

BULLETIN #36 2020

This week

For those who only read the first paragraph of this bulletin (!) **there are no sessions next week and possibly the week after.** Next week is all about our video recording – yippee. The committee are meeting early next week to decide on what we do next but be assured we want to be able to offer access to sessions for as many people as we can and your safety is always our priority. Please keep an eye on your inbox as we will be sending updates out as soon as we can.

Who would have thought a year ago, that we would be sitting with a 2-metre circle of space around us at rehearsal, not being allowed to hug and chat, and with a gale blowing through the rehearsal room? Even more bizarre, doing Choir by Zoom, singing to our various devices, with Craig saying things such as “lovely” or “well done” when he couldn’t actually hear us – indeed have we all been miming for 6 months!? And yet here we are and there are certainly some really positive things about the last 7 months:

- We have kept our fabulous choir going, despite the best efforts of the dratted Covid 19 virus. *We **WILL** get by with a little help from our friends.*
- Craig and Declan have entertained us and helped us remain enthusiastic about singing, even at those times that we will all have had, when our own worlds looked a bit rubbish
- Zoom lets us see the faces of our fellow choirees when we sing, normally we’re all facing forward so miss some of those lovely smiles and expressions as we sing

- Our choir has been enriched, thanks to technology, by people as far away as the USA, Ireland, Edinburgh, and Berkshire – amazing!



- We produced an award-winning video, despite the many challenges we found in recording ourselves singing and the fact that some of our devices were at severe risk of being thrown at the nearest wall



- Every week we sing our hearts out and I'm pretty sure that has been great for our mental health and helped us through some of the not so good stuff that we have all faced.
- Our "Quarantuners" have provided some real treats for us – what a really talented bunch

Tuesday Live RehearsalAnother first – thanks to our resident techno wizard John! This week's session was live streamed over YouTube and we had a couple of willing volunteers sitting at home to test it out for us. They both enjoyed it but said they missed not seeing the faces of the singers – amazing how Zoom has given us something that we didn't have before! We had 27 people attend this week, a record! Some have joined us after seeing the videos and speaking to others who have come along. The comments that we have received have been so supportive and clearly singing together, with such beautiful harmonies on show, has been a real highlight for so many of us. We hope that more of you may feel like joining us when we return after a short break (subject to circumstances beyond our control of course). We sang through *Something Inside* and then moved onto *Lean On Me*. We all agreed that this was the best session yet.


Thursday Zoom 45 Zoomers this week. As Craig pointed out there are some people who clearly can't get enough of KAC because they join us for both sessions each week. We polished up *Don't Stop me Now* and then sang *Lean on Me* – a real song for the times.



Quarantunes & a special shout out Julie Horsfield, who writes fantastic poems, treated us to four of the poems she has included in her recent book. She wrote the poems with the aim of raising money for the NHS. As with *Lean On Me*, the words clearly touched a lot of hearts and brought on a few tears as she read through her poems, all very different. Julie wanted to raise £200 and copies of her book are available for £5 each, if you contact Julie & John. Thank you so much Julie H

for sharing your poems and helping some of our real-life heroes at the same time.

Don't Stop Me NowLast practice session before our eagerly anticipated video recording and Craig feels we are ready, despite this being quite a complicated arrangement. Just a few final pointers:

- Start – we need to capture the audience here so nice and bright remembering the crescendo on “*alive*” Bar 6
- Bar 9 – Sopranos, Altos and Basses move to “*ooohs*” – nice rounded kissy lips please 
- Bar 50 – “*don't wanna stop at all*” – 6 beat hold on the “*all*” and a nice crescendo here, pulling back on the volume a little at the start of the word so you have somewhere to go with the volume.
- Bar 73 – Tenors & Basses – watch the number of “*don't stop me*” phrases in this section
- Bar 98 – ALL sing “*la la tonight, tonight*” including tenors & basses. Good strong “t” at the end of the 2nd “tonight” and come off the final note nice and quickly at the end.

The moment you've all been looking forward to (or maybe dreading)

..... Craig took us through some of the tips for our recording, you will now have received his instructions & helpful hints, read them carefully and take your time. The main points are:

- Record 2 versions
 - Number 1 – head & shoulders soundtrack, best singing and lots of smiles and animated expressions.
 - Number 2 – as crazy as you like, with the soundtrack playing because Craig is only using this version for the visuals. Dance with your granny, children, nearest policeman Whatever and however really. Prize for most creative “air guitar” prop.
- The video guide and the background track as well as the practice part tracks containing the guitar riff are now on the web site in the members' section



- Read the **How To guide** for tips and guidance on making your video, for instance use a plain background if possible, etc. **These will all help to make a great video so please read it before you start.**
- Contact Julie & John if you have any problems
- Have fun, smile, be enthusiastic, stay calm in the face of technological problems.



What happens next The Committee are meeting on Monday by Zoom and we'll decide what we are doing next term.

Please keep an eye on your inbox for news.

Final thought for this week thank goodness for Google which seems to be crammed with quotes and thoughts for the day, particularly relevant to the task ahead?!



Courage doesn't always roar, sometimes it's the quiet voice at the end of the day whispering "I will try again tomorrow"



Sue Creeley
Committee Member.

Announcement

On behalf of the committee I would like to announce, with great sadness, that as of the 2nd of November, our wonderful committee secretary and trustee Jane Rutledge will leave the committee after giving four years unflinching service to the choir. Even though Jane will no longer be a committee member she will remain as a choir member and will continue to support the work of the committee.

In recent years the committee were delighted to achieve charitable status. We went through the rigorous selection process and appointed Craig as our wonderful new MD along with his highly talented accompanist Declan. Since then we've grown massively as a choir in so many ways, and that's not just the number of us. As a result of the pandemic we've adapted what the choir can offer at every step of the way. Jane has always been wholeheartedly involved through the many periods and processes of change we've been through.

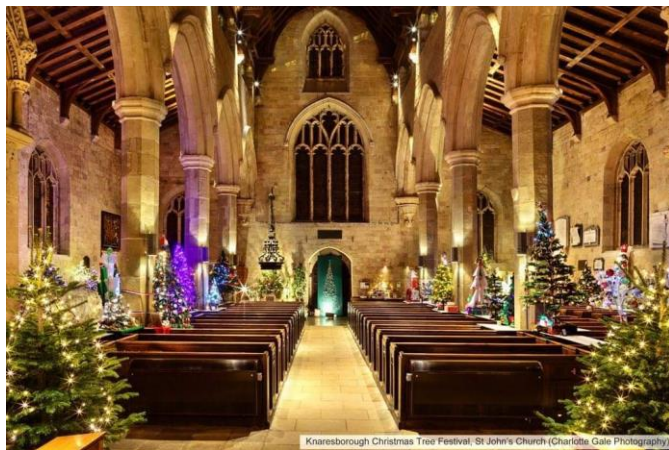
Thank you, Jane, on behalf of us all.

Would you like to join our committee? Perhaps one of you has the necessary skills and time to become a committee member or even our new secretary? If you'd like to be considered please email your interest to jbradburysharp@gmail.com

Duties include taking minutes at our committee meetings, writing them up and sending out. Attending regular meetings and helping in the decision making processes involved in the running a large community choir.

Christmas Tree Festival - St John's Church, Knaresborough

For those of you new to the choir this year, town organisations are invited to decorate a Christmas tree and display it in St Johns Church as part of the Christmas Tree Festival, which is held during the first week in December. It's a really gorgeous event. In the past, there have been several musical events in church during the festival week, and we have been involved in those.



Over the last few years, our tree has featured Christmas tree decorations with our faces on! To that end, if you have joined choir this year and would like to be included can you provide me with a passport type photo of yourself please?



Send them to janet_davis@hotmail.com and I'll try come up with something! In the past we've had workshops at my house to make them, but I guess that's not an option this year.

Thanks – Janet Davis

Profile



Jo Stapley

My name is Jo, I recently joined the choir via Zoom as I now live in Berkshire, having relocated from Harrogate, North Yorkshire three and a half years ago.

I haven't really sung since I was in the choir at St Aidans School and don't consider myself the most musically talented person, I did play the violin briefly at primary school but soon gave that up!



I have 2 grown up sons Jack and Harry and a stepdaughter Katie. I recently married Roger in the middle of the lockdown in July, which was a fabulous memory to have for 2020.

I've worked in Dental Practice Management for 25 years and recently started my own locum business. In my spare time I volunteer with my local Cancer Research shop and the Citizens Advice Bureau and enjoy walks with our ageing Labrador - Lady.

My connection with Knot Another Choir comes from knowing Julie Bradbury-Sharp & Julie Dodson (who is my Mum!)

Mum has always talked so passionately about the choir and I know how much pleasure she gets from being in the part of it - I'm sure it made lockdown more bearable for her.

I've known Julie Bradbury-Sharp since I was about 4 years old - so around 40 years without giving our ages away!!

We lived next door to Julie and her family. Her eldest daughter Rachael - whom most of you will know from choir too, is one of my very good friends. I have fond memories of Julie always singing and playing on her piano at home and playing the church organ. My first job was working for Julie's Mum at her restaurant /hotel in Hampsthwaite when I was 14.

I am really enjoying the zoom choir sessions, Craig and Declan are so talented and make the sessions so much fun. I always leave the session feeling really invigorated, smiling and happy. I did join a choir briefly when I first moved to Berkshire, but it wasn't half as much fun as you guys have!

I love that fact that my mum and Julie are still great friends after all these years and that my brother and I are still in touch with Julie's son and youngest daughter too.

I wish I could attend the sessions in person. Perhaps when I'm back visiting, I will drop in.

Make Contact

If you've any questions, queries or comments please feel free to get in touch I love hearing from you. I will always respond very promptly. My email is jbradburysharp@gmail.com or ring me on 07926027676.