



WOS NEWS

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2002

A NEW VENTURE

Owing to the way our rehearsals are structured, there is not much time to converse socially and thus very little opportunity of spreading information about membership activities outside those directly linked to the WOS events programme.

It has been suggested therefore that we produce a periodic newsletter containing official and unofficial news about the orchestra, which we trust will be of interest to members and friends. This is the first attempt and frequency of publication will be dependent on the information being fed to the editor during the ensuing period.

Please keep us informed of any news items concerning members of the orchestra as and when available. That could be school and university exam results, participation in other events including non-musical events such as charity walks, marathons etc. Also we would like to have your comments about this newsletter and your ideas for improvement.

Articles for future issues, comments and suggestions can be given to Liz Sansom - mailed to liz@roger-sansom.freemove.co.uk.

Many thanks to Vic King for providing most of the material for this first issue.

RICHARD DAVIS

It is with sadness and regret we report that Richard Davis, long serving member, leading cellist and immediate past Chairman died on Friday 14th December. Many members of the orchestra attended the funeral at Bournemouth Crematorium the following Thursday. Our hearts go out to Tricia at this time. See page 4.

MEMBERSHIP

The society always extends a warm and heartfelt welcome to new members. We do our best to encourage talent at all levels. During 2001, 15 new instrumentalists have been added to the membership list which now numbers 46 players with a further 15 occasional players and

NOVEMBER CONCERTS

These were a great success and everyone taking part can be proud of their contribution. We were very pleased our new members enjoyed their debuts.

Unfortunately, Hor Shun, leader of the second violins, was unable to be present at the first concert as he was in Hong Kong. However, Mike Butterfield of BAPS, who invariably helps out at our concerts, volunteered to take his place.

Our leader Rebekah was unable to be at the last concert owing to obligations relating to a distance learning teaching diploma course engagement, but Anita Hansen filled the gap.

Our grateful thanks to both Mike and Anita for stepping into the breach.



DATES

Richard Davis Memorial Concert

Friday 8th Feb 2002 at St Ambrose

All proceeds to Friends of St Albans Medical Centre.

WOS Spring 2002 Concerts

Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd March 2002

A concert version of Franz Lehar's The Merry Widow.

Sam's Concerts

Sunday 13th January 2002 at St Stephen's Church Bournemouth

Saturday 26th January 2002 at St Mary's Church Sturminster Newton

Orchestra members Sam Newgarth, Brenda Clerici and Franck Leprince together with pianist Elaine Korman and baritone David Rowe present a concert of popular classics.



NOVEMBER CONCERT

Those who attended the three November concerts at St. Nicholas Church Corfe Mullen, St. Ambrose Westbourne, and All Saints Church Southbourne, agree that they were a resounding success both artistically and financially, raising over £1000 for charity ties.

It is inevitable that a fair proportion of the audience who attend the concerts are relatives and friends of members of the orchestra. Others are music loving parishioners but come also to support Church functions.



In addition, are those who come because of the choice of programme. For instance two ladies,

quite unconnected with each other came to listen to the Grieg Piano Concert because in the past they had both lived in Norway for some time.

They, and others who came because of the Grieg were not disappointed. Our guest soloist Elaine Korman, English National Opera pianist gave superb performances. The orchestra sprang, privileged and fortunate to have had the opportunity of accompanying Elaine. She humbly received the tremendous ovation at the end of her



performances with true grace and charm. It is hoped that she will be persuaded to return at a later date for another concert with the orchestra.

Once again the orchestra presented a very enjoyable and balanced programme. The first item on the programme was the overture to the 'The Merry Wives of



Windsor' opera by Karl Otto Nicolai introduced by the imposing and elegant figure of David Brooks. Horn player David, has been with the orchestra for several years but this occasion was the first in his new capacity of Deputy Conductor.

The overture started with whispering strings accompanying the horn melody and taken up later by the violins and oboe. Next came another selection of recognisable tuneful melodies with leader Rebekah taking the solo and then eventually the rousing swinging finale.



The second half of the concert consisted of a performance of Beethoven's third symphony the 'Eroica'. With conductor Sam Newgarth holding the baton the orchestra gave an extremely competent performance of this groundbreaking and most stirring work. Beethoven originally dedicated the work to Napoleon but later when Napoleon proclaimed himself emperor Beethoven erased his name from the title page with such force that his pen broke through the paper.

These second half of the concert consisted of a performance of Beethoven's third symphony the 'Eroica'. With conductor Sam Newgarth

holding the baton the orchestra gave an extremely competent performance of this groundbreaking and most stirring work. Beethoven originally dedicated the work to Napoleon but later when Napoleon proclaimed himself emperor Beethoven erased his name from the title page with such force that his pen broke through the paper.



One of the objects of the Westbourne Orchestral Society is to help popularise classical music. These latest concerts fulfilled that objective more than adequately.



BURLEY CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

David Portsmouth is organist at this church and was responsible for arranging this choral and instrumental event which took place on the 8th December. Other members of WOS taking part included Christine Taylor - piano, Jim Grant - clarinet, and Ron Best - trumpet. Christine accompanied the solo items in her usual efficient and sympathetic manner. Jim's contribution especially his rendition of the Paganini Caprice (South Bank Show) and Ron's trumpet solos with organ (David Portsmouth) accompaniment were all excellent and received enthusiastic acclaim from the audience. The Church was full and I understand the concert raised £250 for their Christmas

ANNUAL DINNER

Approximately 50 people attended the dinner on 7th December. It was a very successful evening. Good food well presented excellent company and for most of us the Liston proved to be a convenient venue and tentatively booked for 2002. Everyone appreciated the amusing speeches from Sam, Michaela and David. By the way poor David has been suffering with very painful gout over the last several weeks. Manfully, he has soldiered on not missing a single rehearsal. However, we are pleased to report that he is over the worst and I am sure you would like me on your behalf to wish him a speedy full recovery.

Our President Arthur Shaft is recovering from an operation and consequently was unable to be present at the Dinner this year. It must be the first time in all the 50 or so years she has been with orches that she has been unable to attend.

Eileen Tombe, past leader, has been ill for a long time and she was also unable to be present. We send Arthur and Eileen our best wishes.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The new group and individual photographs are now on sale at £7.50 and £3 respectively. Liz Sansom will be taking orders during rehearsal over the next few weeks. We are indebted to professional photographer Mike Burnside and Roger Sansom for undertaking this project.

CDS & TAPES

About £100 was raised from the sale of CDs and tapes during the November concerts. This was all profit as the production costs had been met by earlier sales. Thank you to Brenda, Garth and Roger for their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS

To dear Ernie (violin) Smith who reached his 90th birthday on 14th December. So we can now **legitimately** claim to have a trio of nonagenarians, all violinists. Perhaps like the dog food violin playing prolongs active life. Ernie has been with the orchestra for 40 years and acted as treasurer for 25 years.

Also to Kathy Skinner who completes her 13th year of serving tea and coffee to members during the rehearsal break and other occasions as well. We are all very grateful for such continuous loyalty.

Congratulations also to new member Victoria (viola) Kemp who was married on the 24th November. We hope the wedding ceremony and celebrations were successful and enjoyable. Members of the orchestra would like to convey to the newlyweds the very best wishes for their future health, happiness and prosperity together.

SAM'S CLASSICAL CONCERT

This took place on 1st December at St. Ambrose. Artistically this was a huge success with wonderful contributions from WOS members Brenda Clerici - flute, and Frank LePrince - violin, as well as Elaine Korman (our guest pianist for the Grieg) and David Rowe - baritone. The concertist to be repeated at other venues (see page 1) and, **without** any arm twisting from Sam, **honestly**, we can wholeheartedly recommend the programme.

WEB SITE

www.westbourne-orchestra.freeserve.co.uk

WOS is indebted to Roger Sansom for designing and maintaining a first class professional website at absolutely no cost to the Society. He is extremely enthusiastic about this venture and updates the site regularly at a moment's notice. So a big thank you to Roger. The

website is linked to Amateur Orchestras in the UK and information about WOS can also be found on LID (Leisure Information in Dorset), and the Hampshire equivalent - contact George Barker for information. Take a look.



It is now over forty years since I first met Richard and during that time we became very close friends and I have very fond memories of the many musical experiences we both shared. I have learnt to admire and respect him, not only because of our mutual passionate love of music and the orchestra, but also because of his strength of character and leadership qualities.

Richard was born in 1916 in Walthamstow in north-east London but the family moved to Bournemouth whilst he was still a boy. He married Joyce in 1938 and they had two children. Leonard was born in 1940 and Penelope in 1947. Richard volunteered for the army at the beginning of the Second World War and served in the British Expeditionary Force. Unfortunately, he was captured at St. Valery on 12th June 1940 and spent five years as a prisoner of war in France, Germany and Poland. During his incarceration he somehow managed to obtain musical instruments and to form a musical group. These musicians played not only for their own amusement but also to entertain other prisoners and the German guards.

After the war, Richard set up a successful tailoring business in Wimborne. Regrettably, his wife Joyce died of cancer in 1958 and it was in 1959 that he joined the cello section of the Westbourne Orchestra. Because of his outstanding ability he was soon appointed leading and solo cellist. Later, owing to his enthusiasm and interest in the welfare of the orchestra, he was voted onto the committee.

It was through his membership of the orchestra that he met clarinetist Tricia (Patricia Daish) and they married in 1963. Their son Peter was born in 1968.

After holding a number of posts on the committee he was appointed chairman, a position he held for over 25 years until his retirement in 1999 on the advice of his doctor. However, Richard continued taking a passive, and sometimes, active interest in the orchestra right up until his death on the 14th December, 2001.

Unfortunately, Richard did not always enjoy the best of health probably due to the hardship, malnutrition and other deprivations he suffered during the period he spent as a prisoner of war.

Richard will always be remembered for his tremendous contribution to the welfare of the orchestra and the support he gave to individual members. There is no doubt that during his membership, and especially when he became chairman, the orchestra improved in character and ability thanks in a large measure to his enthusiasm and example.

He is sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Arthur Shaft - December 2001

A memorial concert has been arranged to take place at St Ambrose Church on Friday 8th February at 7.30pm. There will be no admission charge but any donations from a retiring collection are to be given to the Friends of St Albans Medical Centre.