



We're still recruiting

Chairman **Joe Stones** tells Voice of the Valley:-

'It was because of the impending effects from **Covid 19 Coronavirus**, that the Choir concluded way back in the middle of March that - in order to protect our audiences, our members and our professionals - we had to suspend all rehearsals and performances.

That's in-person rehearsals, of course - the Choir continues. We are now rehearsing on Zoom, preparing for better days to come.

And just because we can't meet in person or perform together doesn't mean we have stopped recruiting, either.



We remain keen to see new singers come to join us.

So if you are a tenor, a baritone or a bass and no matter whether you're an experienced singer or a complete beginner, we would be very happy for you to join in with our online rehearsals that happen most Monday nights.

Contact our Choir Secretary, **Jenny Baxter** on **01484 645192**. She'll make sure you can join the next Zoom rehearsal.



Give us a try.

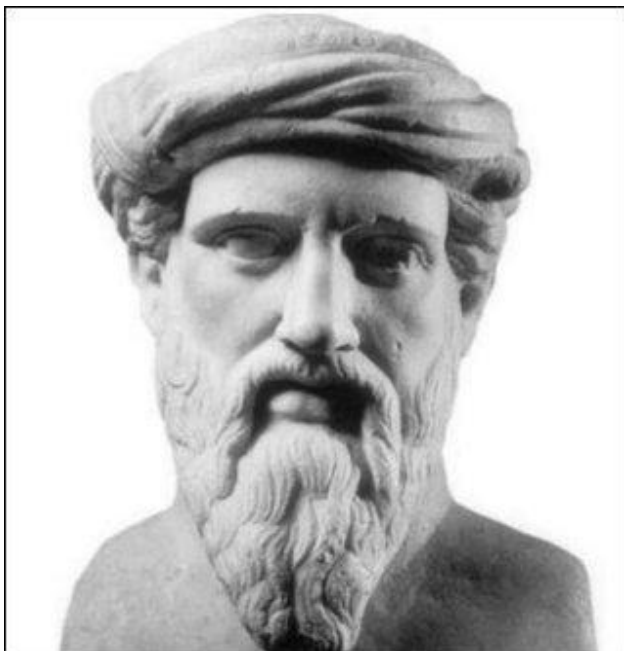
It could be the best move you make this summer!'

'I'm certainly happy for new members to join in with the online rehearsals.' added Music Director, **Thom Meredith**.

Secretary Jenny will give you access information if you get in touch with her. But please note : there will not be rehearsals on Mondays 24th and 31st August. Rehearsing will resume on September 7th. You can email her for details using this link:

jennybaxter@btinternet.com

The music of the spheres



In ancient Greece, Pythagoras and his followers thought that the heavenly bodies made music.

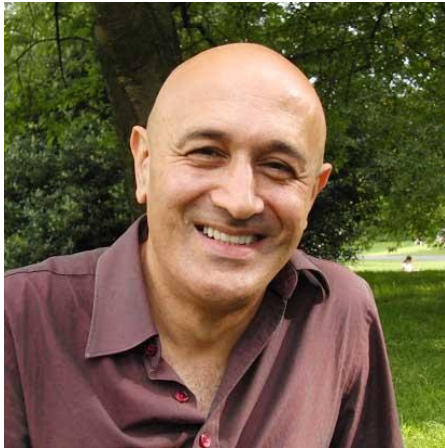
He had already discovered the workings of musical pitch by way of vibration. The story goes that he happened to walk past the forge of a blacksmith and listened to the hammers pounding iron, producing a varied harmony of reverberations.

Reportedly, he examined the hammers, and concluded that those that were harmonious with one another shared a relationship in their respective weights. Extrapolating from these effects, he reasoned that, because objects produced sound when in motion, planets moving in orbit should also produce a sound - 'the music of the spheres'.

That there is harmony in the universe is an idea that has hung around for thousands of years. Most of what Pythagoras believed about the heavens has been long ago superseded. We know, now, that our solar system is just a tiny, tiny part of our own galaxy and that our galaxy is just one of billions of galaxies in a universe too mind-bogglingly huge to get your brain around.

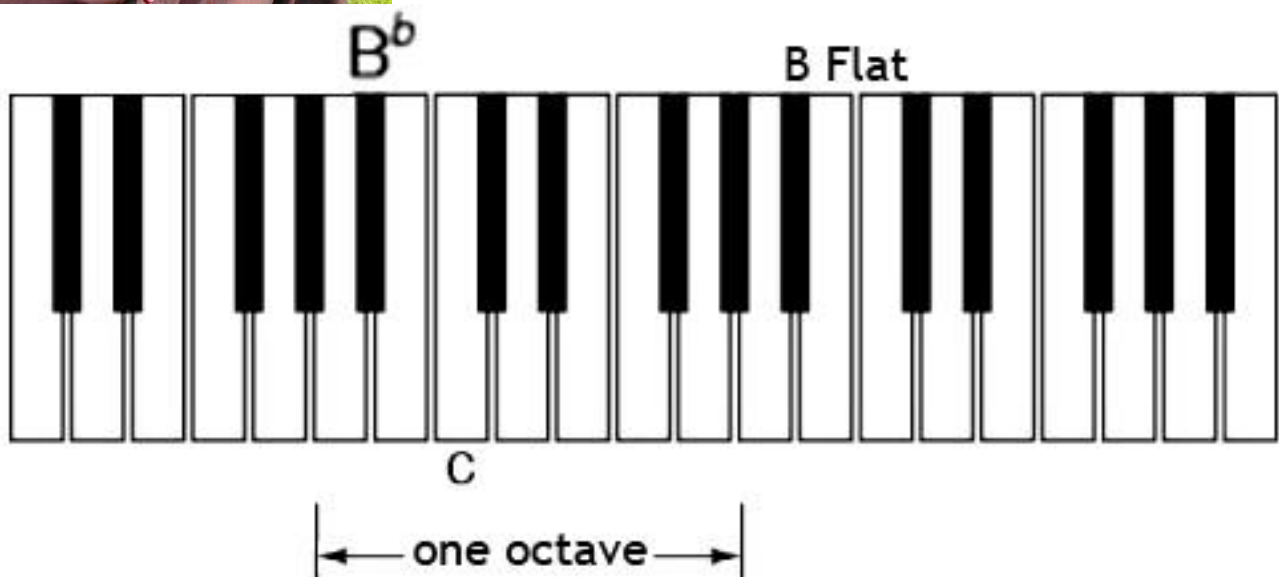
But it seems there really is a 'music of the spheres'.

A Cambridge astronomer, **Andy Fabian**, (right) has been working with sophisticated space-based, **X-Ray telescopes**, looking at '**super-massive black holes**'; the engines of star creation that keep the Universe ticking over.



Talking to science presenter, Professor **Jim Alkalili**, Andy explained that enormous ripples of energy, generated in the 'super-massive black holes' travel as sound waves through intergalactic space.

And as they go they create a musical note - the bass note to the harmony of the universe.



And we now know what that note is: it's a B flat, 54 octaves below middle C.



Artist's impression - a super massive black hole at the centre of our galaxy

Choir funds

Choir Secretary, Jenny, writes, "For the second week running, the winner of the **200 Club** small draw (£45) is one of the staff at **Marilliam Flowers** (where Simon Durrans's wife, Lynn, 'encouraged' several of her colleagues to take up some of our spare numbers)."



Jenny adds that the Choir is very fortunate to be able to meet its costs even in these times when performances are impossible, but that financial contributions would be most welcome. One of the best ways to contribute would be to buy one of the spare numbers in our **200 Club** draw.

Readers will recall that a 200 Club number costs just £50.00 a year. You get a good chance of winning a prize in the weekly draw - up to £1,000 - and even if you are not a lucky winner, you still get the satisfaction of contributing - fully half the 200 Club income stays with the Choir to help it meet its running costs.

 The logo for the 200 Club, featuring the number '200' in large, white, 3D-style digits on a blue background, with the word 'CLUB' in smaller white capital letters below it.	<p>Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.</p> <p>There's a good chance of winning: £45 in prize money weekly, £185 in the monthly draw and two whopping £1,000 draws each year.</p> <p>Even if you don't win, you win - because half of the fund supports Choir concerts and performances.</p> <p>Contact Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 01484 645192</p>
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If you would like to contribute, contact Jenny and she will arrange to get you a 200 Club number.

jennybaxter@btinternet.com

Donate

If you would just prefer to make a donation you can do that by BACs. The Choir's account is at Lloyds Bank Account Number: 02489140 and the sort code is 30-94-43. Please label your payment 'DONATION'. If you wish to '**Gift Aid**' your donation, (makes £100 pounds become £120 with the taxman paying the extra £20) then it would be worth emailing our Treasurer, Simon Durrans, first to get a gift aid form. It's a straightforward process.

simon.durrans@dmlifa.com

Coffee and carburettors

Coffee lovers from Kirklees have long known that **Romcaffé 100% Arabica** beans make the best Italian coffee.



They probably also know that the only local source is **Vivaldi**, the Italian restaurant supplier on Leeds Road.

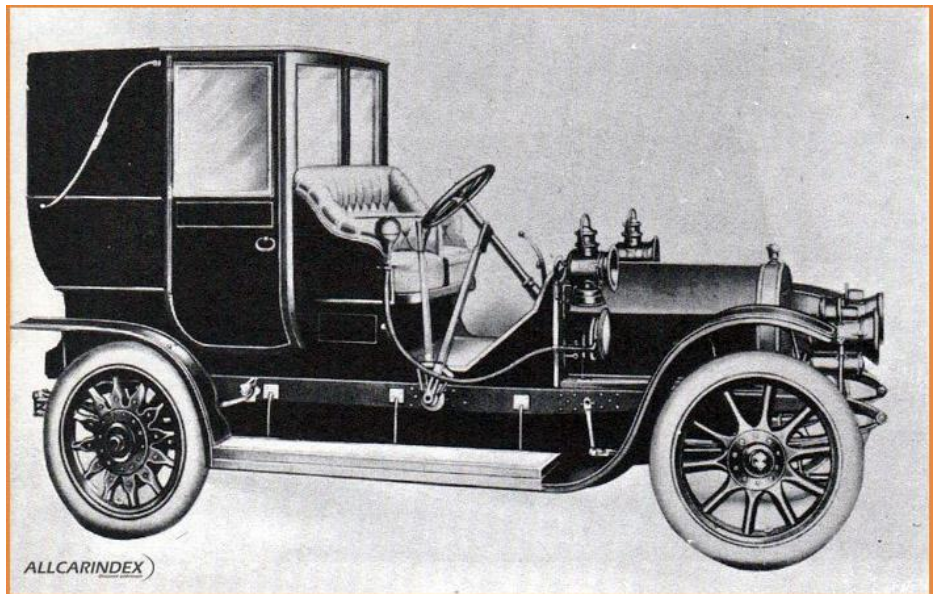
They may know, too, that the company is based in what must have been a fairly prestigious building, called **Trafalgar Mills**.



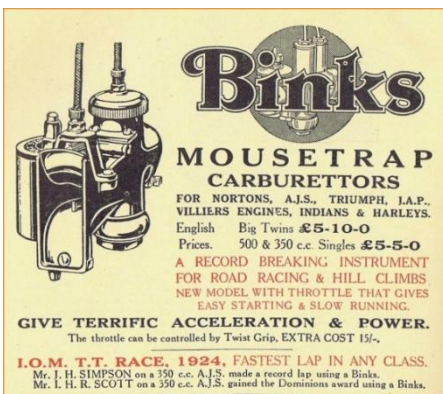
What they might not know - and your editor certainly didn't until last week is that the building - seen here as it was in 1937, was once the mill where textile manufacturers, **Learoyd Brothers** branched out into making **automobiles**.

This is the **Roydale**, made at Trafalgar Mills in 1907 by Roydale Engineering Co Ltd, Huddersfield - a short-lived subsidiary of **Learoyd Bros & Co Ltd**, fancy worsted and woollen manufacturers.

The company started making automobiles in 1907 and stopped in 1909. They were designed by **Charles Binks**, who had formerly made the Nottingham-built **Leader** and used a **Binks carburettor**.



Two 4 cylinder models were manufactured, an 18/22 horsepower and a 25/30hp both with monobloc engines, Mercedes type radiators and shaft drives.



Despite some searching, your editor was unable to find a photograph of this short-lived and rather elegant Edwardian vehicle. It is unclear how many cars were made and it's quite possible that none have survived to the present day.

Binks went on to achieve a longer-lasting reputation as a designer of carburettors that were marketed under his name for many years.

Maybe readers know more and will get in touch with information.

Huddersfield time travel

This is a clip from a super 'time travelling' video by a chap called **James Fox**, which starts with various contemporary features of the town then travels back to show us what they used to be like.

Some readers will have enjoyed, in the last edition, his portrayal of Scarborough's history but in this one he turns his attention to our home town of **Huddersfield**.

Give it a look: what **James Fox** does is pretty clever.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Koa5hSLCVNM>

This is what he says: "I began with an interest in rephotography (the art of retaking photos from earlier photographs). This progressed into time lapse films which I call 'Journey's Through Time'.

"I carefully select and credit photos of iconic locations over a spread of decades/ years and combine them into a seamless animation so you can see changes unfold before your eyes."

James, a 30 year old, creates time lapse films for a variety of locations throughout the United Kingdom. More of his work can be found at www.facebook.com/Timetravelimages

Well, it made me smile



Gordon's still busy



<https://www.pipedreams.org/episode/2020/2029>

It's well-known that the best lunchtime concerts are with maestro, Gordon Stuart, and his magnificent organ at the Town Hall. Sadly, Gordon's musical performances have been as savagely curtailed as the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir's.

But Gordon isn't a chap to get down-hearted. He's recorded a series of performances for American public radio that you can play in the background as you go about your business.

We do so long for a performance – whether we are onstage or in the audience.

Stay bright - better days will come.



Meanwhile we do what we can.

In first tenor, **John Lee**'s case that's growing tomatoes.

VotV has been following his progress and has been in touch for a report:

Hi John, How are they coming on? Any crop yet?

Yes, John, they definitely are. I count 20 to 30 so far and we just need some sunshine to ripen them off.

VotV says we can't wait to see his big red ones

Choral Anxiety?

Bothered about your singing in Zoom Rehearsals?

Does your choral performance disappoint?

Singing skills diminished?

Croaky on the high notes?

Worry no more - the answer to 'Choral Anxiety' is here.

Just send your housekeeper down to Aldi. Specify **'Corale'** brand baked beans.

And soon you'll be joining in the Chorale with the best of them.



The London Concert Orchestra plays **Elgar's Nimrod** remotely.



'The LCO dedicate this performance of Nimrod to all those who have passed on as a result of Coronavirus. Every musician played their part in their own home during lockdown, and no artificial sound software has been added. Everything you hear has been played by the musicians you see with love and hope.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Za-FNs9e9Ho>

Sardinian Mountain Music



In the good, old pre-covid days, you could just jump on a flight to **Alghero** - a place you'd never heard of - and discover you were in Sardinia.

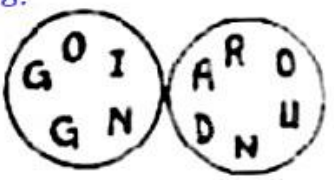
There you would probably come across a form of male voice singing that was both unfamiliar and rather special - a folk music with its roots in the shepherding lives of hardy mountain men. Here's a fine example - strange and beautiful. Enjoy the key changes.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBtGXSvPdl4>



Alghero

1. <u>stand</u> I <u>I understand</u>	2. <u>man</u> board <u>man overboard</u>	3. <u>cover</u> agent <u>undercover agent</u>	4. <u>wear</u> long <u>long underwear</u>
5. <u>EZ</u> iiii <u>Easy on the eyes</u>	6. <u>i</u> 8 <u>One over the eight</u>	7. <u>his iii</u> U <u>Keeping his eyes on you</u>	8.  <u>Going round in circles</u>
9. CHAIR <u>High chair</u>	10. TIRE <u>flat tire</u>	11. T O W N <u>Downtown</u>	12. R O R O A O S D S <u>Crosss roads</u>
13. b sick ed <u>sick in bed</u>	14. DKI <u>mixed-up kid</u>	15. G R U the block N N I N <u>Running round the block</u>	16. EGSG GESG SEGG SGEg <u>scrambled eggs</u>

Well, it made me smile again....



Mushroom charmer exerts 'fluence'



No Photoshop trickery, here. It really was about a foot across - sadly inedible

Send me a picture, tell me a story

At this time of continuing social distancing and isolation, VotV readers, whether singers or audience-members, can no longer meet each other.

But we can keep in touch.



Let the VotV Editor know if something happens to you, that might be of interest and has some - connection - however tenuous - to the Choir. Doesn't matter if you are not very confident writing, I'll help you put into publishable shape.

Voice of the Valley Editor: John C Clark

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

And see our website to get the full story

colnevalleymvc.org.uk

