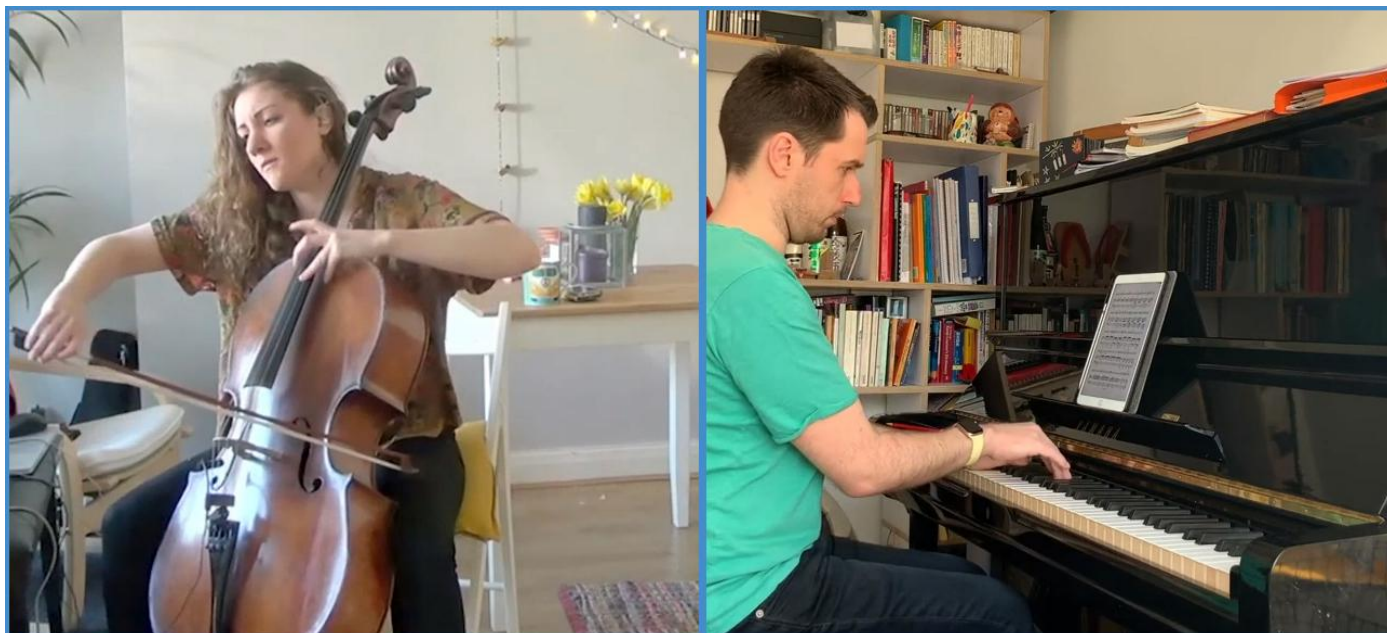
And now I've just had a delivery of sand and cement so I've no excuses, it's time to reflag the patio.

Happy days."



Chris Pulleyn and pal, Polly Virr, get to work

Mendelssohn - Song without words



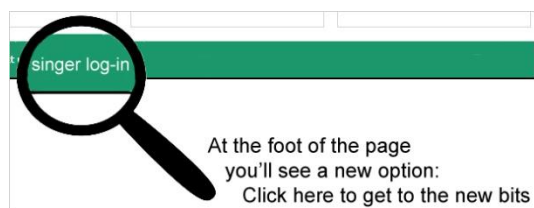
A remote collaboration between Polly Virr (cellist) & Chris Pulleyn (CVMVC accompanist, except during the Coronavirus pandemic shutdown): together making the best of a national quarantine.

<https://youtu.be/7X3vYtRDJ3Y>

Curious as to how it was done, VotV asked Chris, 'How did you create this video?'

'Aha yes! It has got a few people puzzled. I'd been in touch with Polly - a super lovely person and most brilliant cellist I know from the Education team at Opera North - to ask if she wanted to try something. She thought it was worth a go, so I recorded my part first on my phone (using a separate audio recorder for the sound). I sent my piano recording to Polly, who added her part with a similar setup (camera and audio recorder). She was actually playing along to my recording to keep in time with me. Some earphones are hidden amongst her hair! Then I put mine and hers together! I was quite surprised how well it worked!'

Chris



New 'singers-area' unveiled

CVMVC singers are urged keep their voices in shape and join in our own home-based 'lockdown' rehearsals.

Thom, Chris and website wrangler, **James Cooke**, have been busy setting up a new feature on the Choir's website, where singers can access rehearsal videos of pieces we plan to practise when we can meet again IRL(in real life).

Thom and Chris have started on a range of 'vocal coaching' and singing exercises, together with music guides, with parts for each voice - tenor, bass, baritone etc - of pieces we need to get performance-ready or learn from scratch. Choir Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, recently sent Choir members directions on logging in to the 'Singers area' and added there's much more content to come now Thom & Chris have the system set up.

Sadly VotV won't be revealing this information to our other readers - this is **strictly for Choir singers only**. Well done all of you. **Now singers, get singing!**

Opera North also do a home concert



Like Chris and Polly, **Opera North** people have not let their talents go unexpressed.

Their spokesperson says, *'When our concert performances of Strauss' **'Also Sprach Zarathustra'** were cancelled as the coronavirus pandemic intensified, players from the Orchestra of Opera North decided that the show must go on - virtually.*

*Here is the first few minutes (used in **'2001: A Space Odyssey'**) played by musicians from 40 different homes under the UK lockdown, conducted from Sweden by **Tobias Ringborg.**'*

**Watch it, says
VotV**

It's super - obviously quite emotional for the players and that is most powerfully conveyed to us listeners.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt8FhIVmR8M&utm_campaign=1880826_100420OperaNorthAtHome2&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Opera+North&utm_content=Image%3A+2020%3A+An+Isolation+Odyssey

Sad news: George Stead's daughter dies

'John Radcliffe informs me', writes Choir Secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, 'that Muriel Stead died last night. (1/4/20). For newer members and younger readers, Muriel was the daughter of **George Stead**, who conducted CVMVC for 44 years, from 1924. She was always a staunch supporter of the Choir.

There will be a commemoration service in **Meltham Church** later in the year.'

Kind regards'
Jenny

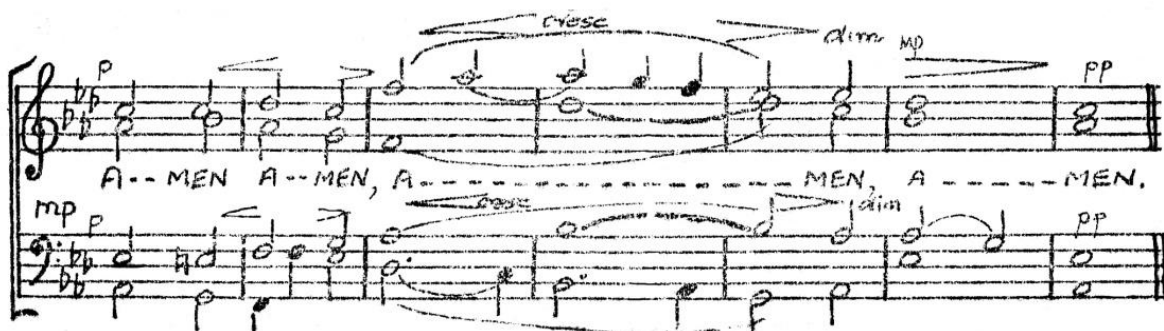
Muriel, daughter of the late **George E. Stead**, is seen here presenting **her father's MBE**, awarded for his services to music, to the then Chairman, **John Garner**, who accepted the medal on behalf of the Choir. It was Muriel's wish that the award become part of the Choir's archive.



The Choir only sing the '**Fourfold Amen**' for departed members and - usually - it reminds us of George Stead. (Relatively few, now, will remember him from personal acquaintance, of course.)

Fourfold Amen

G. E. STEAD



Perhaps next time we sing it, we will remember Muriel, too.

Basil gets in touch



How nice of you, John, to write to me personally. I'm doing very well even in this social isolation. I'm considered one of the 'very vulnerable' and I have to endure these conditions for 12 weeks!

I shall be 94 in two weeks' time and still enjoying reasonable health whilst living alone. Some people seem very surprised when they learn that I still go upstairs in my house.

You are doing a wonderful job and I look forward, as many others, to the monthly report! Good news, old news, and sometimes sad news. I was particularly sad to hear of the passing of **Arthur Quarmby**. Such a stalwart of the Choir.

Modern music seems so different these days. I still remember the days of "**Bless this House**" and "**I am a roamer**"! Second tenor is still the lynch-pin of harmony! So I'm always glad to hear of a new addition to their ranks.

Though I would love to visit another rehearsal I'm totally put off by all those steps. I hope you all resume the familiar routine in the near future and until then - 'keep 'itting those 'eds'. You do a wonderful job well, thanks.

All the very best to you and your readers.

Basil.

Rob Rosborough's challenge

Rob, one time Chairman and baritone sends these teasers and suggest they might help readers pass a little lockdown time and keep their little grey cells active.

He asks, which three hymn titles are illustrated by the three lines of emojis?

Can you work them out?

Hymn Emoji Challenge!

Rob asks, 'Which three well-known hymns are coded in these emojis?'



Trevor checks in

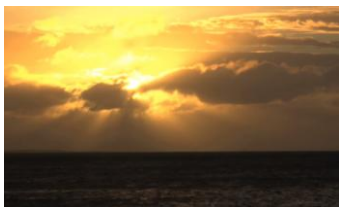
Every morning, says Second tenor, **Trevor Bowers**, I get up bright and early, have breakfast and take two or three turns round **West End Park**, close to where I live in **Cleckheaton**. It's nice there and the exercise does you good.



If I need stuff, I go to the local Tesco. It's open just for older people at certain times. I go about 6 o'clock in the morning - it's very quiet. Most mornings, later on, I put on CDs of CVMVC and sing along. I reckon it'll help keep my voice in shape for when we can get back to rehearsals. I must check out the website again. I hear there's more there now.

Then I spend most of the day time in my garden. I'm lucky I have a lovely garden to work on and enjoy. All said and done, we're doing fine.

Let me tell you about one highlight - just before 'lockdown'. I was asked to sing at a funeral for a departed friend, **Graham Smith** of Stubbin Lane at the 'Mechanics' in Marsden. There were over 200 people there. I was a bit nervous. I sang, '**Be still my Soul**' from **Finlandia** and 'How Great Thou Art'. **Geoffrey Lockwood** accompanied me and it all went very well. I was proud of myself.



Melody St Clair Randazzo sings her version of 'Be still....' with nice rustic images in the background.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84Q7uakHV78>

Here's hoping all Choir members and newsletter readers stay safe and well. **And now, back to the garden.**



David thanks Huddersfield's Intensive Care Unit



To all the I.C.U Staff at H.R.I and all NHS colleagues.

'Good Morning, Caroline,

On behalf of all the officials and members of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, I am sending you this email to express our heartfelt thanks to you and all your colleagues in the I.C.U., and indeed to all the members of the N.H.S throughout the country for all the dedicated and essential work you all daily face and undertake, and even far more so, at this unprecedented and worrying time of the Covid19 pandemic.

We sincerely hope that the planned Remembrance Service at St Paul's Hall on Sunday October 11th will still be able go ahead, and if so, present circumstances will obviously make it even more poignant than the previous Services we have been honoured to share with you.

I convey to all of you the Choir's very good wishes, we all applaud you.

Stay Safe.'

David

David Hirst

Vice President & Music Committee Chairman

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, Yorkshire.

David was referring to the secular memorial service, which the staff of the Intensive Care Unit, hold for the families and friends of those patients who didn't make a recovery but died from whatever condition took them into the ICU. The Choir has several times contributed to this service and our members, too, alongside NHS staff and the bereaved families find it a moving and uplifting remembrance.

It's a moving occasion at St Paul's Hall



David tells VotV that Caroline is a Sister in the ICU and that she is one of the key organisers of the Remembrance Services

Caroline replies:-

'Hi David!

Thank you for your email and I will pass the Choir's thanks onto the rest of the staff.

I am hoping that the service will still go ahead and like you say it will be more poignant this time.

This will especially be the case, where family members have not been able to be with their loved ones at the end, nor indeed been able to attend the funeral. Our service will mean a great deal to them and in meeting the staff that have looked after them!

Stay safe and I hope everyone in the Choir is well.

I'll be in touch soon.'

Caroline



Image for the times we live in

Art historian, **James Fox**, chose this picture as one of his examples of art that can powerfully reflect the times we are all living through. VotV thinks it fits this edition, too.

It's a drawing by **Barbara Hepworth**, better known perhaps as a sculptor.

Yorkshire-born, Hepworth, studied in Leeds and London, moving just before WW2, to **Cornwall**, where she worked and raised her family.



Seemingly she did this drawing - one of a series she made from hospital visits in the late 1940's - inspired by the care she had received when her little daughter, Sarah, was seriously ill.

She was a passionate supporter of the **National Health Service**, which had been recently created. This is reflected, probably, in the altruism she portrays in the doctors and nurses.

Sarah - one of her triplets - is on the right

It's appropriate for today, suggests James, as we see NHS health care staff - likewise, suitably garbed in PPE - caring for our people still.

In 2011, the Hepworth Gallery opened in Hepworth's hometown of Wakefield and our local university has just finished constructing the Barbara Hepworth Building on its Huddersfield site.



Hepworth in 1949

Huddersfield University's new Hepworth Building



An uplifting musical interlude



Recorded in the **Sagrada Familia** Cathedral in **Barcelona**, this is a glorious version of the hymn, most of us know as '**Amazing Grace**'. The inspiring vocal is augmented by **Catalan pipers**.

It was forwarded to VotV by reader, **Martyn Crompton**. Many of our local subscribers will know him as, for many years, he was vicar in one of our Colne Valley villages, **Golcar**.

Enjoy!

'Quelle superbe voix et quelle est très belle - magnifique'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJ3geGg_88k



COVID-19 cancels Marsden Jazz Festival 2020



The Marsden Jazz Festival team have been working hard over the last days and weeks, keeping abreast of all of the news and guidance which has been released by both the government and funding bodies, and meeting digitally to discuss the developing situation and the impact on Marsden Jazz Festival.

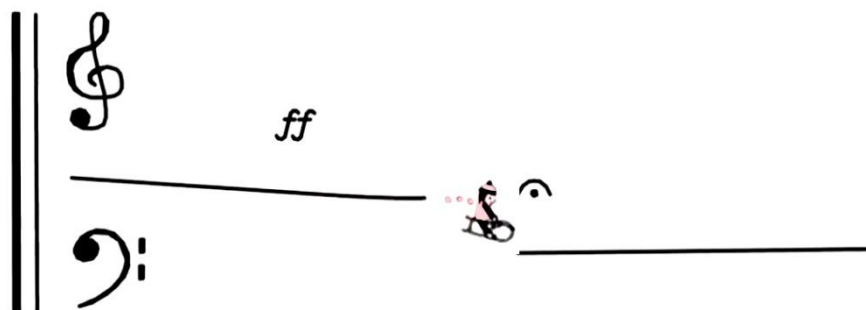
They tell us, 'We are committed to protecting our artists, staff, volunteers and local community, and as such we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Festival.'

We would like to extend our thoughts to everyone in the UK who

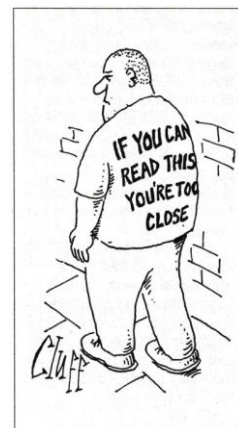
has been directly affected by Coronavirus and to express our support and gratitude to all the key workers out there doing an amazing job to keep us safe in our time of need.'

It's not just the Choir: many an event in the Colne Valley is getting the chop

Or try the **Line Rider** for entertainment: Beethoven's 5th ...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcBn04lyELc>



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

Hymn Emoji Challenge!



Did you get any?



Lord of the dance



Hills of the north, Rejoice



The king of love my shepherd is