



BULLETIN #21 2020

This Week

Dear friends,

What a lovely week we've had, the weather has been glorious, and it's been really fantastic to get out a bit more. This week I personally took advantage of Declan's offer of a piano lesson, like my singing lesson last week it was so interesting and enjoyable. We are so lucky to have such an amazingly talented MD and accompanist who are both prepared to give us 1:1 tuition while their work schedule is a little less hectic than normal. I know that Craig and Declan have enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know some of you better at your 1:1 sessions .

41 of you were at our Zoom session this week, it's so nice to see your smiling faces. You all look as though you're having a great time. This week we sang "So High" as our warmup song, it was really good fun with everybody doing the actions. We went on to sing "Hold Back the River" and "Symphony", please practice at home with our sound files. Craig has asked us to make time to sing our own parts against other parts it will make things so much easier when we get back to regular practices if we keep practising at home.

Our cover 19 song this week was sung by Declan, we all joined in the chorus of "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" a rousing jolly song to finish the session with.

Finally, Shelley Moore and Karen Briggs, long term members of the choir, performed the quarantine this week they sang a beautiful song together the name of the song was "I Am Blessed". Well done and thanks so much Karen and Shelley.

Next week Sue Creeley will sing for us.

Craig and Declan give us a giggle, I know we all enjoy their efforts and the rapport they have with each other.

Tuition

Craig has decided to keep offering his 1:1 lessons over the summer they will still be available at the reduced cost of just £35 per hour. Craig will conduct his sessions on Zoom and payments should be made via Paypal and BACS. Make your bookings by emailing craig@livingvocally.com

Declan will also be offering 1:1 lessons in piano/composition. They can be taken Monday-Sunday 9-00 am-8-00pm. Declan's lessons are £30 for the coming months. To book please email Declandaviesmusic@gmail.com

Please read the following from Declan about his free Zoom session.

Hello Everybody,

Firstly, I would just like to say thank you so much for responding to the post I sent around a few practitioners. It really means the world to me knowing I'm not going to be on my lonesome! I hope you are staying safe and well during these ongoing interesting times!

As I briefly mentioned in the initial messages the session will look into creative processes and how to approach song writing from any skillset. I have the absolute pleasure of welcoming a fantastic singer songwriter Hannah Lamb into the session with me who has kindly agreed to come along. As a way to structure the session we will be looking at one of her pieces of writing that she is currently working on, discussing what she considers at each step along the way and what changes, if any, would she be open to making. At each step we will be opening it up to questions along the way that you also may have in regards to your own material and ways that you can approach the 'problem'.

For this session you will not need to bring anything just your wonderful 'selves' will do but a pen and paper might be useful if you wanted to take notes. Below is the zoom link so you can access the session.

Topic: Songwriting Workshop

Time: May 25, 2020 04:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://lcm.zoom.us/j/98102247085>

Meeting ID: 981 0224 7085

If you have any further questions or know of anybody else who might be interested in the session please don't hesitate to get in touch! I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Take care,

Dec

Your Nominations are needed



Please would you give your nomination in support of our amazing Knot Another Choir, the more nominations we got the more chance we have of winning the £1000 so please spread the word.

There is only 1 day left until nominations close for the Ecclesiastical Movement for Good awards – and your nomination could be the one that helps us win. £1,000 could make a real difference to Knot Another Choir.

Click 'nominate now' on the website and enter our details.

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/movement-for-good/>

Our charity number is 1182311 and we are a community charity.

Thanks for your support please share this post

Poets Corner

Jeremys poem from the quarantune section last week.

One More Hug

One restless night
I woke in fright
For the grim reaper did visit me
And dressed as this wicked viras
He took me straight up the
steps to the Pearly Gates
Where St.Peter awaits
Surrounded by a host of angels
All singing 'Symphony'
Familiarly out of key.

St Peter waves for silence
And stares at me in a certain way:
'This is your judgement day'
He doth pronounce –
I quaked, and trembled and shaken
Like a jelly at a fuggle –
I could feel my tummy wobble
Was I in trouble?
Was I to be baked for eternity in hell?
And then..... loudly **tolled** St.Peter's bell

And thus speaketh he:
'You have lived a near perfect life
Simply the best – actually- better than...
some other folk
Completely exemplary
Other than that endowment you sold in 1993!

And so, as your reward I grant you a last visit home
Albeit, as a mischievous spirit invisible to the human eye –
To experience one thing, you will miss the most
Once you are ensconced forever, as a heavenly host
'What will you choose – what will it be?'
Asked St.Peter inquisitively.

It did not take long to answer –

It just popped out-
Just one more HUG from Julie,
That's all I do desire, one more hug from Julie
At Knot Another Choir

As quick as flash I could see the Spire
Of Trinity Church all lit up and Christmassy
Just as it used to be, before lock-down did transpire
The door ajar I entered unseen,

And there at the table was Julie and the team
Warm and smiling as they always are
Oh, how I have missed them, that's for sure
And in my joy the naughtiness rose-up,
As St.Peter said it would
And I found myself being naughty just because I could

A bottom pinch here, a tickle under there
I even ruffled Craig's hair
I sat amongst the sopranos and reached top C
And made sure I sat on every alto's knee.
How joyous it felt to be back where I want to be

Just one more hug from Julie
That's all I do desire
With John looking on in a purple thong
At Knot another Choir.

Reasons to be Cheerful 1 - 2 - 3 by Sue Creeley

We've heard all the news, all the sad and the bad
Here's some things that should make us feel glad
The time with our family that we now can spend
Some of those bridges there's now time to mend
The flowers are blooming, every colour and hue
The trees in full leaf, the leaves green and new
Fabulous Captain Tom, who Alone did not Walk
Making £33million, he did more than just talk
Fewer cars on the roads and the much cleaner air
Cyclists, all sizes and ages, riding around out there

Acts of kindness surround us, the big and the small
Keyworkers and NHS staff, they are so brilliant, all
Time to take things easy, maybe have a quick nap
Out every Thursday, pans to bang, hands to clap
New skills that we've learnt, or old ones brought out
Put up shelves, paint a wall or change the bath grout
The yoga and stretching on the living room floor
My sanity, those long walks, indeed does restore
The wonderful weather we seem to have had
The beautiful Stray, things can't be *that* bad?
The thought of first hugs keeps a smile on my face
Not having to stand apart, with two metres space
And then there's our choir, our wonderful group
Doing Zoom every Thursday, what a great scoop
Into laptops and phones we smile and we sing
Craig and Dec getting each song fit for a king
For sure we'll get through this, be together once more
We'll sing in the same room, our hearts they will soar

Profiles

Sue Creeley



Born a Brummie, spending my childhood getting mucky in the park and woods near home and learning to swim in the pool at THE Cadbury's factory, where you could smell the chocolate being made – maybe why I'm a chocoholic? As a teenager I'd often be on the terraces in the Holte End at Villa Park, drinking hot Bovril and cheering on Aston Villa. Spent my 6th form years mainly in pubs with friends drinking Dubonnet & lemonade, remember that stuff?

Went to Manchester Uni and had a great 3 years, finally going through the "Milk Round" to get a job as trainee Accountant – no rude jokes, I've heard them all! Qualified 3 years later and left the profession, more interested in

what was going on in a business than actually doing the numbers. Spent my working life in various roles in the waste and copier industries (worlds apart) but really found my niche, as FD for Avalon in Harrogate, a charity supporting vulnerable adults – finally, a way to use my finance experience to help make a difference in people’s lives, however small. In between jobs I ran finance training for non-finance managers which was great fun - really enjoyed working with small business owners. I’m now a Trustee for Essential Needs, a charity helping people in furniture poverty (we’re always looking for good quality donated furniture and we also now sell great value new beds – sorry, can’t resist a plug).

Stu and I had 2 years living and working in Auckland, New Zealand. What a fabulous country! Living by the beach, I sailed after work with a local sailing club and we spent weekends and holidays exploring amazing places, sometimes with visitors from home. The work was incidental! Endless beaches, beautiful forests, such hospitable people, wonderful wildlife . . . oh I could just go on for hours. We couldn’t imagine having a family so far away from home so made the really hard decision to return when our contracts ended - I cried for hours on the plane when we left 😞.

I’m not very sporty (really terrible co-ordination, which you may notice when we do warm ups) but in my younger & braver days; went paragliding (once), skied very badly for a few years (no longer), climbed shaking all the way to the top of the sail rigging on a tall ship as it sailed under the Auckland Harbour bridge (terrifying but exhilarating all at once) and white water rafted on a grade 5 river (eek). All very exciting but nowadays I prefer *listening* to sport on Radio 5 Live and still enjoy live football.

I have a creative streak and in March had just finished an acrylics painting course, so am planning a “masterpiece” to celebrate the end of isolation! St Ives in Cornwall beckons me every year for a week in February, mainly just walking on the gorgeous windswept, empty beaches. The sea has a magical quality that is so good for the soul, and I’d love to capture the beauty of waves on canvas. Love a DIY challenge and always up for learning a new skill.

Harrogate’s a great place to live and my daily walk across the Stray always makes me smile. Here’s my family – Stu, my cycling crazy husband and Kate & Sarah my lovely daughters, currently living at home despite a short period of empty nesting last year. We’re all still sane (just). Happy to have the girls

home during this very odd time particularly as Stu and I lost 3 of our 4 our parents very recently, all in just 6 weeks. Very tough times and I admit it's been a struggle some days to keep my usually positive attitude going. However, I know that we are still fortunate in so many ways, have a very close extended family, lovely friends and of course I have Knot Another Choir

I joined in September having not sung "in public" since my school choir, other than at a family party where my sister in law and I sang Waterloo by Abba, complete with the outfit and the blue eyeshadow – a vision probably best forgotten. Stu's family are very musical so whenever we get together there's always music, but I'm so much more confident about joining in with the singing now. It's hard to put into words how much I enjoy our fantastic choir, although I've tried in the poems I've written. Seeing everyone smiling on Zoom every week always makes things better. So I just want to say a massive thank you to Craig, Declan and all you lovely fellow singers – being part of KAC is very very special to me. Big virtual hugs to you all and I can't wait to make those **real hugs**.



Sammy Stoney

I have been a member of Knot Another choir since it started 7 years ago. I have enjoyed all the different styles of singing we have done but I am especially enjoying the energy and enthusiasm Craig and Declan bring to the choir.

I've always sung since I was very small and my favourite things to sing are Disney and songs from musicals.

I grew up in a racing car family. My dad was racing go karts from before I was born, and my brother started racing cars from the age of 14. I spent a lot of my childhood traveling to different race circuits around the UK (and Europe). I still go along to most of my brothers race meeting now to help out. Despite all the time around cars, it still took me to the age of 25 to learn how to drive!

My family runs a business in Castleford which is just starting to open up again as we are construction which is throwing my entire lockdown routine into chaos but it is nice to see the outside world again.

I am a Youth Leader for St John Ambulance Cadets and Badgers. I have been a youth Leader for 9 years, teaching first aid, radio communication and other valuable skills to kids ranging in ages from 7 to 17. It is a wonderful feeling when a Cadet masters something you are teaching them, they are so proud of themselves and I know that those skills may one day save someone's life.

I have spent my Lockdown time learning the piano. It's something I've always wanted to learn but never had the time. Until now!

I'm finding the Zoom rehearsals really enjoyable and I have Liz Garner on speakerphone through the entire thing, we spend our time singing and laughing along together.

Looking forward to being able to sing together in person but until then I hope everyone stays safe and keeps singing.

Make Contact

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