



## BULLETIN #35 2020

### This week



**So, the moment is approaching ....THE video recording beckons!** We worked on *Don't Stop Me Now* in the Zoom session on Thursday. Craig thinks we are almost ready to go with our recording so keep practising. For anyone dreading doing this, he and Declan have put together a Guide to Videoing Yourself Singing, which he'll get sent out to us all. This will help with top tips and stuff around settings for your devices etc.

They would like us to do 2 recordings:

- The first with us doing our very best singing, concentrating on all the things that Craig has been teaching
- The second with us doing daft things while singing – dancing round the lounge, singing to your cat – whatever really. Sound quality not an issue because this will be for the visuals only. Craig wants us to show off the fun side of KAC as well as our brilliant, award winning singing.

Yes, recording will be a challenge for a lot of us, but maybe a little easier than the last time. At least it won't be the hottest week of the year! The main message seems to be to enjoy it and really put everything you've got into it. As Craig says, small mistakes can be edited out, but enthusiasm can't be faked. So, Smile, 😊 smile, 😊 smile 😊

**Tuesday Live Rehearsals.....** We've now got 27 people signed up and a few more joining us this week, there's still loads of room for more if you'd like to give it a try this week, the last week of our trial. Personally, I love it and cannot believe how lucky we are to be able to sing together again, even if it

is socially distanced and you need a coat, hat and gloves on to do it because the fire doors are open. Who knows where things will go, but these sessions are very special and give a much-needed dose of optimism each week? We looked at “*Something Inside*” this week and it was great to hear those lovely harmonies coming through.

Pippa and Graham have written a review of their experience at Live rehearsals, so thanks to them for taking the time to write this.

### **Graham & Pippa Turner**

*“We just want to say how much we are enjoying being able to sing together again in a safe environment at The Crown Hotel on Tuesday evenings. It’s great to hear the lovely harmonies which we are able to create under Craig’s tuition, ably assisted by Declan. We both feel extremely safe at the choir meetings which are very carefully organized and are fully compliant with the government’s rules and guidelines. We feel far safer there than when visiting busy shops and supermarkets where people do not all stick to the social distancing rules. So, we would recommend that anyone who is thinking of coming along on Tuesday evening to give it a try. We thank Julie, John and the committee together with Craig and Declan who have all worked so hard to make this possible and make it safe for us without breaking the rules and putting us all at risk.”*

**Thursday Zoom session** .....43 people joined us, and we started with some knee slapping & hand clapping while singing up and down scales with numbers. This is when I’m grateful that we’re on Zoom and people can’t see exactly how bad a job I might be making of things!

We concentrated on refining “*Don’t Stop Me Now*” and it was clear how much people had been practising and how our confidence has grown. Bodes well for the video recording.

**Quarantunes** .... what a great end to the evening. Jay and Will (plus their daughter Harriet on Saxophone) treated us to their own version of **In The Still of The Night by Five Satins**. It raised our spirits to see them enjoying themselves and the singing was pretty awesome too. Even the “advert” interval made us smile. Big thanks to them for a really uplifting end to a great session, loved it.

All the quarantunes we've done are on the website [www.knotanotherchoir.co.uk](http://www.knotanotherchoir.co.uk) Go to main menu to find quarantunes. Please, please think about doing a song, a poem or an instrumental – such a talented bunch and you can always be certain that your audience are with you every step of the way.

### ***“Don't Stop me Now” .....our video song***

#### All

- Bar 12 – Spit out those starting consonants on “***Don't stop me now***”
- Bar 17 – build to e crescendo here on “*good time*” but Tenors & Basses be ready for the “*I'm a shooting,,,*”. ***Craig Crescendo Criteria = drop your volume down slightly at the start of the crescendo so that you have somewhere to go as you increase the volume.***
- Bar 50/51 – another crescendo on “*...all*” but get ready to sing the next verse “*I'm a rocket ship...*” otherwise there's be a big silence as we all pat ourselves on the back for doing a great crescendo 😊
- Bar 60 – “*Oh oh oh*” are sung in staccato (nice& choppy) where the “*whoa whoa*” are sung in legato then into a crescendo for “explode”
- Bar 73 – have fun in this section make it punchy and vibrant.
- Bar 89 – we're going to insert a guitar solo here, so you need to find some bizarre household object for a bit of air guitar 😊
- Bar 92 – “*la la ..*” sung in legato i.e. nice and flowing, blossoming into a crescendo in Bar 95
- Bar 100 - “*night*” is a crochet only so a super quick finish to the song.
- **Nice big smile as you finish please**

#### Tenors

- Bar 98 – sing “*tonight*” rather than the “*la la*” in the Score and on the soundtrack– Dec will do you in if you sing la la in the recording!

#### Basses

- Bar 98 – sing “*tonight*” rather than the “*la la*” in the Score and on the soundtrack – Dec will do you in if you sing la la in the recording!
- Bar 100 – really open up here but not too Pavarotti – a more twangy shape!

***“Something Inside”*** .... Craig is looking for people to do a small solo part so think about whether you would like to put yourself forward.

Solo 1 - Bar 33 to 39 *“The more you refuse .... your lies will come tumbling”*

Solo 2 – Bar 41 to 45 *“Deny my place .... will blind you”*

Solo 3 – Bar 55 to Bar 61 *“Bothers & sisters .... in the eyes and say”*



### All

- General – Craig has asked us to find our consonants, particularly on the chorus, with some lovely expressive diction 😊
- Bar 16 – Smile through *“Sing”*
- Bar 41 – try and do all the *“ooohs”* in one breath if you can
- Second chorus – Altos on melody, other parts in harmony.

### Altos

- Bar 55 – nice and *“chesty”* on the *“strong”* – sing it like you mean it!

### Tenors

- Bar 14 – nice and wide on *“ooh-vey”* to give you the volume without shouting and pouty on *“oooh”*
- Bar 41 – nice & strong here

### Basses

- Bar 14 – be a bit lighter on *“ooh-vey”* and pouty on *“oooh”* so that your part isn’t too dominant
- Bar 43 – if these notes are too high for you, just mime some of them – yes really! Nice & light here

**And finally, a thought for this week .....**

**When it rains, look for rainbows. When it’s dark, look for stars**



## Profiles



### Jane Rutledge



Hello all, my name is Jane and, in those halcyon days when we all used to sing together, you would find me towards the back of the Sopranos. I joined Knot Another Choir five years ago when we were a very much smaller outfit and sung acapella. I joined with my best friend Janet – we used to like taking up different hobbies and meeting other people and we were delighted to join a Community choir in Knaresborough. We were welcomed very warmly by Pippa as soon as we walked through the door, and of course that, as so many of you have now experienced, has never changed. It wasn't long before the Committee changed and Julie and others continued the choir's enthusiastic and committed recruitment! Within a few months Julie asked me to join the Committee – which I did and have since become a Trustee and hence been very involved with every aspect of Knot. It's been great!

The appointment of Craig and Declan has transformed our choir, and I am glad to have been an active member both in the past and present. Julie, John and the Committee have worked so hard through both good and challenging times, and their huge efforts and tireless commitment ensure our choir has remained successful, popular and important to so many, especially in these difficult times.

KAC was the fifth choir that I have sung with. I have always sung Soprano and to this day, the full and beautiful sounds that four piece vocal harmonies are able to make, never fails to move me. I sang for four years with the Senior Choir at school, the Choral Society at Bath College of Education, Harrogate Choral Society, Rock up and Sing and now with KAC. All have been very different, and all have been wonderful. Singing with our choir has become a very important part of my life, as have the close friendships I have made with many people.

As the middle child of three, growing up in Hertfordshire I always had a love of music and singing – alas I never progressed to much formal training although I did learn the piano when I was very young – (until I begged to do horse riding instead)! At least I learnt to read music.

We had a piano at home as my Dad played well .... but solely by ear. He played everything from Rachmaninov to Strauss to Cole Porter, blues and swing, and his particular party piece was playing Tiger Rag whilst standing on his head! My cousin taught me how to play very simple guitar and as a result I played and enjoyed the instrument at this simple level for many years until retirement. (In recent years I also learnt the ukulele, but as the chord fingering is completely different with much smaller frets, I found it rather difficult).

Growing up we had an idyllic childhood. We had a large garden, and our dad would rig up Rope Bridges, high platforms in trees, and once a flamboyant zip wire with a pulley system from a suspiciously large height, My mum banned this when she discovered our only braking system was crashing into the side of the house and complaining about various injuries.

We lived round the corner from all sorts of interesting people. For those of you of a certain age who remember Unit 4 + 2 (Concrete and the Clay) David (Buster) Meikle lived a few doors away but apparently told his mother to tell the annoying child from the corner house to stop asking him out to play! Around another corner were some very large houses owned by some of the Arsenal Football Players including George Armstrong and Charlie George. However we were unimpressed – with my family originally hailing from Tottenham, I regularly forced my brother take me to watch Spurs once and even twice a week. My brother also attended a tiny village school in his final primary year down a tiny lane – this small stone building was eventually bought by the family of Posh Spice .... and my mum in her 70s and 80s used to enjoy telling us every time she stood in the queue behind David Beckham in the local co-op.

I had always wanted to teach and so after school I left to begin Teacher Training down in Bath, which is the most beautiful city and still holds a very special place in my heart. During my second year I met Alan who was studying for his PGCE at the University, having qualified as a Zoologist from Swansea.

We met in the very hot summer of 1976 and enjoyed a fabulous time until the end of term when he needed to leave and find a teaching job. Luckily for us he was offered a Biology Post in Leeds (which determined our life up North). We often consider how lucky that was as we now live here in Knaresborough. As he was due to be interviewed in Walthamstow the following day, I can only think life may have turned out very differently.

After college and before getting married I found a rather different holiday job for three months and worked in London Zoo. I became Supervisor at one of the outdoor cafes (no catering experience whatsoever) and was once asked to man the Mr Whippy machines at the Mappin Terrace areas. I suspect that the uncontrollable and precarious sizes of my giant creations, were the reasons I was not asked to repeat this.

I worked for a short while in Hertfordshire in a school in the middle of three tower blocks which were housing the overspill of families that had been moved from the East End after their homes had been condemned. After getting married we moved to Yeadon and I secured a teaching post in Beeston teaching music and dance to children in a Special School. Whilst there I then ran the Assessment Unit and then one of the classes.

I stayed at home for over seven years to raise our two boys Chris and Lewis who are now coming up to 40. We have had a wonderful family life raising our children here in Knaresborough and although they both went away to Universities at either end of the country at the same time, Exeter and Durham, it is a source of great joy that they have both settled here locally. Chris with his wife and our two beautiful granddaughters now aged 8 and 5, and Lewis with his partner who he will be marrying next year. We are very lucky.

Once the children were settled in school I did some supply teaching before joining Oatlands Infant School in Harrogate. Here I met my best friend Janet and we had several years of teaching our parallel classes next door to each other with our combined numbers of 70 reception children. Those were the days. Janet eventually became Headteacher and I became Deputy Head. We always made a good team ...and that has continued to this day.

After a few years I worked with the Local Authority with the Early Years Team – a new innovation and designed to support staff not only in school but also in playgroups, private nurseries and all under fives groups. After this I was asked to become Acting Headteacher in a small school that had just been put into Special Measures. Its true to say I have never worked so hard, but as a team we were thrilled to be removed from SM after just two terms, and despite the constant presence of HMI Inspectors and subsequent Ofsted inspections we turned the school from a failure to a success, and having been appointed permanently we enjoyed our years going from strength to strength.

Sadly, during my time there I was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time. I eventually left but continued working as an independent education consultant, firstly with the Diocesan Education Team as both an adviser and accredited SIA (now SIAMs)? Inspector and then with the local authority as a School Improvement Partner having responsibility for six schools in Selby. Unfortunately, five years after my first diagnosis I was once again found to have breast cancer and subsequently underwent more than a year of intensive treatment. I count myself extremely lucky to have been successfully and happily treated and now continue to enjoy life and all it has to offer. My health has not always followed the right script (!) but with the unfailing love and support of Alan and my family and friends I have overcome several tricky episodes and live life to the full.

Alan and I have not travelled extensively or to exotic far flung places, but we have loved visiting European cities and other places – our favourite place being Croatia.

I would like to describe myself as always cheerful and positive and hope I see the best in everybody and everything. I enjoy dabbling in lots of activities without being any real good at any of them! I bought a new piano last year which I am enjoying again (in a very non-grade-ability way). I like reading, walking, gardening, knitting, and spending time with special people. As long as I have my health, my family and my friends I consider everything else to be a bonus.

### **Links to our Live sessions**

First Session <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEwCLFVYjUo&t=2096s>

Second Session <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IowAjU7ncMc&t=8s>

Third Session [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VnJwN7Rt\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VnJwN7Rt_w)

### **Thank you**

Hi All.

I just wanted to take a minute to say a huge thank you to you all for your enthusiasm and commitment to the choir since the pandemic, that's both through your attendance at Zoom and more recently the smaller group of you who've attended the trial live sessions. We could not have kept the choir going without you all. I hope you're all really looking forward to doing

our recording of "Don't Stop Me Now". I hope it's just as good as our last award winning recording.

Thanks also for your profiles and quarantunes they've been really amazing! A huge thanks to Sue Creeley for kindly taking over the writing of the This Weeks section of the bulletin. I think you will all agree she's doing a fantastic job.

Finally thanks to Craig and Declan for their energy talent and good humour. Questions or offers to do quarantunes or profiles please call me on 07926027676.

Kind Regards.

Julie.