

### **Introduce yourself!**

Hi, I'm Harriet and play the bassoon. I'm also the Chair and took over the reins just prior to the pandemic and lockdown, so it has been something of a challenge!

### **How long have you been a member?**

I learnt clarinet at school and had not played for a number of years until I had an opportunity to join the band in 1992. I played 3<sup>rd</sup> clarinet initially before switching to play bass clarinet and then decided it would be a 'good idea' to learn one of the most difficult of wind instruments, the bassoon. After finding a local bassoon teacher and in an effort to challenge myself I worked through all the practical grade exams, except grade 8, which I hope to take at some point in the future. I also had to take grade 5 theory as it was too long ago to find proof of a previous certificate! I was delighted last year when Robert asked if I would like to switch from the bass and play bassoon in the band.



### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I am a qualified nurse and worked for 28 years in the NHS. I now work in Advocacy, supporting people under various pieces of legislation. I like my job but it has been extremely challenging over the last year working from home and trying to support clients over the phone or via other social media platforms. I am passionate about animals, have a dog, two cats and a tortoise and in another life would have followed my dream to be a vet! I had my own horse for many years and used to compete in dressage and cross country. I never quite got to grips with show jumping though! It was difficult to fit music in around owning a horse, they take up so much of your time (and money!). I had a bad riding accident followed by a period of ill health so had to give my horse up but I'm very lucky that music was my second hobby so I threw myself into that instead. I have also taken up sewing and love making presents for friends and family. It was a bit ropery to begin with but I think I'm slowly improving!

### **What other instruments do you play?**

Bb clarinet and bass clarinet.

### **Is there another instrument you would like to play?**

Oboe, although I love the bassoon and still have so much to learn, so the chances are fairly slim.



### **What do you enjoy most about DCB?**

Making music with friends, learning new and challenging music and being able to play the bassoon in the band. I enjoy our concerts and going to different venues but still get very nervous. There is always a great atmosphere and a sense of achievement.

### **Favourite concert venue – past, present..... or future**

I think Kelvingrove has to come top of the list. A great venue to play in and an amazing atmosphere.

### **Favourite DCB memory?**

Our first overseas tour to Malta and Gozo. I was persuaded to be the Treasurer for the tour, maths not being one of my strong subjects, it was quite a responsibility! You may have read in another member's 'favourite memory' that someone forgot the cheque book. It wasn't so much that I forgot it, I had switched bags at the last moment and didn't transfer the cheque book to the new bag. I realised as we were on the outward bound flight, so you can only imagine my panic at that point! If it hadn't been for one member returning home mid-tour for her daughter's graduation and some helpful friends back at home, I dread to think what would have happened. I've managed to keep it from the rest of the band (I think) right up until relatively recently and there are probably a few who still didn't know, until now!

### **Favourite piece we've played?**

There are too many to mention, but I love musicals and the composer Rossano Galante, especially 'Journey to the Lion's Castle', 'Cry of the Last Unicorn' and 'Aurora Borealis' (still to be performed).



### **Any piece you'd like to play with the band in the future?**

More music from Les Misérables, more Rossano Galante. All musicals!

### **Have you done anything exciting during lockdowns (other than lots of music practice – obviously!!) – learned a new skill or decided to get back into an old hobby for example?**

I've been building on my minimal sewing skills and also continued weekly online bassoon lessons, playing some very challenging pieces and studies. I rescued a hedgehog from down a drain, providing it with full board and lodgings for a couple of nights and plenty of food whilst it recovered from its ordeal. Thankfully, it was not hurt, just exhausted and was released back to the garden.

### **Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?**

Can't wait! It will be so good to see everyone and just make live music again.