



## **BULLETIN #18 2020**

Dear Friends,

I hope you've all had a good week and hope you're all keeping your spirits up. I've had a touching poem sent by Karen Briggs this week, I really appreciate any contributions you make to the bulletin and the messages and communications I get from you are greatly appreciated too.

We had another great Zoom session this week, a regular 40 plus are joining in the sessions. To start the session by singing Po Die the Polish warm up song it was great fun, I think most people looked to be moving in the right direction. We worked on "Symphony" and "Simply the Best" again, please keep practising these with the sound files at home, that applies to those of you not joining our Zoom sessions too. We also went over Beautiful Day one of our favourites and one of the first songs we learnt with Craig.

For our quarantine at the end of our session this week we had Claire Sharp (alto) performing a beautiful and very moving rendition of "There You'll Be" by Faith Hill; it's from the film Pearl Harbour. A big thanks to Claire for singing for us. She has kindly sent us a link to the original song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5Jf3UbiX5A&feature=share>

Next week Sammy Stoney (soprano) will sing for you a special VE day song

A big thanks to those of you who've made a contribution towards the cost of our Zoom sessions, as was requested by email on Wednesday. If everybody who is taking part could do the same that would be fantastic. This will enable us to continue with them until we are able to resume our normal practices. Some of you have requested to reinstate paying your monthly £13 subs to pay for the sessions, many thanks for this.

If you've struggled with Zoom and would still like to join our sessions please call John on 07809446208 he'll be happy to give you a helping hand.

Craig has started doing his 1:1 sessions with quite a number of you. I've thoroughly enjoyed hearing from you about how these are going, Craig is an inspiring teacher and you seem to be finding your lessons both beneficial and good fun too. The lessons are available at a reduced rate of £35 per hour which is a very reasonable price. Craig will conduct his sessions via Zoom and will take payment via Paypal or BACS.

If you would like to book a 1:1 session but haven't contacted Craig yet, then please contact him via his email address is on his World Voice Day advert below.

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### **Linda Colman**



A child of the 60's, from London, those were the days! I attended the London College of Fashion, it was a time of musical and fashion explosion! We married in 1971, and blessed with a girl and a boy, my husband working for a large Motor group, as he moved upwards, we moved up country! North London (did I mention Spurs the best)? to North Bucks, to North Yorks! 1988 now! Kids vowels slightly changed and we were in love with Harrogate and the amazing countryside! Aye!

At this time I was very into Am Dram, and then in 2009 I joined a choir, my first since school! I love the harmonies and the power of voices joining together as one.....as well as the feeling of belonging and friendships, music has always been a big part of my life, I play (play at) piano, ukulele and guitar....joining KACHoir in November 2019 was just meant to be! That first rehearsal blew me away! A lovely bunch of people, and we have 'Simply the Best' with Craig and Declan, energising, inspiring and really getting the best out of us musically, they are also top dudes! I was at a low ebb in my life, and

it gave me a new wonderful focus, what's more I'm once again standing next to my best buddy, we've sung together in 3 choirs now, through all sorts! We are there singing, together, again!

Thursdays were underlined on the Calendar; they still are, as the replaced Zoom rehearsals still rock! I see all the faces on my small screen, and Craig and Dec giving us the best that is possible in these restricted times, thank you all! I Tap dance, in the hall, thanks to the wonderful Damien Poole and his tutorials via Zoom....quieter days, I paint, knit, and enjoy the one and only walk with the dogs!

Our kids have settled in Harrogate and Leeds and we are blessed with 5 wonderful Grandchildren, ranging from 6 to 13, we miss them MADLY but FaceTime and Zoom you are a blessing!

I'm sure like me, there are not many dry eyed days, sad events, acts of huge kindness, and the courage of our key workers...not to mention Captain Tom! Thank you Knot Another Choir, I cannot wait for the time we can sing together again, stronger, more tears? This time happy ones for sure!

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### Jeremy Walsh-Harrington

#### **Pre Lock-down**



#### **Post Lock-down**



I find writing about myself difficult so for my 'mini-bio' I asked Julie to give me some questions to answer – here goes:

*Julie: What is your earliest memory?*

**Me: 2 years old, Mumsie, holding me in her arms serenading me.**

**Mumsie, who sadly passed away in March, was able to reach top C which probably explains my tinnitus.**

*Julie: What is your worst quality?*

**Me: I talk too much. Father used to ask me if I was vaccinated with a gramophone needle. I am particularly annoying when I start speaking nonsense at a crucial juncture in a film. It is a disease, but I just have to live with it (unfortunately, so does everybody else).**

*Julie: When did you realise you had such an unbelievably, amazing singing voice?*

**Me: Very young! I used to sing to Mumsie all the time and she would say 'you have the voice of an angel- only promise me on my life, you'll never sing in public as it's probably best you don't share it with anyone else.'**

*Julie: What was your first proper job?*

**Me: I started my working life as a teacher. My first post in 1980 was at a tough 'social priority' secondary modern school in the Medway towns. Bullying, beatings, drunkenness, drugs, racism - I used to dread going into that Staffroom!**

**I left that school for one that was the total opposite, church aided, similar to St.Aidans in Harrogate. It was an all-boys school and the naughtiest boy was called Nigel Jemson. 'Jemson' I would say 'where is your homework?' to jeers from the rest of the class he would say 'I don't need to do homework Sir, I'm going to be a famous footballer!' I would reply 'Oh come on Jemson - if I had a pound...!' -**

**<https://youtu.be/TGkKqD8C6pg>**

*Julie: What is your job now?*

**Me: In the 1980's teachers were undervalued, underpaid and the profession was generally depressed. The pupils were great, but I felt I needed to experience life outside education and answered an advert that said, 'Teachers we value you even if nobody else does!'. The rest is history, as they say, I became a Financial Planner and run a financial services practice based in Windsor House in Harrogate.**

*Julie: What made you join a choir?*

**Me: Although I don't follow any specific organised religion, I am intrigued by 'faith'. I found myself at a Knaresborough Quaker meeting 10 years ago and the greeter was June (Juney) Walker, known to some of you I am sure, a remarkable woman. We got talking about**

inspirational people and specifically, Gareth Malone, whose first series had just been on telly. "I need men!" exclaimed Juney – grabbing my hands, "for our new Harrogate Theatre Choir (HTC)- why don't you come along". I couldn't read music, had never sung in a choir, but politely said 'that sounds interesting' with truthfully, no intention of following through. But, and it is a big but, I'd given Juney my email address and like you Julie, she doesn't give up and I joined HTC.

*Julie: Are you married or single?*

**Me:** I have been married to my wonderful wife Geraldine for nearly 38 years. I am a total 'new man' and massive feminist so I don't make jokes like 'you get a shorter sentence for armed robbery'. Although, Geraldine doesn't choir herself she is very supportive of my choring and bravely puts up with my practice during lock-down, although I have noticed she has bought an expensive pair of noise cancelling Bluetooth, headphones recently.

*Julie: Do you have children?*

**Me:** Yes, I have two delightful grown up children, Sophie and Ryan. Sophie works in mental health and Ryan is a financial planner. I also have a fantastic daughter-in-law Holly and we are expecting our first grandchild soon. Very exciting.

*Julie: How have you settled into Knot Another Choir?*

**Me:** I love it. It's worth the fees just to see Craig and Declan perform.

*Julie: What highlights spring to mind?*

**Me:** There are too many to mention – sometimes when we sing, and the sopranos soar to a crescendo – for a moment I think 'this must be what heaven is like'. Craig and Declan's talents and special connection is a highlight, as most definitely are the hugs from you. One moment that will be forever etched in my mind is when Craig and Declan were fixing the sound system and, in the gap, Karen stepped up to the piano and played a beautiful mesmerising piece. The look on Declan's face, you could read his thoughts: 'there goes my ten quid for Thursday nights'.

*Julie: You mentioned the sopranos- what would you have liked to have been if you had a choice?*

**Me: Definitely, castrato. Many years ago, I saw the film Farinelli [https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3986882841?playlistId=tt0109771&ef=tt\\_ov\\_vi](https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3986882841?playlistId=tt0109771&ef=tt_ov_vi) - I was inspired but decided it was painfully hard work and so I became a bass instead.**

*Julie: You mentioned that your Mum passed away recently did she ever get a chance to see you sing in a choir?*

**Me: Never live, but thanks to modern technology and John's wonderful IT work I was able to show her our concerts in the nursing home. Sadly, Mumsie had been in a cot bed for two years but was blessed with a dementia that allowed her to remember all her family when visiting, and everything that happened over her 86 years, yet nothing about the previous week. This was very fortuitous not just because it minimised her distress (she thought that she had only been in the bed for a few days) but, it allowed me to practice all the songs for our Christmas concert using my IPAD, without her ever becoming bored or remembering how badly I sang during the previous visit. We did have to close the door because one old gentleman opposite kept shouting- 'stop that infernal racket - this is hell - Nurse Nurse!'**

**During my last visit before Mumsie passed, I was singing our new songs to her and on the chorus of Brave, I noticed her eyes glazing and her face grey - 'I've had enough' she said and she held my hand - thinking she meant 'enough' of life I countered 'Mumsie - don't say that, you're a true survivor' - to which she replied 'not of life - of this song you're in the wrong .....key AGAIN!'**

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This poem was written by Karen Briggs in 2020

### **A Yorkshire summer poem.**

I like living in Yorkshire, there's no finer place to be.  
I like living in Yorkshire, even though it's not by the sea.  
All I can hear is the birds in the trees.  
And the bee's pollinating the flowers in a warm Summer Breeze.  
Very little pollution on the roads.  
Only lorries delivering heavy loads.

I like living in Yorkshire, near pastures Green.  
Where animals roam free waiting to be seen.  
People online finding things to do.  
Social distancing effects everyone to.  
I like living in Yorkshire, where there's lots of places to walk.  
Where people can chat and talk.  
Pubs and restaurants are fine places to eat.  
Family gatherings greeting you on the street.  
This virus has changed our lives.  
We carry on regardless, Yorkshire still survives.  
I like living in Yorkshire, I think you will all agree.  
There's no finer place, even though it's not by the sea.

Thank you Karen

Julie

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## Make Contact

Please feel free to contact me, my email is [jbradburysharp@gmail.com](mailto:jbradburysharp@gmail.com) or ring me on 07926027676.