

## **Performing Arts Showcase 11 July 2020**

*A Fundraising Event in aid of Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice*

Saturday 11 July 2020 was an evening to look forward to for work-starved artists and live arts-deprived audiences in these troubled Covid-19 times, for Mottingham-based vicar and actor Ian Welch had organised a live online showcase of artistic talent, which promised to be hugely entertaining and didn't disappoint, furthermore achieving its objective of raising money for the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice from an enthusiastic audience tuning in via 'Zoom' and donating via the 'Just Giving' website.

The performers were both local to the Bexley/SE London area, as well as coming from further afield. They ranged in age from the very young to the more 'experienced', and treated us to the whole range of artistic expression – including opera, pop, dance, drama, and comedy - from Shakespeare to Bowie to Ronnie Barker to Ibsen via Bob Marley, Vera Lynn and several original works written by the performers themselves.

All of the performers did brilliantly, and technically it must be said the evening went off without a hitch. It's a challenge to perform at home in front of a computer/mobile phone, without immediate audience feedback, and coping with what might be unfamiliar technology. There isn't space to mention everyone but special mention must go to 12-year old Emily Young of Balletgirlz Bexley for her wonderful ballet interpretations (in her garden) of music by Adele and from the Broadway-hit Chicago. Political relevance was provided by Anecia Warner, lending support to the Black Lives Matter movement with her largely original 'Together we can learn to breathe' composition. Holly Foster, in 1940s attire, paid tribute to Vera Lynn with her moving renditions of 'White Cliffs..' and 'When the lights go on again.' Ian Welch chipped in himself, together with Jack Day, to give a stirring performance of a scene from Ibsen's John Gabriel Borkman.

Thanks must go to Ian and all the performers for putting together a memorable evening and to all those who contributed to a worthwhile cause, with £935 raised so far, which is wonderful.

*Ronnie Haar 15 July 2020*