



## Good Day at the 'Mrs Sunderland'



photo:Chris Wilson

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir returned to the Competition Stage at the **Mrs Sunderland Music Festival** this year after a period of renewal and rejuvenation. We did so in a joyful spirit, hopeful but unconcerned about results. What mattered was that we sang as well as we could and that our newer members would get a taste of competitive performance on the grand stage at Huddersfield Town Hall. No matter that our large choir came second to the select men of Peterborough. We beat them in the next class with a fine second place behind **Peterborough Voices** - another fine ensemble, this time of female singers.



Our adjudicators said this of us....

Of '**Luck be a Lady**' the judge, in the MVC Choir Class 94 congratulated, "*A fantastic solo*", (by **Tom Law**) "*which led into the main section which had all that 'swagger'*". He added "*Excellent diction with clear accents that made the performance sparkle.*"

Of the '**Last Words of David**', he said, "*A really strong opening and then an amazing pp.... lovely sense of 'mysticism' which led to the benediction at the end. A wonderfully musically-compelling performance!*"

Our Second adjudicator, **Andrew Padmore**, commented on the (non-gendered) Choir Programme Class 96, "*A great number of choral techniques were required and employed. (in Invictus). It was performed with a sense of assurance and authority.*"



*A fine Dynamic range...."*

*"Ave Maris Stella demonstrated the choir's sensitivity in accompanying the soloists. Absolutely beautiful pianissimo singing conveyed the sacred aetherial mood of the music admirably."*

*"In your final piece, (Sway) you demonstrated an understanding of this Spanish-influenced composition."*

*"A well chosen programme displaying variety and the ability to embrace many choral techniques."*

Our judgement is we've got some way to go but this year's participation demonstrates 'great steps forward'.



Incidentally it was also a good day for our sister choir, '**Marsh Ladies**' which features the partners of some of our CVMVC members. They won their class and the Joseph Hancock trophy – well done.



And well done, too, to **Lindley Community Choir** who were also winners in the 'Local Choir' class.

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## Roy Bennett RIP



Choir Members boosted the hymn singing at the service to say goodbye to former second tenor, **Roy Bennett**.

He passed away in early February, just short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Roy had retired from singing for health reasons several years ago but he remained a keen supporter of the Choir.

He attended many a Choir performance; always finding a chance to slip backstage to say hello to old friends and to tell us how well we were sounding 'out front'.

Our thoughts go out, especially, to his wife, Jean. They were 'an item' for well over 70 years, raising children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The picture shows the happy couple at their 'Diamond Wedding' anniversary celebration in 2017.

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# A very special B&R concert coming up.



A Celebration of Great British Music  
Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

A joint concert with Hepworth and Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Bands featuring Colne Valley MVC with friends, New Mill and Gledholt MVCs.

Huddersfield Town Hall at 7:15 pm



Hosts, Brighouse & Rastrick Band, write.... *'We will welcome local friends Hepworth Band along with the massed voices from Colne Valley, Gledholt and New Mill Male Voice choirs.*

*A great night's inspiring entertainment is assured!*

*Honouring the occasion with his presence that night will be the Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, H.M. Ed. Anderson, CBE, who will formally present the **King's Award for Voluntary Service, 2023**; news which Brighouse & Rastrick Band were extremely proud to hear when notified late last year.*

*This ceremony will make a special occasion even more special!*

VotV readers know what a fine band 'Brighouse and Rastrick' is. Colne Valley Male Voice Choir has had them as honoured guests at our wonderful Town Hall Christmas Concerts for many a year - this last under the conductorship of **Ian McElligott** - who will direct both singers and bands on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



But it's not just **VotV** opinion that **B&R** is a fine band ... they took part in the prestigious **Yorkshire Regional Championships** on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Given that it's common knowledge that Yorkshire Bands are probably the best in the world, **B&R's** competition result - second - is a phenomenal achievement, winning them the chance to go one-better in the 'Nationals' later in the year.

(Incidentally, **Hepworth Brass Band**, who will also be on stage at the Town Hall, came 6<sup>th</sup> and our local band, with whom we often perform, '**Marsden Silver Band**' also competed in this, the top division of British Banding.)

Compere, **David Hoyle**, will welcome you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Don't miss it.



'A Celebration of Great British Music'

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/town-halls/book-tickets.aspx?eventId=27801AGBRBTMKNGLNDRVNGSHQJPSLPHH>

# LAMS 24 concert on Sunday.

CVMVC's Community Initiative, 'Let All Men Sing' was such a success last year we decided to run it again.

And it's been just as successful. Just for the fun of it, about thirty five men signed up to an 8 week singing programme to culminate in a one-off concert with the main Choir and Colne Valley Boys.

'Working with them has been great - just lovely' said Thom, *'They are sounding wonderful and they are looking forward to performing.'*

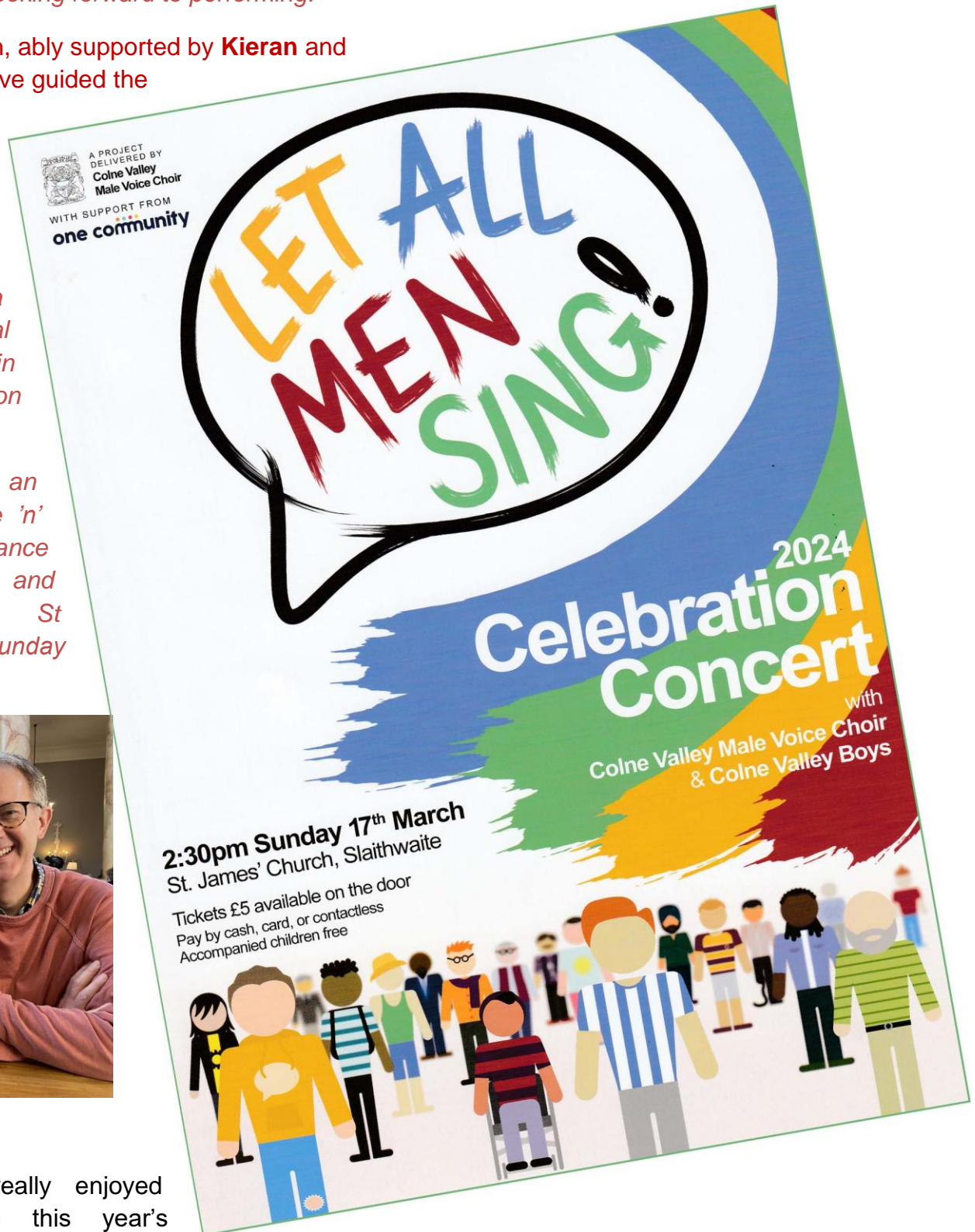
**Chris** and **Ben**, ably supported by **Kieran** and a few more have guided the 'new men' through their sessions.

*They are ready for a joint rehearsal with the main Choir on Thursday.*

*Then comes an informal, 'nice 'n' easy' performance for friends and families at St James's on Sunday afternoon.'*



Thom has really enjoyed working with this year's LAMS men.





Thom took the LAMS 24 men through a couple of the joint items on Thursday, supported by a bunch of the Main Choir members, who crept in near the end of their session.

VotV reckons both groups were impressed. As we walked upstairs, we heard the LAMS men singing and said to ourselves, 'Boy, they sound good!'

A few minutes later, after we joined in, you could hear a few LAMS men going, 'Wow' as we swelled the volume.



Sunday's concert is going to be terrific !

# Slight embarrassment in the 200 Club?

New man, **Tom Jennings** took on the responsibility of running the Choir's fund-raising 200 Club a couple of months ago - and is doing a grand job.

One of the innovations is that instead of the old-style 'Tombola' method - spinning the numbers in a barrel and picking out the winning ball - we have now moved to winners being picked by a computer-driven 'Random Number Generator'.

So it was with a flourish that Tom appeared with his laptop to oversee the winner of the first whopping £1,000 prize since he took on the role.



**'And the winner is'** ..... he said, pressing the appropriate key .... **'Tom Jennings'**.

With a look of pained embarrassment, he called on someone to witness that it was indeed his number that had come up. Not that anybody disbelieved him, in spite of the uproar.

Your *VotV* of the Valley Editor says, **'Well Done, Tom**. Don't let it happen again. I'm expecting my numbers to come out next time. Right !'

	<p>£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 Tom Jennings at:- <a href="mailto:200club@colnevalleymvc.co.uk">200club@colnevalleymvc.co.uk</a></p>	
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# Whitby trip

The Choir is getting ready to try our hand once again in competition.



Arrangements have been put in place for a coach to take us to Whitby on Yorkshire's glorious coast on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Festival is held at the famous **Whitby Spa Pavilion** on the West Cliff. **YO21 3EN** for satnav's.



It's been a busy time since Christmas for the Choir but practice is getting underway to help us get in shape to give the best possible account of ourselves in the four competition classes in which we have entered.

Once again, it's the pleasure of participation that will mean more than results - like Dr Who we are still in the process of 'Regeneration'. We will travel hopefully, knowing that if we sing to our best we'll be winners regardless of the adjudication results.



One of the songs - the test piece in one class is, '**Do You Hear the People Sing**' from '**Les Miserables**'. Refresh your memory here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3N2PsWDkyVk>

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# Spring by the Canal

Could it be that spring is really on its way?   VotV sees the early signs.



If the rain stops, what better than to walk the towpath to our home-base in Slaithwaite...

...and don't forget to visit the lovely '**Little Bridge Café & Wine Bar**' run by Choir Supporter, **Victoria Tillotson**, who, incidentally, also runs the '**Little Lock**' Café at Marsden - two good places to start or finish your ramble.

Coffee in one and lunch in the other?           Yummy!



Well it made me smile...



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

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