



BULLETIN #19 2020

Hello Friends,

I hope you're all keeping well. Is it me or does time seem to be flying? How gorgeous has the weather been, I think it's kept us going so even though we can't see those we love and get out and about beyond our daily exercise, we can still enjoy the sunshine.

We had a really lively Zoom session this week, it was our sixth! A huge well done to Craig and Declan for keeping our spirits up with their sense of fun. Well done to all of you for being there week on week too, 46 of you joined our session this week. We accepted a new member a few weeks ago she is Michelle and on Thursday we had two more new enthusiastic ladies coming along, they are Natalie and Christine, a big welcome to the three of you. It's wonderful that new people are still wanting to join us even though we can't sing together at this juncture and don't know when we will. However just as soon as we are able, and it is safe to do so we will be back to our regular practice nights under the amazing leadership of Craig.

We sang an African song to warm up to start this week's session. We then had a good sing of and worked a bit on Beautiful Day. I think the revision will do us good and keep our songs fresh in our minds. I hope those of you who haven't been able to join in our Zoom sessions are still keeping up with our songs from the sound files.

To finish the session our quarantune this week, especially for VE Day, Sammy Stoney sang "We'll meet Again", thanks so much Sammy for a very touching emotive performance. Sammy was due to sing this for the big VE celebration in Knaresborough. Hopefully Sammy will get the opportunity to sing this for VE Day in years to come.

Next week Jeremy Walsh-Harrington will entertain you. I have now had an offer for the following week too. Do be brave, get in touch with me to volunteer soon, people are enjoying each other's contributions.

Thanks to all of you who are making monetary contributions to fund our Zoom sessions. Our virtual sessions will keep us going until we can all sing together again.

Julie

Thanks to Julie Horsfield for this very funny poem

Lockdown Hair

My hair hangs down
Like strings of spaghetti,
Is it a dream
Or am I a Yeti?

All this time of togetherness,
Pleasure or torment – who can say?
I don't know why it's happened,
But I'm suddenly turning grey.

Himself has hair that's easier,
"It's just a 5 and a 4!"
But one slip with those clippers,
And I'll leg it for the door!

I hope the end of the lockdown
Is rapidly and safely nearing.
As I have got myself booked in
For the first 'new normal' shearing.

Some days I look quite different,
A bit like a Highland cow,
But as long as we're safe together,
It'll be right for now.

Take care and stay safe.

Julie H

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Jan Bowman



Singing in a choir has become a very important part of my life; I always come out of rehearsal feeling recharged and ready to face life's challenges. My husband Mick and I moved to Ripon 7 years ago, I am originally from Dishforth so it felt very much like coming home. We have two lovely daughters, and three wonderful grandsons who we are missing like crazy at the moment.

We enjoy travel and have recently acquired a motorhome which we are looking forward to being able to use soon. Our other interests include walking and the occasional bike ride. I have always been interested in sewing and craft, and graduated with a Degree in textiles from

Loughborough College of art and design in 1975. At the moment I am experimenting with patchwork and quilting, making baby quilts and cushions.

To fit around my family I started working in school kitchens, occasionally helping out in the classroom. While working at Harrogate Grammar School I took on a job washing up in the science department. I later joined the team as a full time technician, finally progressing to become senior science technician specialising in physics, until my retirement in May 2017.

Retirement came as a massive shock to the system after spending so many years working in a busy school environment, singing in a choir has definitely helped me come to terms with the change of life style.

My good friend Julie Horsfield (another top SOP in KAC) re-introduced me to singing about 10 years ago, I think the last time I had sung in a choir was 1967 in Thirsk Parish Church performing The Messiah. I was so nervous going to my first choir rehearsal. Over the years through singing I have made some wonderful friends, and have had some marvellous experiences, being lucky enough to have performed in both New York and more recently Barcelona.

Once again it was Julie who encouraged me to come along to KAC as I was really missing singing in a group with friends. That first evening I was so impressed with how welcoming and friendly everyone was, and then Craig and Declan arrived, and I found I loved singing again. I feel so lucky to have found KAC, so thanks again Julie. I would also like to say special thanks to all the choir members, hopefully it won't be long before we can all sing together again.

Keep well and stay safe.

Emma Higgins



I was born and raised in Barnard Castle, County Durham. After leaving school I trained to be a teacher at Christ's and Notre Dame College, now Hope University in Liverpool. I had a great time there between 1983 and 1987. I joined the 'Musical Society'; over the years we did productions of Grease, Cabaret, Guys and Dolls to name but a few. Liverpool was a great place to be a student and its music venues and theatres, along with its clubs and pubs enabled us to sample all it had to offer! The friendships

made there still last and many of us are still in touch. Some friends, who stayed in Liverpool, still sing and play there and in fact, at the end of January, we had a reunion at one of their events! No pressure - having not seen some people for more than 30 years, clearly my hairdresser needed to work her magic on my roots – should see them now! 😊

Having trained as a primary school teacher I fancied moving to the Big Smoke. I taught in primary schools in Barking and Dagenham, East London, for seven years, still managing to get my fix of musicals, doing shows like Bugsy Malone and The Jungle Book for the Year 6 Leavers' productions! During my time in London, I met my husband, Bernard, who was also a teacher – we met in a pub called The Cauliflower in Ilford – so romantic! We married in 1994 and moved to Harrogate where we lived for 22 years until we moved to Knaresborough three years ago.

I was a Deputy Head teacher in Ripon, and then a Head teacher in North Yorkshire schools for 15 years, before moving into School Improvement work across schools. I am currently a 'Standards Officer' for the Diocese of Middlesbrough, which spreads from Hull, right up to Redcar and Cleveland, so plenty of variety!

We have two children – Mollie and Charlie. Mollie is in her second year of teaching in a Primary School in central Leeds and Charlie has recently finished his degree in Advertising and Brand Management in Manchester. They are both in lockdown with us so all keeping busy together!

All through my time in schools, I've been able to indulge my love of music – I play the piano so singing with the children was always a highlight for me. I missed it when I changed job role and so when Julie told me last summer about Craig and Declan coming to Knot Another Choir, I signed up! And am I so glad I did - I love it! The people, the songs, the warmth – so lovely! So looking forward to singing together again but in the meantime, Zooming with everyone is great! Even our labradoodle, Olive, trots in during our Zoom rehearsals..... possibly to see why I'm howling!

Make Contact

Please feel free to contact me, my email is jbradburysharp@gmail.com or ring me on 07926027676.

Craig is doing his 1:1 sessions with quite a number of you, from what you say you've been thoroughly enjoying them. After hearing your excellent recommendations I'm going to have a lesson myself this week, I think I'll enjoy that very much.

Craig's 1:1 lessons are still available at a reduced rate of £35 per hour. Craig conducts his sessions via Zoom and will take payment via Paypal and BACS. Make your bookings by emailing Craig@livingvocally.com