



BULLETIN #20 2020

Dear Friends,

How are you all getting on I hope you're all coping especially those of you who're doing the 12 weeks home alone? We had the announcement this week that we could go further afield, but when you get wherever that might be, there'll be no toilets open and nowhere to get a cuppa or a snack.

Our Zoom session had 40 of you there, it was good to see some returning after a little while. I appreciate it that so many of you are coming along on a weekly basis. I suspect it's early for some of you who are working. We started our session by singing Bella Mama as our warm up song. We went over Beautiful Day, Hold Back the River and Symphony. To finish for our "Covers 19" we all sang together in unison singing "Summer Loving"

Jeremy Walsh Harrington took the quarantune spot this week in the form of a very funny sketch which was a skit on an Alan Bennett monologue, he wore a wig, it looked hilarious! The sketch was brilliantly done, thanks so much Jeremy.

Next week Karen Briggs and Shelley Moore will sing for us, we'll look forward to that. If anybody else has a talent they are hiding please would you consider volunteering for our quarantine, I'd appreciate you either singing for us, playing an instrument or something else to entertain our members. Please message me at jbradburysharp@gmail.com to offer your services.

Thanks to those of you who've contributed financially to fund our Zoom sessions, we will keep the sessions going for as long as we have such a good enthusiastic crowd attending.

I had my 1:1 lesson with Craig this week, it was so helpful and thoroughly enjoyable. I'll be saving up to have another lesson as soon as I can. I can highly recommend having a lesson if you haven't booked one yet. Craigs 1:1 lessons are still available at a reduced rate of £35 per hour. Craig will conduct his sessions via Zoom and will take payment via Paypal and BACS. Make your bookings by emailing craig@livingvocally.com

I've heard from Declan today (see below) asking if I would put this message in the bulletin. There's two amazing offers in one message! I know there are a few of you who play piano and other instruments don't miss out on Declan's offer either to attend the free workshop or to have a piano lesson.

Hello Everyone,

In these strange and difficult times, many people turn to music as a way to escape the madness or simply mix up the mundane.

I want to provide a space for people to share their music (or simply join in conversation) in a completely relaxed environment. The Zoom sessions will aim to discuss creative processes, discover new ways to write songs or simply help you finish that idea that has you stumped... think of it like a book club for songs without the pretence.

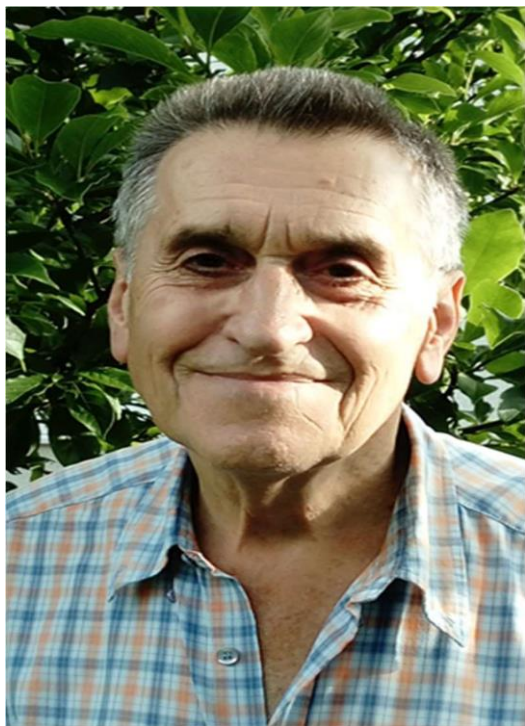
*This is open invitation to **anyone** whether an accomplished artist or someone with an interest in but no experience in song writing. You could be a poet an avid shower singer to Bob Dylan.*

*This **completely free session** will run **on Monday 25th May from 4pm***

*To check availability please contact declandaviesmusic@gmail.com
As always my 1-1 lessons in piano/songwriting are also available –
Monday-Sunday 9.00am-8.00pm.*

I'm running them at a discounted rate of £30 per hour over the coming months with payment taken via PayPal or BACS.

Look forward to hearing from you. Dec



Andy Atherton

I came to North Yorkshire to live with my daughter and family in July 2019. Having a strong interest in singing and music generally I used the internet to find Knot Another Choir, then waited until September to meet everyone. Joining the choir is special which has brought joy and happiness, thank you.

Born near the end of the second world war my schooling was in Hertfordshire, thereafter I sailed for the British Merchant Navy (Red Duster) as an apprentice Deck Officer. Later married, I became an accountant and worked in motor manufacture, computer production,

new town development, aggregates extraction and greetings card industries. Latter working years brought self-employment to build and rebuild large financial computer systems for airlines, heavy industry, commerce and warehousing.

Twice married I have two daughters from my first marriage. Relationship wise I'm now single and decided a move to Scotton would be good for me. To be with my youngest daughter and wonderful grandsons has been a positive move.

Pass times, there have been a few. Rallying in the 70's, playing squash and distance running in the 80's and 90's and then motorcycling! Oh yes well, less said about that the better. A serious life-threatening motorcycle RTA completely changed my life.

Upon retiring in 2005, we moved from Oxfordshire to Hartland and the rugged coast of North Devon, then set about establishing ourselves within the community. There were the Village Hall Committee, amateur dramatics, the Torridge Male Voice Choir and motorhome touring holidays, all rapidly occupied time. I love to sing folk songs and with new found friends established a folk group, it ran successfully until leaving Devon last year. Another passion was managing an entertainments group of some twenty people. For ten years and more this group has played to over 60's clubs and care homes and still continues today.

Lacking a musical education, in retirement I taught myself to play the English concertina. Some of you might have heard my effort on Zoom, passable but not outstanding. I love to play for myself, folk and familiar popular tunes. To sing with Knot Another Choir is for me very special and a joy, so when we are able to recommence our weekly gatherings, I look forward to meeting again and making more friends.

Thank you The Committee, Julie, John, Craig and Declan.



Claire Sharp

Here's a bit (too much) about me, Claire Sharp, alto section. Yes, this is an out of date picture. I was the one trying to sing a quarantune to you all through a mic I'd only used for the first time the night before, with my knees knocking together. You know who I am now.

I love to cook, bake and most of all, feed people. I am not on Facebook, and I love all animals, save arachnids. I believe in Father Christmas and still don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I love all children as long as they're my children. And I'm relatively new to gin... in the last three years or so we made our introductions. My conversion's likely to do with some bright spark's revelation of serving it in a stemmed goldfish bowl. I also have a bit of a thing for rabbits, The Lakes and Beatrix Potter.

I joined Knot Another Choir in the last week of September 2019; three days before the choir's first performance with Craig in the church next door. I do not know how I got the words to stay in my head. Even with continuous practise with my six year old, it was touch and go. But right from that first session on the Thursday night, I had such a great time, I was determined to be a part of it and not let Knot down.

When Craig addresses Knot members as the 'posh lot from Knaresborough and Harrogate', I, am not; I was dragged up in North Leeds, and as an only child I had a menagerie of pets to keep me company.

Every night my dad would sing me to sleep and we would sing along to the Everly Brothers on car journeys, which was likely my earliest introduction to harmonisation. Dad loves musicals and I have a vivid memory of becoming mesmerised when The Wizard Of Oz came on the telly. I was four years old and, after that, the various musicals my dad grew up with became the soundtrack to my childhood too.

In the primary school playground, I was the kid serenading my friends with numbers from The King And I, Grease, West Side Story, Calamity Jane, The Sound Of Music, Mary Poppins, My Fair Lady and Hello, Dolly! To name a few. But by secondary school (I would bus-it to Boston Spa Comp') it was less than hip to be caught singing Edelweiss, so I zipped it...

Instead I would spend every lunch break in the music area, becoming a flute-playing member of the orchestra, wind and jazz bands and sang in the school choir. Mr Reading attempted to teach me piano on Friday lunchtimes, in exchange for a box of Quality Street. On reaching the staples in the centre pages of Beginners Book 1, he resigned himself to my playing by ear, and witheringly declared it a waste of our time.

During my third year the school put on a performance of Bugsy Malone. My best friend, Rachel was desperate to get the part of Blousey Brown and we agreed she would audition accordingly. I went for Tallulah. The plan backfired when she got the part of one of Fat Sam's gang members, and I was offered Blousey. That was the end of our friendship and she never spoke to me, civilly, again.

However, Boston Comp' did produce a long-lasting friendship. Whilst I met Bryan Sharp at the age of 11 it wasn't till upper sixth form, aged 17, that he asked me out. We went to see The Beautiful South at Hull Arena in the December of 1994. Mariah Carey was the Christmas number one.

Despite heading off to different universities to read marketing (Bryan) and events management, (moi; so apparently, I'm very organised) we were engaged aged 19 and bought our first house together in Whixley in 2000. In 2003, after pointing out we had actually been guests at the weddings of all our friends, who, by comparison to us, had met one another two minutes ago, we finally booked our own wedding; and, aged 27, we married in April 2004.

In 2008, we won a sealed bid for a plot of land smack behind the church in Great Ouseburn. We set about designing and building our own home, whilst overdosing on the likes of Sarah Beeny and Grand Designs. We moved into The Warren in the July of 2010 along with Beatrix (Trixy) the house rabbit. Right from settling in, I unconsciously slipped into the role of a 1950s housewife, and for as long as I can make everyone else happy, I'm more than happy with that.

We'd had a long wait for news of a baby, and that December we found out we were expecting Tom. Whilst we never had the expectation of having more children, happily, Rose arrived ten days after Tom's second birthday. I've sung to my children since before they were born. I tapped my pregnant belly in the hope of passing on a sense of rhythm as early as was humanly possible. These days we mainly sing along to the Moana soundtrack, (and a string of other animations as you might well imagine) at bath time and whilst the hairdryer is going on a hair wash night.

My children have no fear and can make it to the top of a high climbing wall like monkeys in a tree. Tom is irritatingly common sensical, has a spectacular way with words and a mind for technology and engineering. Rose shares Tom's expansive vocabulary, and whilst Tom is a good eater, Rose LOVES food. Her capacity for food is the stuff of legend among all my friends and watching her enjoy a meal is my favourite pastime. She has to 'help' with everything, and loves Harry Potter, blood and vampires. We should have called her Wednesday. Only, she was born on a Tuesday. Vocally, Tom has a natural gift for picking the perfect pitch. Rose, is working on it. Although she is still enjoying violin lessons (via Zoom!) which she's had since the age of four.

After countless arguments that we were Not, Ever, Never, getting a dog, three years ago, Ruby the Spoodle became a further addition to our family. At nine months old she passed her Pets As Therapy test and became a PAT dog. She joins me as a volunteer meeter and greeter at Nuzzlets, an incredible animal charity which hosts visits from Martin House, West Oaks and many more. Around the house, Ruby is seldom seen without a balled-up pair of socks in her mouth. And when Bryan made the mistake of spending a single night away in Oslo a couple of years ago, he arrived back home, to Henry, Ruby's half-brother. It was obviously completely accidental. Well, in my defence, it saved a lot of pointless precursory arguments. Henry loves anyone who sits down because they inherently become his cushion. He also

has a toilet roll shredding addiction. This lethal (I don't think that's too strong a word) obsession did not go down very well in the household about six weeks ago.

Whilst lockdown has been frankly hell at times, battling with the children, (now eight and six) over the completion of classroom work at home, (untenable) it has provided us with much-needed downtime from the world, and to just 'be' in our own space, together as a family.

But when the world returns back to being the place we used to know, Knot Another Choir is my only outlet outside of home. It's the only thing I have that's just for me. For that magic moment when we've worked hard on a phrase and sing in perfect unison, I get goose bumps. Thank you, to every one of you, for having me.

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Kind regards, Claire

Make Contact

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