

**Hello Everyone,**

Well I hope this gorgeous weather continues to cheer your days during this lockdown I'm discovering what a talented bunch of musicians you all are!

**News from Our Leader: Captain BirdsEye!**



News from John is that he has been busy working on his boat which is now ready for fishing and adventures as soon as he is allowed out to sea. He hopes to be sailing around Fairbourne. Like many of us, he is missing music and musicians and sends greeting to you all. (He promises me the beard will be gone for when we start up again).

**Sam Baby News**

Some of you will remember the conductor of the Melrose Ladies Choir, who joined us for our Play Day. Sam had a baby boy, Joseph, last Monday. Mum and baby both well – Dad ecstatic!



**Christine Newmarch : Twins News**

Many of you will also remember Christine who played Flutes with us for several years but left us having discovered she was expecting twins. (She now has 5 boys!!). She returned to work as a Sister in ICU at the Royal in Liverpool the day the Covid lockdown began so was hurled straight in at the deep end again. Chris says the twins will be one year old next month and they are absolute delights. They sleep 7pm to 7am and nap for an hour in the morning and 1pm to 3pm in the afternoon.



**Gorgeous double trouble!**

**Janet Is Busy In the Garden**

I seem to spend all daylight hours in the garden and not socially distancing from my hens. Now we have potatoes, carrots, cabbage, cauliflowers, cavalo Nero, broccoli, sprouts, radishes, beetroot, courgettes, butternut squash, rocket, salad leaves and hopefully tomatoes, cucumbers and cucamelons, melons in the conservatory. I have an almost daily update chat with our daughter



Zoe (in Switzerland). I'm still hoping to go to visit in August, and already have quite a few baby items which have arrived here for her - another job on the list is to wash the baby clothes and nappies in readiness!!

I have also been baking bread with some success with sourdough kits . We have also been enjoying



some bird watching, the great tits in the garden have been busy with their first brood, the pheasants have been very active and we

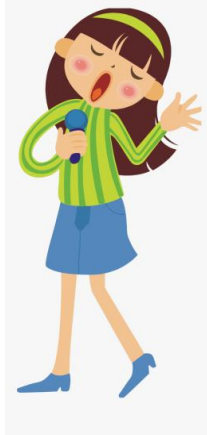
have been treated to some amazing Tawny owl watching in the garden at dusk.

Does anyone know anything about the bat population in Wirral? I have been trying to research the subject.

### Tricia sets herself a Music Challenge

I'm trying to learn Fur Elise off by heart, which I hadn't played for years. As one of my hobbies is playing pianos in National trust properties and the like, I thought it would be nice to add it to my 'play by ear' repertoire! I'm nearly there I'm delighted to say.

I have also been doing lot of walking, trying to do at least three miles a day, so I have already completed a marathon over the last week or so! Thursday evenings at 8pm have become a regular performance, either flute, singing, or even my keyboard which I set up in the garden one week. I've always love baking, think I'll make a banana cake next week.



### Roy Tackles Beethoven

Playing the piano is so beneficial to one's general mood, I find, and although I'm a lover of Chopin & Liszt to listen to I do prefer the baroque and Germanic composers; currently, I'm working on some Beethoven variations (La Molinara), and although I can play them all fairly accurately I have to admit that I'm not quite up to the tempo taken by the likes of Wilhelm Kempf.

### Sally Duets for NHS and Learns Flute

I play my clarinet on Thursday evenings having been inspired by Margaret to "have a go". I started about the third week having noticed that young Ben who we didn't know well and lives across the road brought out a drum. I asked his Dad did he play anything else and was told he played saxophone. I asked him to bring it the following week and I would bring my clarinet! What had I done?!? We decided to play Over the Rainbow first week but played separately as we had music in different keys. But we have played each week since.

I also practise with Eleanor (clarinets) on Thursday on FaceTime and we are managing to learn a couple of duets. Also on Thursday morning I am relearning the flute with Julia who has bought a flute and is learning to play. I am continuing my clarinet lessons on Zoom and also Zoom occasionally with my swimming club friends.

Great to share your news- keep sending it to me

Lesley

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