



## The mayor likes us

We were pleased to have the Mayor of Kirklees, **Councillor Masood Ahmed** and his daughter, the **Lady Mayoress, Iram Ahmed** as our guests of honour at our big Christmas concert in the Huddersfield Town Hall. Recently Chairman Joe, received a lovely note from the Mayor, telling us he had never seen an event like it and that he'd had a wonderful time.

Well thank you, Mr Mayor. Come and see us again any time or maybe even join us at a rehearsal and sing along.



HELLO JUDITH + JOE  
I JUST WANTED TO SAY 'THANK YOU'  
FOR YOUR INVITE TO THE 'COLNE  
VALLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR + BRIGHOUSE -  
RASTRICK BAND.  
I HAD NEVER ATTENDED AN EVENT LIKE  
THIS BEFORE, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY  
AMAZING. I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.  
MAYOR OF KIRKLEES  
CLLR MASOOD AHMED

# 'Let All Men Sing' Concert

Sunday afternoon, **March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023** will be an historic day. The Choir set itself a target to have **100 male singers onstage** at some point during our Centenary Year.

And, fingers crossed, we are expecting to meet that goal at **Saint James's Church in Slaithwaite** at around **2.30 pm** when the concert is set to start.

For, appearing onstage will be our new 'Let All Men Sing' Community Choir, our wonderful Colne Valley Boys' Choir and the august men of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir itself. Together we should break the 100 mark with a few to spare!

But forget the head-count; consider the quality of the event. This will be a premiere and once-only performance by a group of men who have come together just to sing. Most of them have little prior experience of singing, but have been brought together to try out something new and to discover the bonds of friendship that communal music-making offers.

The word, after just a few of their eight sessions, is that they sound really good together. They will be singing a couple of solo items.

Add to that there will be the Boys Choir, which our audience know to be charmingly proficient. The audience will also get to see the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir - radically - in 'smart casual' clothing, singing a range of new and familiar tunes, including an 'Elvis' number.

**And best off all - all three ensembles will sing together.**

We'll all perform the rousing fanfare; '**Let All Men Sing**' to start off what we hope will be a lively, friendly and informal occasion. And later we'll carouse through the rollicking and newly popular sea shanty, **The Wellerman**'.

And to conclude we'll share the emotional '**Let there be Peace on Earth**' as our finale.

It'll be a great event, attracting a new - and probably full house audience at Saint James's and it'll only cost you a fiver, too. All proceeds will go to Men's Mental Health Charities. So you'll be helping out with a good cause, too. Why not be there?



# Clarification: LAMS concert proceeds



A community choir project for men that sing and men that would like to give it a try!



Your Editor has made a bit of an error in the article above, when he reported - in the earlier online version - that **'All proceeds will go to Men's Mental Health Charities'**. There was no intention to mislead readers but a couple of our organisers have been in touch with *VotV* concerned that my statement is not strictly accurate and might easily be misunderstood.

They are right ... but it depends, perhaps, on how you understand **'proceeds'**...

Let me explain:- the Choir, itself a charity, has invested quite a lot of its funds to get the **'Let All Men Sing'** project off the ground - marketing, staff, premises costs etc.

It was always intended that the income from ticket sales would go to recouping at least some of these costs. But, even with a good-sized audience and the raffle, the Choir has not been expecting there to be any surplus of income over expenditure.

That is why our organisers proposed a **'Bucket Collection'**, geared to supporting men's mental health activities. The chosen charity is **ANDYSMANCLUB**, which seeks to help men cope with mental health issues and to promote men's mental wellbeing.

**WE'RE A BUNCH OF BLOKES  
HAVING A CHAT  
OVER A BREW  
& A BISCUIT.**

At ANDYSMANCLUB, we want to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health and create a judgment-free, confidential space where men can be open about the storms in their lives. We aim to achieve this through weekly, free-to-attend peer-to-peer support groups for men aged over 18.

**ANDYSMANCLUB**

We did decide to price tickets at a very reasonable level (just £5.00 per ticket) in the hope that, if our audience enjoy their afternoon, they will be more kindly disposed to contributing generously to the **'ANDYSMANCLUB'** collection. [https://www.facebook.com/AMCHuddersfield/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/AMCHuddersfield/?locale=en_GB)

Of course, the full amount of that **'collection'** will go to ANDYSMANCLUB. Your Editor hopes this clarification will reassure readers.

# Spring Concert agreed

A joint concert with the Choir and the wonderful **Lindley Brass Band** was announced the other day.

Following discussions between the management teams of both organisations an agreement was reached to put on a concert together on April 30<sup>th</sup> - that's a Sunday afternoon - at 2:30 pm.

It will take place at **St John's in Golcar**. We know from previous concerts that St John's has a lovely acoustic for choral performance. And it'll be just £10.00 a ticket.

For many years, the choir performed with Lindley Band at the open-air 'Concert on the Hill' at Salendine Nook. We are pleased that our relationship is resuming.

And they'll bring with them another old friend of the Choir, who performed with us at many a Marsden Christmas concert.

That's **Alan Widdop**, once of Marsden Silver Prize Band and, since late 2022, conductor of Lindley.

We think it will be a lovely event with some super music.

Do put the date in your diary!



# Mrs Parkin wins £1000

"I'm feeling good about winning £1,000." says **Margaret**, 'But the truth is me and John have both been suffering from bad colds in the last few days, so we haven't had much chance to think about what we'll do with the money - an unexpected bonus.

We've both just got the one ticket each - so it was great to hear we'd scooped the big prize." adds John. "It's just sitting in the bank account at the moment.

But don't you worry we'll think of something. Something nice for when the weather improves maybe."

Well done, Margaret and John. Enjoy it when you get over the sniffles.



And the rest of you, don't forget you've got to be in it to win it!

That's the 200 Club, of course; Colne Valley's fund-raising lottery, where a massive 50% of income goes out to participants as prizes.

New 200 Club Organiser, **Peter Kelly**, tells VotV, he's keen to sell a few more numbers and advises it's a sound purchase for nearly all participants - except perhaps for Matt Houston, who claims to have been in the scheme for 20 years and has never won a penny. Poor Matt!

	<p>Just one pound a week buys you one of the 200 Club numbers.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Even if you don't win, you win - because half of the fund supports Choir concerts and performances.</p> <p>Contact <b>Peter Kelly</b> at <a href="mailto:peter.kelly10@btinternet.com">peter.kelly10@btinternet.com</a> or phone him on 07802 544717.</p>
---	---

# Chris's one man band

We've known that Christopher Pulleyn is a talented chap for a good long while now. But the other night we saw a fresh dimension to his skills.

Thom had fallen sick and had contacted Chris to take the rehearsal the other night. Chris had, in turn, tried to sort out an accompanist but had drawn a blank. "Blow it", he might have said, "I'll do it myself."

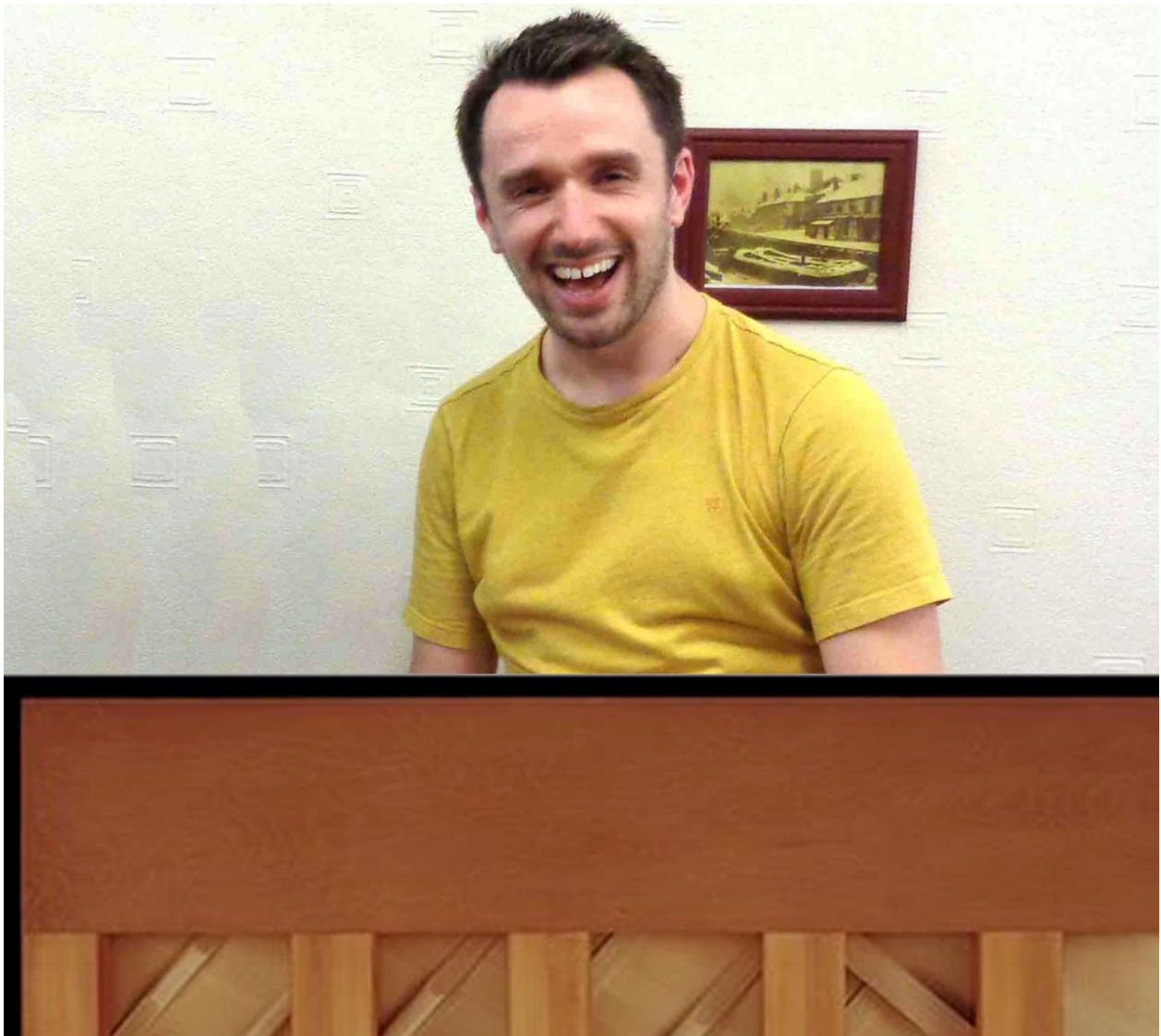
And so he did it all - conducting, commenting, verbally leading and playing what was a near complete accompaniment all at the same time - and doing it magnificently well.

Of course we've seen Thom doing the same trick on a few occasions but - as he would be the first to concede - the piano work is quite cut down. In Chris's case not only was his hand waving, providing vigorous guidance to us singers but his accompaniment was strikingly engaging and seemed to include all the notes he'd normally be playing whilst Thom was at the front at the conductor's lectern.

I think most of us thought that it was impossible but Chris managed it.

Your VotV photographer was too bowled over to record the occasion but this 'artist's impression' shows how it might have looked.

## Well done, Chris



# LAMS visited by Radio Leeds

“It was all a bit hectic last night.” reports Colne Valley Male Voice Choir’s, **Kieran Chadha**.



“**Abi Bliss** from **Radio Leeds** came to visit the ‘**Let All Men Sing**’ rehearsal at the Slaithwaite Civic Hall.

She interviewed me, along with four of the singers. She was interested in the purpose of LAMS, why it was being run, what we were hoping to achieve.

Mostly we talked about the need for something like LAMS - to give men a go at singing, now that we’re lacking the traditional musical experience people got from singing in school or church.

She asked about the choir’s centenary, and my experience in the choir.



She wanted to know about my feelings on singing. I explained about it working as a mindfulness exercise - something to concentrate on, without being distracted by work or other stresses.

I added that the inter-generational opportunities are important to me - I value being able to spend time with people I wouldn’t otherwise come into contact with. I also said the feeling of contributing to something is a big part of the satisfaction it delivers.”

VotV readers should listen out for the broadcast. “Nothing is confirmed.” said Kieran, “But we’ll likely figure in a piece about four minutes long probably to be aired next Wednesday afternoon.”



# So farewell then....Topol and Raquel Welsh

Tevye the milkman shaking his upper torso and stomping out his yearnings for a better future –

*“If I were a rich man,  
yubby dibby dibby  
dibby dibby, dibby dum  
All day long I’d biddy biddy bum  
If I were a wealthy man ...”*

– is one of the most admired in all stage and film history. It is forever associated with the irrepressible Israeli actor **Chaim Topol**, who has died aged 87.

He played Tevye in the 1967 London premiere of **‘Fiddler on the Roof’** and in the 1971 **Norman Jewison** film version.

Recall this iconic song by clicking here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBHZFYpQ6nc>



And also gone is the woman who brought out the ‘caveman’ in many a red-blooded young male back in the sixties; **Raquel Welsh**.

She was the only one you’ll remember in an otherwise totally forgettable film; **‘One Million Years BC’**.

Of course hunting enough animal skins to provide sufficient warm clothing was quite a problem back in the ‘Stone Age’.



# LAMS Project put on 'repeat'.

We're only half way through our 'Let All Men Sing' initiative to promote singing with men, who maybe have never tried choral singing and want to give it a try. But it's been so successful so far that that CVMVC has decided to do it again in 2024.

Baritone, **Kieran Chadha** told VotV: "We never expected to see close on forty men coming forward. We were really pleased that the plan had 'struck a chord' with the community and that interest was so high. We've only done a few sessions but the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

We had been compelled to close entry to the LAMS Choir, as we were in danger of having too many men to handle. But enquiries kept coming in from local men, who were disappointed that we had stopped enrolling. **'Please do it again', was the message.** So we've taken that request onboard and we've decided to run the scheme again in January next year.

A PROJECT SUPPORTED BY  
Colne Valley Male Voice Choir  
IN THEIR CENTENARY YEAR

## Let All Men Sing! will return in 2024

Let All Men Sing! is a community choir project for men that sing  
and men who've always wanted to give it a try!

Find out more and register your interest  
at [www.letallmensing.co.uk](http://www.letallmensing.co.uk)  
or email [LAMS@colnevalleymvc.org.uk](mailto:LAMS@colnevalleymvc.org.uk)

Eight weekly rehearsals beginning January 2024  
Plus a celebratory concert at the end of the project

One-off registration fee  
Limited places

Let All Men Sing! got off to a flying start  
in 2023. Nearly 40 men, from all walks of life,  
came together to give singing a go.  
Some hadn't sung since being at school, some  
wanted to polish up their rusty skills, others  
had (apparently) never hit a note in their lives.  
Starting a choir from scratch takes patience,  
passion, and practise but after just eight  
weeks, these remarkable chaps proved  
they were more than up to the challenge.  
Hard work? Definitely.  
Life-changing? Possibly.  
Worth it? Absolutely!

Can't wait until January?  
**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**  
is open to new singers all year round  
Mondays 7:30pm at 19 Britannia Road, Slaithwaite  
**Why not give us a try?**

That's not to say that any men who want to join **Colne Valley Male Voice Choir** won't still be welcome to come along to our Monday rehearsals and sing in with us until they feel confident enough to become members.

Our doors will remain open.

But for those many men who might want to explore singing without making a commitment, greater than to eight sessions and one informal concert, there will still be an option if they sign up for the January 2024 programme."

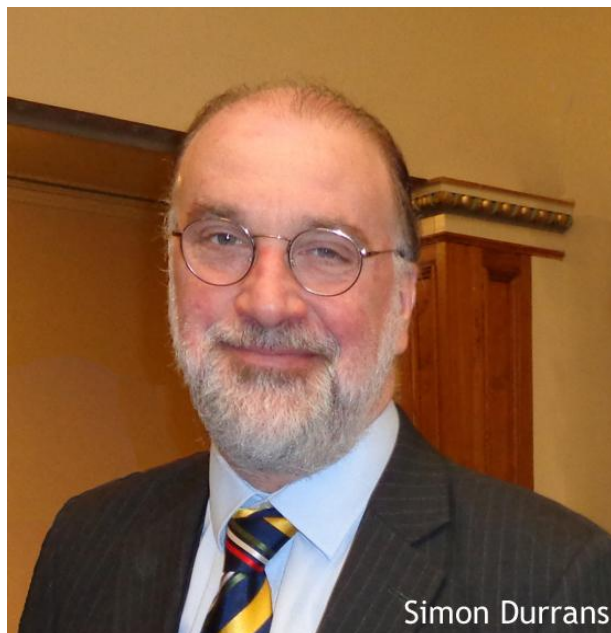
# Simon in Venice

No doubt in an attempt to heal the trauma of looking after the Choir's finances - he's now given that up in favour of new Treasurer, **Annabel Cooke** - baritone, **Simon Durrans**, took himself off on a brief holiday to Venice to recover.

(And he deserves it: he did a great and often thankless job very effectively.)

He tells *VotV*: 'The weather wasn't bad, considering it was still early in the year - but the streets were really wet - you couldn't walk on 'em.

Otherwise we had a pretty good time.'



Meanwhile, Annabel has doggedly stuck to her new task, putting into practice some requests from the Management Team for improved 'financial forecasting' tools to aid future planning as we move into our second century.

'We can now take payments electronically,' she added, 'which is a big bonus.' A sceptical Committee finally reckoned this technical wizardry impressive.

# COLNE VALLEY NEWS

4p

ISSUE 13

1 NED LANE, SLAITHWAITE, WEST YORKS, PHONE HUDDERSFIELD 844513.

DECEMBER 1977



More sleuthing by **David and Judith Morrison** has unearthed a short-lived publication that was briefly reporting on happenings in the Colne Valley in the late 1970's.

Your editor reckons it's worth a quick look....

He can shed no light on who **Alma Kewley** was (or is) (Maybe someone will email [VotV](mailto:VotV) with information.) But her poem in praise of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir is quite cute.

---

## THE LIMERICK

*There's a good choir in Colne  
Valley,  
That is quite as well known as the  
Halle',  
And when they compete, they  
sing so sweet,  
They bring back a prize from each  
rally.*

*Alma Kewley.*

Well it made me smile....



## Contributions welcomed



So, March has come in like a lion and seems set to go out like a lamb.

Your Voice of the Valley editor reckons that readers would enjoy their spring even more, if they sent their story in to VotV.

If it's got some connection with the Choir and its members and activities, send me a draft and I'll help you get it ready for publication.

And do check out our website....

**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**  
Est 1922

Events Recordings Our History About Us Information