



A most welcome letter to Joe Stones

A most welcome letter has just reached Choir Chairman, Joe Stones.

It carries some excellent news which, selectively quoted, reads.....



HM Government

In partnership with

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND

"Hello Joseph,

*We're going to fund your project. We're so happy to tell you we really liked your application to the Coronavirus Community Support Fund. And we want to give **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**a substantial sum to help your community.*

You should see the funding in your organisation's account in the next couple of weeks. So you can start spending it on the activities you told us about in your application.

You need to spend the funding within six months of the date of this email. We'll also ask you for a progress update.

At the end of your funding, we'll get in touch to see how it all went. We'll want to know how many people you helped, how many volunteers you worked with and what difference the funding made.

Let people know about your grant and the amazing work you're doing in your community. Sharing news about your project with your community can be a great way to keep them involved and engaged. When talking about your project, use our full name (The National Lottery Community Fund) and thank the Government too.

And last, but not least – well done

Congratulations on your project funding.

And thank you for everything you do to support your community".

Best wishes

Julie Galano

Head of Funding
Newcastle upon Tyne



Photomontage - Chairman Joe Stones and Treasurer Simon Durrans

Joe and **Simon Durrans**, assisted by Thom and the Management Committee, put together an application to this fund in early August, just as the full ramifications of the corona virus lockdown were becoming evident.

Joe and Simon had realised that the Choir's income was dropping drastically and that in all probability the big **Town Hall Christmas Concert** - our biggest income earner - was unlikely to happen.

More importantly, with many of our members, if not in lockdown, then self-isolating for other reasons, the Choir had to find other ways to operate to sustain our commitment to the musical life of the valley.

How, thought Joe, when coming together to sing and perform has become impossible, can the Choir stay viable? And how can we sustain our future if we can no longer reach new singers by inviting them to sing in with us at rehearsals?

So, hearing of the opportunity to apply for some support, (thanks to baritone, **Raymond Ellis**, by the way), they got their heads together and put forward an application. On the 29th of September they heard that the application had been enthusiastically received and that the **Coronavirus Community Support Fund**, distributed by **The National Lottery Community Fund**, is keen to support the Choir and its role as a community organisation vigorously active in the cultural life of the area.

Thanks to the Government for making this a possibility.

And thanks to Joe and Simon for making it a reality.



What it might have looked like, had the Management Committee been able to convene in person to discuss the bid. In reality they considered it on Email and Zoom.

Extracts from the Bid:

This year CVMVC has faced new and unprecedented challenges created by the coronavirus. Like other musical organisations, it has had to suspend its usual rehearsals and performance activities in order to ensure the safety of its members, music professionals and audiences. The choir's committee and music professionals have, however, been active in terms of future planning: developing online practice resources and holding online rehearsals for its members. The choir is also a well respected local community choir drawing members from around the Colne Valley and sometimes wider. It also draws from many people who are over sixty-five years of age, and in a number of cases registered disabled. The membership, however, stands at over seventy active singing members and the choir is working to improve inclusion in terms of age, diversity and community.

Many of the members are living alone and are isolated and therefore the importance of providing weekly online rehearsals, social interaction, new music, professional coaching (+ online resources) to all the choir's existing, new and potential future members has been a priority and has been in place for the last three months. This has been hugely successful and highly valued by the singers. It also means that the choir remains accessible to new members within the community and beyond: a drive which also forms part of the choir's 'centenary strategy'. 2022 marks our centenary year and CVMVC is planning a range of concerts, activities, rehearsals and engagement events to broaden our reach, membership and community links as well as engaging more fully with other organisations and charities.

The choir, however, is faced with a number of challenges which are mainly -

1. The choir's income stream is normally supported by an extensive concert programme which is now non-existent. This normally subsidises our purposefully low annual membership cost, whilst also funding two high level music professionals; enabling us to purchase new music; engaging guest artists and also supporting our community rehearsal venue so it will still be available at the end of the pandemic.
2. The choir now recognises that its initial expectation to be holding rehearsals and events from autumn is now unrealistic due to singing being identified as 'high risk' and the majority of our singers being in the 'at risk' category in respect of their age. After seeking advice and consulting with other leading musical organisations, the choir has delayed its expectation to resume 'normal' operations for a minimum of six months later than originally planned.
3. The choir needs to continue to fund its salaried music professionals, new online operation and resources, purchase new music, engage with the community through our website/online development and outreach etc and still contribute to our community rehearsal facility so it will also survive the current crisis.

We therefore ask for financial support to aid the above, namely:

- Continue to pay our music professionals.
- Provide a community resource across a wide age demographic and diversity and be accessible to new members.
- Provide social contact for those that are isolated and living alone.
- Purchase new music.
- Develop online resources and materials for new and existing members.

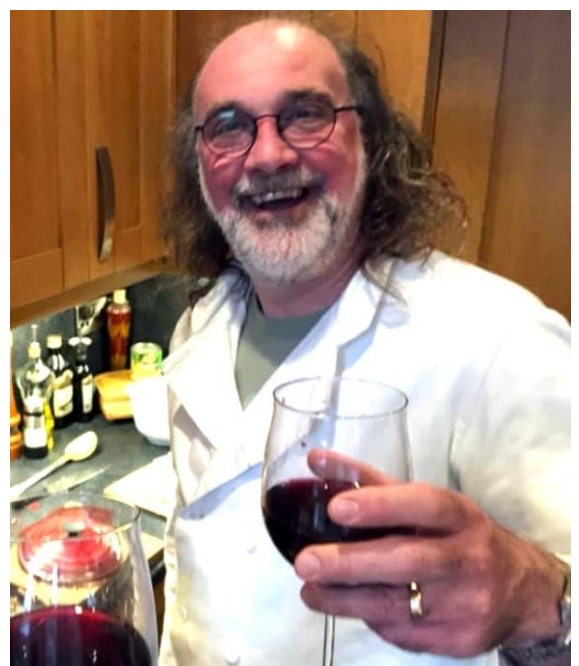
In a message to Choir members, secretary, **Jenny Baxter**, said....

*'It's my pleasure to share with you the news that a grant application made to the Coronavirus Community Support Fund by **Joe and Simon** has been successful.'*

(Simon here looks happy - he tells VotV the money has already reached our bank account.)

'However, we mustn't be complacent as this still doesn't make up for our lost income and we all still need to keep trying to fill the 200 Club and pay subscriptions etc.'

In the meantime this is a big positive step forward in these trying times.'



Trevor keeps on singing

You can't keep a good man down, they say. And that's certainly true of veteran second tenor, **Trevor Bowers**. CVMVC performances may be halted but Trevor keeps on singing.

He's a member of the **Whitechapel Church** in **Cleckheaton**, where the Minister, **Brunel James**, and the congregation have taken their services onto **Facebook**.



Here we see video extracts of Trevor, in his local church, singing hymns solo at each end of a recent service.

<https://youtu.be/R7bJHwqgdvE>

Well done Trevor

Colne Valley Museum re-opening delayed again



Sad to relate but unsurprising really, **Raymond** sends the following message: 'PLEASE NOTE After much consideration, it has been decided to delay the opening of the museum due to the regional Covid lockdown now in force.'

Chris Pulleyn's &Piano Festival returns



Chris's &Piano Festival returned with a variety of events for its 2020 run. Of course the Festival couldn't have a live audience this year but it went ahead anyway this September and October.

Perhaps the most effective performance was when Chris was joined by violinist, **Tom Greed** and cellist, **Polly Virr**.

The festival this year did have some technical issues in the live feed but & Piano can bring you the core of their terrific performances. (The Editorial Suite at the VotV Office also experienced IT upheaval in recent days so VotV is sympathetic.) The recording quality is not the best and the music is sometimes demanding:- it's quite challenging but utterly wonderful.



Here's a link to a video of the event that VotV has cheekily re-edited.

PROGRAMME:

Ryuichi Sakamoto	- Biba No Aozora
Dmitri Shostakovich	- Piano Trio No.2 in E Minor Op.67 4th Movement
Zenobia Powell Perry	- Excursion
Ludwig Van Beethoven	- Piano Trio Op.70 No.1 3rd Movement



<https://youtu.be/sbnWLE-3lTI>

Chris adds, "Owing to some extreme technical difficulties we experienced during our actual live-stream, this performance is an alternative take, filmed earlier as a dress rehearsal before our live-stream. We're re-releasing it to give our performers full credit and attention for all their hard work and effort. We're musicians first and foremost, and we're doing our best to adapt to life during a pandemic in our efforts to get our music out there!"

To keep you in the mood ...



Isobel Stubbs - Elegie by Alexander Glazunov

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP8DrNyiYL0>

"The weather might have turned a bit gloomy, so we'll indulge in the mood a bit, with an absolutely beautiful piece for Viola by Russian late-romantic composer Alexander Glazunov. The viola is the slightly bigger sibling of the violin. It may not have the ping in the sound like a violin does, or the size of the cello to project it's sound, but it produces a gentle warm and rich tone that's hard not to love. The definition of an 'Elegie' is a pensive or reflective song or poem, and this piece definitely displays that, with a gentle lilting rocking rhythm with occasional moments of fire and passion that show off the range of the instrument."

In the three years that &Piano has existed, the viola has now featured twice. Isobel was the final performer from our showcase in April 2020 - another student from the music department at Greenhead College - and she was planning to study music at Liverpool University in September."

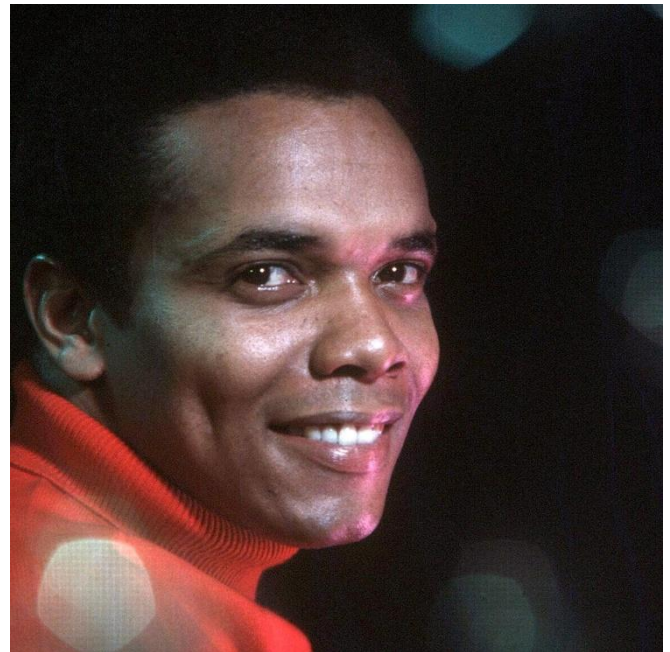
Well it made me smile



Johnny can see clearly now...

*I can see clearly now the rain is gone
I can see all obstacles in my way
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind
It's gonna be a bright, bright
Sunshiny day*

When Johnny Nash wrote and recorded the song, 'I Can See Clearly Now', it became a massive hit both in the UK and in the United States



It was released in 1972 and the lyrics continue to strike a chord with many generations of listeners ever since. I suppose they warm to the message of new hope emerging from the gloom.

Johnny was born in Texas. In the 60's and early 70's he lived and worked in Jamaica. But he largely abandoned the music business in 1974, returning to live a quiet life on a ranch outside of Houston.

Most people therefore knew his work but little else. Nonetheless, they were saddened, a few days ago, to hear that Johnny has died. He was 80.

His biggest hit was covered by many artists throughout the years, perhaps most famously, by **Jimmy Cliff**, who rerecorded it for the motion picture soundtrack of '**Cool Runnings**'; a film about the unlikely Jamaican Bobsleigh Team.

Enjoy the Jimmy Cliff / Cool Runnings version by following this link:-



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrHxhQPO02c>

Gordon goes online, too



Regular readers will know that your Editor has long been a fan of **Gordon Stuart's** lunchtime organ concerts at the Town Hall.

They too have 'bitten the dust' for the time being - or rather they would have except for the commitment of Gordon and his team and the potential in Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SliJWIX-zKM>

Here Gordon introduces the new season and gives you a flavour.

This month's fine view



Don't complain - I know it's not the Colne Valley!

I admit **Castleshaw** is in Saddleworth but that's less than 4 miles away from the Colne Valley, Yorkshire which gives our wonderful Choir its name.

And Saddleworth used to be Yorkshire anyway until recently.

It's where retired first tenor, **Stuart Iles** comes from.

Stuart has just won £185 in the 200 Club draw. So there'll be rejoicing across the border.



You, too, should prepare to rejoice.

Buy a spare 200 club number and soon the good news will roll in, even if you are in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council area.

	Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.
	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.
	Even if you don't win, you win - because half of the fund supports Choir concerts and performances.
	Contact Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 01484 645192

Just for nostalgia

John Martyn with double bass player, **Danny Thompson** – plays 'Solid Air' at a gig in Dublin.

He's long dead of course but still stunningly good.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg_Utj4Aljc&list=RDKg_Utj4Aljc&start_radio=1&t=63&t=63

Reminder

British Summer Time ends in the small hours on Sunday October 25th 2020

Here's a joke which made baritone, **Michael Parkinson** smile:



Interesting old photo

Choir members and other locals will immediately recognise that this is **Cross Church Street** in Huddersfield. Could that be a young **David Hirst** by the lamp post?



Do you have a story to tell - or a picture to share ...?



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. It 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 or join our Readers' List or for other queries

And see our website to get the full story

colnevalleymvc.org.uk