

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2021

Welcome to 2022 and January's Members' Newsletter. I aim to produce the newsletter for the beginning of each month, so please send any content to suewheeldon@yahoo.co.uk by 28th of each month

New Year Tradition

Sue Barton says:

We have lived on our road in Lowdham for a long time. There are lots of lovely families on it. We started doing a New Year's Eve party with three other families, taking it in turns to host at each other's houses. The idea is that the family hosting contacts the others and we all take agreed food and drinks with us (usually what's left over from Christmas!!)

We have a grand buffet and get the chance to catch up with everyone there. There is usually a game devised by some of the children and a picture quiz, so we all mix up into teams and have a laugh!!

One year the hosts had their parents there who had been on the whiskey, and they tried to perform a trick, but couldn't remember how it went, so we all pretended it was excellent and gave them a standing ovation!!

Great memories!!

Bubble It – Christmas Style

(for newer members Liz has made jams and marmalades for Lace City for many years, under the label Bubble It)

This Christmas I made small jars of my strawberry jam, wrapped them up, and left them with Christmas Greetings on the doorsteps of all the houses in my street, including some people I don't know.

I figure that we can all do with something to cheer us up at the moment, and it cheered me up to do it.

Liz Hayto



Getting to know you

My names Jennifer or Jen for short.

I have a blue Persian called Samson who I spoil rotten!

I discovered I loved singing when I was about 9, when we were rehearsing in the church for a primary school concert.

One of the teachers noticed I was belting it out, totally oblivious to everything and everyone haha.

Anyway, this got back to the headmaster, who was an amazing teacher and encouraged music throughout the school. He gave me one of the lead parts in the pirates of Penzance and the Mikado, which gave me a confidence boost.

I used music and singing throughout my school years; I think for me it was a release of emotions in what was at times a difficult period in life.

When I left college I answered an ad for a singer to join a soft rock/country duo. We gigged for around 6-9months, which was fab, but then it ended and I didn't sing again till this year.

I found out about LCC from a friend who sent me a fb messenger link about the 'Love your voice' course this year. She suggested I'd probably be in the Leads section based on my range (she'd heard me singing whilst drunk in a pub toilet before the pandemic lol)

Having not sung or done anything musical for nearly 20 years I was quite nervous about singing with a choir, along with having had severe bouts of anxiety over the years which has stopped me even attempting some of the things I love to do, especially when they involve interacting with actual humans!

But after joining the weekly choir sessions on zoom, which were a light at the end of the tunnel during lockdown, I was determined to overcome this block, and push boundaries to do this exciting new thing.

And with LCC I am learning so much about music that I had either forgotten or never knew to start with. The vocal exercises and focus on improvement is just the challenge I need!

The first meet up in person blew me away. Singing outside with everyone was so nice. The sound and feeling was something really powerful. Having not sung in any other choirs as an adult it was totally new but felt very natural.

I am so looking forward to the adventures we will be going on together 😊



Lace City after rehearsal pub club!!

All are welcome to join us at the Admiral Rodney pub in Calverton after Wednesday evening rehearsals.

Come along and have a chat and a giggle or two with a fizzy drink!!

Contact Sue Barton if you need to find out any more details.

Getting to know you

Lynn Woods says: -

It is such a pleasure being back in the chorus after a few years break.

I joined Lace City in 2010 after stumbling across a rehearsal just after the chorus had won gold in Gateshead to qualify them for the International competition.

Before the end of the first rehearsal I was in the bass section, sheet music in my hand and half a dozen eggs in my bag! Learning to sing barbershop was a joy, and I entertained people at work with our repertoire, particularly before shows.

My first ever sing out was at the East Midlands Airport when we sang for Children in Needs, in front of the cameras and an audience. I remember borrowing Laura Ritchie's bright green costume and being absolutely terrified. We sang Dancing Queen and I was terrible with the choreo (things really haven't changed I should never have been on the front row!)

I left Lace City shortly after returning from International in St Louis to explore other musical groups/choirs. I sang Bohemian Rhapsody with the NTU choir and the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Centre which was thrilling. I joined a mixed A Capella choir – LUX - in Leicester and The Collective Virtual Choir, both of whom I sang with during lockdown, and have since left so I can focus on Lace City.

I made a lot of happy memories with my friends at Lace City, we have had lots of fun and adventures and I am looking forward to making more memories!



ALYSON'S 2022 CHALLENGE



WALKING THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY - CHAPTER 1

Well the weather in December has certainly reminded me of winter days in Ireland - damp, drizzly and generally mild. However I've managed to walk every day even though it's been so murky. The weather always looks worse from inside the house and once you're out it's never as bad as it looks. That's my philosophy anyway!

So I've completed my virtual walk round the Inishowen peninsula in Donegal which was the first target of my mammoth walk from Derry to West Cork. One of the sights I passed was Malin Head, beloved of the Shipping Forecast, which is the most northerly point in Ireland. Above is a picture. Very wild and beautiful. Just another 2300 km to go!

As always I'd be delighted to share my walks with you - just let me know if you'd like to accompany me.

Hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and all the very best for 2022.

Best wishes

Alyson

PVI's

Don't forget to contact Aly if you would like to book a PVI,
alysonchaney@yahoo.co.uk.

They are held in the Chorus
Rehearsal Zoom Room



BIRTHDAYS

January

Tuesday 4th Jan – Gill Mills
Sun 9th Jan – Penny Lymm-Rose
Sun 16th Jan – Cherry Heath
Mon 17th Jan – Helen Abbott
Wed 19th Jan – Wendy Bainbridge
Tues 25th Jan – Carol Palmer
Fri 28th Jan – Pat Thompson
Sun 30th Jan – Nancy Littlewood

Happy Birthday Everyone



SECTION SPECIFIC WARM UP VIDEOS

Tenor: <https://youtu.be/MN6xS8Wolz0>
Lead: <https://youtu.be/773Z7GGM8rM>
Baritone: <https://youtu.be/7iY6fQyxGVE>
Bass: <https://youtu.be/pP3AfzS5Tus>



SOCIAL TEAM

2022 plans:

Obviously nothing has been written in stone due to the pandemic limitations, but we are hoping to be able to firm up some 2022 events such as:

- Deciding what to do for our afterglow at Convention
- Looking at how we best celebrate our 30th Anniversary which is in September.
- Looking at other ways we can get together – perhaps in smaller groups, enjoying different activities eg walking, quarteting etc
- All ideas are welcome and will be discussed

Rehearsal Physical Warm Ups

We would love to have a few more helpers on the physical warm up team. You don't have to do any complicated routines or be an amazing dancer, just happy to be in front of the chorus encouraging movement. With the current restrictions in place at the moment we are limited to how much movement we can do. Short Static stretching warm-up exercises for now. Please get in touch with me if you are interested.

X Carole (Bowman) email: carbow74@gmail.com



GARDEN TIPS FOR JANUARY

- Establish new colonies of snowdrops and hellebores by buying plants in flower
- Remove and bin hellebore foliage marked with black blotches, to limit spread of leaf spot disease
- Take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs, eg forsythia, willow and viburnum
- Plant bare-root roses, shrubs, hedging and ornamental trees (as long as ground is not frozen)
- Press mistletoe berries into the bark of apple trees to establish your own mistletoe plants
- Check small alpines haven't been smothered by fallen leaves
- Deadhead winter pansies and other bedding regularly
- Check for rot on stored bulbs and tubers





BOOKS AND LACE

January's book will be

The Chalk Man by C J Tudor

which, according to the Sunday Times (where it is classed as a best seller) will be the most chilling book you'll read this year! We will discuss it on 31st January.

Since I joined the book club last January I have read/listened to a grand total of 78 books, which includes 11 out of the 12 book club recommendations. This is a mammoth personal achievement for me, and all down to Lace City Book Club, and Dipti's tip of joining the online Library where you can download audio books for free. I love this method of 'reading' as the book plays when I am driving, in the kitchen, walking, doing jobs etc. Just wonderful and I highly recommend - Ed

If you would like to join please email
helencarley@gmail.com

COFFEE and CHAT

Our daily Coffee and Chat continues -

this is open to everyone, and the more the merrier.

Please come along we would love to see you.

11:00 -12:00 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday and Sunday

13:00 - 14:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays

*The Zoom Room used is the one for Chorus
Rehearsal*

Zoom Login Reminder

Log In – 343 131 299

Password – Lacity20

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/343131299?pwd=MktDVldWTUhUTFZZRW1aZ2RHbkJGdz>



Getting to know you

Like many before me, I joined LCC after doing a 'Love to Sing' course in June 2018, though it feels longer than that. I had been to my first SA convention as an audience member at The Sage in Gateshead the month before where I was blown away by the standard of SA after being a LABBS girl since 1979. I got talking to Alyson who told me about the L2S course. I became a prospective member up until I was passed in March 2019. It took that long because the chorus was working towards the St. Louis convention.

I first started singing at the age of 6 in the local church choir. In barbershop, I sing baritone, a part I love, but I am flexible. I would love to sing in a quartet again after singing with my last long-term quartet, 'In 7th Heaven' where I sang lead for a while, then bari.

I live in Farnsfield with my husband Mike, who sings with Grand Central Chorus (now car-sharing with Glenn) and my cat Diego.



I have to say that I am in awe of those of you who continued to meet on Zoom during lockdown. Personally, I found it soul destroying and couldn't do it.

Chris Dickens

New Year's Resolution

Liz Hayto writes: -

My New Year's Resolution this time is to take more exercise. A very common resolution, I know, but this time I have a specific activity in mind.

I've read advice somewhere that it's easier to stick at an exercise you'll enjoy, and I know what that should be. I love music, so dancing is the ideal choice.

I'm going to look for a dance class suitable for an unfit lady of mature years who wants to learn how to express herself through dance. It might be a long search, not made any simpler by the fact that it must be held somewhere I can get to easily by bus. In the meantime I'll be working on improving flexibility, and upping my step count in preparation, and that can't be bad, but I'll always have my aim in view.

Well, now I've shared my dream with you, it feels like I've bared my soul, but that's Ok as I am among friends.

Happy New Year Everyone.

S U B S

Subs are going back to the pre-lockdown amount from 1st January. Please make sure your standing order is amended to take effect on the January payment - £26



Frosty The Snowman (Bowman) Happy Family Christmas Tradition

In the late 1970's my mother brought home a snowman who contained gifts. At the table after Christmas dinner we all had one present to open which was exciting. Following on from the first time he visited the Christmas table he continues to come every year with surprise presents inside. When I married Geoffrey in 1974 Mr Snowman changed houses and became a Bowman. The gifts tradition still continued but as a secret snowman, instead of a secret Santa. The challenge was to have a price limit and obviously not let on who had bought the present for the name picked out of a bag. We now manage this digitally.

Mr Snowman's helper, Geoffrey, has managed to act out various characters, over many Christmases whilst handing out presents at the table. The Snowman rapper was hilarious. We look forward to his arrival every year. He even managed a zoom appearance last year having collected the surprise gifts in a carpark after a family forest walk.

Lots of fun and laughter every year especially this Christmas 2021 so good to all be together again celebrating.

Happy 2022 to you all

Xx Carole



What Convention means to me

Where to start! My first actual memory of going to Convention was in 1997 where our quartet Soundbites (who had only been together 8 weeks or so) won Gold, and a place at International in Salt Lake City. So it was really this International that put Convention on the map for me. Exciting travel to unknown places; rooming with Hilary (who is still my roomy after all these years!); the size of the auditorium; length of Convention (days of it); wonderful and complex organization; not wanting to miss anything; and the sheer *quality* of performance. What an eye opener. Would we, as a chorus, **EVER** be good enough.

Well, with wonderful education and dedication of our Director and Music Team and jolly hard work from us all - Yes! We were! In the following few years we went on to win Gold at Regional Convention 6 times and competed internationally in Detroit, Calgary, Houston, Nashville, Las Vegas and St Louis,

It all starts with Region 31 Convention in May each year, and the winning chorus gets to compete at International the following year, usually Oct/Nov time.

We work hard on our upbeat and ballad, and choreo of course. Although it is always nice to get a medal, as long as we are the best that we can be on the day is what really counts. It is all about the journey. The coaching and putting that into practice. The choreo, and practicing till it becomes sheer muscle memory. When travel day arrives (usually Friday for the chorus so we arrive in time to see the Quartet competition) we generally travel either by coach or train, a few fill cars and drive. The excitement is building. We watch the Quartets, try and have an earlyish night in readiness for 'the big day'.

When it arrives we breakfast (an absolute must in order to keep the energy levels up), makeup, hair, rehearse if we are not first on. Costume on. Travel to venue. Humming as much as possible. Then get into the travel pattern (for new members we have a pattern and time to move towards performance on stage) We have about 10 mins in a room before going on stage where we can keep our voices warmed up. This isn't the time to make alterations or 'practice' the songs. The we walk (*silently*) on stage. We can lose marks/be disqualified for talking, so this is an absolute MUST.

It's all over in a flash and we go to the audience and await results.

The winner gets to be in the Saturday evening show, and after that choruses generally hold an afterglow. Ours has always been Hilarious (note the capital H). We know how to have fun and party.

There are always education classes on Sunday morning, then travel home.

So, Convention for me is the culmination of hard work; excitement at being with my sisters; enjoying watching Quartets and other choruses perform; having lots of fun and laughter and knowing it was all a job well done.

- Ed

