

Concert at the invitation of Armthorpe Elmfield Band Doncaster  
12<sup>TH</sup> April 2025

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April dawned sunny and bright, unlike Sam our drummer, one of our birthday girls, who struggled to greet the day and get to Raunds for the bus taking us to Doncaster! Needless to say, she made the rendezvous just in the nick of time and the bus (oh no! I've written bus twice, it's not a bus, it's a COACH; our driver Gareth insists the vehicle should be called a coach or he won't start the engine) set off. Second pick up was at Thorpe Waterville for more 'Boobies', along with instruments, music stands (they weigh a ton) and lots of pink jackets for our wonderful women to wear on stage. We also collected our second birthday girl, Tracey, and we eventually got on our way. We sometimes have a butty on the bus (noooo! COACH), but not on Saturday, oh no, on Saturday, we had a veritable feast!! Maggie, our band leader, had conjured up balloons, cocktails and the fanciest 'birthday meal boxes' you could imagine. We had an individual quiche, a mini Cornish pasty, a sausage, a bap, a boiled egg, fruit, cheese and biscuits, cake and the fanciest little jelly and mousse dessert – AMAZING! All demolished within 30 minutes of leaving Northamptonshire; we are ladies with a healthy appetite.

We had an uneventful journey (Gareth likes 'uneventful' and also no one needed to use his loo, which made him very happy) and we soon arrived in Armthorpe at the local Community Centre. We were met by the organiser, the lovely Alan Barber, and quickly got set up ready for a rehearsal. To say we sounded very loud was an understatement and the noise monitor (we were in a residential area) was straying into the red – time to close all the doors to keep the noise to the minimum and the temperature to the maximum. Kay would insist on telling everyone how moist she was, which we really didn't want to know about!

After a splendid tea, provided by Armthorpe Elmfield Band, our audience arrived and the concert began. The programme was great, with music which included arrangements by Alan Fernie and Goff Richards, the beautiful 'Impossible Dream', our anthem 'I'll Walk With God' along with songs from 'Les Miserable', arranged by Haydn Griffiths, one of the founding fathers of our host band. Boobs & Brass played the first 13 numbers and were then joined by players from Armthorpe Elmfield for the last 3 numbers. We had featured players galore, including our great friend John Lee. The 'naughty nuns' trombone section dropped by (including Sister Immaculate Conception, aka a very pregnant Amber) to play 'I Will Follow Him' and the night ended with everyone on their feet singing 'Jerusalem' and then dancing to 'Don't Stop Believin'.

We had a massive raffle and an auction, which raised hundreds of pounds and all money raised from the evening will be split between Breast Cancer Now and Doncaster MIND.

A fab time was had by all and we then loaded up the bus (COACH!!!) and made our weary way back to Northamptonshire – tired but very happy, until Suzy started singing 'Stop the bus, I want a wee wee' for mile after mile and Gareth the bus driver had the last word, when he said 'For the last time, it's not a bus it's a COACH!!!!!!!!!!'

Carolyn the Compere