



BULLETIN #27 2020

This Week

Dear fellow members,

I hope you've had a good week? Last week we'd either just done or were busy planning to make our recordings, so I was absolutely delighted when Craig informed me that 40 of you had submitted your recordings. Well done everybody it certainly wasn't an easy task, I didn't expect so many of you to do it, thanks so much all of you for your fantastic efforts.

Our last Zoom session will be in just two weeks, that's the 16th of July. Craig will then let us see the premiere viewing of our virtual Knot Another Choir version of "Get By With A Little Help From My Friends" after that we'll make it available to you on our website.

I think a special thank you and well done should go to those of you who've joined us since lockdown. You've embraced learning the songs in our repertoire, done your recordings and attended regularly, I think it will be so nice for you to see yourselves as part of Knot Another Choir, perhaps especially as you haven't sung with us as a proper choir.

We had a fun practice tonight, we started with our usual exercises followed by some tongue twister songs sung to the William Tell Overture theme, we did well until we had to sing "My wrist watch is a Swiss wrist watch," not easy at speed, especially for Craig it would appear. We worked on "You're The Voice" this week, followed by a very funny rendition of "Perfect Day" sung by Jeremy Walsh-Harrington for our quarantine, thanks Jeremy, next week Graham Turner will entertain us for our quarantine.

Have a good week I for one will be mostly getting my hair cut.

Julie

Tuition

Don't forget Craig is still offering his 1:1 lessons , they are available at the cost of just £35 an hour. Craigs lessons are on Zoom and payments can be made via Paypal and BACS. Make your bookings by emailing craig@livingvocally.com

Declan is still 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

Poetry Corner

This week Julie Horsefield wanted to commemorate our recording exploits with one of her very amusing poems.

Virtual Choir

Craig and Dec had a task for us,
They set us on a quest.
We only had to sing for them,
And that's what we do best.

It was a bit of a problem,
I almost fell at the very first fence,
Then I told myself to get a grip
And use some common sense.

I couldn't seem to get it right,
Though I tried with ultimate grace.
Did they want the one with singing
Or the one with the grumpy face?

"I can't do both!" I cried aloud
As I fled and banged the door,
Then I huffed and puffed about the house
When my Air pod fell on the floor.
I took a tip from a fellow singer

Who had obviously got the knack
The darn thing wasn't moving again
Once I stuck it in with Blu-Tac.

I thought that I had got it,
So I confidently played it back,
Oh no, I must have pressed something wrong
As I could hear the backing track.

I wasn't the only one with problems,
Some issues were shared by all,
Good job Julie and John were always there
To answer each panicked call.
From birds with constant tweeting,
To dogs that continued to bark,
People deciding to cut the grass,
Even after it had turned quite dark.

I'd already missed the deadline,
But I wasn't going to be beat,
I knew that I would be mad with myself,
If I hadn't completed the feat.

So I found myself a blank wall,
And got into the zone,
It certainly seemed to sound ok,
But then I was quite alone.

I shouted for himself to come along,
A video for to make.
I sang my little heart out,
And got it in one take.

Now was it high or was it try,
I didn't have a clue,
So dearest Craig and lovely Dec,
We'll leave that problem to you.

Now at this stage of lockdown,
This small challenge finally ends,
We struggled but were undefeated
'Cos "We Got By With A Little Help From Our Friends."

Those of you who've been in the choir for some time will know that we have friends from a choir in Musselburgh, they are called The Honest Singers. This week I received this little song from their MD Alison Vasey. The sound file for this song is attached to the email. Here are the words to the song

COBBLERS!

You keep sayin' that you want to meet up
And I keep sayin' we must stay apart
But now that lockdown rules have slowly eased up
Maybe we could catch up in the park
These boots are made for walkin'
And that's just what we'll do
and that way I can keep at least six feet away from you
No more hugs, no handshakes, no sweet kisses
Social distance rules that we must bear
But thanks to Mr Cobbler now he's issued
Big boots and shoes, at ninety pounds a pair
At least we can go walking
And that's just what we'll do
And that way I can keep at least six feet away from you
So we can't give in to sweet temptation
This is how the cobbler's logic goes:
Try to move too close for some flirtation
And you will end up tripping on your toes
These boots are made for walkin'
And that's just what we'll do
and that way I can keep at least six feet away from you

Profiles



Michelle Bray

I am originally from West Yorkshire, being the third of four girls and spent a happy childhood there. From as far back as I can remember the sounds of pop music of the early 60's always filled our house as my Dad had not long started up a small jukebox business back then -the TV programme Juke Box Jury became compulsory family viewing as we tried to predict new hit songs and that era of pop music has remained a lifelong favourite with me.

At the age of three I was lucky enough to see the Beatles perform live at the ABC in Huddersfield. The audience was electric with a full house of screaming girls, we were right at the back yet I still had a really good view from my vantage point perched on my Dad's shoulders and I shall never forget the fab four in suits performing all their early 60's hits- a truly magic moment.

I started piano lessons at age nine then once Mum and Dad were convinced that it wasn't just a passing fancy, we took delivery of our first piano. I passed a series of classical piano exams though enjoyed playing popular sheet music more and it became a great form of relaxation during my teens.

After school and two attempts at getting the necessary A level grades, I managed to get a place at Liverpool Medical school (an ambition of later childhood) where I spent the next five years as a medical student followed by four years as a Junior Doctor in various hospital posts there. There was never a dull moment, in fact never a spare moment-as medics we quickly learned to work hard and play hard in order to survive life as junior hospital doctors.

After completing my apprenticeship to be a GP in the suburbs of Liverpool I got a job in a GP practice in Harrogate where I have worked ever since- fast forward the next 32 years -how time flies when you are enjoying yourself!

I live with my longstanding partner Keith who retired a couple of years ago. I then followed suit just last month having reached the milestone birthday at which I promised myself that I would down my work tools for good-so I entered both the strange new worlds of lockdown and retirement at similar times, which somewhat put on hold my two other passions in life -fellwalking and photography.

Joining a rock choir has been on my wish list for several years, but I felt that I would only have enough time to do it justice once I had finished work for good. I heard about Knot Another Choir from another choir member and former work colleague (Diane) and contacted Julie via the choir's website as I was about to retire. Julie's prompt response was warm and welcoming, and I immediately had a good feeling about the choir. This all happened at the start of lockdown, so all of my choir sessions have been via zoom (a new experience in itself). Though I am yet to meet everybody for real, it feels like I am getting to know many of you from our communal chats during the online choir sessions.

Craig and Declan's inspiration and enthusiasm is way more infectious than Covid 19 could ever hope to be -there is such a huge feel good factor from our zoom sessions and I am so looking forward to the day when we will be able to meet and sing as a choir together for real-that day will come, we just don't know exactly when yet. Take care, stay safe and see you all soon.



Janet List

I was born the second of four children in Stockton-on-Tees and had an idyllic childhood playing out in the street with friends where cars were a novelty and we were free to roam! I was one of those children who had a go at everything! I have a large close knit family although now we are spread across the globe. It doesn't stop us all getting together and we celebrated my mum's 90th birthday last year all together for a week. Sadly my lovely dad passed away during lockdown and like so many families we have not been able to get together to celebrate his life yet, but it hasn't stopped us planning.

I didn't stray too far from home, going to York University, where I met my lovely husband John. We both stayed on after our degrees to do PGCE and became teachers. My first teaching practice was at Harrogate Granby High and John was at King James School in Knaresborough. We loved the area and elected to rent in Harrogate for the rest of our PGCE year rather than stay in York. We bought our first house in Harrogate and moved just once to our current home which we have been renovating forever! My first teaching job was a brief two years at St Aidan's Church of England High School but I left to have my children, Richard and Andy. We have two gorgeous grandsons, Oliver and Harry, and a grand doggy called Bobby.

I returned to teaching after a five year break and worked at Harrogate Ladies' College for thirty years before retiring in 2017. I loved teaching and was very privileged to have pupils who wanted to learn. I had wonderful opportunities for travel with school and accompanied ski trips to France and Iceland. I



organised Biology fieldwork trips to Snowdonia and conservation expeditions with sixth form pupils to Indonesia. Indonesia was an amazing experience; the journey to Buton took us two full days and nights, one of which was spent travelling on a slave ship! The remote village of Labundo Bundo was our first base and here we experienced research in the jungle, including canopy access on ropes- this didn't end well as we disturbed a killer bee nest! The next stage of our trip was to a tiny, even more remote island, called Hoga, Diving in the crystal-clear waters with spectacular coral reef. I have to confess I was fairly terrified most of the time! I also went to Borneo with a group of adults and visited the Orangutan sanctuary and stayed with a tribal group called The Iban, who had been headhunters!



Our family holidays were mostly camping in France and we'd head off for most of the long summer break, canoeing down the Ardeche, Riding in the Camargue and generally having a wonderful time. Coming up to retirement I was worried that I'd be bored at home - how wrong I was! Following our retirement and several future learn courses, John and I decided to learn Italian and planned a trip by rail from Starbeck Station to Italy visiting Zurich, Venice, Rome, Florence and back via Montreux- home of the Jazz festival and Paris. We did use a little of our Italian, but it made us realise we were far from fluent. We also purchased a Motorhome and have really enjoyed exploring the U.K. in the last couple of years, although this has been seriously curtailed this year. We're quite keen walkers and birdwatchers normally but like everyone we're currently staying closer to home. I enjoy Pilates, which is happening via Zoom at the moment, so I'm doing a class most days.

I have little to no formal music education but started Alto Saxophone lessons last September and my wonderful patient teacher is doing her best with me. My grandson's comment on my playing was 'Oh ok grandma, well you keep trying.' If you want honesty, they are the ones to ask!

I joined Knot another Choir last September too, having always loved singing and being encouraged by a friend to go. I wasn't sure what voice I was so I sat with her in Sopranos. She has moved away, but it was so much fun with Craig and Declan that it wasn't difficult to come alone and it's been lovely getting to know people and being part of something so wonderful. I feel a bit of a fraud with my limited musical background, but Julie and John are so inclusive and I've made lovely friends, so I'm hoping no one finds out I don't know what I'm doing. Here's to a future where singing together is allowed again and we can return to share our voices. Thank you to Julie and John for your tireless enthusiasm and encouragement and to Craig and Declan for bringing such joy.

Make Contact

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