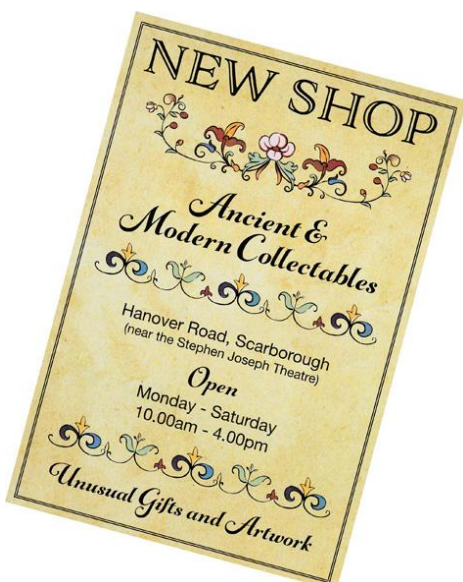
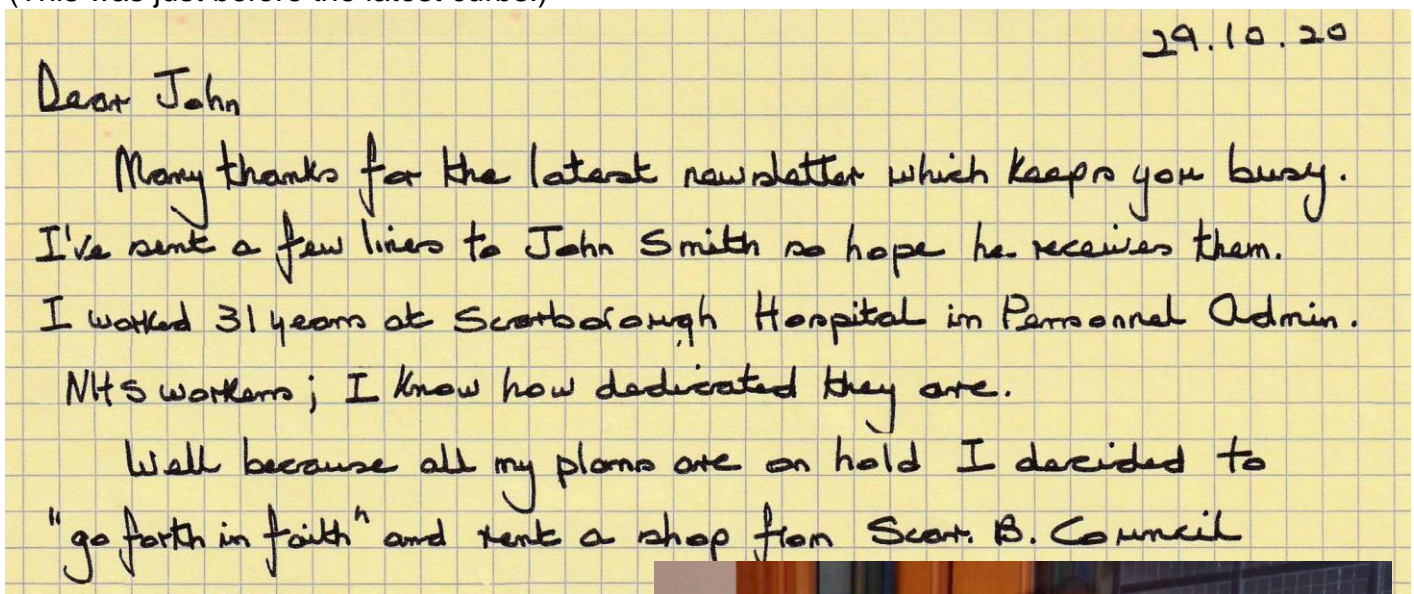




## Christine undaunted...

You can't keep a good woman down. Social entrepreneur, Choir patron and one-woman Arts Council, **Christine Cox**, has been in touch with warm wishes for CVMVC

She tells *VotV* she's just not quietly slipping into lockdown apathy - rather she's opened a shop. (This was just before the latest curbs.)





It seems Christine has spent years developing craft skills and making 'objets d'art' - and now she's taken on a vacant shop to sell them - good for her!

I got the Keys in August and although the messes haven't found me yet (I am in a quiet street) friends can pop in to say hello. Some will think I am very optimistic in present circumstances but I am serving a purpose. I am thinking of playing a Colne Valley MVC CD as low background music - that should go down well!

She ends by encouraging the Choir to keep up with the Zoom rehearsals. She doesn't want us to get too 'rusty'.

Well tell the choir members to keep up the rehearsals as we don't want them to go rusty!

My shop has a lovely acoustic so if you get out of lockdown feel free to visit.

Here's hoping we will meet again soon.

With all good wishes to Choir members and keep up the good work.

Sincerely from Christine  
(and Scarborough)

And she looks forward to seeing us onstage again in Scarborough

Thank you, Christine. You are an inspiration to us all.

And news of the recent developments in vaccine technologies also gives us fresh hope that we'll be in Scarborough next summer.





# Another heart-warming story

A piece of music improvised by a composer suffering from dementia has been recorded by the **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra** and is being released as a single.

The BBC was there for the moment 80-year-old **Paul Harvey** heard the full version of his piece for the first time. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-54694207>

Paul originally improvised the composition after being given four notes to play by his son.

Despite being diagnosed with dementia late last year, Harvey, a former music teacher and composer from Sussex, has continued to be able to play piano pieces from memory and create new ones.

His son, Nick, who posted the video in September, said it had been an "old party trick" of his father's to request four random notes and then improvise a song. Nick picked F natural, A, D and B natural for his father to play.



After the clip went viral, the performance was aired on Radio 4's 'Broadcasting House' for **World Alzheimer's Day** on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

This prompted listeners to ask the BBC to have the performance orchestrated, which led to the BBC Philharmonic's involvement.

## 'A new lease of life'

Hearing their recording of the single for the first time, Paul, who was joined by his son on the programme, said: "It was very, very moving and very thrilling at the same time..."

"It's quite amazing that all this has happened, and in my 81st year. It's fantastic.

It's given me a new lease of life and after we've all finished here I'll go to the piano and find another four notes."



**Arlene Phillips**, the choreographer and former **Strictly Come Dancing** judge whose father had Alzheimer's, and is an **Alzheimer's Society's** ambassador, said the piece was "so beautiful. It's just incredible that four notes can stir so many mixed emotions."



Nick said the single was released on all major streaming platforms on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November and that all proceeds would be split between the **Alzheimer's Society** and **Music for Dementia**.

Needless to say it has gone straight to No1.

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## Some familiar faces?



Readers might recognise some of these singers. And some connections - maybe quite close - with CVMVC. Do let the VotV Editor know if you can identify them.

It's a choir called '**Cantus**' giving a lively performance in ASDA, when the store was in Blrkby. The photo dates, apparently, from 1987.



# Oldest singing member gets to sing along....

Readers will know that veteran second tenor, Jack Smith, is recuperating in hospital in Halifax.

His fellow singers have clubbed together to get John a CD player and a bunch of Choir recordings so that he can sing along with his ward mates - or if he chooses - just to himself as he listens privately on the headphones.



John - 45 years a singer with CVMVC and an 'Honorary Life Member' - was probably singing when most of these recordings were made.



John's sons **Andy** tells VotV the gift was delivered to his bedside on Monday.

"Dad was over the moon to get the parcel - he said it was like Christmas - and he wanted VotV to pass on '**A Big Thank You for the present and all the goodwill messages**' to his pals in the Choir."

And there's maybe better news still; the hospital people are saying he might be able to go home on Friday.



# So farewell then....

... to the definitive 007, **Sean Connery**, to **Nobby Stiles**, who epitomised the spirit of spirit of football in Manchester and in the 1966 World Cup and also to **Geoffrey Palmer**, best suited to 'grumpy' roles quite untypical of his life outside the entertainment world. He made it to 93







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## March of the Toreadors



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmLh6UvLo14>

The toreador tunes from Bizet's Carmen. It's a terrific piece of music and an entertaining animation

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# Fall into autumn

The virtual Festival, '**Fall into Autumn**', was presented by Huddersfield-based **True North Music** a couple of days ago



Photo by Lendl Sifaka: Bradley Brook by Holt Head, Slaithwaite

In this time of new hope for the USA, after evicting - we hope - the current President, celebrating the better bits of American tradition doesn't seem out of place.

Huddersfield's folk- music entrepreneurs presented Americana, Bluegrass and folk artists from the USA and UK. Their live-stream video features **The Honey Dewdrops**, **Mishra** (from Sheffield), **Rachel Baiman & George Jackson** and the **Stillhouse Junkies**. It's quite good fun!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iy0761RCwM&t=7274s>

If it's your thing, you can see more of these performers on the 'True North' music website.

<http://www.truenorthmusic.co.uk/virtual-festival/>

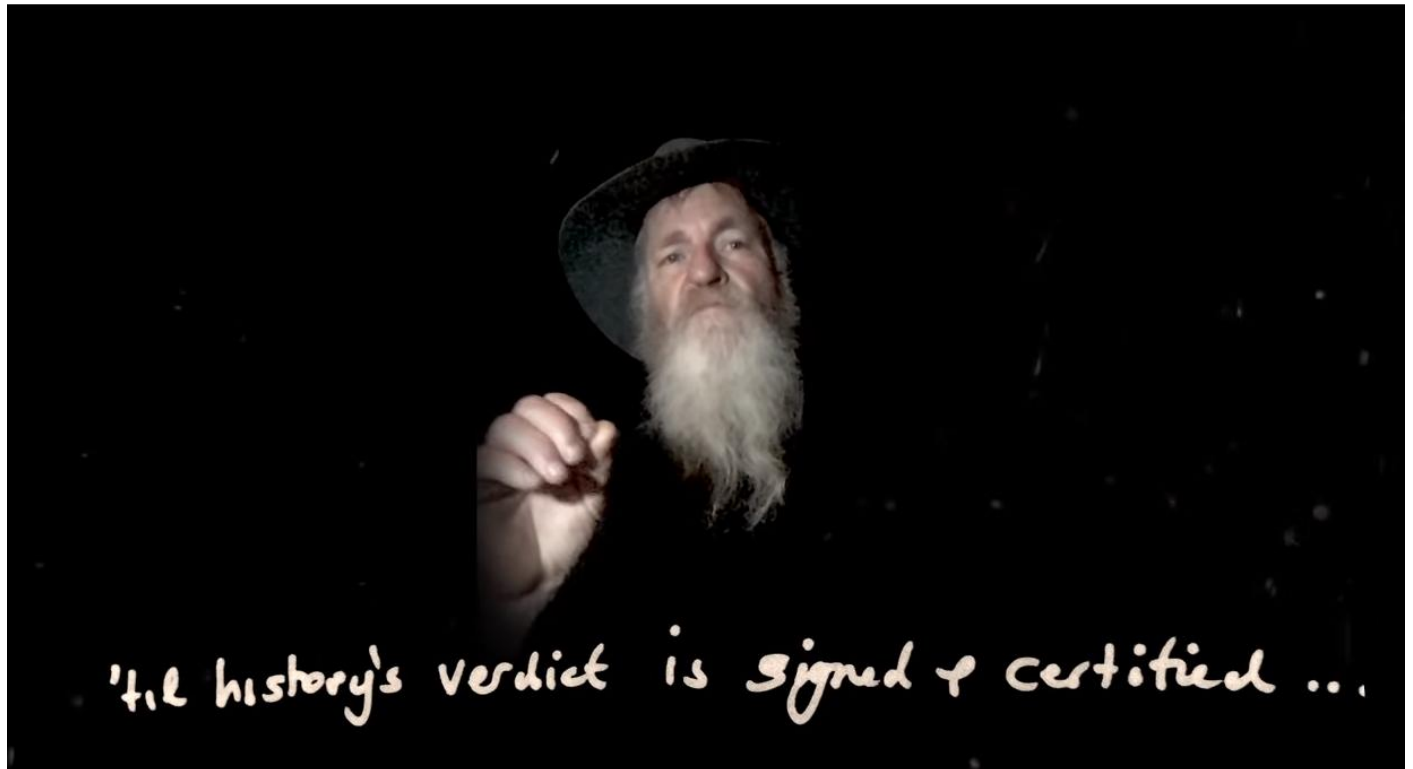
VotV specially recommends the fusion between Asian percussion and banjo-picking from Sheffield duo, **Mishra**.

<https://youtu.be/SUITLTndfU8>



# We do not speak your name....

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



Dear world,

*'The Spooky Men would consider that it's not melodramatic to say that we find ourselves at a very dangerous point in history, as archetypal small men everywhere in the big wider world try to get their mean little hooks into everything. We've always wished to commentate on this, musically, but it's so much better if we can make it funny....and that's been getting much, much harder.*

*We know that our work is always subtly political, but there are things to say head on about the rise of certain of these small men: one in particular. So I wrote a song. We never performed this song, because it didn't yet have the right ending, and also because we felt that its heaviness was too much for our spookiness to carry...and we didn't want to give that heaviness to you.*

*But now, it feels too important a song not to sing, and too important a time not to share. It's called "we do not speak your name"...and we are very, very proud of it. We do ask, if this song makes sense to you, and you regard the underlying issues as important, that you do share it massively, relentlessly and tenderly, especially to your connections in the USA.*

*The very best of spooky love to you,'*

*Stephen Taberner ( conductor of the Spooky Men's Chorale*



# Michael supports our soldiers

Baritone, **Michael Parkinson**, is a man who remembers the sacrifices of our military in times of war and not just on 'Remembrance Day.

He tells Voice of the Valley....



*"I feel privileged to share this with you.*

*A few years ago, I met and chatted with **Ben Parkinson**, the most seriously injured soldier to survive the battlefield wounds he received in an explosion whilst serving in Afghanistan in 2006. He lost both legs, was brain damaged losing his ability to speak, and sustained forty other injuries.*

*He has battled many challenges but with enormous determination to carry on he has made the best of his situation and been a huge inspiration to others. He has taken part in several long-distance challenges and carried the Olympic flame through Doncaster in 2012 where in 2017 he was granted the Freedom of his home town.*

*When we first met, he struggled to speak but the other day, when we met up again, we were able to enjoy a catch-up chat.*

*It was joyful and inspiring in these troubled times to see his smiling positive attitude to life."*

Michael



## 200 club winner



No wonder they look happy - they've just won £185 quid on the latest 200 Club draw.

At least **Gina Fielding** has. I'm just guessing that second tenor, Roger, might get a drink out of it.

You too, could easily be a winner and get the double satisfaction of supporting the Choir in troubled times. Secretary Jenny will sort you out with a number. And here's an idea: get a family member or friend a **200 Club Number as a Christmas present**. It's the gift that keeps on giving.





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**

Well it made me smile....



Send me a picture, tell me your news....

We can't meet each other - in real life

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 or join our Readers' List or for other queries



And see our website to get the full story

[colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk)