

BULLETIN #24 2020

This Week

Dear friends,

I hope you're all well? For those of you who've been living alone during lockdown, I hope you've now formed your social bubble and it's making you feel more connected. Its been a long haul getting thus far for everybody. A huge well done to you all as time is ticking on nicely, one week seems to blend into another. The time will come when we're all able to be back together singing our hearts out for Craig and Declan.

We were back up to our usual 40 at our Zoom session last night. Keeping a choir going takes enthusiasm and commitment from everybody. A huge thanks to those of you who've joined in the sessions. especially when your circumstances are not always ideal for doing so. Well done to Craig for keeping our Zoom time so upbeat, thanks so much.

Well done to Maria who comes straight in from work to the session, I can imagine it's a rush but thanks for the effort. I think Sammy Stoney also attends having just arrived in from work. It's very impressive relaying the session to Liz Garner on the phone, singing and eating your tea at the same time, real multi-tasking.

We started with our relaxation exercise this week, then we sang I Don't Want To Sing Today to warm up for our session. Craig then decided we'd sing our Covers 19 song at the beginning of the session rather than the end, we sang Abbas Money, Money, Money, I hope you all got your email with the words to this, it's a fun song to sing.

We worked on our Beatles song I'll Get By with a little help from my friends this week. A huge well done to our new members, I could see you were all joining in so you'd obviously been working on it at home in anticipation of our practice.

Our quarantine this week was beautifully sung by Will and Jay Eastwood who did a touching duet of Joe Cocker's song Love Lift Us Up Where We Belong. I've copied the words to this song in poets' corner as they are very beautiful and relevant to so many I'm sure. Thanks to everybody who's volunteered to do a quarantine, you've all been very supportive of each other. This coming week Liz Connell will sing for us.

We have noticed that the sound quality isn't always the best when our quarantine performers perform. So would those of you who've entertained us so far, please do us a recording at home and send it to us as soon as you can. We've made a section on the website called quarantine tunes. This will give those people who've sadly not been able to attend our practices the opportunity to hear them too. It will also give us all a very positive memory of what we've been doing as a choir during lockdown.

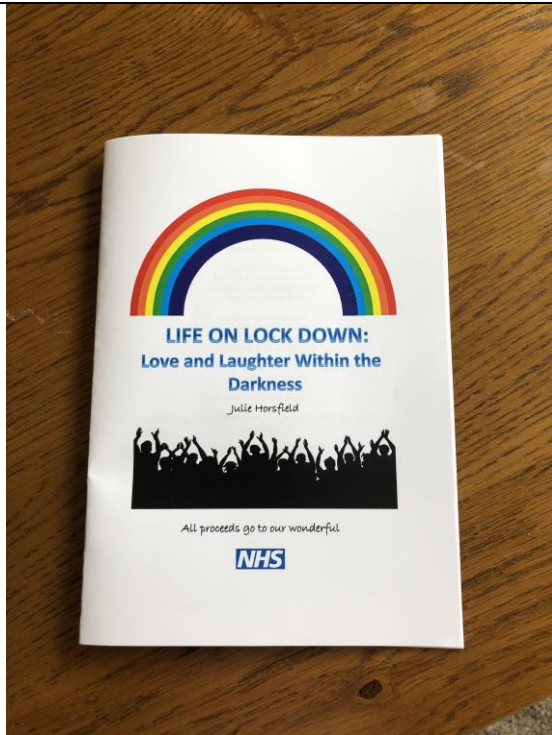
Look after yourselves.
Julie.

Tuition

Craig is offering his 1:1 lessons, they will be available at the cost of just £35 per hour. 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 offering 1:1 lessons too in piano/composition. 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

Please feel free to pass on the tuition information to your friends.



One of our lovely sopranos and talented poet Julie Horsfield has written a set of poems for lockdown and had them printed into a booklet. Julie is selling her books for the NHS charity for just £5.

I do hope those of you in a position to help will support this great cause. An order form is attached to the email

This is a sample of one of Julie's poems.

Choir @ ZOOM

Who would have thought
That at 64
I'd find myself
Zooming, Whatsapping and more?

It's witchcraft, it's alchemy,
It's Hocus Pocus,
When at 6 on a Thursday
Choir comes into focus.

There's Craig and there's Declan
Leading the way,
Sharing their talent
At the end of the day.

We all sing our hearts out,
Just for the neighbours.
We'll hear when together,
The fruits of our labours.

It will be amazing,
Of that I am sure
When finally the day comes
And we're out of the door.

We're still singing weekly,
Loving it for sure,
So thank you for
Zooming, Whatsapp'ing and more.

The words of Will and Jays quarantune.

Love Lift us up where we belong.

Who knows what tomorrow brings
In a world few hearts survive
All I know is the way I feel
When it's real, I keep it alive
The road is long
There are mountains in our way
But we climb a step every day
Love lift us up where we belong
Where the eagles cry
On a mountain high
Love lift us up where we belong
Far from the world below
Up where the clear winds blow
Some hang on to used to be
Live their lives looking behind
All we have is here and now
All our lives, out there to find
The road is long
There are mountains in our way
But we climb a step every day
Love lift us up where we belong
Where the eagles cry
On a mountain high
Love lift us up where we belong

Far from the world we know
Where the clear winds blow
Time goes by
No time to cry
Life's you and I
Alive today
Love lift us up where we belong
Where the eagles cry
On a mountain high
Love lift us up where we belong
Far from the world we know
Where the clear winds blow
Love lift us up where we belong
Where the eagles cry
On a mountain high
Love lift us up where we belong.

Profiles



Dave Meikle

I must first confess to being an infiltrator to God's Glorious County originating from across the borders in cheesy Cheshire- However I have wandered around the country before eventually settling in what I now call home- I've now been in Harrogate for the last forty years so I class myself as a semi Yorkshire Man. I actually started in an area that would now be beyond my reach in Altrincham - Too many Man United footballers have taken over my favourite living spaces!

I then moved down to Bournemouth and became involved in Hotel Management before succumbing to the attractions of the Cotswolds and undergoing a teacher training course. I started my teaching career by sheer fluke in the primary school that I had attended at the age of eleven - in fact one of my new colleagues had prepared me for my eleven plus- I thought he was ancient even then!

However, the call of the Dales influenced my next move and I had my initiation to Yorkshire Life teaching behind the Quarry Hill Flats in Leeds. Quite an initiation! I learnt a lot about Keyhole Kids and their problems! The Playhouse Theatre makes a good substitute for the poor conditions it replaced but the residents were great characters. Father O'Reilly from Mount St Mary's Church was the only priest I had come across who had the inevitable knack of winning at dominoes whatever the conditions- even after a few beers!

I arrived in Harrogate and settled after several moves within the boundaries - my nomadic side. I eventually ended up down by the river in Knaresborough - a hidden treasure!

Lockdown has taught us all a great deal and although I miss the contact with my children and grandchildren I have to admit that the surreal communication with them all via Zoom, FaceTime and Skype means I have been able to keep up with them. Otherwise I would have to do a Cummings to Lancaster, Durham, Brighton or Bristol to have closer contact. Maybe we'll all develop more complicated "bubbles" in the near future that will allow us to meet up.

Choir has been a lifeline for us all. KAC and my previous experience with Rock up and Sing have given me and I'm sure all the other participants a remarkable opportunity to produce some amazing music. I for one wouldn't dare to act as a solo singer- you should hear me on Zoom!!- but with the body of the choir around you, there exists a comfortable scenario that allows us all to enjoy the music especially with such talented MDs as Craig and Declan.

I look forward to a return to normality and wish all the members of the choir a safe return to the real world when it happens.

Take care. David



Liz Connall

I am a born and bred Dales Lass, having come into this world in Nidderdale to farming families on both Mum and Dad's sides. My early years were spent idyllically with my younger brother and sister having what seemed like endless adventures and helping with egg collecting, pig feeding and cow milking. In those days Dad sat on a three legged stool to milk the cows and I still remember the pails of white thick frothy liquid and

drinking it whilst still warm. Not something I could do for long as for some reason (shameful for a farm girl) I had and still do have an aversion to milk.

On my Dad's family farm, they still used cart horses, which, as we became older, we were allowed to take the reins of when pulling a cart full of corn, and even all stood on the horse trough so that we could clamber up and have a ride together. Young as I am!, those wonderful early days were like stepping back in time, even then and we couldn't wait, during hay and harvest time to run out of those school gates and across the fields to Grandmas.

As time went on, of course the farms became more mechanised and, though my brother remained working in farming, my sister and I went off and spread our wings. I did a clerical course, and my first job was with a local firm of Solicitors, where I stayed for my first five years of employment until I got itchy feet and looked for something different, so I joined the Women's Royal Air Force in the Supply and Logistics Squadron. I did not travel as far as perhaps I may have done, but my first tour was to Lossiemouth in Scotland (somewhere I had never heard of, and at that time, to me may as well have been abroad) where I spent a wonderful couple of years. My only tour away from these shores was to Laarbruch in Germany and upon my return to the UK I had postings in Norfolk, Buckinghamshire and Lincolnshire before the call of the farm (and my now husband) brought me back to Yorkshire.

I moved onto my husband's family farm, a small holding on the edge of Nidderdale (just over the hill from Pateley Bridge) when we married and enjoyed (most of the time) almost 35 years of farming a small dairy herd and a flock of sheep and raising our four children.

As the children grew, I did various little jobs to fit around their hours, mainly following them through pre-school and school, first at pre-school, whilst there taking an early years course, then into primary school as a class room assistant supporting a group of year 5 young people who had additional learning needs. I was secretary of, firstly the pre-school, then followed on to become secretary on the PTAs at both the primary and secondary schools to which our children went and thoroughly enjoyed those years of being involved in the extra-curricular school and community life in various fund raising and social events.

As time went on, I thought I would brush up my clerical skills and went on a basic computer course, from this securing a job at Henshaw's College in Harrogate where I enjoyed eleven years with the lovely team working there. Eventually, I decided that the time was right for another change of scene seven years ago, when I joined the local authority, working with Business Support for the Children and Young People's Service where I remain to this day, working from home now of course, and for the foreseeable future.

Inevitably, time has passed quickly, and the children have now all flown the nest, and have become city dwellers, our daughter, now raising her own family in Harrogate and two of our sons in Leeds. Our third son has just finished uni, and, as his girlfriend has just secured a full time teaching job in Leeds, he is hoping to be joining her there also when they can move back from Oxford where they are currently locked down with family.

With all family now gone, in laws included sadly, the time came for us to "right size" for the two of us. We had been gradually winding down the farm over the years and my husband, a man of many talents is now earning a living as a builder, having done this kind of work, alongside the farming, since leaving school. We have moved back to Nidderdale, David having been born "up the dale" also. Having only been here for less than a year, we are still re-organising our home to our liking, and getting used to village life. We have also had a lovely family wedding, in between when our daughter married two weeks after we moved in.

We now have time for one of our great loves, walking and what an amazing place to walk around with everything, rivers, ancient woodlands, moors and fantastic views. Within a mile of here, the riverside path takes us right past the farm where I spent much of my childhood including along stretches of a disused railway, (running right past the farm) upon which, before the rails were torn up, as a school child I travelled on the last passenger train along that line in the early 60s. We got on at Darley Station with our luncheon meat sandwiches and an apple and travelled to Knaresborough. Needless to say, I am doing a lot of reminiscing and it is wonderful to be “home” again.

My other love of course is music. I have quite an eclectic taste when listening and love to sing (not sure if others love that quite so much). I was in the school choir all through secondary school, the church choir, along with our children, and one other local community choir before joining our amazing Knotties. And that, in a little nutshell, is me!

Make Contact

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