



## Mousehole visit coming up soon

**Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**  
PRESENTS

**NORTH & SOUTH**  
A CONCERT CELEBRATING MALE VOICE CHOIR TRADITIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
**Mousehole Male Voice Choir**

Reserve in advance for  
**DISCOUNTED TICKETS!**  
Call Roger on  
01484 846262

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
7:00pm | St. John's Church, Golcar, Huddersfield  
Tickets in advance £10 / Under 18s £5  
(On the door £12 / Under 18s £6)

Choir members are getting ready to welcome our friends, **The Mousehole Male Voice Choir** from Cornwall.

Mousehole MVC is generally regarded as the '**Best Cornish Choir**' having been granted that accolade at the Cornwall Festival in 2016.

The men of the Colne Valley got to know this formidable crew on our many visits to take part in the Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival and Competition - we were adjudged '**Overall Best UK Choir**' on three occasions.

We are teaming up with these terrific singers to put on a joint concert at Golcar on Saturday night - September 20<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Do put this date into your diaries - it will be a great event !

# Damien's next musical theatre appearance

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir's very own rising star, **Damien Stirling**, who was such a hit in the Choir's recent Musical Theatre extravaganza at Slaithwaite, tells VotV about his next big show, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" coming up soon in Halifax's Victoria Theatre.

He writes:-

*"After my recent performances in KYTE's 'Les Misérables' and as a soloist in the Choir's wonderful 'Songs from the Shows', I'm hard at work preparing to join the cast of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang as Goran, the Spy."*

*Goran is a Vulgarian spy, one of the main antagonists in the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang story.*

*He is childish, silly, and easily excitable, which contrasts with his more serious and grumpy partner, Boris. Goran's over-the-top behaviour often annoys Boris, creating comic tension between the two.*

*The Vulgarian spies, including Goran, are tasked with capturing Chitty Chitty Bang Bang for Baron Bomburst.*

*The Spies have a show-stopping number when Boris is trying to teach Goran how to "Act English" in Act I.*

*I can hardly wait."*





The performance being put on at the Victoria Theatre in Halifax is by HOAS – the Halifax Amateur Operatic Society.

This august company has been running for over 100 years starting in 1901 and has delighted audiences with over 160 productions.

The company reports that, *'The production started rehearsals back in March and now with only a couple of weeks to go until **opening night on September 17<sup>th</sup>**, we are nearly ready to watch Chitty fly and for the Potts family to face the adventure of a lifetime (with the spy lurking behind every corner waiting to get the car and failing miserably to do so.)*

*It will be a magical adventure!*

*Get ready for a truly scrumptious journey filled with unforgettable songs, high-flying fun, and a car like no other... With the help of his children Jemima and Jeremy, Caractacus Potts restores an old racing car which turns out to have magical powers! Joined by Grandpa Potts and the delectable Truly Scrumptious, the family take a wild adventure to far-off lands.*

*A spectacular cast, stunning costumes, and the iconic Chitty herself – this is a show for the whole family that you won't want to miss!*

*Say hello to Boris and Goran – Vulgaria's not-so-slick secret agents played by the hilarious duo Joe Ainley-Mitchell and Damien Stirling! These two bring non-stop laughs, outrageous antics, and just a little chaos to the world of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Think slapstick, silliness, and scheming... with absolutely zero success!*

*A fantasmagorical time awaits at the Victoria Theatre, Halifax from the 17th to the 20th September 2025.'*

Book online at <https://www.victoriatheatre.co.uk/whats-on/book?show=357402>



Meanwhile, get the flavour of the spies' performance with this clip from the classic film version of 1968.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMHnwrt2l1k>

# RUMPUS relocates....

Readers of Voice of the Valley will surely know that the good folk at Rumpus - purveyors of the finest burgers in Slaithwaite - number themselves as '**Supporters of Colne Valley Male Voice Choir**' and are regular advertisers in Choir concert programmes.



Rumpus Burger

Readers, local to the Choir's home village of Slaithwaite, may also have noticed that the fine old bank premises in the village centre, some time back vacated by Lloyds Bank PLC, have been, in recent months, a site of much activity with skips, builders, scaffolding and the like.

What they might not have realised is that these two things - apparently unrelated - have very recently come together.

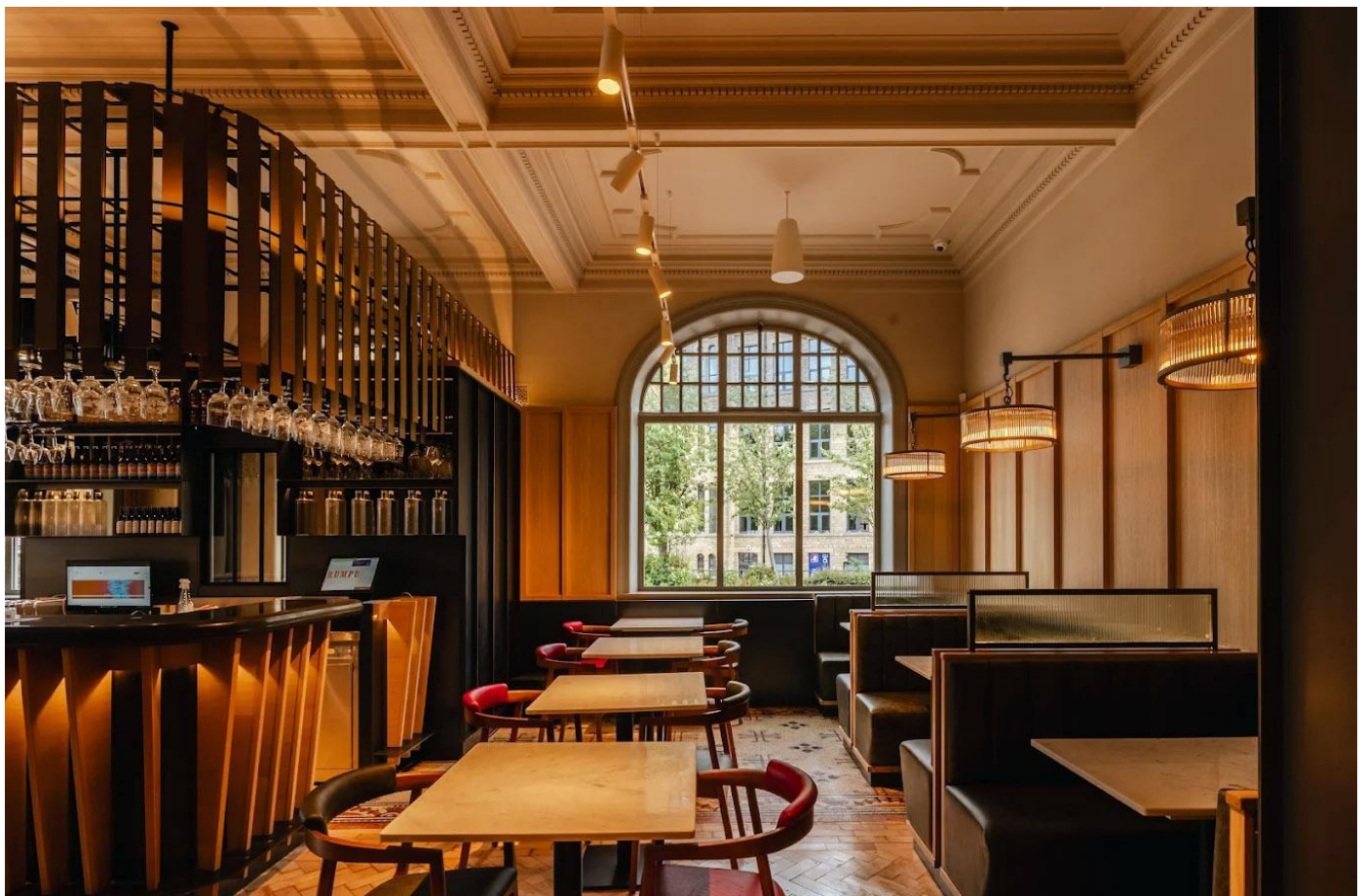


That's right; it's been Rumpus that acquired the old Lloyds Bank.

They have tastefully refurbished its exterior and totally remodelled the building internally to create a wonderful new restaurant & bar.

And it's now fully open.

This is where they have relocated from their former premises - what a good move!





So, if you've got no plans, what better than to check out the refurbishment and enjoy what are arguably the best burgers in the village.

Maybe go before or after enjoying a fine concert when next we perform in Slaithwaite - or simply check it out for a good time out - with or without the singing.

# RUMPUS

SLAITHWAITE

TEL: 01484 841979

Monday	16.00 – 21.00
Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
Wednesday	16.00 – 21.00
Thursday	12.00 – 21.00
Friday	12.00 – 21.00
Saturday	12.00 – 21.00
Sunday	12.00 – 20.00

## RUMPUS



Check out their website for details - <https://www.rumpusburger.co.uk>

## Social evening at Marsden

Choir members during this year's - experimental - long summer break took the opportunity to meet up for a Monday evening social gathering evening at Marsden Golf Club.



Quizzes, games, friendly conversation and general bonhomie resulted, according to reports that reached VotV.

Genially hosted by Social Secretary (and now deputy Chairman) **Andrew Leyland**, it seems everybody had a good time.

We have to thank Andrew, in particular, for getting the event together.



People enjoyed a lovely pie & pea supper.

It seems it was Kieran's table that won the quiz. Thanks as always, go to **Chris Wilson** for sending the photographic evidence.



Well done, Andrew

# Speed your Journey

## How it should be done...

Look on the internet and there are countless, terrible, male voice choir versions of 'Speed your Journey' around. Hopefully when Colne Valley sing the 'Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves', we do it better.

What needs to be remembered is that the song is about the painful longing for lost home and freedom that an enslaved people cling to in their oppression - it's not a waltz – Da-di-dah, Da-di-dah, Da-di-dah, Da-di-dah-dah. Its context is grief, exile and separation from their old lives and about stoicism, the will to survive and the (perhaps forlorn but enduring) hope of return.

This is beautifully captured in this performance by the Metropolitan Opera in 2001. When we rehearse this piece again, in September it is your editor's earnest wish that we recall something of the intentions of **Verdi**, in his opera, '**Nabucco**', as rendered so skilfully in this version. One critic wrote, *"I don't care what religion, creed, race or nationality you are. Longing for a lost home cuts across everybody's heart, and this song perfectly expresses the feeling."*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VejTwFjwVI>

Enjoy it and be moved!

	<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> 
---	---

You don't have to 'speed your journey' to get a chance at a cash prize in the 200 Club - the big biannual £1,000 draw is coming soon - but don't hang about either. Contact Tom and get involved in our fund-raising draw.

# Simon's do



VotV readers and all but the most recent Choir members will have fond memories of Dr Simon Lindley, who died in February this year.

They will remember him as a superb musician, organist and conductor.

Simon was a strong supporter of our Choir; a regular guest conductor during Thom's occasional absences, played with us on our annual visits to Scarborough and, for many years, was compère at our big Town Hall Christmas Concerts.

We were so pleased by our long association that we made him an Honorary Life member.

## A Come and Sing Celebration

Simon's many friends, particularly at his renowned chamber choir - The Saint Peter's Singers - have been organising a musical event in his memory to be held at Leeds Minster on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will be two options for those who want to take part: the 'Come and Sing' option where choral singers can join the Saint Peter's people. Or you can participate as a member of the audience in the early-evening concert that starts at 5.15pm.

Singers will contribute excerpts from **Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius'** with the mezzo soprano soloist, **Margaret McDonald** and also perform Part 1 of 'Messiah' and the 'Hallelujah Chorus'.

Those who simply join the audience will also enjoy other items in a rich programme. Margaret will sing the '**Erbarme Dich**' from **Bach's Saint Matthew's Passion** with **David Greed** (former leader of Opera North Orchestra and a frequent collaborator with Simon) playing the violin obligato.



He'll also join with organist **Darius Bhattiwala** to play '**The Lark Ascending**' by **Vaughan Williams**.



All this augurs well to be a very fine tribute to a much-loved musician.



£20.00 for singers and £10.00 for audience.

You can find out more and book on these links.

Singers :

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/vyrkkyxxxggb>

General audience:-

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/nqbqmwldkxxd>

Leeds Minster  
2-6 Kirkgate  
Leeds

LS2 7DJ



# The impossible dream

Still interested in musical theatre, Colne Valley men have started practising this famous song from 'The Man of La Mancha'.

It's the musical that is based on the ancient Spanish story of **Don Quixote**, who 'tilted at windmills'

VotV can't be certain but expects this fine song will be one we sing with **Mousehole Male Voice Choir** later this month. It will make a fine joint item.

Whether this happens on September 20<sup>th</sup> or later, the Choir will surely enjoy adding it to our repertoire.

To remind yourself of the background to this fine song watch this excerpt from the 1972 film in which actor, **Peter O'Toole**, plays the aging knight explaining why striving to achieve something that's probably unobtainable might nonetheless be a defensible - even necessary - goal in life.



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

---

## Do bear it in mind...

Please remember that your Voice of the Valley Editor, John Clark, is always interested in hearing from readers. If you've a picture or a story or an event that's interesting and has some vague connection with Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, then please do get in touch at [newsletter@colnevalleymvc.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@colnevalleymvc.co.uk)

