



Garforth and Kippax U3A Music Group

Morning all, I said I'd get in touch to put some thoughts down for us getting started. I thought to help get us moving we could try and set out what we would hope to get from the group - together with a first date to meet up. I'm hoping that way we can start the process of getting together with a purpose ...

Firstly, Ken suggested he might be able to get a quiet room at the Gapping Goose for us to chat through what we, as individuals, want from this venture ... so, I'll suggest a day and time - then if you can reply we can decide if it's acceptable. Once we know Ken can check availability at the Goose ...

- How does 2pm Thursday 29th November suit everyone?

Secondly, and I think importantly, is the musical direction we collectively want to take. There were some mixed thoughts floating yesterday and it seems important to get these discussed. From memory there is a variety of instruments as well as mixed ability. What was clear was the enthusiasm to play together so I'm guessing finding the right start point and level will be important if we want to succeed.

If we have a better understanding of our style and experience before we meet up it might help with a start-point for discussing ideas. If everyone is happy to circulate a brief outline of their musical experience it might help?

- A little about my musical style: I've played 5 string banjo in the Clawhammer style for 7 or 8 years and consider I 'practice' rather than 'play' the banjo. This is a little known style and it's doubtful you will have heard much about it. I normally play a style called 'Old Time American' but occasionally try other things. This style doesn't readily lend itself to general group playing so a few months ago I joined the local Ukulele group in Garforth (GULP): very much a novice but keen to improve. Here's a banjo Christmas tune I've been practicing.

The big question is how best to bring together our musical diversity into a single group? I'm guessing the only way is to 'try' but it may help to know what we expect from our group and what music to try. From my point of view, I suggest picking a couple of tunes for everyone to get familiar with, tunes we can all agree on. Then when we get together we might be able to develop our style before stretching ourselves: but that's just me! Let's get some thoughts to discuss before our meeting.

I have no experience of playing music with others and have no idea where to start but, I'm sure together we can find an approach that will suit us all. One of the things I take from the U3A ethos is 'learning' and I get the impression we all want to learn something new.

One other thing worth mentioning is something said yesterday. We might have a chance to use a Garforth hall on for weekday practice: fingers-crossed for this as somewhere large enough for us to get together without disturbing others sounds perfect. Important because I suspect there will be discordant musical experimentation before we find our 'groove'!