



BULLETIN #23 2020

This Week

Dear friends,

How are you all? Well the weather has turned a bit now; it's still been quite pleasant as we've only had light showers and most of those have been at night. Sadly, we've lost the warmth to have garden meetings at a distance. I do hope however, you are getting on with the new style of socialising and you've had at least some opportunity to see friends or family.

We had two new ladies joining our Zoom session this week, that's five in total who've joined us since lockdown. They are all friends of choir members and seem very enthusiastic about what we're doing, which is fantastic. They've got the music and sound files and have been working hard at home.

It was a great Zoom session last night; we started the session with our usual round the clock shoulder relaxation followed by a rousing sing of Po Di; it's always good fun to sing that one. We then sang Beautiful Day; I can't wait to sing this with you all again. We then got right through Gary Barlow's Sing, once again it'll be fab to sing this one altogether especially now we've had chance to do some good work on it with Craig.

For those of you who are not able to attend the Zoom sessions, please would you keep reminding yourselves of your parts from the sound files when you get the opportunity.

The fabulous Tom Jones is 80 this Sunday, so very appropriately for Covers-19 we sang Delilah, it's a good belter of a song!

Our quarantine this week was beautifully sung by Sarah Blood (alto), well done Sarah. If you want to hear the original version, the song is called Ocean Eyes sung by Billy Eilish. Next week Will and Jay Eastwood will sing for us.

We have noticed that even though we've had some wonderful performances from people for our Quarantunes the sound quality hasn't been great because it's live on the internet. So I am going to invite those people who've entertained us so far and those planning to do so in the next few weeks, to do a recording of their performance at home, that'll be less nerve wracking as well. I'll then make a Quarantunes section on our website where you will be able to access the recordings. It will give those people who've missed these performances the chance to hear them. It will also give us a positive memory of what we've been doing as a choir during lockdown.

Stay safe and happy.

Julie.

Tuition

Craig is offering his 1:1 lessons over the summer, they will be available at the cost of just £35 per hour. I've spoken to people who've had lessons and they seem to be really getting a lot out of the experience.

Craig is conducting his lessons on Zoom and payments can be made via Paypal and BACS.

Make your bookings by emailing craig@livingvocally.com

Declan is also be offering 1:1 lessons in piano/composition I hope you'll have a think about having a lesson, I've had a lesson and I can wholeheartedly recommend. They can be taken Monday-Sunday 9-00 am-8-00pm.

Declan's lessons are just £30 .

To book please email Declandaviesmusic@gmail.com

Don't forget you can recommend Craig and Declan to others.

Profiles



Maria Broadhurst

Wife, mother, pharmacist, Cub Leader and now choir member!

Neil and I met at university and have been married for almost thirty-three years. We have three grown up children, two sons and a daughter, who are all at university. Damian is twenty-four and has just qualified as a doctor – three weeks ago! So strictly speaking he's not a student anymore although he's still in Birmingham for now. Luke is twenty-two with one more year of a chemistry degree to go. Anna, nineteen, has just done a foundation year and will be starting her nursing degree in September. I'm enjoying having the family home at the moment although I wish the circumstances were different.

We moved to Knaresborough twenty-three years ago in July 1997 when Neil's work (he's a colour chemist) brought him across the Pennines to Leeds. On the move again in August 2001, Neil's job took us to Porto in Northern Portugal where we lived for four years returning to Knaresborough in the summer of 2005. It all seems like a dream now! His job then took him to Germany. For the last fifteen years he's been going there during the week and coming home at weekends.

The boys joined 1st Scriven Cubs at the beginning of 2006. I followed a year later as Assistant Cub Leader then Anna joined too when she was old enough. I'm still there, now as Akela. Neil is amazed even now that I would ever want to sleep in a tent!

I work as a community pharmacy locum and on the bank at The Duchy Hospital in Harrogate and Woodlands Hospital in Darlington. Very flexible for looking after a family. I was wondering how I was going to fill my evenings last September to ward off 'empty nest syndrome' and had always fancied joining a choir. I'd encouraged Damian, Luke and Anna to all learn to play instruments, join school ensembles, sing in choir and seen the enormous amount of fun they had at concerts and in musical productions. Time to practice what I'd preached. Joining Knot Another Choir has not disappointed! You will find me hiding somewhere near the front of the alto section trying to remember the words and sing the right notes!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all again for real whenever that may be. Hope we don't have to sing wearing face coverings! That could be a bit tricky! We'll need a big stage if we have to socially distance!



Dianne Kendrew

Hello☺ my name is Dianne and I joined the soprano section of KAC in November 2019 on the enthusiastic recommendation of my friend Linda. We had been in choirs together before but, for a little while, we had both been exploring other choirs, looking for a certain kind of magic and Linda certainly smashed it when she found KAC.

For me, the deciding factor to book a taster session was finding out that Craig Anthony Lees was the Musical Director. I had been rooting for his Contemporary Choir when they were in and won the Pitch Battle competition at the BBC. So I took the plunge and contacted Julie. To my surprise Julie arrived at my door to personally deliver my Welcome Pack - our chat was necessarily brief because my hairdresser was in the middle of putting foils into my hair (do you remember those days ladies when we had hairdressers!). I thought it was such a nice touch for Julie to meet me personally before my first taster session and I more or less decided I would join just by that kind act. From the first evening everyone was so welcoming and friendly and the community spirit was palpable.

Craig and Declan bring energy and joy to our rehearsals and we all leave buzzing. Even in lockdown they still manage to get us jumping around our living rooms, pulling funny faces into the camera and generally having fun - not easy over Zoom - you have kept our spirits up in these strange times so thank you.

I grew up in Yeadon and went to Grammar School in Bradford. My first job was working as a Laboratory Technician in a new R and D laboratory for a large pharmaceutical company in Horsforth. My main duties were analysing new drugs for their shelf life and degradation products little knowing that one day I would be handing these out from a medicine trolley in a hospital. As much as I enjoyed the camaraderie of the young people in the department I was not really inspired by the work and so I moved on to a new chapter in my life.

I qualified as a nurse in the days when we were known as SRN's. I trained at Harrogate General hospital which was on Knaresborough Road and was demolished when the new District hospital was up and running. In 1984 I joined what was then the largest General Practice Surgery in Harrogate and started my life as a Practice Nurse, where I was extremely happy and stayed for 22 years leading an ever expanding multidisciplinary nursing team. I retired 12 years ago but the friendships I made in those days have stood the test of time.

On my first evening at KAC I was delighted see Ruth sitting at the end of my row who, as you know from her profile, is also a retired Practice Nurse. Ruth and I worked together at her Practice when I did some locum work there just after I retired. Another nice surprise was seeing Liz on the front row of the sopranos. I first met Liz through her daughter, who is a GP where I used to work. For a few years Liz and I went to the same yoga class together.

One of my hobbies is cake decorating and when my children were young, I used to try my hand at making themed birthday cakes for them. When I retired, I decided I would learn how to decorate cakes properly. I enrolled on a 4-year part time course at Thomas Danby College in Leeds. Although I have never considered myself to be arty, I achieved things on that course that I never thought possible and guess I found an outlet for my hidden creativity.

I enjoy designing cakes for my large extended family and with so many birthdays or celebrations I usually have a project or two on the go. I think my favourite cake so far was making a fidget spinner cake for my grandson, who was 5 at the time - the joy on his face and his friends when it spun around is a memory I will treasure.

About two years ago John and I, together with our friend Colin, set up www.vinylsessions.org as an initiative to raise money for Friends of Harrogate Hospital Community Charity to buy equipment not available from NHS funding. So far, we have contributed well over £10,000 towards new equipment which will benefit mothers and babies.

Up until lockdown we held an event each month to play a classic album on period HIFI equipment accompanied by a visual presentation of the featured album and artist. Also, we managed to persuade Graham Chalmers to join us as our "Professor of Pop" and he gives a detailed talk about the albums and the artists at each session.

Since lockdown we have been holding Vinyl Session events through Zoom

but - and this is the best part - we now have some bandwidth on a broadcasting server for Vinyl Sessions Radio shows by budding amateur DJ's on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings with different musical genres. It's all great fun and I have particularly enjoyed Ian Smith's Get Down Saturday Night - Northern Soul, Boogie and Funk.

For those of you who may be interested in listening in or trying your hand as a DJ presenter the www.vinylsessions.org website has all the details with links to the events and radio shows. It is free to all but any donations to the Charity are welcome and very much appreciated.

I am married to John, my second husband, and I have two daughters, a stepdaughter and a stepson. They are all in their late 30's and rapidly approaching their next decades. Our two families have been together now for nearly 30 years. Three of our children live in London and obviously with lockdown it has not been possible to see them for some time, but we all meet virtually once a week for a Gin and Tonic catch up. On Sunday we are having a virtual party for my youngest daughter's birthday - thank goodness for Zoom!

My eldest daughter lives in Thorpe Arch and has two children. Our granddaughter is 10 and our grandson will be 8 in July which he has been reminding us about since Boxing Day 😊. We were away on a family holiday for his birthday last year, which seems like a lifetime ago now. At least with the lifting of some restrictions we will be able to see more of them, albeit still from a distance - when we are through this pandemic we should have a national hug day!

Our main hobby is cruising the canal network on our narrowboat, which we have had for 20 years. We have explored most of the northern canal system and are now slowly working our way southwards. The weather in lockdown would have been ideal for cruising but obviously, like everything else, the canals are closed. By the time the canals are open again I expect normal weather will have resumed and we will be getting soaked to the skin! But every cloud has a silver lining - our garden has never been so well cared for and it's been a real blessing to be pottering around outdoors for most of the lockdown days.

Stay safe everyone and be kind to yourself.

Make Contact

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