



So Its 2024....

In 1924, when the Choir was still quite new, there were predictions made about 2024, the year we have just started.

Some of their prophecies fell woefully short while others proved to be strangely accurate.

These are some of the things seen in that 1924 crystal ball ...

A New Era of Peace

Thank you, Hollywood, for ending all war.

Movie mogul D.W. Griffith, the director of "Birth of a Nation," believed that motion pictures would help usher in a new era of peace.

"In the year 2024, the most important single thing which the cinema will have helped in a large way to accomplish will be that of eliminating from the face of the civilized world all armed conflict," Griffith predicted.

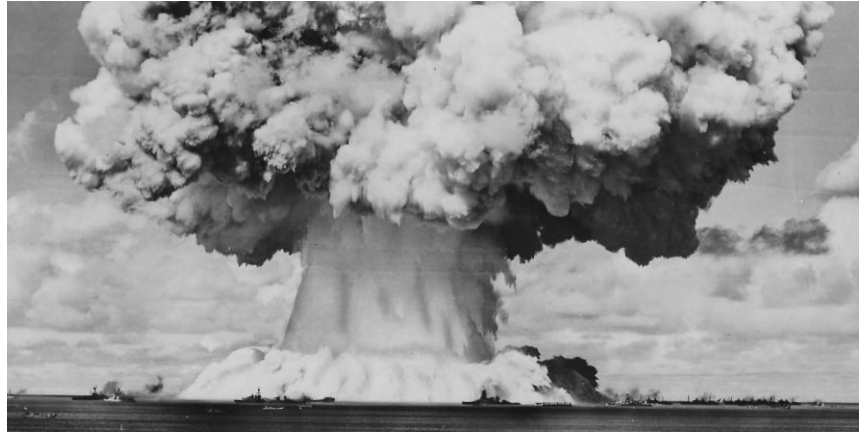
"Pictures will be the most powerful factor in bringing about this condition. With the use of the universal language of motion pictures, the true meaning of the brotherhood of man will have been established throughout the earth."



The Horror of Conflict

At the other extreme, Professor Leo H. Baekeland, president of the American Chemical Society, worried that futuristic weaponry could obliterate humanity in the blink of an eye.

“The largest and best protected cities, irrespective of their size or distance, will be continuously exposed to destruction.” he said. “Death and torture of the inhabitants will occur whether they are slumbering in their beds at night or whether they are reading their newspapers in their comfortable clubs, or saying their prayers in church. There will be no way of safeguarding women or children, the old or the infirm.”



All That Jazz



‘Just look at them corrupting youths!’ Jazz was booming in 1924. Many reckoned that the moral collapse of the country would inevitably follow.

Many a religious leader claimed that jazz would promote immorality among youths in the decades to come but not everyone accepted the prediction. Russian classical violinist, Paul Kochanski, defended the syncopated music.

“Jazz music is a powerful force for development of music and in a hundred years will be accepted as classical,” he said. “I cannot imagine how anyone can say that your American jazz music is a destructive force. I consider such a statement as being wholly ridiculous.”

No More Horses

Professor E.L. Furlong, curator of the vertebrate collection at the University of Southern California, worried that horses might be on the brink of extinction by 2024.

“Daily the tractor and the automobile are taking the place of the horse in rural life,” he told an interviewer. “As the usefulness of the horse passes, so will the necessity for his existence.”

“Before many years, the use of a horse for the purposes with which he has been identified since time immemorial will be a curiosity. In another hundred years, you may find horses in zoos. I am sure you will not find them anywhere else.”



Horses would near extinction by 2024

Women Take Charge



A possible vision of the future? Soviet actress Yuliya Solntseva portrays the Queen of Mars in the 1924 sci-fi film "Aelita."

Frank L. Ferraro mapped out a clear vision of the future in a 1924 letter to the New York Daily News.

"Has anyone ever stopped to think how this country will be a hundred years from now? Just imagine: We will have a woman president, woman politicians and police," Ferraro wrote. "As women will occupy all the highest positions, naturally men will be compelled to do all the labour; those who are not physically fit for such arduous jobs will have to stay home and wait on the babies (or mind the pets).

Then we will have an army entirely of women, so that in case of war, women will do all the fighting (Believe me, they can fight, too)."

Working from home

Archibald M. Low, a British scientist, imagined something that sounded eerily like the internet in his 1924 book "Wireless Possibilities."

"Doubtless in the future we shall be able to sign our cheques by the rapid transmission of motion; we shall be able to trace criminals, send out their fingerprints, and carry on very many classes of business which, at present, require our bodily attention.

What a help to the man who objects to a large city! Why could he not conduct his business from his house in comfort instead of having his spats washed every week in order to maintain his financial reputation."

'Professor' Low added:-

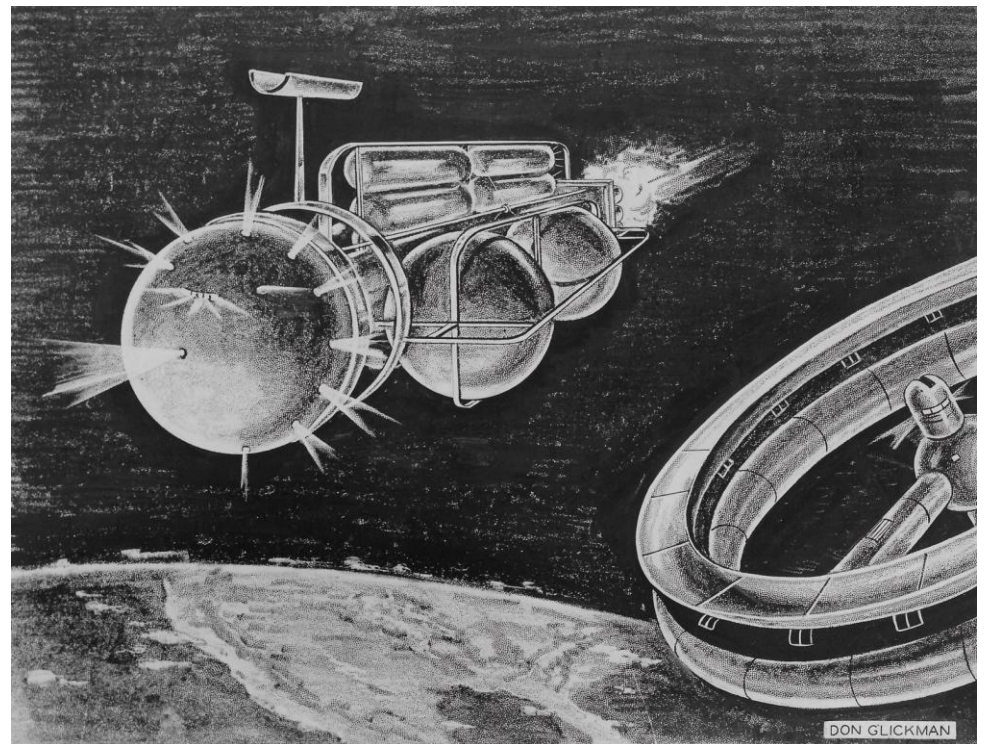


“The telephone may develop to a stage where it is unnecessary to enter a special call-box.

We shall think no more of telephoning to our office from our cars or railway-carriages than we do today of telephoning from our homes.”

Artist Don Glickman imagines what, in 1953, an interplanetary trip to Mars might look like.

With fuel stored in cylinders, the spaceship is taking off from an intermediary space station.



No more hard work by 2024

In another optimistic outlook, mathematician and electrical engineer **Charles Steinmetz** predicted that people would spend even less time working.

Steinmetz believed "The time is coming when there will be no long drudgery and that people will toil not more than four hours a day, owing to the work of electricity." In his vision "every city will be a 'spotless town.'"

So farewell then, Ivan Smith

That stalwart of the bass section, Ivan Smith passed away on the last day of 2023.

Choir Secretary, Jenny Baxter, informed the Choir of the sad news at its first rehearsal of 2024.

She said, *"You will all have heard by now the sad news that Ivan Smith died on 31st December.*

Following his positive diagnosis for cancer, he lived well with his condition for many years, and his knowledge of pharmaceuticals, from his working days, helped him with his treatment, and I know he was always willing to share his thoughts and advice with anyone similarly affected.

Ivan joined the Choir in February 1981 and was a staunch member of the Bass Section for more than 42 years. His attendance at rehearsals, concerts and competitions was a good example to all. He will be greatly missed especially by the back corner of the Bass Section.



Always wearing a jacket and tie, Ivan didn't do "casual" and even when we have been away on Choir trips I don't ever remember him "dressed down".

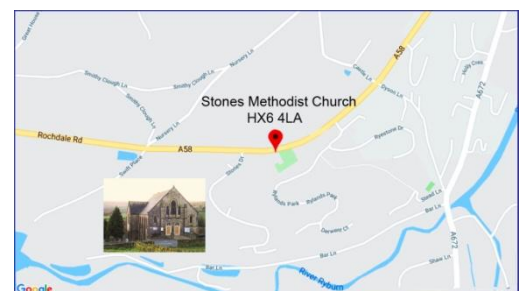
Smart as always, Ivan receives the choir's warm endorsement for having been in membership for 40 years from (also recently deceased) **John Radcliffe** and outgoing Chairman, **Joe Stones**.



He was always well supported by Janet his wife of many years and to her and Ivan's two sons and families we send our support and sympathy.

For now, will you all please stand and sing "The Fourfold Amen" for Ivan Smith."

She has subsequently informed the Choir that a service to celebrate the life of Ivan Smith will be held on Friday 2nd February at 1.00pm in Stones Methodist Church, Ripponden, Halifax, HX6 4LA.



The Choir has been invited to sing in his honour.

Cracking start to LAMS 2024

Colne Valley's community singing initiative aims to bring men together to sing - men who maybe haven't sung for years, maybe only ever sing in the shower.

When we ran this programme last year it was such a huge success we decided to try it again in the dull January days of 2024.

So has it worked?

It's a bit early to be sure after just one session but it looks like it will be absolutely fabulous.

35 men rocked up at 'The Civic' in Slaithwaite in addition to Thom, Chris and a handful of Colne Valley MVC helpers and - by all accounts - everybody had a good time.



A PROJECT SUPPORTED BY
Colne Valley Male Voice Choir



VotV gathers that recruitment is still not closed - so if you fancy a happy, bonding, singing experience there is still a chance to register or simply turn up on Thursday 25th January at 7.30.

There are 7 sessions left and a one-off performance in support of the mens mental health charity, 'Andysmanclub' to come.

Click on this link to find out more and register,

<https://www.letallmensing.co.uk/index.php>

Chairman Joe hands over to the new guy



Yes, new Chairman, **Peter Kelly** has taken over the office of Chairman.

At the last meeting of the Management Committee, Chairman **Joe Stones** stepped down from his leadership role in Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

Normally, the chairman's job lasts for just two years.

Joe took on the role in July 2019 - but the Committee kept exhorting him to stay on a bit longer to see us through a time of crisis.

It was Joe who was in charge when the grim realisation dawned that the Choir had to shut down all its concerts and rehearsals as the Covid 19 virus began its impact on the UK. On the 15th of March 2020 Joe after consultations, announced:-



“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.”

16 months passed until July 2021 when the Choir was able to start resuming in-person rehearsals.

July 19th 2021 - singing together again



And then another 3 months - until October 2021 - before we made our tentative return to live performance, after all those months of ticking over on 'Zoom' Throughout this time Chairman Joe, kept our spirits up and the show on the road.

We didn't really get back until our Christmas Concert at the town Hall in December 2021.



(Incidentally it was in October 2021 that a new guy joined the basses. This was **Peter Kelly**, Golcar- resident and rock-guitarist.)



New Chairman, Peter, sends his inaugural message

*“First I’d like to thank **Joe Stones** for the fantastic job he has done as Chair over the last 4 years, for seeing the choir through the pandemic, for all his hard work, ideas and leadership and for giving me the opportunity and encouragement to support him.*

I have lived in the valley for the last 36 years and am astounded at the wealth of creative opportunities we have in such a small area, which have been of immense benefit to my family. My daughter attended the Bernadette Heys School of Theatre Dance in Marsden for 15 years, and my son played cornet with Marsden Junior Band and trumpet with Colne Valley Music School Big Band and keyboards with their Soul Band. These opportunities have given them both something special in terms of making friends, personal challenge and a sense of achievement.

*I have been involved in music since playing saxophone at school, playing guitar in folk clubs in the 70s, playing in a ceilidh band (The Fusspots from Marsden, for anyone who remembers them), playing lead guitar in a couple of covers bands and playing solo or with my son at open mic nights. I certainly feel my voice and singing ability has improved since joining the Choir and am grateful for that. **Thom Meredith** is a brilliant musical director and is committed to helping singers improve and grow.*

Until spring 2019, I'd never heard a male voice choir in a live setting. I went to the Mrs Sunderland competition to support my wife, Elizabeth, who was singing with Lindley Community Choir. While I was waiting for them to sing, Colne Valley Male Voice Choir performed. I was absolutely blown away.

I got in touch straight away and went to a few rehearsals just before Boris Johnson told us all to stay at home. The Choir continued rehearsing on Zoom, which I skipped. But as soon as they opened up again I rejoined rehearsals and was invited to join the bass section in time for our first post-covid concert at the church. We'd been locked down into a strange way of life and deprived of much social interaction and live music for so long, that people in the audience were crying (and one or two in the Choir too).



The Choir has a unique sound, which can cut through to the soul. It is a passionate and supportive group of people who look after each other. In our Centenary Year of 2022, we began looking ahead to the next 100 years and thinking about what we need to do to ensure its longevity. To this end, we carried out a choir survey, to gather the thoughts and ideas from all members and began drafting a long-term plan. From this we established 3 main priorities:

1. Sustainability; to have sufficient income and singers.
2. Quality; to have the highest reputation and delight audiences.
3. Community; to provide opportunities to the men in our community to enhance their lives and wellbeing and to enrich community life through our performances and our annual community singing project (let All Men Sing)

Some significant progress so far includes the successful Let All Men Sing project 2023 which has swelled our numbers by 16 and enhanced our sound. Let All Men Sing 2024 is already under way with 35 participants. We have had extra voice coaching from an external coach and have planned sectional coaching sessions for January/February 2024. We have begun exploring a new series of "themed" concerts (watch this space). We have appointed Andrew Leyland as our new Social Secretary who has already begun to increase our social events.

We have a huge capital of passion, skill and experience amongst our singers and as chair, I hope to give opportunity for more singers to get involved in developing our exciting future.

I am so impressed by the commitment and hard work given by many singers and their family members. Thank you to all those who offer their skills to the choir whether that is producing concert programmes or selling tickets, running the 200 club, managing the music library, uniforms or just putting chairs out. We are especially blessed to have Jenny Baxter as our secretary, Chris Pulleyn as our accompanist and Thom Meredith as our musical Director. I hope I can build a fruitful working relationship with them over my tenure as Chair.

I feel honoured to be invited to be Chair of the Choir as it will enable me, in collaboration with Thom and the Committee, to contribute to the continuing success in the musical life of the our valley.

Thank you for reading this. If you have any ideas or offers of help, please get in touch."

‘Joyce the Voice’ to return



On our actual Centenary Day on May 8th 2022 we invited celebrated Voice Coach, **Joyce Tindsley**, to lead a workshop session.

Well it went down so well we invited her back and now she's coming again to lead small group sessions with Colne Valley men.

On Mondays 29th January and 5th February, rehearsals will shift to the comfort of St John's Church, Golcar.

There the Choir will divide into groups - some getting the benefit of Joyce's great vocal knowledge and undoubted skills as she takes us through a variety of singing exercises.

The remainder will do detailed rehearsals of upcoming competition pieces. The groups will rotate round so everyone gets a chance.

She's brilliant and it will be brilliant - and will no doubt do our performance good .

More sad News

Secretary Jenny recently wrote to members:-



*"I have to share with you the sad news that our friend and benefactor, **Christine Cox**, died in hospital in Hull on Monday 15th January.*

She had very recently been diagnosed with cancer.

As well as promoting the annual August concerts in Scarborough, Christine was very generous with several donations made to the Choir."

VotV Editor adds, "She was a great supporter of the arts and an energetic promoter of theatrical and other arts-based initiatives. Every year this formidable 'Social Entrepreneur' organised, with great enthusiasm, a wide variety of trips and events from her Scarborough base, taking coach loads of followers to theatres, to musicals, to gardens and stately homes, and to concerts - that is of course unless she generated them in Scarborough itself.

She was a true supporter of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and our annual trips to the seaside to make music for her and her many friends was a highlight of the Choir's summer programme for many years. She will be much missed in Scarborough and by all those in the Choir who had the pleasure of singing in Queen Street's lovely auditorium."



Well it made Peter Kelly smile....

Musicians after vacuuming:

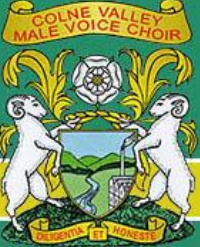
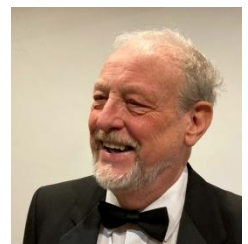


Grandson practices open-mouthed, well-rounded singing posture

Your Editor's newly arrived grandson, **Hotaru Soga Clark**, may be a little young yet for Choral Concerts but he is definitely exercising his vocal cords.

For the full picture of life in the Colne Valley - at least the life of its Male Voice Choir - see our website.

And don't forget your Editor wants your story. As long as it has some connection - even if a little tenuous - with CVMVC, do get in touch.



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir
Est 1922

Events Recordings Our History About Us Information

