



It's coming soon...

The excitement is building...

In just a week Colne Valley's Spring Concert will go live online.

VotV can't reveal what's in store except that it will be fabulous!

Thom told singers at our last online rehearsal that he had had a 'sneak preview' of the recorded sound for one of our online numbers - and he said 'it sounded great!'

There'll be performances by the Choir and by Chris and Thom and many other goodies.



In the next couple of days you'll get an invitation - with a link that will take you to this unmissable event. It'll start with super pre-concert entertainment at about quarter to eight on Saturday night next - April the third. Don't miss it - but if you do, don't worry, it'll be accessible online for ages.

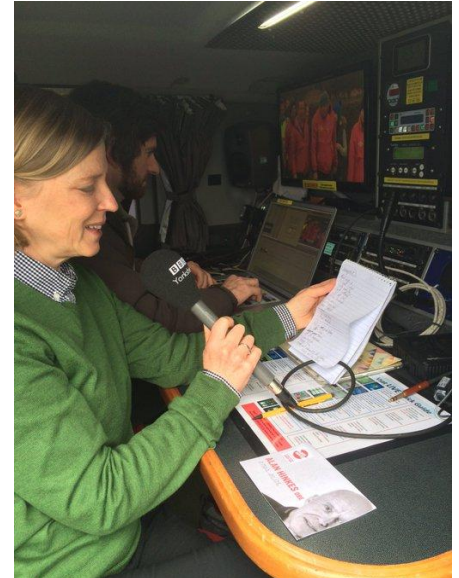
The Look North bit...

VotV has learned that BBC Look North's, **Cathy Killick**, has been in regular contact.



Our very own first tenor and Publicity officer, **Ken Parkin**, prompted by bass, **Brian Fairclough**, got in touch with Cathy to tell her about the Choir's online efforts to keep recruitment, rehearsal and performance alive during lockdown.

She was most interested and set us to gathering information she can use in a potential feature.



With luck, it will air on 'Look North' in the days before our Online Concert next Saturday.



VotV gathers that snippets of filmed footage of the Choir in performance before Covid struck is being collated with online rehearsal video and an interview with **Thom Meredith**.

There may also be a brief preview of our online performance that accompanist and technical wizard, **Chris Pulleyn** has been stitching together from 30 or more 'solo' performances by individual choir singers.

VotV realises that unforeseen events can always upturn broadcaster's plans but, 'fingers crossed', it will work out.



One year on - from announcing Choir lockdown...



In view of developments in the Coronavirus outbreak, certain sad decisions have been made by the management of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

A statement by Choir Chairman, **Joe Stones**, on **March 15th 2020** read as follows:-



“Due to the increased and widespread effects from Covid 19 Coronavirus, the Choir has concluded that it is necessary - in order to protect our audiences, our Choir members and our professionals - to suspend all rehearsals and performances with immediate effect.

We are aware that the situation is subject to change so we shall review our decision at the end of May 2020, at which point the suspension may be lifted or continued as is appropriate.

We are sorry that these measures have become necessary and we shall do all we can to support our members through the coming weeks.

One consequence of this decision is that the special ‘**Concert Tribute to Keith Swallow**’ scheduled for March 29th at Saint Paul’s Hall will have to be postponed. Every effort to inform tickets holders will be made. It is our clear wish to hold this concert at a later date.

We are disappointed that another casualty of this shut-down will be the afternoon concert on 17 May with **Colne Valley Boys** at Saint James Church, Slaithwaite. We hope our other scheduled performances can go ahead but they are subject to review. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and look forward to reconvening both our rehearsal and concert schedule as soon as is safely possible.

This is a difficult time for our members and our audiences - many of whom will be from ‘at-risk age-groups’. But, no doubt, we will get through it. I am grateful for the support of the Choir in coming to these unhappy but necessary decisions.”

Joe Stones

... but we’re still alive and kicking.

Two sad departures....Peter Armitage & Brian Boothroyd

Two stalwarts of Marsden - and good friends of the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir - have passed away in recent weeks.



Brian Boothroyd, long-time member, cornet player and President of the wonderful **Marsden Silver Prize Band** died peacefully at home in Marsden at the end of January. He was one of the key organisers in setting up the band's joint Christmas concert with CVMVC, which has become such a firm favourite with our local audiences.

When, in the early days of our collaboration, Colne Valley's **David Morrison** asked Brian whether we could pencil the winter date into our performance schedule, Brian told him. "As far as I'm concerned, David, it's a tradition now!"



And so it has proved for the last 15 years or so.

The Choir's Music Committee Chairman, **David Hirst**, tells VotV that he and Brian knew each other all their lives from primary school onward. They went to the same school and Sunday School.



"We both became members of the **Marsden Methodist Operatic Society**," recalls David "Appearing in the same shows and pantomimes, even going on later to work at the same firm, David Brown Gears."



From the Marsden Methodist Operatic Society's 1952 production of 'No, No Nanette.'

"Brian Boothroyd is 3rd left from front and I am 3rd right from front. We had some great times in that show and others such as 'Mr Cinders' and 'Hit the Deck' and hilarious fun also, in Pantomimes. Lovely to look back and reminisce." writes David Hirst

"I am deeply saddened by the news of a dear old friend of many years.

It was good and fitting that he was able to watch the online Christmas Concert in 2020, just a few weeks before his death."



from the Marsden Methodist Operatic Society's 1952 production of 'No, No Nanette.'
 You can see Brian Boothroyd and Marjory back row left.
 David Hirst is kneeling in front of Brian with Judith Buckley.

If Brian was one of the instigators of a concert that's now a fixed part of the village year, then **Peter Armitage** was an indispensable part of it.

Peter was the jovial compère of the Christmas Concert since its earliest days. He was the man who welcomed the audience and introduced choir, band and soloist items.



He would also take the audience through a lively, 'stand-up-sit-down, sing-along' version of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'.

The Choir was very pleased to see Peter, carrying on his compère role from his living-room in last December's online Christmas Concert.



Peter, well into his mid eighties, was a major figure in village life, writer of pantomimes, thespian and - as he himself joked - 'best known for being the father of the poet, Simon Armitage'. He was the producer of shows by the all-male theatre group, '**The Avalanche Dodgers**' and was awarded an MBE for services to community theatre.

Peter's funeral was a private affair that took place in Marsden Church on the 26th of March.

He also will be sadly missed.



Listen to Peter talking about the Marsden Christmas Concert and how important it is to the village.

"It's part of our heritage - part of who we are.

I also went home for many, many years thinking. '**What a Good Do**'"

<https://youtu.be/4sgr-RWHjbo>

Jennifer does the ironing and sings along.

A nice lady contacted your VotV Editor some months ago: "When I'm doing the ironing or other housework, I like to listen to your wonderful choir's CD's and sing along.

I particularly like '**Another Day**'. Can you send me the lyrics so I can join in better?"

Well, VotV was happy to help Jennifer out.



But next Saturday, Jennifer should be in 'Seventh Heaven'. Colne Valley will be singing, 'Another Day' in its online concert on April 3rd. About 30 choir members have sent in individual recordings of this fine song and magician, **Chris Pulleyn**, will have edited them together to create a virtual Choir performance.

I bet you can't wait, Jennifer. We'll send you the link. Log on about 10 to 8 on Saturday evening.

Jennifer, who comes from and still lives in Kent, has a daughter who moved to West Yorkshire and now resides in Meadow Lane, Slaithwaite. Jennifer is hoping to get up to Yorkshire again soon and is looking forward to seeing her daughter and the two grandchildren. "Hopefully we'll see things improve with the planned rollout of the vaccine so we're looking forward to hearing the choir again sometime in the coming year. Meanwhile I'll keep playing the CDs."

She did see us in concert at Saint James's once, she tells me and she was certainly impressed with the online concert we did at Christmas: "The performances by both choir and band were first class. If we had any negative comment it would only be to say we wish it had been longer."

Well, thank you for getting in touch, Jennifer.



Simon has a hobby

Baritone, Simon Durrans has taken to passing the lockdown hours making model planes.

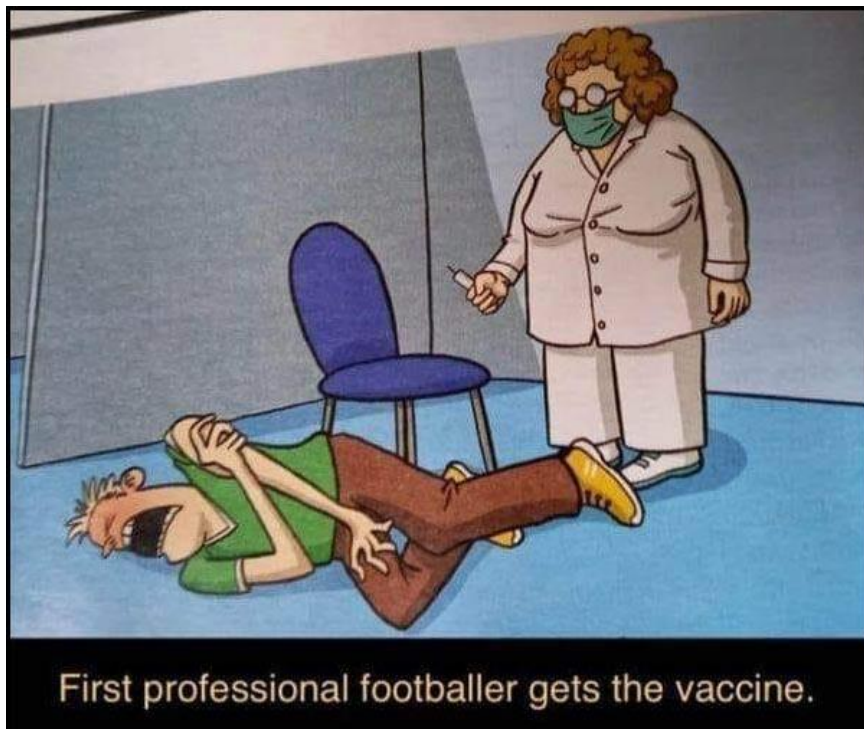
Well - better than wife-beating or excess gin, I guess.



Well, it made me smile...



And this made David Hirst smile...



Send me a picture.

Tell me your news

We might still be socially distancing and in isolation and VotV readers, both singers and audience-members, must wait to meet up...

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 - even if it's a bit tenuous - to the Choir. Doesn't matter if you are not very confident writing, I'll help you put into publishable shape.

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

	<h1>Colne Valley Male Voice Choir</h1> <p>Est 1922</p>				
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