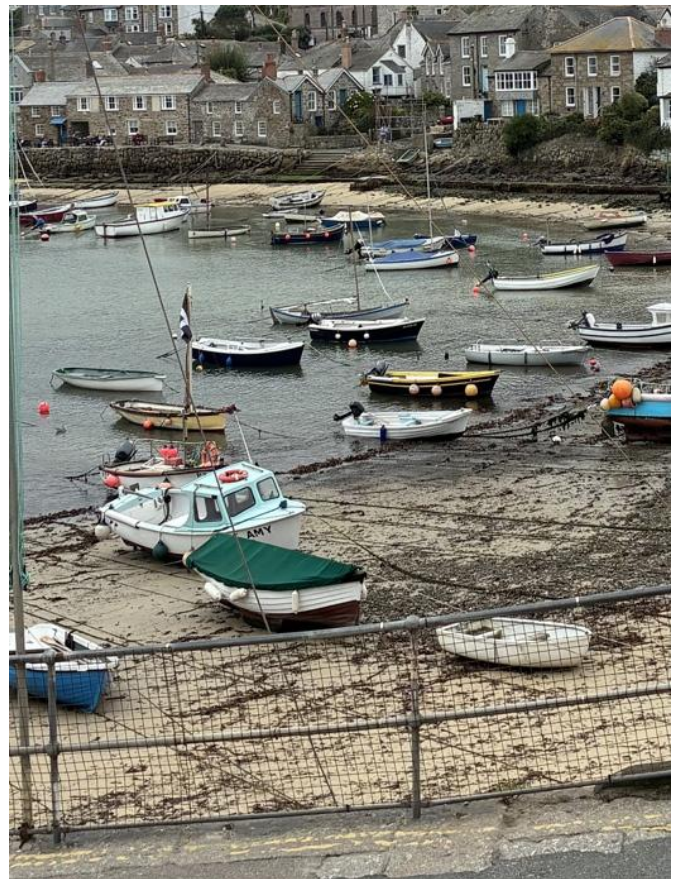
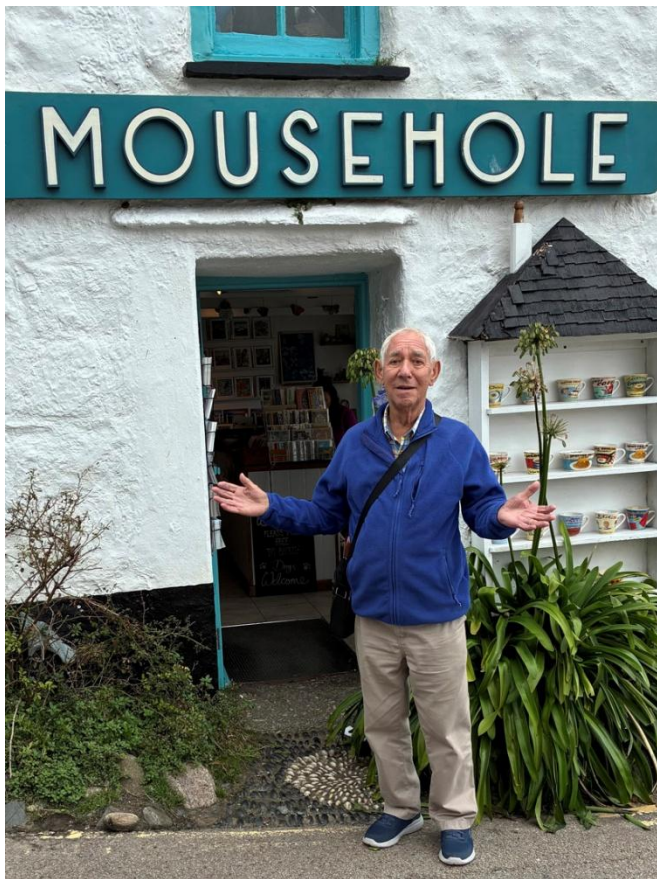




## ‘North and South’ Concert

Second tenor David was in Mousehole on Saturday wondering where we are all were.....



Well, we were up in West Yorkshire; two fabulous choirs coming together: **Mousehole Male Voice Choir** from Cornwall at the climax of its Northern Tour joined up with Colne Valley men in Golcar for what was rightly dubbed by a respected musician and critic: ***“A glorious celebration of male voice singing.”***

It was a wet autumn night, the rain bucketing down but that didn't prevent the fine old church in **Golcar** being packed. The Mousehole Choir about fifty strong had brought a coach-load of supporters with them and CVMVC - a little bigger - had sold so many tickets there was genuine concern that we were running up against fire-safety limits and might have to turn people away. Fortunately the storms kept a few people at home, so we just about managed to accommodate everybody.



The Colne Valley men as always under Thom Meredith's leadership started the concert off. Thom began with Vaughan Williams **Antiphon**, which VotV is reminded was what won us the '**Best UK Choir**' title at the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time) a few years back. Well, with **Chris Pulleyn's** mighty piano accompaniment, we did it brilliantly on Saturday night. It set the standard for a wonderful night of singing.



Then in a triumph of stage management (well done, Robert et al) one choir swapped for another and guided by their principal conductor, **Steve Lawry**, the Mousehole men delivered the first of their two sets, skilled, powerful and entertaining. Crammed in at the back, we Colne Valley singers listened admiringly to the variety and quality of their performance (a personal highlight - their '**Ghost Riders in the Sky**' was a brilliant choice).

Then each of the two choirs gave a second set of 4 pieces; our audience increasingly enthusiastic before we reached the concert's finale. Somehow we managed to get both choirs onstage together for two joint items.



Thom conducted the rousing item; **'We Rise Again'** coaxing a performance that demonstrated both subtlety and beauty on the one hand and great power on the other.

Then Thom gave way to Steve for that absolute male voice choir classic, **'Morte Christe'**. So tender and haunting in parts, so dramatically huge at its peak, Steve led both choirs, in an unusually slower tempo, to a majestic climax that brought our audience to its feet in fervent applause and appreciation.



***"Wow wow wow! What a fantastic night I'm surprised you didn't blow the roof off!"*** said a less restrained commentator - and she was right too!

Mousehole Chairman, **Brett Farmer**, offered an elegant thanks to CVMVC for the invite and presented us with a silver tray. Colne Valley Chair, **Kieran Chadha** gave a equally elegant reply thanking Mousehole people for coming and for the wonderful evening we had jointly created and then the singers and their supporters went out into the rain to **Bolster Moor Farm Shop**.





The good folk at the Farm Shop - themselves great supporters of the Choir - had laid on a 'Pie and Pea' supper for our guests - not to mention some fine cask beer from the local Empire Brewery. A big thank you to **Matt** and **Linda** and the other CV helpers.



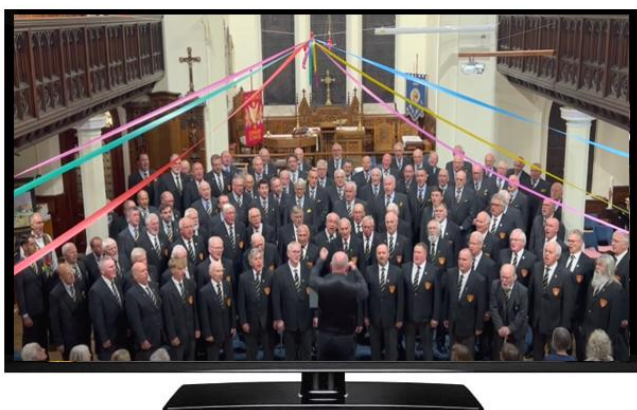
There followed a very pleasant evening with some 'Ale Voice Choir' singing.



You can spot **Roger Fielding** joining in the singing in the picture below. He it was who, from the CVMVC end of things, worked relentlessly to ensure the Mousehole visit happened at all and better still turned out to be a huge success - **Well Done, Roger.**



VotV picked up many comments from locals along the lines of this one:- ***'I do hope we can have a concert in Mousehole .... take up their invitation. It was lovely meeting up with them.'***



Relive the thrill of our closing male voice choir classic, 'Morte Christe' in this video by Lynn Meredith.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fg5HAX5xwQM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fg5HAX5xwQM)

# Sure on this shining Night

On Monday Colne Valley men had our first rehearsal session for the upcoming Festive season.

Our Librarians handed out lots of pieces of music – some new and some more familiar.

Amongst them, a fabulous piece, quite new to us, by a chap called **Morten Lauridsen**, 'Sure on this Shining Night'.

Your editor reckoned readers would like a taster.

The version on this link is for mixed voices, men, women and boys so will be slightly different in the male voice choir transcription – but the performance is accompanied at the piano by the composer **Morten Lauridsen**, himself, lending an extra appeal and authenticity.

It certainly brings out the loveliness of the music and of the poetry by James Agee that inspired it.



Look out for it in our Christmas performances and meanwhile just enjoy this video.



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





## Two old pals reunited

The Choir's longest-serving singing member, **David Hirst** (who joined the Choir in 1960 close on 65 years ago) was happy to meet up with an old pal, **Bob Reast**, who enjoyed a visit to his old choir when he dropped by one of our rehearsals recently.

Bob joined CVMVC in 1962 and stayed until he left town in 1973.

But he'd got the bug, by then and found another prestigious choir in Nottingham, **Carlton Male Voice Choir**. So far he's done 50 years singing baritone with his Nottingham pals.



### Nottingham's Own CARLTON MALE VOICE CHOIR

*Come on baby  
Light My Choir!*

**JOIN US TODAY**  
**07306 039777 / [carltonmvc.org](http://carltonmvc.org)**



Colne Valley was very happy to welcome him and when VotV had a brief interview it became clear that his visit was not just about nostalgia for the good old days.

I think he was hopeful that a collaborative arrangement might be made for some sort of joint performance.

Well, says your VotV Editor, judging by our most recent joint event with Mousehole MVC, it doesn't sound like a bad idea to me.

**Thanks for coming, Bob**  
**and keep singing!**



# Mrs Sunderland workshop

Our Friends at the Mrs Sunderland Music festival have been in touch to tell us about the opening event in the 2026 Festival. The Choir won't be in the competition next year but members and readers might like to join in the brilliant workshop and concert event on the Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>.



*"Dear friends,*

*The Huddersfield Mrs Sunderland Performing Arts Festival is one of the largest in the country and welcomes more than 5,000 performers over an 11 day period.*

*The opening event is the Adult Vocal Workshop and Concert, held at Huddersfield Town Hall on the first Sunday in February before the main festival starts. I hope you can share the information about the workshop with any singers who may be interested in taking part. The theme for 2026 is Stage and Screen and all the information needed to enter is available from the Mrs Sunderland 2026 website.*

*The workshop and concert will feature well-known songs and instrumental music composed for the theatre or cinema and classical pieces used in film scores. The workshop will be led by **Thom Meredith**, accompanied by **Christopher Pulleyn** (piano) and the Musica Youth Orchestra, conductor Nick Dolling. Two talented young local singers, Aurelia Grundy and **Damien Stirling**, will also perform a number of solos and duets.*

*The programme for the choir features:*

<i>West Side Story Medley</i>	<i>Bernstein (arr. Thomas)</i>
<i>O Fortuna (Carmina Burana)</i>	<i>Orff</i>
<i>Lacrimosa (Requiem)</i>	<i>Mozart</i>
<i>Hymn to the fallen</i>	<i>John Williams</i>

**Workshop:** Sunday 1 February 2026 9-00 am to 4-45 pm

**Concert:** 5-45 pm to 7-00 pm

**Workshop entry:** £30 (£20 students)

**Concert Tickets:** Adults £10 Under18s free (with ticket) available from the Kirklees Box Office.

*Music will be issued on the day of the workshop though singers are welcome to use their own copies if preferred. There are numerous performances of all the pieces on YouTube and Spotify.*

*The closing date for entries will be **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026** but the earlier singers can enter, the better - some have already registered since the website opened on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September! Go to the website to register <https://www.mrssunderlandfestival.com/workshops>*

*As the opening event of the 2026 Mrs Sunderland Festival, the workshop and concert will provide a fantastic opportunity to celebrate of some iconic music of stage and screen.*

*Best wishes,"*

*Sue Ogden*



# Story brings back memories for a former member

The last edition of Voice of the Valley told how the old **Lloyds Bank** in our home village of **Slaithwaite** had recently been fully refurbished and newly opened as a restaurant by Kath Garside and the team at **Rumpus** - Choir supporters and providers of the best burgers in the Valley.

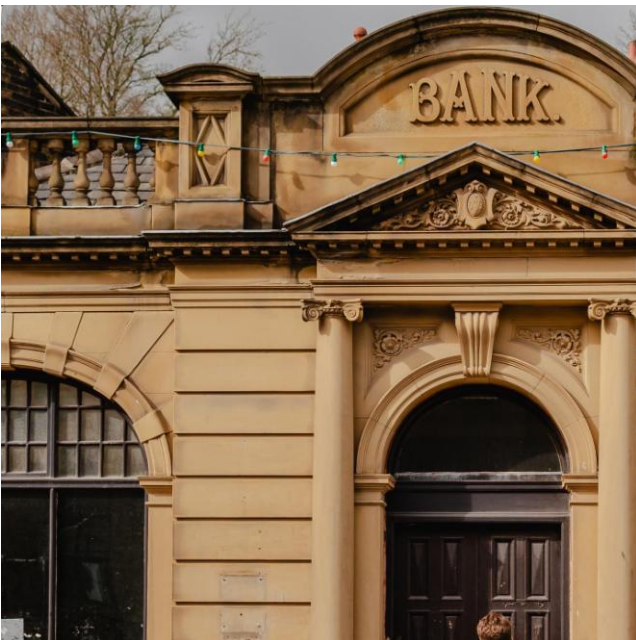


Well, the story rang a bell with retired Choir Member and keen follower of the Choir through our newsletter, **J Walter Smith**.

He tells your Editor:-

*'Seeing pictures of the bank in your last edition triggered fond memories for me. I come from a local family but I'd been working with Lloyds Bank down in Bishop's Stortford.*

*However, when my wife's mother got quite ill, I put in a request for a transfer to come back up North and I was very fortunate to get a move to the Bank in Slaithwaite - the very one in your story.*



*Well we got a new house on Blakestones Road and I joined the Choir.*

*I was a keen member from 1972 to 1988 when I began my next move towards retirement in Sutton on Sea.*

*During my years as a singer, I was also on the Management Committee and even – probably because of my Banking experience – briefly the Choir's Treasurer.*

*Happy Days!'*



Christmas isn't so far away.

**Christmas**  
WITH  
**COLNE VALLEY**  
MALE VOICE CHOIR  
AND  
**THE BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BAND**

COMPERE  
BROADCASTER  
**Andrew Edwards**

FEATURING  
**Colne Valley Boys**

**TICKETS  
ON SALE  
NOW!**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
7:15pm | Huddersfield Town Hall  
Tickets from £12 plus booking fee  
Discounts for children & NUS  
Available at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/townhalls](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/townhalls)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
**Thom Meredith**  
ACCOMPANIST  
**Christopher Pulleyn**

COLNE VALLEY  
MALE VOICE CHOIR  
Registered Charity Number 500324

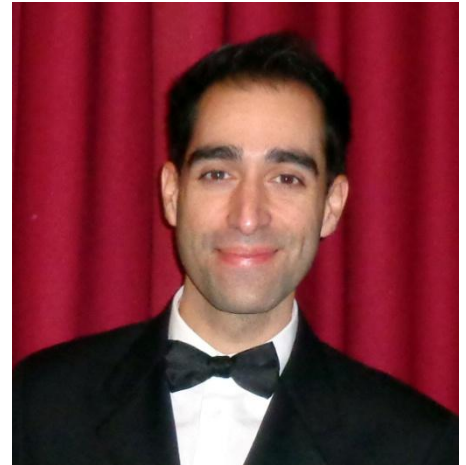
*'Colne Valley Male Voice Choir invites you to a musical festive feast with all the trimmings! Sharing the stage once more with the legendary **Brighouse & Rastrick Band** and wonderful **Colne Valley Boys**, we promise an unforgettable evening, packed with Christmas magic! Broadcaster **Andrew Edwards** will be adding a touch of showbiz sparkle to an already dazzling event - as he guides you through a mix of festive favourites and newly discovered delights. Kick off your December in style and join us for a Christmas concert like no other!'*



Chairman, Kieran Chadha adds....

*... And here's a little something from me:*

*'The Town Hall Christmas concert is CVMVC's flagship event, and it never fails to get me in the Christmas spirit. The atmosphere is electric, the surroundings are spectacular, and the music is always sensational. For many, it is the definitive Christmas concert, and the true start of the festive season. We've got some incredible music in store this year, and look forward to delighting a packed house - faithful followers and new faces alike - with a mix of Christmas classics and some new surprises. Tickets are on sale now - so reserve your seats while you can!'*



Get your orders in soon to **Ticket Supremo, Roger Fielding** and avoid the Town Hall's additional booking fees. Contact Roger on this email contact ([fielderfie@aol.com](mailto:fielderfie@aol.com)) or by phoning him on **01484 846262**. But be quick!

Shortly the only outlet will be via Kirklees booking system. Either by phone on **01484 225755** or better online

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/town-halls/book-tickets.aspx?eventId=104201ASTLSQLVDMGPCGNPKCHHKQPHTC>





# Getting Christmas Concert tickets in the old days

Not only is it a fabulous concert. It's arguably been the best in the district for over half a century. We usually book the best brass band in the world and this year, once again, it will be - Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band - and it will be a wonderful event.

It's also a pivotal event for the Choir and very important for the Choir's financial stability - so we put in lots of effort to ensure we sell lots of tickets - especially after the only slowly disappearing effects of the Covid Pandemic that hit all audience numbers at cultural events. Last year we pretty-well filled the Town Hall - this year we don't want even a few empty seats. A full house enriches the experience, turns a good concert into a very special experience.

## 50 years ago

It was all very different 50 years ago. **Walter Smith** (see article above) recalls the way it was done in 1975. He tells VotV that the Choir would start by placing an advert in the 'small adds' columns of all the local papers, inviting people to come and get tickets, announcing that they would be available from 7.30 in the morning in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall

....



*.... "When we arrived around half an hour before sale time, there was usually a long queue about four deep already waiting.*

*We arranged tables and set up a production line starting with taking orders. These were then checked to make sure they were as requested, then priced, which was also checked.*

**Colne Valley Guardian**  
FRIDAY, 24th OCTOBER, 1975  
Price 4p

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**Colne Valley  
Male Voice Choir, Yorkshire**  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
**SUNDAY, 14th DECEMBER**

The booking of tickets for this concert takes place tomorrow morning, Saturday, 25th October, at 7.30 am in the Mayor's Reception Room at Huddersfield Town Hall.  
**Reserved prices: 70p, 50p and 35p**  
**Tickets limited to ten for each person.**

*After paying the Treasurer, the tickets received one final check before being handed to the customer.*

### *Job Done*

*Within a couple of hours we had sold out and I was on the way to deposit the cash in the Bank Night Safe. I worked at the Slaithwaite Branch of the Bank, (Now Rumpus) so it was easy for me to collect the Night Safe Wallets from Huddersfield Branch on Friday for use on Saturday.*

*Puts me in mind, muses your Editor, of tickets for Taylor Swift's Era Tour or the Oasis Revival selling out online in minutes.*

*Whatever the method, Christmas Concert tickets are going fast so – no FOMO - don't hang about, get yours secured without delay!*



# A performance not to be missed

Thom's other choir will be performing two wonderful pieces, **Karl Jenkins**, 'The Armed Man' and a piece by CVMVC's current favourite composer **Dan Forrest** in early November

With **The Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir** will be the **Musica Youth Orchestra**.

That's to be at **Wakefield Cathedral** on November 8.

VotV is told tickets are limited so your Editor has already bought his. You, too, can do it – online.

Click on this link. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../remembrance-the-armed...>



**YORKSHIRE**  
PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

**THE ARMED MAN**  
A Mass for Peace  
Karl Jenkins

**REQUIEM FOR  
THE LIVING**  
Dan Forrest

Conductor: Thom Meredith  
Organ: Alex Woodrow  
Soprano: Clare Wheat  
Musica Youth Orchestra  
GSAL Chamber Choir

**Saturday 8th November**

**Wakefield Cathedral**  
**7.00pm**

Tickets: £21 / Under 16s £5 - available:  
[@yorkshirephilharmonicchoir.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../remembrance-the-armed...)

making music THE LIZ & TERRY BRAMALL FOUNDATION ONEWORLD TRAVEL GROUP

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## Vocal coach gets to work

Always striving for improvement the Choir has recently been fortunate to have secured the services of renowned singer and vocal coach, **Rhianydd Beaumont**. For an initial six months, Rhianydd will be visiting our Monday rehearsals and take individual Choir singers out for brief one-to-one coaching sessions, listening to singers, giving practical guidance and providing vocal practice exercises both in the session and for ongoing practice - all about helping singers to get the most from our voices. So far she's taken about a dozen off us and she'll be a regular visitor, so gradually every singer will get a chance to benefit.

Some singers have been a bit nervous beforehand but when they emerge they are generally buzzing with enthusiasm.

### One of the first to get a session...

*'As a new Choir member (writes second tenor, Andrew Taylor) and one less familiar with choral singing one of the aspects I have found most difficult to master is how to sing without becoming exhausted! Rhianydd's advice on posture (apparently I tend to 'stand to attention'), the importance of relaxing even whilst belting it out, and breathing properly was really helpful. In fact, so much so, I've booked another session! One unkind Choir member commented, 'One won't be enough'.*



### About our new vocal coach....

**Rhianydd Beaumont** studied at Bretton Hall in Wakefield before joining the national touring production of 'The Phantom of the Opera.' After this she went to Berlin, Germany where she joined the cast of Disney's original production of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' (Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame) as a swing, performing 9 roles in German. Rhianydd then joined the UK national touring production of Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast,' where she played Belle.



Rhianydd has also performed with Opera North (West End Production of Carousel), National/European tour of 'The Sopranos', Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company National Tour and in The Thursford Christmas Spectacular. As a soloist Rhianydd's recent performances have been Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate, Bach's Cantata 147 and Bach's St John's Passion.

Rhianydd has been a singing teacher for over 20 years and considers teaching her students as rewarding as performing itself. She teaches students from 7+ to adult. She also takes workshops with groups and individuals, recently taking a group of 500 children for a sign and sing workshop in the Huddersfield Town Hall for the Mrs Sunderland Performing Arts Festival.

Rhianydd coaches voice at several musical theatre schools locally and also at Huddersfield New College. She has recently worked in Calderdale's Voice Clinic with the leading ENT and SLT specialists as a vocal consultant.

## Welcome to Colne Valle Male Voice Choir, Rhianydd



# Long service awards

Chairman Kieran was proud to welcome two new singers into a very exclusive CVMVC Club.–  
**Honorary Life Membership.**



This rare and prestigious award is only made to singers who have completed 40 years of membership.

Bass, **James Blagbrough** and baritone, **John Parkin** both reached this tremendous long-service milestone in the last few weeks. They are both going strong and singing well with no thought of stepping down (VotV is pleased to report) and as honorary life members they don't need to pay 'subs' anymore. Can't be bad!

Well done you two.

And for the full Choir story see our website ...

