



## Chris leads rehearsal with Jenny Martins at the piano.

**Chris Pulleyn**, our newish accompanist, swapped his usual role with pianist, Jenny Martins, the other night as he took on conducting duties for the Choir's second full Choir rehearsal, in the absence of Thom Meredith who had a long-standing commitment elsewhere.

And all the feedback says he did a cracking job. Members also remarked that Jenny Martins not only had a kindly smile, but was also thoroughly competent at the piano.

Well done to both of you.

Thom was back the following week and after they took rehearsal on August 16<sup>th</sup> the Choir started on a break until September 6<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that rehearsals will return to our Slaithwaite base on Britannia Road.

## Chris wrote to VotV afterwards:-



*Hi Mr Editor,*

*At the rehearsal I took the other night, I mentioned a performance I saw online from a Welsh group called **John's Boys** at the Eisteddfod.*

*It's a great performance and has a rather comical drunken sailor feature in it. It shows something of the sense of character I think is needed for a sea shanty like '**The Wellerman**'.*

*Perhaps not quite as extreme as this but I recommend the Colne Valley Men seek out their '**Salty Seadog**' characters to bring out the best in Thom's arrangement.*

*It'll be a fine, rollicking ditty when we've found our inner grizzled old mariners!*

*Thanks,*

*Chris*

Here are **John's Boys** with a characterful but cultured version of 'What shall we do with the Drunken Sailor?'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bpl4jwmeWp8>



## Chris's '& piano' does 'Musical Theatre' performance

Chris Pulley is a busy man. His much -valued '&piano Festival' has been - like all live music - hampered by lockdown but Chris finds a way to keep things going.

Most recently, he has returned to 'Musical Theatre' and in collaboration with Leeds-based singer **Marie Collins** has recorded a short concert in Huddersfield's Town Hall.

Chris tells VotV, he's back 'working towards live performances of the '& piano festival' but it will have to wait until next year, 2022. For the moment only video performances are possible.'

With up-and-coming Musical Theatre star, Marie Collins, guided by Chris at the keyboard, this performance includes a variety of numbers from the shows on the stage of the empty but nonetheless magnificent Huddersfield Town Hall.



Roll on the return of audiences says VotV.

Meanwhile enjoy them making the best of songs by **Andrew Lloyd-Weber, Stephen Sondheim and Jason Robert Brown**. Their session culminates in 'Climb Every Mountain' from **The Sound of Music**..

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3EdX\\_Jj8Ow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3EdX_Jj8Ow)



# Ken is still hard at it

Inventor and developer, **Ken Farr**, still sings first tenor and still entertains his fellow Choir members.

He might be an 88 year old veteran but he retains an interest in developing mathematical ideas.

We can't see Ken's latest innovation but we see him here on a visit to a Potato Box manufacturing Company in Wales, where he'd been to test out the market for his recent project.

## Ken writes:-

My visit to **Abergavanny Boxes** in July this year was to explore the potential for different and improved potato handling and storage.

It was a great business trip but also turned out to be quite a nostalgic one. You see, heading back to the station from the potato fields I couldn't help noticing a sign for **Merthyr Tydfil**. That was the town of my birth, way back in 1933. I stayed in Wales until, in 1960, with my wife, **Pamela**, and two young sons, **Stephen** and **Dean**, I emigrated to New Zealand.



Abergavanny, says Ken, is the home to male voice choir outfit, **Synergy**. Their version of the 'Teddy Bears Picnic' is well remembered by longer-serving Choir members as a knockout opening piece in a Torquay competition many years ago.

VotV was unable to find this number from 2013 but your Editor did find Synergy at Cornwall's Eden Centre performing a song they called 'Le Petit Dejeuner sur l'herbe' by **Theodore Bruin**. Enjoy!



<https://youtu.be/G2Dp64lc2LU>



And keep up the good work, Ken

# The Parting Glass

Second tenor, **Peter Hatton**, writes about a piece we first tried together at our rehearsal in Saint James Church the other night. It's a song we've been learning on Zoom over recent weeks and one which will figure when we get back to performing in coming months. Peter reckons it will be a particularly poignant song to perform, post-Covid, as the choir and audience gives thought to all those we know who have passed away.

*He writes:-*

*"Great to see everybody on Monday night and to sing in the Choir again. I thought you might be interested in a programme aired on BBC Radio 4 the other morning at 9.00am called '**Soul Music**', and devoted mostly to the 250 year history of the song, '**The Parting Glass**'.*

*I first came upon it in the folk clubs from the 1960's and sang it myself in a folk group involving former Choir members, **Stuart Iles**, and the late **Tony Ackroyd**.*

*It's a lovely piece with different emotional messages for many who've sung it, as the programme relates.*

*Cheers.*

*Peter*

## 'The Saddlers'



CVMVC tenors, **Tony Ackroyd**, **Peter Hatton** (with the acoustic guitar) **Stuart Iles**, (now retired from singing) and some other chap, entertained on the Pennine folk scene for many years, singing amongst other great songs, '**The Parting Glass**'.



## As the BBC podcast puts it:-

'Whether, 'The Parting Glass' is a popular toast at the end of an evening or a heartfelt farewell to a departed or deceased person, it has become synonymous with leaving.'

*"But since it falls unto my lot  
That I should rise  
And you should not  
I'll gently rise and softly call  
Goodnight and joy be to you all"*

To hear the Radio programme click on this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000y6n2>

And to hear a spirited rendition of the song itself, try this version, by '**The High Kings**', complete with bagpipes.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMkQExuzL\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMkQExuzL_0)





# A long way from Yorkshire!

A message arrived on the website the other day from **Melbourne, Australia**.



Greetings.

*I came across your choir's version of 'God is Working His Purpose Out' and I'm looking to have it as the hymn in responding to my sermon from Genesis 41. I'd like to request your permission for use. We will of course include an acknowledgement*

*Yours faithfully,*

David Hann  
Canterbury Presbyterian Church

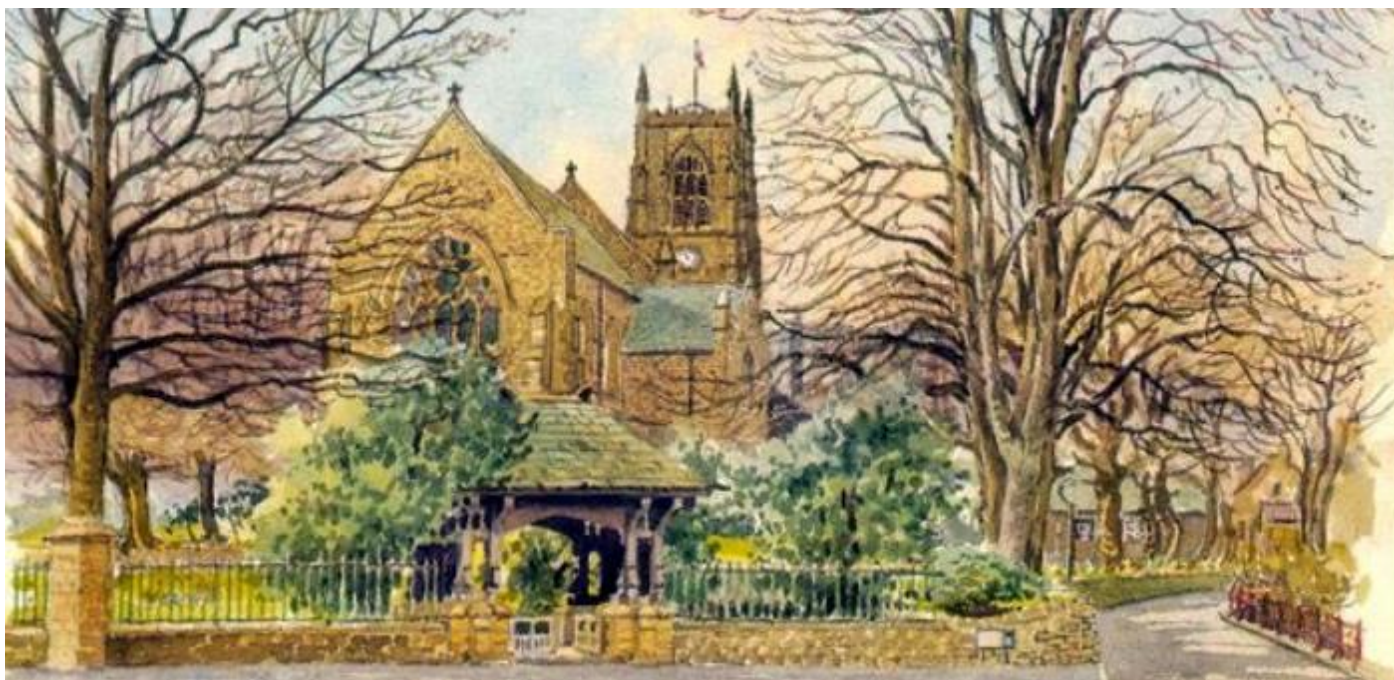


Of course, we said we'd be happy for him to use the recording made by the Choir with Marsden Silver Prize Band in Saint Bartholomew's Church in 2003.

David tells Voice of the Valley, "I also listened to your version of **Gwahoddiad** and it was very moving. My late father used to sing second base in various male choirs and that was his favourite."

This is the second such request we've had for this piece this year. We hope Minister Hann's congregation across the world enjoys it.

Listen again:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N283ulwzbfE>





# We're still doing 'Give as you Live'

Don't forget when you buy stuff online that, if you go via the '[Give as You Live](#)' website, a small percentage of the money you spend is gathered by 'Give as you Live' from its dozens of suppliers and then forwarded to Colne Valley Male Voice Choir. As Tesco says, 'Every Little Helps'.

The screenshot shows the 'Give as you Live Online' website. At the top, a heart-shaped shopping cart icon is next to the text 'Give as you Live Online'. To the right, it says 'Hi John, you're supporting Colne Valley Male Voice Choir - Yorkshire'. Below this is a navigation bar with links: 'Shop', 'Compare', 'How it works', 'Ways to raise', 'Favourites', and a search bar labeled 'Enter a store name'. The main section is titled 'Our stores' and displays a grid of 12 store logos, each with a star icon in the top left corner. The stores and their associated donation percentages are: Screwfix (Raise up to 0.50%), Millets (Raise up to 3.00%), Morrisons (Raise up to £2.30), Mountain Warehouse (Raise up to 2.50%), Lakeland (Raise up to 2.00%, with an 'INCREASED DONATION' badge), lastminute.com (Raise up to 3.00%, with an 'INCREASED DONATION' badge), Vodafone (Raise up to £40.00), John Lewis & Partners (Raise up to 1.00%), Just Eat, Wickes (Let's do it right), Experian, and Selfridges & Co.

## Well it made me smile ...in a grim sort of way





Support us by joining our 200 Club.

Just £50 a year to get one of our 200 numbers. You get the chance every week to get most of your stake back.

Every month there's a £185 prize & then twice a year a whopping £1,000 draw.

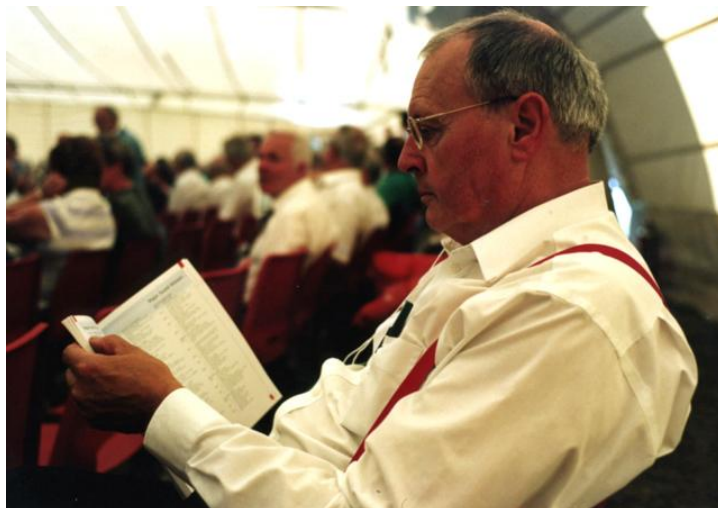
Even if you don't win, you win!  
Half the money goes as prizes but half stays to help the Choir cover its costs.

## Jenny Reports...

'The winner of the £185 in the 200 Club draw at the end of July was **Norman Brown**, now living in Northumberland but still actively supporting CVMVC.

(He's ex Second Tenor, Secretary, Chairman (twice) and currently Vice President)'

**Well done Norman – that'll boost your pension, nicely!**



And on August 16<sup>th</sup> it was bass, Noel Clarke's sister, Valerie, who won. Lucky Valerie!



*'Voice of the Valley' stays relevant and interesting if we have the stories. If there is an event, an experience or a thought that, even remotely, relates to our glorious Choir do let your VoV Editor, John Clark, know about it.*

*I'm aware that some potential contributors are shy of coming forward and aren't at ease putting their thoughts into print. But don't be put off. I can help you get your story ready for print.*

*I really want to hear from our readers. That's what will keep us together until we - audience and performers - can come together again in real life."*

Or, ring Choir Secretary, Jenny, on 01484 645192 to join us or join our Readers' List or for other queries. **See our website [colnevalleymvc.org.uk](http://colnevalleymvc.org.uk) to get the full story**

Colne Valley



Male Voice Choir