



Keynote Concert confirmed

Perhaps the biggest concert of our Centenary Year is now a firm commitment in our diary.

On October 1st Colne Valley Male Voice Choir will host the Band of the Coldstream Guards at Huddersfield Town Hall.

This great news was made known to VotV by Choir Chairman Joe Stones, "It's been ages in the pipeline and we couldn't speak about it. The military planning process is complex when arranging concerts such as ours but just a couple of days ago I got the go-ahead from the Army. There are loads of arrangements still to make but we can now get cracking to make this event one of the most spectacular of the Choir's 100 years of music and entertainment."



The Coldstream Guards, as most people will know is one of the regiments of the Household Division. We saw them all recently when more than 1,500 soldiers and 350 horses paraded on Horse Guards Parade for the final review of Trooping the Colour by HRH, the Duke of Cambridge. It marked the start of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

The Coldstream Guards Band is world famous for its role in military events and for the quality of its musicianship. They wear the 'bearskins' on ceremonial occasions, apparently with a discrete red plume to distinguish them from the other regiments.

How did we entice them to come to Huddersfield as our guests?

Joe points to two main factors. "The Band is very interested in recruitment of top-class young musicians.



We made it known to them that we would be happy to host a recruitment event on the day of the concert.

With our Music Director, **Thom Meredith** we are fortunate to have excellent connections with young players via '**Musica Kirklees**'. With Thom's help, that means that young instrumentalists locally can have the chance to meet and perhaps play alongside the Coldstream Guards Band.

They can find out a little about the potential to develop their musical skills and explore Army Music Career Opportunities.

We also hope that via Thom's excellent contacts with Kirklees and neighbouring local authorities will mean that young people from surrounding areas can also join in.

We're planning to provide free gallery tickets to young people for this event and expect that young players will be an important part of the evening concert programme.

The second thing the band is interested in is 'charity work'. This fits very neatly with CVMVC plans. The concert will make no profits. All surplus funds, after expenses, will go to charitable causes. We expect to make a substantial donation to 'Help for Heroes'. Perhaps more importantly, we expect to underwrite a fund that will give financial support to enable local young musicians to develop their musical skills."

But there may be some other connections that had some influence on the Guards decision to come to Huddersfield. Our Chairman's brother is Colour Sergeant **Nicolas Stones**. Surely that must have helped Joe understand better what the Guards planning concerns might encompass. Maybe similar insights came from our Vice President, **Keith Fielding's** warm acquaintance with **Lieutenant Colonel Simon Haw MBE**, Commanding Officer of the Household Division Band; the officer who oversees all the state ceremonial music in London for Her Majesty the Queen.



David Hirst also points out that CVMVC had performed with the Coldstream Guards on three previous occasions during our Choir's glorious history, most recently, about 42 years ago, at the Civic Theatre in Halifax. CVMVC's conductor was John Gulley, Keith Swallow accompanied and the Coldstream Guards Band was conducted by Lt. Col. R. A. Ridings.

Two joint items were performed: **The Peers Chorus** from *Iolanthe* and **The Soldiers' Chorus** from *Faust*.



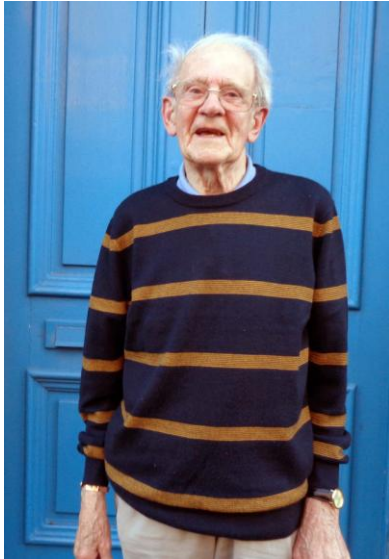
"We've only just had our correspondence from the current Director of Music, **Major Stewart Halliday**.

So now the work can really get started at the Colne Valley end. We've got a big series of tasks and not that much time to sort them, but I'm convinced we can make October 1st 2022 a great event in our birthday year and a day to remember."



Well done, Joe

200 Club: Les says, "It's time for a new chap."



200 Club Supremo, **Les Stones**, confirmed to VotV that he's handing over the task of running our fund-raising scheme - the excellent 200 Club - to a new chap.

"I can't remember when I started doing it - maybe 15 years ago or more - but it feels like a task I can now relinquish. I'm 89 now and haven't been so well in recent weeks so I was pleased when new chap, **Peter Kelly**, started giving me a hand.

He's been so good at it that I feel I can step down now and the 200 Club will be in good hands.

Likely in better hands now as I haven't been able to chase up all the details lately.

And Peter will want to see that the handful of unsold numbers we've currently got are bought as soon as possible. I'm sure he'll be repeating my regular plea to Choir members and friends to get a few 200 Club numbers: it supports the Choir substantially and - better than that - it gives you a good chance of winning decent prize money - much better odds than the lottery!

I thank the Choir for all the support it's given me over the years and I wish Peter the very best of luck in dealing with the management of the project I've been so pleased to look after all these years - the 200 Club."

New man, Peter Kelly, says 'Les seems quite relieved that I've taken on the job. I hope I can do it as well as Les done has all these years. I'm pleased to add my thanks to him and I'm glad that VotV is taking the opportunity to thank Les on behalf of the whole Choir.'



But things carry on - here's my list of the lucky winners for the last few months.

200 Club Winners in 2022

DATE	NUMBER	NAME	PRIZE (£)
DEC			
6	143	ANGIE SILLETT	45
13	109	CHRIS PULLEYN	45
20	16	JOAN STONES	45
27	11	IAN NELSON	185
JAN			
3	133	DAVID HIRST	45
10	192	PETER KELLY	45
17	172	AUDREY BEDFORD	45
24	162	BARBARA MUSKETT	45
31	132	MARGARET PARKIN	185
FEB			
7	74	RAYMAND ELLIS	45
14	85	RICHARD NEVILLE	45
21	143	ANGIE SILLETT	45
28	4	STELLA BOWMAN	185
MAR			
7	42	SUE HIBB	45
14	128	ANDREW RIPPER	45
21	72	TREVOR SYKES	45
28	34	MICHAEL PARKINSON	185
APR			
4	121	PAULA HIRST	45
11	95	MARILLION FLOWERS	45
18	18	JENNIFER REX	45
25	185	MARGARET FEARNLEY	185
MAY			
2	192	PETER KELLY	45
9	164	JOHN CLARK	45
16	123	G PINDER	45
23	138	JAMES COOKE	45
30	49	MAUREEN STEAD	185
JUNE			
6	126	NARA HIRST	45
13	129	DOMINIC KELLY	45



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**

And here's a lucky winner....



Yes, your editor won £185 quid on Monday.

You've got to be in it to win it!

Jack calls it a day



John Smith has decided to retire as a singing member of the Choir. "I still love the singing," he told *VotV*, "It's just my legs don't want to climb up to the rehearsal room in Slaithwaite and last Christmas at the Town Hall, it was a devil of a job getting onstage."

This is me with two 'new boys' at the Town Hall when Covid finally relented at Christmas 2021



I was pleased to do the special concert for Keith Swallow, at Golcar, earlier this year, but it was a trial.

So, reluctantly, I have come to the conclusion that my time as a singing member of the second tenors has come to a close.

This is me and my brother, Melvyn, with the cups we won in 2007 - Best Choir in the UK - the first of many we won over the years at the Cornwall Male Voice Choir Festival.

I'm not far off 90 years old now and I've had a good long stint. It's been marvellous.

Jenny provides the data

'John Smith passed his test on the 9th of October 1972. He had a break from August 1977 to November 1980, citing work and exams. He received his 40 years service award April 2015.'



His brother Melvyn was in the Baritone Section from 1972 and he died in 2012 just over a month before he would have had his 40 years service award.'



Jack was made an **Honorary Life Member** about seven years ago.

Here he receives a certificate from fellow veteran and also retired singer, **John Radcliffe**.

We wish you well, Jack.

Joyce fiasco

Your Editor, with failing eyesight and mental faculties, somehow managed to put in a picture of some random woman, claiming it was a picture of **Joyce 'the Voice' Tinsley**.

Choir members will remember the terrific session of voice-coaching that Joyce delivered at our Centenary Day on May 8th.

My apologies to Joyce, in particular and to readers in general. I suppose I should also apologise to the lady whose photograph I used in the mistaken attempt to portray our session leader. Trouble is, I've no idea who she might be!

For clarification this is the wonderful Joyce Tinsley. Let's hope she can make a return visit sometime soon.



Lady, not at all like Joyce Tinsley, as used in the last edition.

Geoff Crowther RIP

The life of retired baritone, Geoff Crowther was celebrated at his funeral on June 21st at Meltham Church. Geoff stepped down as a singer after the Christmas Concerts in 2020. 'He was very disappointed to give up singing,' writes his daughter, Sarah, 'But his health didn't allow him to participate any longer.'

This is Geoff at his last Town Hall performance.

Geoff's membership dates back to the 1960's when he sang with us during some of our glory years, including our three consecutive victories at the Llangollen Eisteddfod.



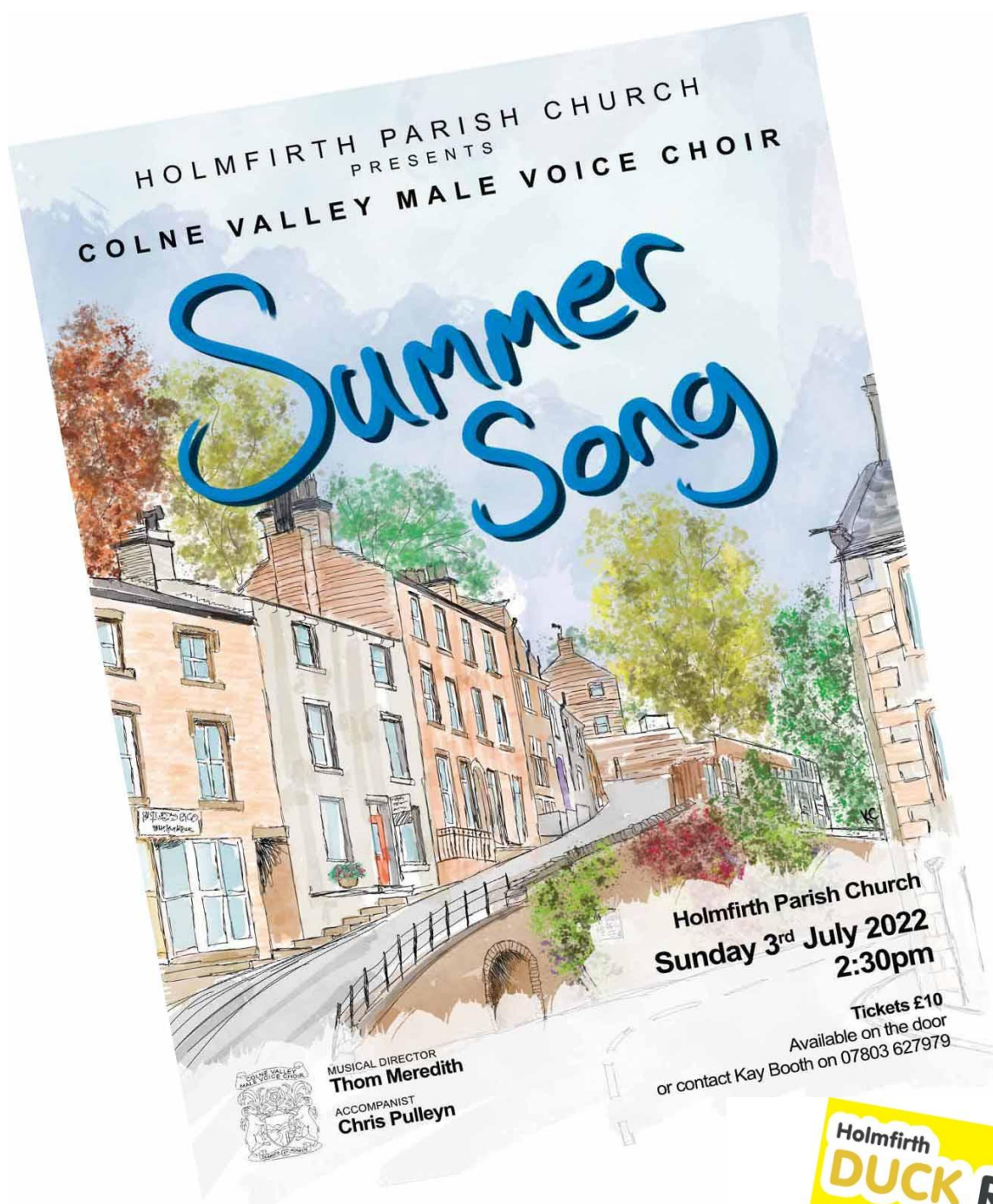
Work took him away but he rejoined us in 1990 for a further 30 year spell. He had particularly fond memories of Choir trips to France and Czechoslovakia.



Geoff passed away on May 27th.

The Choir, sang George Stead's **Fourfold Amen** in a moving tribute in his memory at rehearsal in early June.

Our next concert is in Holmfirth



People travelling to this concert should be aware that Sunday is also **Duck Race** day – so parking may be tight!



Don't miss the fun in Marsden

It's summer fun for all the family on Sunday afternoon in Marsden in a couple of week's time. There's Pony rides, a bouncy castle, stalls, food and drink - even a beer tent. **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** with our partners in the wonderful **Marsden Silver Prize Band** and the good people at **Saint Bartholomew's** are coming together to put on an afternoon of fine music and good fun in the heart of the village. Come along, bring the kids and the grandkids and enjoy a lovely afternoon.



Ready for the seaside?



Rehearsals are now underway and the excitement is beginning to build.

Yes, for the first time in 3 years we are preparing to head to Scarborough for the wonderful Scarborough Music Festival, with our radiant sponsor, Miss Christine Cox.

Put the date in your diary - it's Saturday August 20th 2022 at the Queen Street Methodist Church concert hall.



Well it made me smile....



Remind you of anyone?

And remember VotV always welcomes reader contributions.



colnevalleymvc.org.uk

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