



## **BULLETIN #28 2020**

This Week

Dear Members,

What a lively Zoom session we had this week. We had great fun singing many of our favourite songs, we've worked hard on these recently. Craig and Declan gave us a fantastic rendition of Stevie Wonders "Signed Sealed Delivered" for the Covers 19 song, which was amazing. Graham Turner, who was one of the founders of Knot Another Choir, sang and played his guitar for Quarantunes giving his own meaningful interpretation of Lewis Capaldi's "Someone You Loved", it was beautifully played and sung, well done Graham and thank you. The Quarantunes have been great fun, they've all been so entertaining, you've chosen lovely songs and pieces of music, thanks again to all of you who've taken part.

It's wonderful, even after 15 weeks and over such a strange period in all our lives (I'm sure we'll never forget), that we've always maintained a regular 40 of us attending our Zoom sessions. Thanks to you all for your incredible support for the choir, we've been overwhelmed by your weekly commitment, enthusiasm for the sessions, your messages and words of thanks.

A choir or any other community group is only ever as good as the support the members give it.

Over the last weeks I've asked many of you to do profiles for the bulletin, they've been so interesting! What a diverse bunch you are with your fantastic careers, travels, families and backgrounds. I'd never have imagined what a popular section in the bulletin this would turn out to be. I will continue with this when we return to choir. If you're bursting to tell me all about yourself, please just let me know.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Craig and Declan for making our sessions so entertaining, informative and fun and perhaps most of all for just being such great guys. I think when we were in the height of lockdown Thursdays became everybody's special night and many of you have said it kept your spirits lifted.

Next week is our final Zoom session, as a treat we'll get to see the premiere viewing of our recording of "You'll Get By With A little Help", what a fantastic way to finish for the summer, once again thanks to Craig and Declan for agreeing to do this, alongside all the other things they do for us.

So just to reiterate we've just one Zoom session left, it will be the 16th we've had and will coincidentally be on the 16th of July. I'll do a final bulletin of the summer next week too, if you'd like to finish the year with a poem or a comment please contact me.

With Best Wishes.

Julie.

### **Tuition**

Many of you have been enjoying your 1:1 lessons while we have not been at choir. Craig is still offering his 1:1 lessons , they are available at the cost of just £35. Your payments can be made via Paypal and BACS. Make your bookings by emailing [craig@livingvocally.com](mailto:craig@livingvocally.com)

Declan is also 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](mailto:Declandaviesmusic@gmail.com)

**A Poem by Patricia Tusk**

Choir is the unity of a single person with another  
It binds people together with music  
And it drives away the sour notes of self-centeredness  
With the sweet sounds of harmony  
And while the individuality is maintained  
It is enhanced with the diversity of a group  
And so in the end  
Everyone shines with beaming hearts  
And open hearts.

**Singing Together  
by Mary Brady**

The power of sound  
That heavy roundness of it,  
Our voices opening, emerging  
From somewhere unknown inside  
Deep buried in a hidden past.  
A stream bursting its banks  
To clear away wangled thoughts,  
Neglected feelings.

All our streams coming together  
Getting louder, getting closer  
To something free, something real,  
Our shared humanity,  
Our hidden vulnerability,  
Reaching beyond the strictures  
Of behaviour, of image.

To the pleasure of being present,  
To the joy of making noise,  
To the healing of being heard.

## Profiles



### Julie Horsfield

I was born in Leeds, the middle of three daughters and am a very proud Yorkshire Tyke. My family moved to a small village when I was two years old and I have fond memories of my older sister and I playing in the surrounding countryside. I went to high school in the nearest

small town and met some great friends with whom I am still in contact. It was a very forward thinking school and I was lucky enough to learn Russian in addition to the regulation French. The Russian has come in useful on our travels as we have visited quite a few Eastern European countries, the languages of which have some similarities.

I was a member of the school choir and another choir in a nearby town. I was fortunate that my parents paid for me to have private singing lessons. In the upper sixth form, I was asked to audition and was chosen to play the part of Nancy in the school production of Oliver. What an experience! Certain people thought someone else should have got the role. Being the kind of person I am, I let that get to me and left both choirs and stopped my singing lessons. Hindsight being a wonderful thing and all that, I should just have ignored them and continued with what I loved.

Most unusually for the time when I left school, I took a gap year before going to teacher training college and went to Canada to work as a nanny. I made the decision to come home early, so had to find a job to save up some money for college. It was obviously meant to be, as it was whilst doing this job that I met Paul, who has been my husband for forty two years. Teacher training was put on hold as we travelled and saved for our first home in Harrogate. Three gorgeous girls later, I took a job in a local school working for one afternoon a week, for half a term. Thirty years later, twenty nine years of which were full time, I finally retired last July. My roles in school included being the pastoral lead. I believe passionately in the rights of children but also in instilling in them a sense of responsibility. My belief was, and

remains still, that if a child can leave primary school being a kind and considerate member of their community and the wider community, then that school has done a good job!! Years ago, I produced a display about being the very best that you can be and hopefully there are many young people from that school who still remember that phrase along with Mrs H's other golden top tips.

After years of not singing, I nervously went along to a new choir with my friends Jan, Sheila and Grace, who are now also in KAC and over time, once more, released the voice within. What a joy to sing again! We had ten wonderful years with the choir and were fortunate to perform in Prague, Budapest, Barcelona and at the Lincoln Centre in New York. We also recorded three times at the world famous Abbey Road. This gave me the confidence to take over the role of music lead within the school. The children used to say that Mrs. H has a song for every occasion! I would stop them mid lesson, tell them to stand up and start singing a couple of lines from a song then just say "OK – carry on with your work!" It always surprised me that they did. I led the school choir, taking them to Young Voices on many occasions. I also had a 'Little Voices' choir for children in Reception and Year1 along with a 'Boys Rock' group. With a great friend and colleague, I introduced an after-school club which we called Razzle Dazzle with singing and dancing. We put on a show for parents every term using 'a real stage' at the local high school. Costumes, lights, action!

I really enjoy baking, cake making and writing poems and as one of my poems says "I love being a mummy but I adore being a Nan." I am really fortunate that all my girls and their lovely husbands live locally and so, under normal circumstances, we get to spend lots of time with our four fabulous grandchildren. One of the games that my girls liked to play when they were little was 'The Horsfield Pile On'. Paul would lay on the floor and someone would shout 'Pile On!' Nowadays, the grandchildren do it, with their mums shouting, "Make sure Nana and Grandad are on the top!" I wondered what would happen if I shouted that when we had a photoshoot – the result is this picture. I should have known! Get the Horsfields together and madness will ensue!

I am very calm most of the time but there are two things which drive me to distraction – misplaced apostrophes and the Union Flag and the Yorkshire Flag being flown upside down. My family have often walked away and left me when I have pointed it out in shops and hotels both here and around the world whilst on our extensive travels!!!

When the choir I was in finally disbanded last year, I thought that singing for me was done but then, like a knight in shining armour, KAC came to my rescue and my love of singing continues. Thank you all.

See you at the end of the tunnel. Julie H



### Janet Hill

I was born in Wakefield, in the days when people had neat hair and hadn't heard of Zoom! My Dad was a company secretary for a Miners Welfare Convalescent organisation, with homes in Rhyl, Scalby and Lytham St Annes, apart from the obvious chest conditions, there were many paraplegic patients with spinal injuries, rehabilitating in these homes. No foreign travel for my sister and I, our holidays were charmed events as Dad periodically deputised for the superintendents at the homes, we had the run of these beautiful buildings with libraries, billiard rooms, gardens with huge greenhouses and carpet like bowling greens.

When Dad semi-retired, he and Mum took the village shop and Post office in Staveley, it was like 'Arkwrights' selling everything imaginable from shoes laces to knicker elastic! I always smile when I'm watching an episode of 'Open All Hours', it was really like that, even the 'four candles!'

So, from Wakefield I was transported to parochial life there, attending the village Church where the 'Lady of the Manor' always sat on the front pew, where I scored for the local cricket team (boys!) and where my sister and I shared a pony, which I think Thelwell modelled his cartoons on, as I seemed to spend most of my time in mid air being bucked off by the little brute! I went to secondary school in Knaresborough, where I loved my Art classes and should have followed my instinct to pursue this as a career, but didn't.

After what they'd call a 'Gap Yah' now, I became a student radiographer, studying at St James's in Leeds. 'Imaging' but not as I'd initially imagined!

I met and married Brendon, after qualifying, and we have two children, Steph now a primary school teacher in Leeds, and Liam an event manager in London. Two of their infant schoolteachers are in the choir!

I've enjoyed my career, diversifying from standard radiography to nuclear medicine and bone densitometry via two postgraduate diplomas. For the last sixteen years I've been principal radiographer for these specialities at the local Hospital in Harrogate. I have been trying to retire, to concentrate on lovely things like choir and painting, but handing my notice in, as I'd planned, in March, didn't seem a great idea as the pandemic unfolded and it was literally 'all hands on deck' in radiology, so watch this space!

Joined a choir when 'drama mum' friends decided we didn't want to be parted after our kids finished at a local Drama School, and we joined 'Rock Up And Sing'. I enjoyed ten years of 'Rock Up' and after it finished, my choir buddy's and myself couldn't believe our luck when we came to a 'Knot Another Choir!' taster, we absolutely love the energy Craig and Declan infuse!

Despite us being 'newbies to the choir, everyone has been very welcoming and I can't wait to be able to join you all again, in person and with a neater hairdo!

### **Make Contact**

Please feel free to contact me, my email is [jbradburysharp@gmail.com](mailto:jbradburysharp@gmail.com) or ring me on 07926027676.