



## Kilimanjaro Joe - seeks sponsorship money for next LAMS Project

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, Choir Chairman, **Joe Stones** set off to climb Africa's highest peak, **Kilimanjaro**. This is very high - 19,341 feet high (5895 metres).

Here we see him and his pal, Ian, their guides and support teams in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro at an early stage in their ascent attempt.





The idea came about when Joe and his friend, Ian, were approaching their 50<sup>th</sup> birthdays. They made a plan to climb the peak but work commitments at the time meant this never happened. Fully ten years later, for their 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays, they revived the plan and committed themselves to the adventure of a lifetime. They would finally take on the challenge waiting for them in Tanzania.

Joe says, *“We are climbing via the **Lemosho Route**, which is longer but allows more time for acclimatisation. We chose this, because the very high altitude of the mountain means there is only half the usual level of oxygen at the top, so the longer, more gradual climb seems wisest. This route is also well renowned for its spectacular and changing scenery from rain forest and jungle at the bottom to snow, ice and severe cold at the top, even in June!*

*Me and Ian are both experienced walkers and we also ski usually twice a year, so we reckon the biggest challenge will not be the changing temperatures nor distances we’ll need to trek but we will be more bothered about the altitude and the thin air, which is more difficult to prepare for.*

*We have been preparing though, both of us walking regularly, recently climbing Helvellyn via Striding Edge, and other peaks in the Lakes and Dales. A couple of weeks ago, my wife, Judith, and I were in Snowdonia continuing to prepare.”*

”They were in the forested foothills foot-hills on Tuesday....





...and spent Thursday night at **Lava Tower Camp** in the National Park.



By Friday, their ascent was really making progress. They were trying 'The Barranca Wall' in readiness to attempt to summit.





VotV was astonished to get these photos from Joe but he did say mobile phone coverage was getting increasingly poor, so we don't know whether he's made it!

What a change. Eh? When your Editor lived in Africa it took an air-mail letter about a month to get to England if it arrived at all - and I doubt there will be any post offices on Kilimanjaro.

## Not just a jolly!

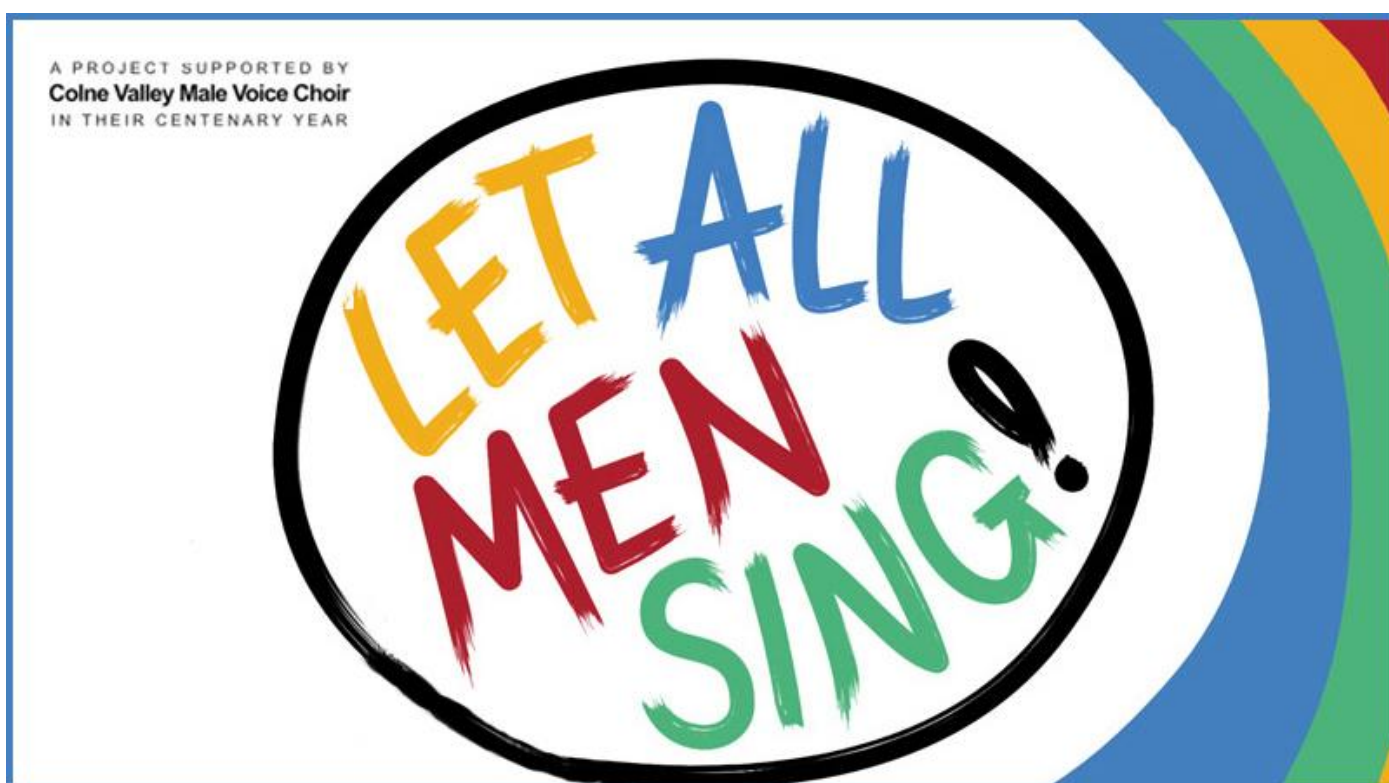


Just before he left, Joe told VotV that he has fully funded his trip but said that people were regularly asking him what charity he was raising money for?

*"I had not thought of that at the time" he adds, 'But then I thought about the community singing project Colne Valley Male Voice Choir has been running for men, who like the idea of singing with other men but currently, probably, only sing in the shower.*

*I had been closely involved, with Choir colleagues in January to March this year with the Project, called 'Let All Men Sing'".*

The initiative was launched as one of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir's Centenary Year Projects. The idea was to get a group of men together for just 8 rehearsals in order to do a one-off concert in support of Men's Mental Health charities. The project was remarkably successful. The LAMS men did a wonderful concert, singing alone and with the Colne Valley Boys and the adult Choir, building on our links with the community and raising some money for the charity, ANDYSMANCLUB (which works to prevent male suicide through positive mental health).



*“It was a huge success.” Joe said “And we had nearly forty men from absolutely all walks of life, ages and backgrounds taking part.*

*Because it was such a success story, people are already asking the question: Will we be running the ‘Let All Men Sing’ community choir again next year?*

*Quite a number are wanting to take part especially those that were unable to be involved last time.*

*The project costs around £2000 to run.*

*I’ve decided to make that my **Kilimanjaro Charity**.*

*Every penny I raise will go to support for ‘Let All Men Sing’ for 2024 and even 2025 if we raise enough.*

*If you would like to sponsor my Kilimanjaro Climb, then please use the link below.*

*Every donation, however, small or large will go towards supporting the project and do, please, gift aid your donation if you can.”*

*Thank you*

*Joe Stones*

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# JustGiving™

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

Let All Men Sing Project 2024

Follow this link to support  
Joe’s Kilimanjaro  
‘Let all men sing’ initiative.

Click here:-

<https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/3457227>

*Readers of print versions should input the link above or give their donation to Secretary, Jenny.*

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# Halifax Minster gig

Even if Joe survives his expedition he still won't be back in time to enjoy next Thursday's concert.



## Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and Elland Silver Band

Two outstanding local musical organisations  
are collaborating  
on this, the first night of the Festival  
to bring the acoustics of the Minster alive to the sound of  
singing and brass.

Thursday, 22 June 2023

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Halifax Minster

Tickets £10 (£8 - concessions and under 18s - FREE)





# Colne Valley appearance on 'Antiques Road Trip' is off.

This popular BBC daytime TV programme sees antiques experts setting off on a road trip round the UK searching for treasures and competing to make the most money at auction.



Well, the programme was to feature CVMVC. A forthcoming edition is to be in Huddersfield and the Choir has been invited to perform for a recording by the BBC, singing in the Huddersfield Town Hall. Our '15 seconds of Fame' might well have seen celebrity auctioneer, **Charles Hanson**, joining us in performance. We were keen to do it: an opportunity to promote the **Mrs Sunderland Music Festival** and the Choir - both of us 'antiques' in our own way – CVMVC is just starting its second century as an organisation, the 'Mrs Sunderland' is even more ancient - having started up in 1889.

But it was not to be. The Choir said we could do the filming session on Friday afternoon (June 9<sup>th</sup>) but that we couldn't overrun on time for most of us will be involved in the **200 Club Dinner** that evening - an event to see us marking the end of our Centenary Year and launching us towards our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sadly, the production company couldn't work to our deadline - they weren't able to say we would complete in the timeframe available. So, with some regrets, we felt we had no option but to withdraw. Oh well, maybe we'll watch the Huddersfield edition when it comes out!



# A cheque to charity

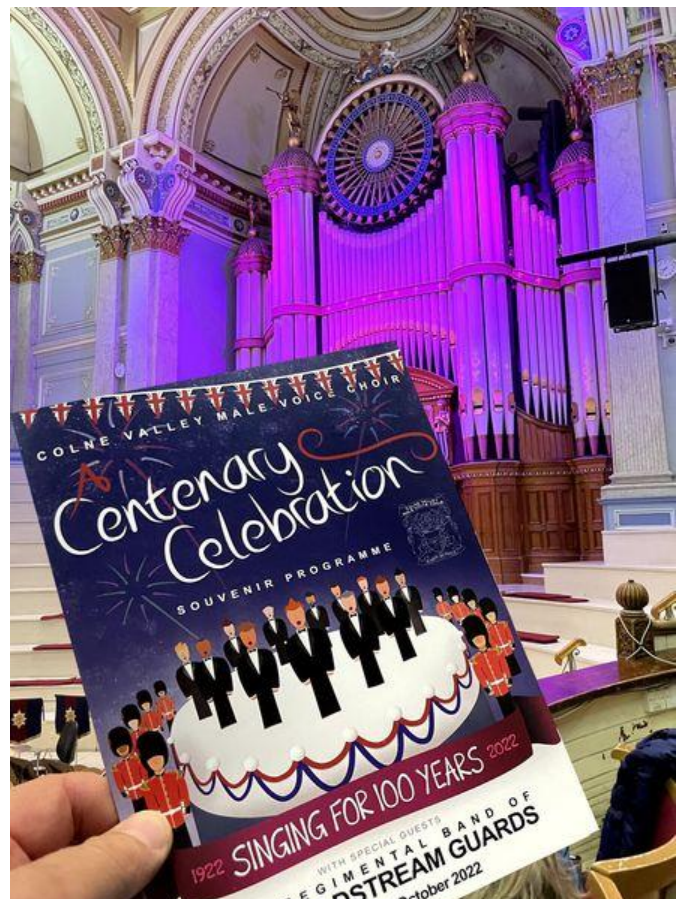


The Choir was honoured to have **Lt Col Barney Barnbrook** visit our rehearsal the other Monday.

He had come specially to formerly receive a donation to the **ABF - The Army Benevolent Fund** - the soldiers charity.

He was presented with a large cheque by Choir Chairman, Joe Stones.

This donation from the Choir came from proceeds from the concert the Choir did last October with **The Band of the Coldstream Guards**. This was a special event in our Centenary Year held at Huddersfield's magnificent Town Hall.



For the Choir it was a wonderful event.





Thanking the Choir, Colonel Barnbrook, said our gift was a very much appreciated contribution to the charity. The funds, he said, would be put to good use in supporting former military men and women, fallen on hard times.

He presented the choir with a plaque to mark our donation.

He passed on the very best wishes from the Coldstream Guards and added that the Band really, really enjoyed their day in Huddersfield with Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and also the workshops with young musicians in the afternoon sessions.

He hinted that the Band would welcome a chance to come back again sometime in the not too distant future. Let's hope it works out!





# Colne Valley Boys in concert

**COLNE  
VALLEY  
BOYS...@**

The United Church  
Marsden  
Sunday July 2nd  
@ 2.30pm  
Adults £4  
children free.  
Pay on the door

Refreshments  
Raffle

**The Cuckoo's Nest**  
Community owned charity shop  
in Marsden

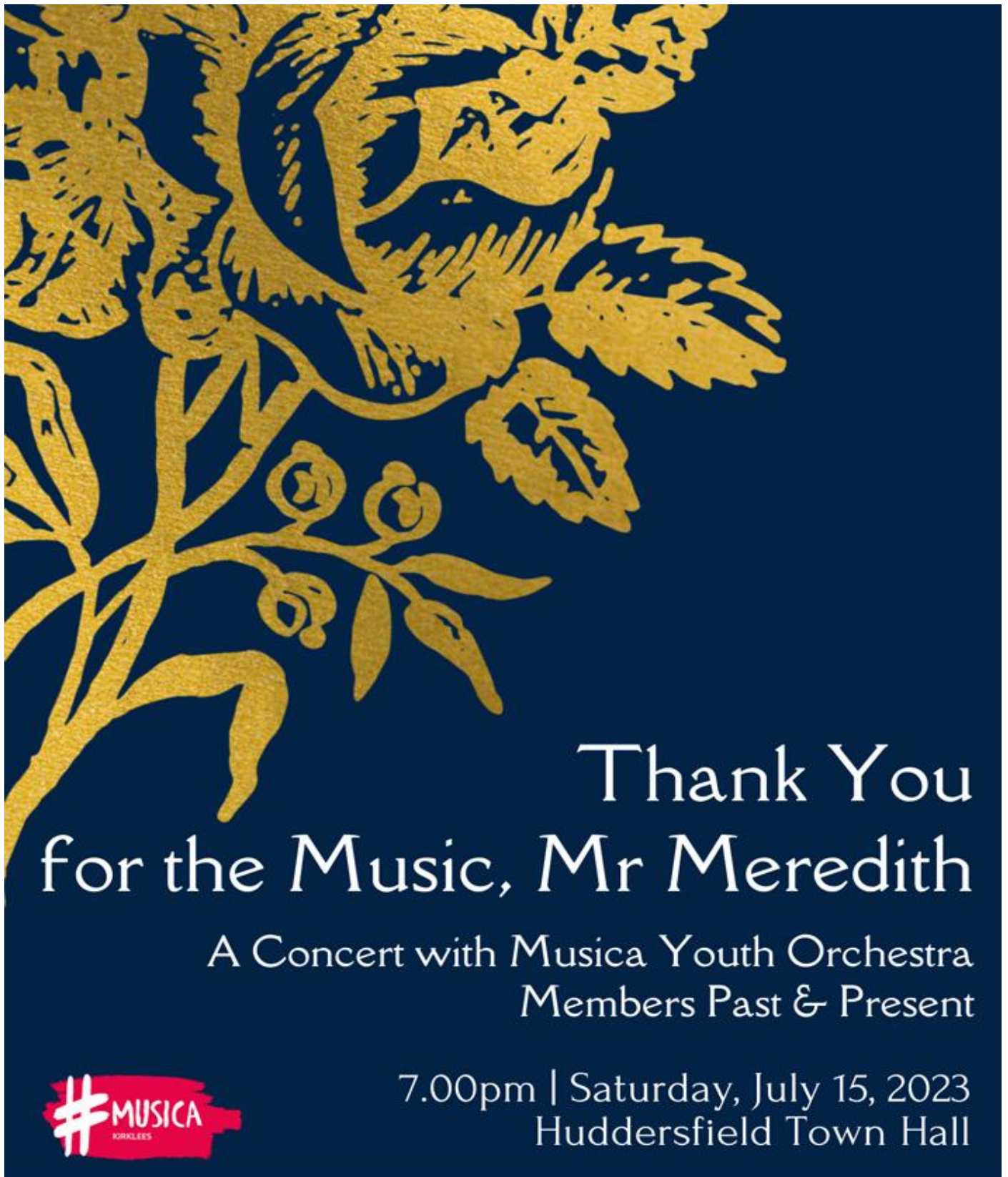
designed by freepik.com

The thing about a boys' choir is that the membership is always changing. Following the successful 'Schools Tour' by the adult choir and recruitment activities by stalwarts, **Matt & Linda Houston**, the new line-up, 'Colne Valley Boys' will be giving a cool summer performance at St Bartholomew's on Sunday afternoon, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thom and Chris will preside. It'll be an entertaining do. So please put the date in your diary.



# Thank you for the music, Mr Meredith

Just a reminder for your diaries:- the goodbye concert in his honour - an event not to be missed - is on **July 15th**.



## Thank You for the Music, Mr Meredith

A Concert with Musica Youth Orchestra  
Members Past & Present

7.00pm | Saturday, July 15, 2023  
Huddersfield Town Hall



Tickets from £10 / £5 for age 21 or under  
at [tickets.kirklees.gov.uk](https://tickets.kirklees.gov.uk) or call 01484 225755

[www.musicakirklees.org](http://www.musicakirklees.org)



# Adrian becomes life member

A presentation a few weeks back got baritone, **Adrian Calverly**, thinking.

And what he was thinking was, "Hello, this chap's just got a Life Membership Certificate for being in the Choir for 40 years and I'm pretty sure I was in the Choir before he arrived."

And he was right.

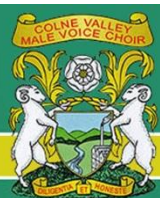
So the other night at rehearsal Adrian was presented with a Life Membership Certificate for being in the Choir for 40 years and a bit.



A very popular chap, Adrian received a warm round of applause from the members.

## Well done, Adrian

[Find out more – see our website](#)



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