



Kieran hands over to Andrew

In an arrangement yet to be formally ratified in the upcoming AGM, **Chairman Kieran Chadha** 'passed the baton' to incoming Chairman, **Andrew Leyland**. No one expects anything other than unanimous endorsement when the plan comes up for approval in June.

Announcing the plan to the Choir, Kieran went on to briefly talk about his time in the chair....

'Just a quick word to remind you that I'm finishing my term as Chair and handing over to Andrew Leyland from May.

I want to thank you for your support over the past two years. It's been a busy time with lots of change, and I really appreciate how you've taken it all in your stride.

Special thanks to the members of the Committee, and to those who have taken on supporting roles. There's an awful lot of effort involved in keeping the Choir ticking over - lots of people give up a lot of time to keep us singing!

Finally, thanks to Thom and Chris, who have met my nagging for rehearsal tracks and listened to my "great ideas" with grace and good humour. We are very lucky to have them.

It was never really my plan to be Chair (I stepped into the role when Peter (Kelly) had to leave us suddenly), but although it has been a lot of work and certainly hasn't all been plain sailing, it's been a very rewarding experience. I've enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to something I'm so passionate about.

Colne Valley Male Voice Choir is a wonderful organisation, doing brilliant things, and it's something that we all should be very proud of playing our part in.

Many thanks to you all'

Kieran



Kieran gets deserved appreciation from the Choir

VotV thinks Kieran was a little embarrassed by the warmth of the Choir's applause that followed his end-of term announcement.

It goes without saying, that singers weren't applauding his departure but, rather, enthusiastically commending him for the excellent job he has done over the past couple of years, both in guiding and strengthening the Choir through challenging times and so ably representing the Choir to the outside world.

Well done, Kieran.



Succession planning

A succession plan has been put into place. Kieran will act as support to new Chairman, Andrew for the next 12 months, then Andrew will acquire a new Deputy Chairman, who will in due course take on the Chairmanship whilst Andrew will support him for the following year - and so on and so on.

The underlying notion is to ensure continuity of experience as the years roll by.

New man chairs his first CVMVC Committee

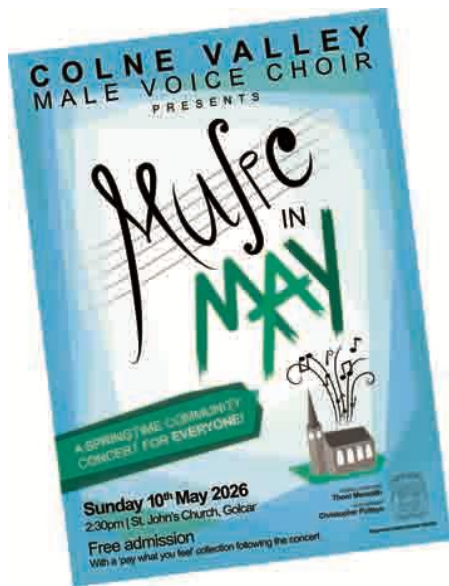
Andrew gathers his thoughts before his introductory chairing of the Management Committee meeting in May.

At his side, as he started was Kieran who will provide his help and guidance through to 2027.

Andrew is a popular choice and VotV is sure that the Choir will continue to thrive with him in the chair.

We wish you well, Andrew

What a good do at Golcar



The **'Music in May'** concert brought great pleasure to the smallish but enthusiastic gathering of supporters, who turned out on Sunday afternoon to enjoy the Choir on top form.

It was one of those lovely concerts where the Choir's singing is interspersed by soloists from within our own ranks. On this occasion even the compère's job was an in-house production - a very fine debut by first tenor, **Keith Lockwood**.

Keith - a one-time head teacher - is, no doubt, used to speaking to full halls. He did acknowledge feeling just a little apprehensive as he began - but none of that showed as he introduced the numbers and performers. **VotV** is confident we'll see him in this role again. **Well**



done Keith and Chris Pilgrim, too, for supplying him with background notes.

Our first solo was by **Sam Blagborough**, who gave us the anthem **'Lord God of Abraham'** from Felix Mendelssohn's famed 1846 oratorio, **Elijah**. Then, after another set of Choir songs, **Chris Pilgrim** gave us one of Flanders & Swan's comic songs, **'The Sloth'**. The concert was warming up and so were the Choir.

Dark Horse Damian

The last pre-interval solo spot was a stunner!

Up popped **Damian Dyer** - he's one of the new guys - to sing **'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables'** from **'Les Misérables'**.

After the revolutionaries are routed, the student leader, Marius, sings a lament for the dead and disappeared. He returns to the café where the uprising was planned in such hope. Now, his anger is palpable, as is his grief for their loss.

His song tells of their hopes - now cruelly dashed.

*"There's a grief that can't be spoken
There's a pain goes on and on
Empty chairs at empty tables
Now my friends are dead and gone."*

And our Damian was a revelation, such poignancy, such passion and such power in his voice.



Concert photos - courtesy of Chris Wilson

The Choir could hardly believe it.



This is the Damian, who, introducing himself in *VotV* only last December, said,

“Hi, I’m Damian and I’m really pleased to be able to finally follow through on my promise to join CVMVC.

I used to sing in a hodge-podge school choir, more years ago than I care to remember. I’ve done very little since then, barring singing along to the guitar at home or annoying the neighbours with show tunes.

That was until joining the inaugural LAMS for the Choir’s centenary”

*Well, we know your merits better now, Damian and *VotV* expects our audiences will demand to hear lots more of you.*

Well done, Damian.

Sadly, there is no recording of Damian’s performance but you will get the idea from Eddie Redmayne’s version in the film from 2012.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLlIzgUy4u8&t=8s>



And the second half was even better...



Amongst the songs, which were a big hit with our listeners, were '**Battle Hymn of the Republic**' and '**American Trilogy**'. The final chorus in '**Glory, Glory Hallelujah**' was made especially impressive as second tenor, **James Cooke** - a formidable musician - added the power of the St John's organ to the drama. Brilliant !

Nor did our other second half soloists disappoint. **Tom Law's** singing of **Ed Sheeran's 'Supermarket Flowers'** won him many plaudits.



Our rising star, **Damien Stirling** was, once again, staggeringly good. He wowed the audience with a comic Mozart aria from **Figaro** and yet another dramatic excerpt from '**Les Misérables**'; Javier's final desolation and suicide.





Chairman, Kieran, took the opportunity to talk briefly to the audience - he's such a good communicator. He explained that this was a **'Pay as You Feel'** concert. (Word is... that although our audience was small, we raised about £1,000 and found takers for an extra handful of 200 Club numbers.)



Then, our final soloist before the Big-Finish Choir Finale. It was the wonderful **Chris Pulleyn**, at the fine piano **Keith Swallow** left us.

Chris played the striking **Rachmaninov Prelude in G Minor** (Op. 23 No. 5). Enjoy it again, here performed by Yuja Wang in Berlin. (She's really good, too.)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhBXx-2PadM&list=RDGhBXx-2PadM&start_radio=1

As always, the lion's share of the credit should go to our inestimable Musical Director, **Thom Meredith**.



Truly, it was a 'good-do' at Golcar.

Dan leads performance

One of our favourite contemporary composers, **Dan Forrest**, is becoming a regular visitor to Europe these days. On a recent trip to England he led a recording of a new piece, **'Good Night Dear Heart'**. Dan was at the piano guiding a beautiful performance by small ensemble **'Voces 8'**.

Dan gives the background to this piece....

'A few years ago, my brother and his wife found out that the four month old girl that they were soon to adopt from Ethiopia had fallen ill and passed away. They had been making plans for her, staring endlessly at her picture, and loving her from across the ocean, so the news was devastating. God's plans were not for her to ever see the people who had loved her from halfway around the world, but for her to be taken instead to His loving arms.'

For me, life circumstances (whether euphoric or tragic) don't usually translate into musical inspiration; the two typically remain separate. The night they received this news, though, I found myself longing to pour out a musical elegy. My search for a suitable text led me to a picture from a cemetery in my hometown (Elmira, NY), where the great American author Mark Twain and his family are buried. My brother and I, from our youth, have known the poem that Twain placed on the tombstone of his beloved daughter Susy, when she died unexpectedly at age 24 and left him heartbroken. I was stunned by the bittersweet irony of this text being from our hometown, and in honor of a beloved daughter who died unexpectedly. I wrote this setting that night; it was quickly added to an upcoming concert and premiered only one week later, as an elegy for Etsegenet and a reminder of the orphans of Ethiopia.'



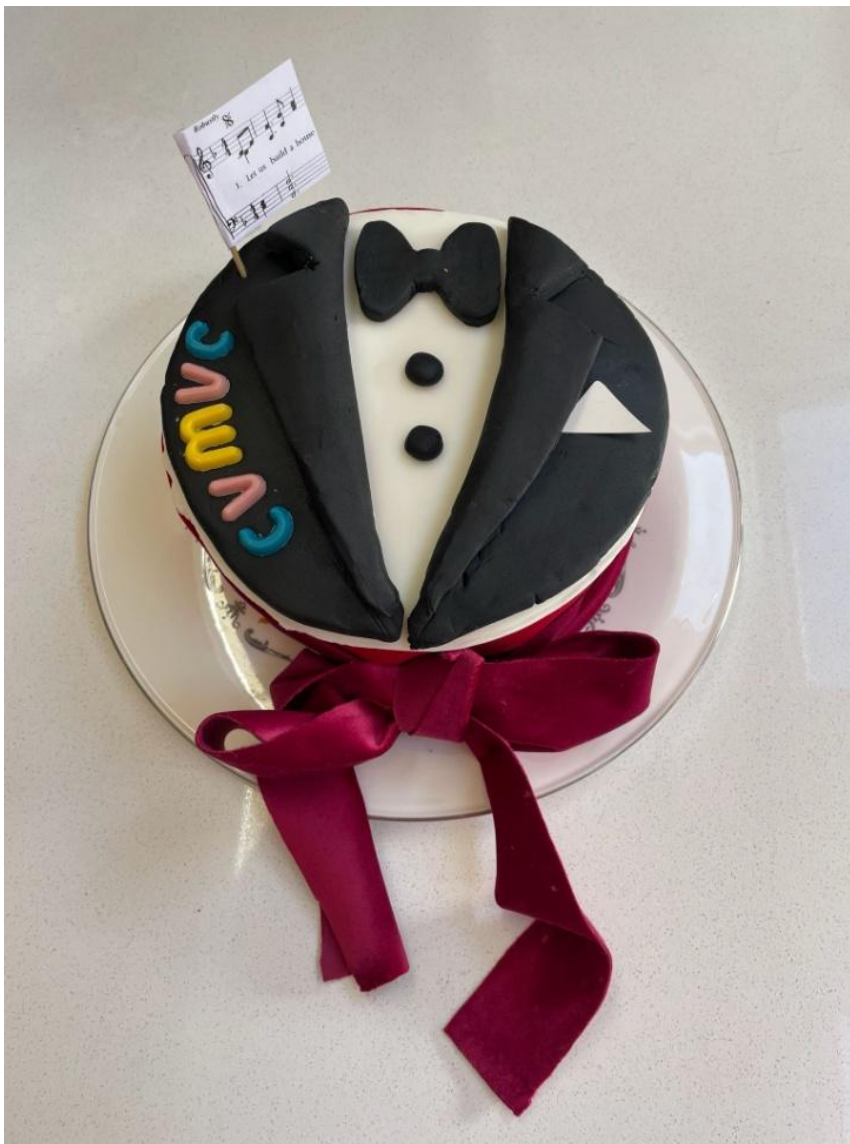
“Good Night Dear Heart”

Text by Robert Richardson and Mark Twain.

*‘Warm summer sun, Shine kindly here,
Warm southern wind, Blow softly here.
Green sod above, Lie light, lie light.
Good night, dear heart,
Good night, good night.’*

It’s a beautiful elegy. We have seen on many occasions that Dan has added arrangements for male voices. It would be a terrific piece for CVMVC (says VotV) if a TTBB version were to appear.

This Week’s Star Baker



Alison, wife of new second tenor, **Damian Field** reckons her husband deserved some recognition for his new hobby - singing with Colne Valley Male Voice Choir.

She’s proud of him so she baked him a cake for his recent birthday. And what a cake!

Good job, Alison



Programme Changes

The more observant users of the 'Events' section of the Choir's website, may have noticed that an afternoon concert date has dropped out of the listings.

That is:-

Saturday 4 July (cancelled) 'Down the Decades' Marsden Summer Fayre and concert at St Bartholomew's Church, Marsden

This concert was to be a three-way collaboration between Marsden Silver Prize Band, Marsden Parish Church and CVMVC. For reasons unclear to VotV, it was tricky getting arrangements for this concert definitely agreed - apparently it was a clash of dates.

It's a pity - we were all quite looking forward to it. But, relationships between the parties remain good and the Choir is now looking for alternative collaborations for later this summer.



Our audiences need not worry

Our audiences need not worry - there are plenty of opportunities to see us. The Concert at **Saint Paul's** on **May 30th** is still going ahead as planned. Tickets will be available on the door at the church.

Saturday 30 May - 7.00 pm Colne Valley Male Voice Choir in Concert St.Paul's Church

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



Equally firm is our joint venture with Yorkshire Imperial Band and St. George's Hall in Bradford. This rather special concert is still set to take place on June 6th.

Saturday 6 June

'In Concert: Brass and Voices'

CVMVC with Yorkshire Imperial Band

St George's Hall, Bradford 7.30 start

For tickets follow this link

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





Ben's Triumph

Second tenor, Ben Stirling, not to mention his family - including young Damien - had a terrific Garden Open Day at his place in Oakes.

Apparently, despite the showers, around 168 people came to marvel at his green-fingered dexterity.

The cakes were cracking, the gardens superb and the welcome most warm.


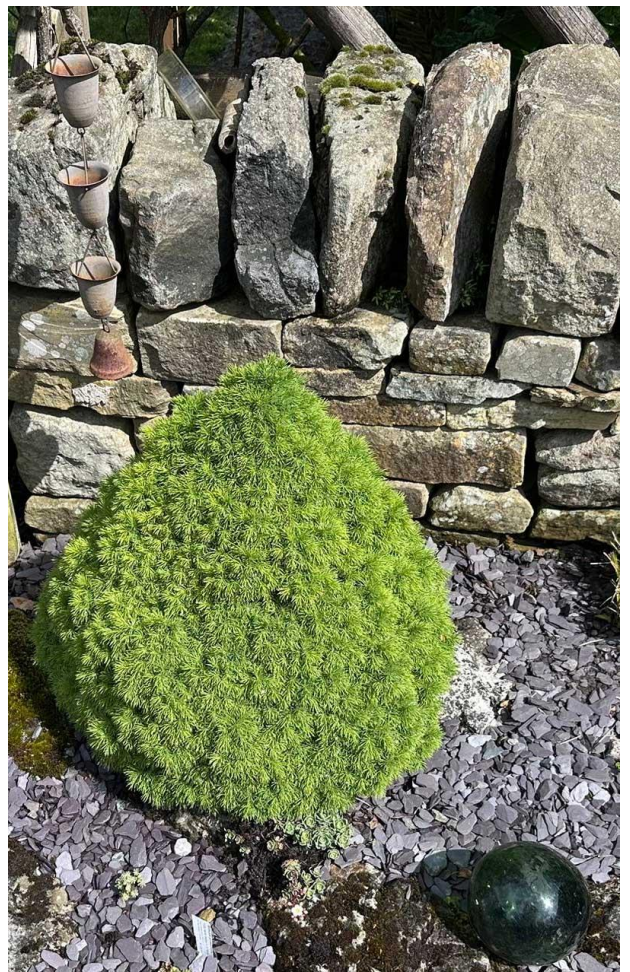


And the word is that the day raised about £1,500 for the hospice movement.





You can still support the hospice –
Just click here to donate to our local one.
<https://kirkwood.safeandsecurewebservices.net/card-donate>



Colne Valley Male Voice Choir
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