The latest thoughts and antics of this York-based Scottish singer and singing leader. View in browser

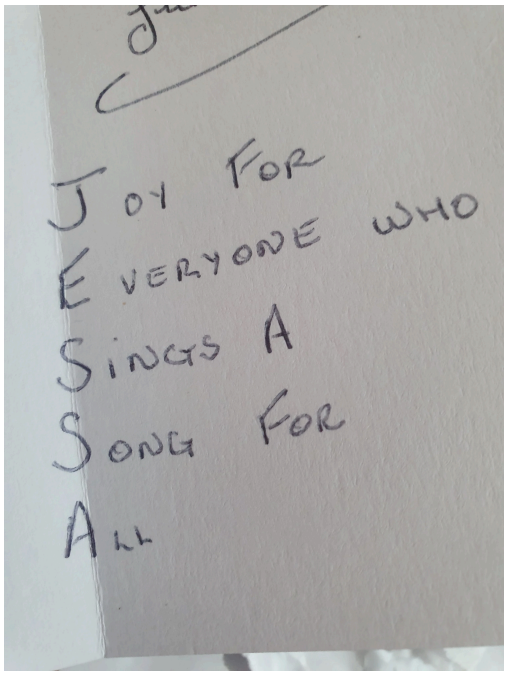


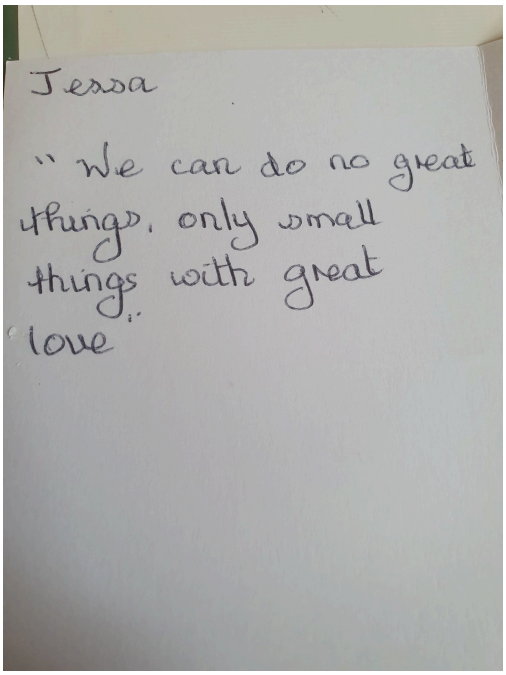
Dear all,

Autumn is here.....I love the beautiful colours at the moment, the changing leaves and the resurgence of the coat collection for walks! I apologise for the length of time since I last sent one of these newsletters.....it's been a busy old time.

September started with a bang, with some lovely new singers in my choirs and groups as well as some great new students in my lessons. I spent two intensive days at the 'Singing in Balance' conference too, giving a talk about 'Singing For All' as well as taking in lots of different sessions all around the topic of inclusivity in singing groups. Really interesting and thought provoking.

It made me think a lot about how I run Singing For All and how I can best adapt to make the project viable long-term(without running myself ragged too much in the process!) The pictures below come from a card alongside a generous donation from a much loved singer....food for thought!

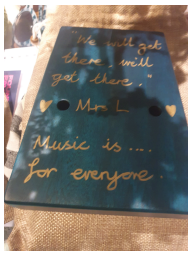




October has been full to the brim of collaboration and also change.

I made the very difficult decision earlier this year to bring my 26 year reign as Wigginton School music leader to an end. Teaching there has been a big part of my life since 2000, and in that time since, so much has changed for me in my personal and work life. I have clung on to this final day of 'employed'ness for a while now and I decided it was finally time to be a completely freelance musician!

I have to be honest and say that my health issues the past few years (migraines) played a big part in this decision, but all in all, I just need a little more time and balance in my week to make sure that I do everything I do (which is a lot)the best I possibly can. I will still be going in to help out with singing on a voluntary basis for a while yet, at least for this year's Christmas concerts! The whole school gave me a lovely send-off and the feeling of all the students and staff singing their hearts out to 'You've got a friend' will stay with me for a long time. The pictures show some little thumb pianos I left as parting gifts for the 'calm corner' in each class.











Never one to stand still, I have lots of adventures on the go to keep me out of mischief. I'm just back from an inspiring weekend with my partner in songbirds crime Mary, where we both took part in a 'learn to play the harp' workshop! Fantastic to be the beginner and learn something totally new. I've come away with my own small harp to explore and practise on....who knows, I might incorporate it into a performance sometime!

It's nearly time for our first 'in harmony North' singing retreat and I loved having a recce earlier this week to try out some singing walk routes and take a closer look at our workshop spaces. I am really looking forward to bringing this mixed group of singers together alongside Mary and Rachael - we've got a superb mixture of songs to share. If the weekend goes well, the hope is to return again, as well as looking for new and different venues and locations for future weekends or day retreats. If you'd like something in your area or have any ideas or suggestions, do let me know.







The next month or two for me is all about the festive events - dates for the diary include Festive Lights switch ons in Helmsley(27th November) and Easingwold(28th November), my annual Easingwold Community Christmas on 5th December at Easingwold Galtres Centre, a new collaboration with Primrose Care Farm for a seasonal sing on Sunday 6th December, Merry and Bright at Helmsley Arts Centre on 15th December, a festive lunch at the Olive Branch on 17th December....and there will be more to come I'm sure. (contact the venues for the ticketed events sooner rather than later to avoid missing out)

Alongside all of this, I'll be firming up all my dates for my Spring/Summer tour of 'a tapestry of life'. I have six venues properly confirmed and several more to finalise - do keep an eye on my social media for announcements and if I'm coming near you, I'd love to see you! I may particularly be looking for bookings for Friday evenings 'en route' to a further flung Saturday performance - so if you have any contacts with venues or indeed if you'd be interested in a private house concert for a very reasonable fee, do reach out! My aim is to perform this show as many times as I can next year, and to reach lots of different people with it. If I can catch up with friends while doing this, that's an added bonus! You may even see me in the dress pictured above - I was so delighted to find this dress which matches my flyer design that I had to buy it for a potential tapestry of life costume.



So that's enough from me for now - thank you if you've read this far! I always love to hear back from people with any thoughts on what I've written, it's best to drop me an email on jessaliversidge@googlemail.com if you'd like to get in touch. No doubt I'll be back in touch during November with some more details on festive events and 2027 offerings.

Take care all, I hope to sing with (or for) you sometime soon,

Jessa



Jessa Liversidge - singer, singing leader, and singing teacher. Performances available for booking include SONGBIRDS, *a tapestry of life*, '2 bards & a songbird' as well as bespoke sets. Workshops and one-to-one sessions from wellbeing and vocal health to vocal deep dives, themed sessions, workplace choirs and singing walks. Regular choirs and groups in York & North Yorkshire.

A Tapestry of Life on Spotify

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Jessa Liversidge

169/Easingwold/York YO61 3JB
United Kingdom

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