

News from Janet Pazio. October 2017

Do you ever wonder if you've made the right decision or whether something is out to get you? I was unable to make the BVS AGM as already booked in various bed and breakfasts to complete the Barnsley Boundary Walk. But on the day of the AGM there had been heavy rain in the night and I was planning to walk from Jackson Bridge (last of the summer wine country for those of you who are older enough to remember the TV series with Compo and Nora Batty) to Bretton Hall with its fascinating Yorkshire Sculpture Park, about 18 miles away. Around there it is limestone country which is very slippery when wet. I was walking up a steep rocky incline a mile out of Jackson Bridge which was dry the day before but was now a rushing torrent and slipped going crash on my forehead. What a sight – blood streaming down my face and a nasty gash on my forehead. Looked like I'd been mugged. The most sensible decision would have been to return to Jackson Bridge but as I was still in one piece decided to continue, frightening one or two helpful motorists who offered me a lift and people I met along the way in the villages. Obviously didn't knock any sense into me although it did cure a crick in the neck I'd sustained just before leaving for Yorkshire from a too ambitious yoga move. But maybe it would have been safer to attend the AGM where they seem to have made some good decisions and it's always good to get together with other viola players.

Besides the knock on the head I've also had a new experience of performing in a chamber concert – a string trio which was joined by an oboist at one point when we played the Mozart oboe quartet and then later switched to cor anglais when we played the Francaix (an amazing jokey piece). But what an intense experience. I found it more nerve racking than playing in front of all the students at Pro Corda as so worried about letting my friends down. It went better than it could have done, people genuinely enjoying it. Simon, our violinist fortunately deciding against the Kreisler arrangements of dances which suits his style but not mine. Any of you who are 'Strictly' fans will know Craig, one of the judges. If he heard my playing I could hear him saying 'so flat footed darling. It looks like you're stomping around in a barn dance rather than gliding in a graceful Viennese waltz.' Although Simon did sneak one in as an encore. Fortunately I was pizzicato most of the time.

On the BBC Midland News I caught a flash of a strange running viola. It was our intrepid friend Alistair who has smashed the record for running the marathon as a musical instrument. Well done Alistair! You are amazing!

I know that Alistair is able to juggle his viola practice with his running but I'm finding such a conflict of interest with the walking I do as it takes up considerable time and is very addictive. There is always more to explore. But at least now the clocks have fallen back I won't be staying out again until the Spring when it all starts again. Have just returned from a week in West Yorkshire in Hebden Bridge and Todmorden on the Lancashire Border. (Much more cautious with anything that looked remotely slippery.) But I have a lesson in two days time. I think a visit to Hotel Chocolat is called for to worm my way back into Lucy's favour.

To all those who struggle with conflicting interests just enjoy.

Janet Pazio

