



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Broad Oak Barn

Broad Oak, Linthwaite,
Huddersfield, HD7 5TE

Sunday 17 May
11am - 4pm

Adults £5 Children free
Home-made teas



Ben's garden

Musically a second-tenor, professionally a landscape gardener, Colne Valley's, **Ben Stirling**, is to open his Linthwaite garden to the public.

Ben and his wife, **Rachel**, aided by their son, **Damien** (also a second-tenor and a rising-star) have teamed up with the **National Gardens Scheme** to welcome visitors for their enjoyment and entertainment and also to raise some money for worthwhile charities.



Their garden is at **Broad Oak** in Linthwaite.

That's **HD7 5TE** for Satnavs.

Their open day is **Sunday May 17th**

Times are between 11.00 and 4.00pm.



Parking is on the main road between **Broad Oak Cricket Club & Bowling Club**.

The gardens are just down a short lane.

All will be sign-posted with yellow signs on the day.





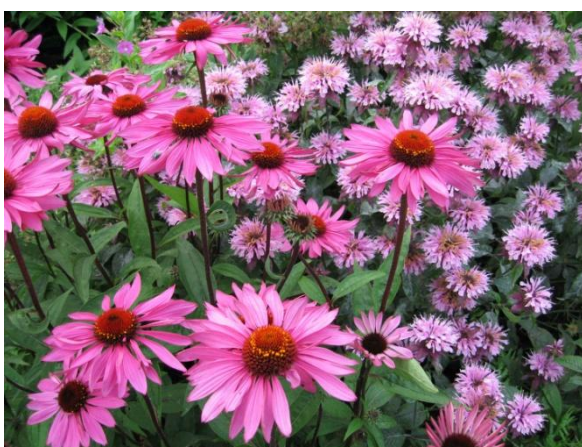
Ben runs **Landscape Creations**; a company with over 25 years of experience.

Ben has been very busy preparing his home garden for the 'Big Day'.

He describes himself as 'plant-mad'.

He tells *VotV*, "It's a chance to wander around our garden which is full of plants, many rare & unusual, whilst tucking into **Rachel's homemade cakes**, so it should be fun for everyone.

And it's all in aid of '**Hospice UK**' and '**Dementia UK**' charities".



Features of the garden include rare & unusual trees & shrubs, a formal octagonal pond & a wildlife pond, alpine rockery, willow arches, dwarf rhododendron collection with stepping-stones & pathways for visitors to explore.



Ben adds, "It would be wonderful if Choir members and their families could join us, too."



VotV says, well done Rachel, Ben and Damien
It'll be a great occasion.

What a send-off!

Saint Stephen's Church in Lindley was packed the other day as people gathered to say their goodbyes to **Lynn Meredith**. Quite literally packed; all the pews, the extra seats, the upstairs and even then a couple of dozen standing at the back throughout the service. Amongst them maybe half the Choir came to join in. It demonstrated, as much as anything could, what an impact Lynn had made on the lives of so many people.



We were told that Lynn, knowing she was not much longer for this world, had planned her funeral in some detail. VotV would take a bet that she probably didn't realise how successful an event it would turn out to be or just how many friends would turn out to pay their respects.

Lynn's last days were spent at the Kirkwood Hospice. The family were very appreciative of the loving and thoughtful care she received from the Hospice and its skilled and kindly staff. An exit collection for this valuable voluntary organisation followed the service. Should VotV readers wish to add their donation, just click on the link below:-.

<https://kirkwood.safeandsecurewebservices.net/card-donate>



200 Club winners



“Hi Matey, hope this is OK for your readers.”

So says 200 Club Member, **Ian Mellor**.

His number - **114** - came up the other week and he scooped up a very handy **£1,000 Prize**.

A Colne Valley resident, Ian promptly ‘swanned off’ to Spain for a few beers and a bit of warmer weather. And there will be many readers, who will be - with just a hint of envy - wishing him, ‘Good Luck’.

Ian does have a reason to support CVMVC’s 200 Club. He tells us his Dad - a Marsden local - sang in the Choir for many years. Maybe some older members will remember him - Frank Taylor.

Ian reveals he was urged to join the 200 Club by a pal of his - incoming Choir Chairman, **Andrew Leyland**. He and Club organiser, **Tom Jennings**, propose that if every member likewise persuaded a pal to sign up, then the few unsold numbers would soon be gone and the Choir would maximise this useful source of income.



For the record here’s the list of winners so far this year.

Why not join them?

Recent 200 Club Results			
Date	Winner	Winning Number	Prize
05 January 2026	John Clark	182	£45.00
12 January 2026	Matt Houston	83	£45.00
19 January 2026	Peter Hutton	76	£45.00
26 January 2026	Maureen Stead	49	£185.00
02 February 2026	James Blagbrough	5	£45.00
09 February 2026	Richard Prior	169	£45.00
16 February 2026	Margaret Green	130	£45.00
23 February 2026	Ian Mellor	114	£1,000.00
02 March 2026	William Meredith	158	£45.00
09 March 2026	John Parkin	23	£45.00
16 March 2026	Les Stones	37	£45.00
23 March 2026	Sue Chadha	94	£45.00
30 March 2026	Audrey Bedford	172	£185.00
06 April 2026	Peter Stubbs	178	£45.00
13 April 2026	Chris Pulleyn	109	£45.00



£45 in prize money weekly, £185 in the monthly draw and two whopping £1,000 draws each year.

Even if you don't win, you win - because half of the fund supports Choir concerts and performances.

Contact Tom Jennings at:-
200club@colnevalleymvc.co.uk



A busy spring

We're going to be busy this spring. We are working hard to be sure we can offer you some quality entertainment in the next few weeks.

Here's what in our line-up

'Music in May'

Sunday 10th May

At St. John's Church in Golcar

HD7 4PX

A springtime community concert for everyone - featuring soloists from within the Choir.

There will be a brilliant raffle.

It will start at 2.30.

Admission is free, with a 'Pay What You Feel' collection following our performance.



'Colne Valley Male Voice Choir in Concert'

Saturday 30th May

at St Paul's,

Queen's Road,
King Cross,
Halifax, HX1 3NU

A relaxed evening concert (we start at 7.00) featuring a mix of repertoire - new discoveries, well-loved classics, and re-imagined favourites. Tickets are £10, available on the door.

'In Concert: Brass and Voices'

Saturday 6th June

at St George's Hall,

Bradford

Bringing together Colne Valley Male Voice Choir and Yorkshire Imperial Brass Band, with guest soloist, **Roger Webster**, for a spectacular evening of music.

7:30pm Tickets are £18, available online on the St George's Hall website.

Click on this link to book.

<https://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/whats-on/in-concert-brass-and-voices>



Yorkshire Imperial Band • 90 Years
Colne Valley Male Voice Choir

In Concert: Brass & Voices

Featuring the legendary
Roger Webster
as guest soloist

Saturday 6 June

7:30pm
St. Georges Hall, Bradford

Grab your ticket now
via the website
(booking fees apply)

bradford-theatres.co.uk
01274 432000

ST GEORGE'S
CONCERT HALL

City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Jeff's tree

Our older members and friends will have happy memories of **Jeff Bamforth**, one of our former Choir chairmen, who passed away about four years ago. Jeff had a long and happy relationship with Christine (Donaldson) and together they supported the Choir attending many Choir events, long after his health had put a stop to his singing with the basses.



Jeff had the sad experience of losing a son in an accident. They planted a tree in his memory. **David Morrison** (no mean gardener himself) took this picture of the cherry tree, still thriving in Marsden's churchyard, just the other day and thought some of our readers would like it.

I think they will.

Workshop Day to use vacant slot in the calendar



‘The return of the Coldstream Guards to perform with us in concert on the Huddersfield Town Hall stage,’ says ex-chairman and Vice President, **Joe Stones**, ‘Is by no means dead as an idea.

But,’ he tells *VotV*, ‘It’s not proved possible to go with the original proposed date in October this year. They are part of the Household Division and as such are part of a serving military outfit. And other priorities take precedence – even over entertaining the good folk of Huddersfield.

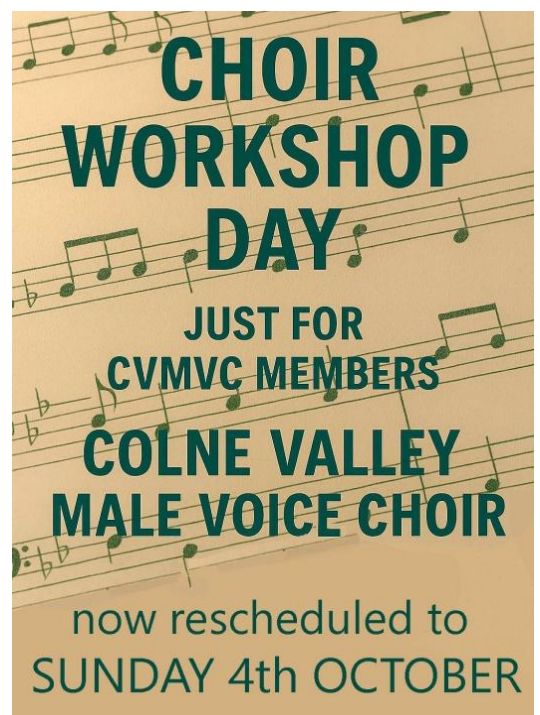
We’re still in discussions and are now looking at a date in 2027.’

But it’s an ill wind that blows nobody any good. The Management Committee has agreed to use the vacated date for another purpose.

That is; **Sunday October 4th** will now be the date for a Choir workshop.

This will not be a public event, however. It’s just for Choir members.

We’ll have a variety of singing workshops during the day and it is proposed to hold a dinner for members and partners in the evening.





As we were so well looked after by the people at **'The Venue'** when we held our **Centenary Celebration**, we have chosen once again to use the good people of **Bower's Mill**, near Barkisland, to host this event for us. There're lots of space for sectional workshops and plenaries, there's good coffee and refreshments

And their evening meals are delicious



Full details to follow.

And there's Gardener Graham, too.



It's not only Ben that's a skilled gardener. First tenor, **Graham Schofield** had not lived long in the Colne Valley. But before moving into Golcar Graham was Head Gardener at various prominent estates in the South West.

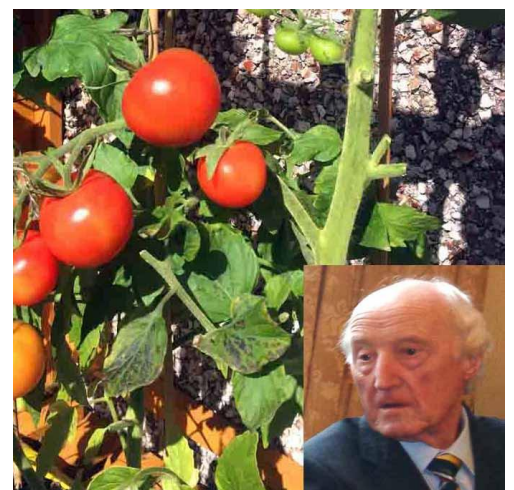
Now, Graham has many private clients. Amongst others he's is helping look after green-fingered, **David Morrison's** Marsden garden.

He even, occasionally, comes and wrestles with the jungle that is your VotV Editor's place.



And that's not to mention, fellow first tenor, **John Lees**, who still grows a tasty tomato!

John tells VotV he's yet to put this year's plants in but he's hopeful of another good crop.



New guys

The Choir was pleased to welcome into membership another new guy the other Monday. He's been singing in with us for a while and last week he passed his test. We bid him welcome and wish him many happy years singing with us.

Pete Bulkley, now a proud member of the Baritones, tells Voice of the Valley....

By chance, I picked up a flyer for LAMS & Friends, when I moved to Slaithwaite in December 2025.

I thought, 'What a great way to get a feel for the local community' - and here I am!

I've lived in Manchester and then in Glossop for 40 odd years, working in manufacturing and engineering businesses.

For 10 of these years I worked for David Brown in Lockwood. So I do know many people 'on the other side of the hill', now my side!



A fresh start was needed, which is what brought me and my partner, Helen, over to this community and we were keen to find out what made it tick. I have never sung in a choir, don't play a musical instrument or read music (although all my children do play instruments, as does Helen) - but I have always loved music in all of its many forms.

A recent viewing at the Bridgewater Hall, of both Karl Jenkins and the Hallé choir (Helen's encouragement), must have fed into my conscience in some way, so I thought a community singing event would be an interesting thing to participate in.



And the LAMS weekend was brilliant. So I said 'Yes' when I was invited to come along and rehearse with the main Choir - even though I had my doubts whether I could actually do it.

The welcoming, straightforward, kind-hearted and helpful nature of all that I met at CVMVC gave me the confidence to keep rocking up!

That and the fantastic heritage of the CVMVC make me feel truly honoured to have been invited to join you. I hope that I can live up to your high standards!

Ben Stirling's wildlife pond

(Note: this heron isn't real)



Do get in touch



Please remember that Voice of the Valley loves to hear from readers.

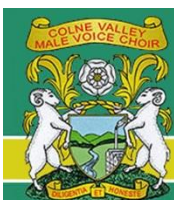
If you've a picture or a story or an event that's interesting and has, at least, some vague connection with Colne Valley Male Voice Choir, then please do get in touch with the Editor at:-

newsletter@colnevalleymvc.co.uk

And for general queries about the Choir, contact new Choir Secretary, Richard Holliday on secretary@colnevalleymvc.co.uk

Thank you for reading Voice of the Valley

For the full story and for all our forthcoming events see our website:



colnevalleymvc.org.uk

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