By Andy Manley

Carols by Candlelight

In a time of Covid-19 restrictions our community wanted to continue its annual tradition of singing carols.

How could we do this safely?
How could we sing without spreading the virus?
How could we encourage each part of our three village community?

What we needed was some sort of bubble for each household.

A car.

So plans were drawn up, locations found, risk assessments made, permissions sought.

The vision evolved from a capella voice led activity to microphone, piano, saxophones and handbells.
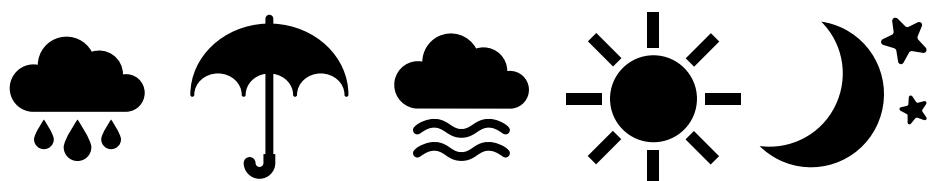
There are some very talented people in our community who were able to persuade others to participate. We were very grateful to have members join us from:

- The Earl Grey Saxophones
- Borders Bells and
- Corona Voices

We nervously watched the weather forecast as Saturday, 19th December approached. By Friday 18th we were pretty sure the weather would be ok so the decision to go ahead was made.

Lamberton Village Hall car park was first up. The home of several of the performers. The car park marshals directed the cars into their spaces.   It was windy but dry and with music clipped firmly to stands, the sounds of Christmas rang out into the air.

Next up was **Mordington** and on the more sheltered Clappers Green we set up next to the village Christmas tree where a few cars circled the green and residents sat on their doorsteps to enjoy the festive spirit.

Finally onto **Foulden** Village car park. It was windy but the cars drove up and were neatly lined up as if on a ferry.

As the musicians warmed up their fingers, it started to rain and the mic and amp had to be covered up.

What should we do?

Cancel?
Have a note and a single voice?
Pray?

But at precisely 7.00pm the rain suddenly stopped

Musicians, singers and passengers joined together

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest

Already, we are thinking about next year post vaccine!

Merry Christmas and a happy new year.