



WOS News

Issue 13

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In June 2005 the WOS celebrates its 75th anniversary and seventy-five uninterrupted years of music making. This is a wonderful record and all concerned and responsible should feel justly proud of this wonderful achievement. This particularly applies to some of the long serving members such as past Chairman Richard Davis and past President Arthur Shaft who clocked up at least 120 years between them as well as past Treasurer Ernest Smith, Conductor Sam Newgarth, Secretary Jean Budd and many more.

A brief history of the Orchestra was given in an article written for the June 2002 issue of Dorset Life. This has now been updated and is available on our web site www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk.

Now that the Orchestra is well established with over 50 members, 15 Honorary Members, 30 in the Friends section there is no doubt that even greater things can be expected in the future.

The anniversary Composers Competition suggested by our secretary in September 2003 has proved to be a complete success. Rob Hanmore the only member of the Orchestra to submit a score should be congratulated for entering. It was of great satisfaction to the Committee and everyone in the Society that at least one member entered.

The winning music "Huzza" by Paul Coles being played at the anniversary concerts in June. It has meant a great deal of work over the past eighteen months by several people behind the scenes but very definitely worth while.

Workshop—15th July 2005

We are again holding a Workshop this year following the successful one last year when we invite anyone to come along and play alongside members of the Orchestra.

This is open to anyone, of any standard, to come along and just enjoy playing with the orchestra for the evening. The objective is to encourage anyone who has played an instrument in the past but is now feeling very rusty to dust down their instrument and have a go in a non-threatening, friendly and encouraging environment.

Contact Tricia Davies (Tel: 01202 513971; Email: modern.mother@mac.com) or Vic King (Tel 01202 701759; Email: Viking@woodcomp.co.uk) for more information.

Dates

18th June 2005	St. Katherine's Church, Southbourne
24th June 2005	St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne
25th June 2005	St. Thomas's Church, Ensbury Park
15th July 2005	Workshop
19th November 2005	Christchurch Priory, Christchurch
25th November 2005	St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne
26th November 2005	TBA
4th December 2005	Music at St. Catherine's Hill
25th March 2006	TBA
31st March 2006	St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne
1st April 2006	St. Thomas's Church, Ensbury Park

Don't forget to let me know of any dates you want included in WOS news—Editor

Music at St. Catherine's Hill, Christchurch

Anne Finley-Brown is to be congratulated on organising a very enjoyable May Day concert, particularly the mixed choice of music.

Some dozen or so WOS members, including "The Lonely Hearts String Quartet" participated and some talents, hidden until now, were exposed for the first time. In addition the cast included a wind quintet which included WOS oboist Melanie Espin and occasional player Jim Edwards.

The event was well patronised with about 60 - 70 in the audience which was sufficient for the 96 maximum capacity St. Catherine's Community Hall.

www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk



Christmas in June

This is a report by John Budd of a concert held in Burley in December. Unfortunately, the editor inadvertently overlooked it when preparing previous issues of WOS news but it deserves a read so here it is.

It is a well known fact that friendship formed within the Westbourne Orchestral Society extends beyond Friday rehearsals and concert evenings. Indeed, in modern terms, it would seem that some members simply cannot get enough of each other and this was demonstrated clearly last weekend after the last rehearsal of the autumn session, for on the Saturday evening several members supported the chairman at the charity concert which he had arranged. The occasion was the Christmas Tree Festival at St. John's Church, Burley, in which more than 25 trees had each been decorated by different local groups to depict the themes of popular carols, combining to make an impressive display. Examples which seemed particularly appropriate were:

God rest ye merry gentlemen	by the Queen's Head Inn
Torches, torches	by the Fire Station
The Holly and the Ivy	by the Women's Institute
Jingle Bells	by the Little Deers Play Group

I cannot imagine why the Music Club chose Silent Night!

Amidst this wonderful setting, a capacity congregation enjoyed a beautifully balanced orchestral and choral concert in which David, our chairman, was prominent as both organist and organiser, for he had arranged a concert around soloists from the WOS, his own St. John's choir and choristers from the Church of the Transfiguration at Canford Cliffs.

Ray Slater, horn, began and ended his spells with pleasing reminders of sunshine through Gershwin's Summertime and a Spanish Dance and he delighted everybody with the Mozart Rondo. In his spells, Ron Best, trumpet, left us gasping (for breath and in admiration) with Leroy Anderson's Lullaby and a John Stanley Voluntary.

The third soloist, once again accompanied superbly by Christine Taylor, was James Olsen, cello whose thoughtful and delicate playing of Faure's Elegie was a perfect preparation for Silent Night. The extended interval was due to the large audience and its predilection for mulled wine and mince pies, whose main effect was upon the congregation's carol singing.

The evening ended with David being persuaded to accept the thanks of everybody present, and some not present, as the voluntary collection of £1200 was donated to Naomi House Children's Hospice.

Gifts for WOS

The Westbourne Orchestral Society are very fortunate for generous gifts and legacies from three sources recently.

Long serving member and benefactor to the Orchestra **Ernie Smith**, has collected a number of instruments over the years including a cello, several violins and violas, an oboe and a flute. Unfortunately owing to his great age he is unable to play with the Orchestra any more but wishes to continue as a full paid up member.

We have also received a gift in memory of our past president and long serving member **Arthur Shaft** who passed away last year.

As Arthur and Ernie were very good friends and had played together for many, many years, it was decided to combine these two gifts and use the money given in memory of Arthur to renovate the instruments given by Ernie. The instruments would then be made available to members of the orchestra to borrow if they wish. For example, someone may wish to try a different instrument to see how they get on with it, or an instrument could be loaned to a member who needs a better instrument. We have already had instances of students studying at the language schools who have joined us while studying but have had to borrow an instrument.

The Orchestra is extremely grateful to both Ernie and to Arthur's family for these very useful gifts.

We have also been extremely fortunate to have been named as one of the beneficiaries of the estate of **Mrs. Patricia Boulton**. Her husband, Charles, was a member of WOS from around 1976 to 1984 and played oboe and cor anglais. A few of our 'older' (in terms of membership—not necessarily age!!) remember Charles. This legacy will ensure the financial security of WOS for many years to come and we are very grateful for this.

Music Theory

If your knowledge of music theory doesn't extend beyond grade 5 (the one we all had to take!) and you would like to know more, then Poole College run an excellent evening class which will be starting up again in September. See Liz if you want to know more.

The Violin Shop

Visit Geoff at 52a Wycliffe Road, Winton for all your string requirements, repairs, accessories, etc. Tel: 01202 513823/657077.



St. Ambrose Not Closing!

It is no secret that churches generally are under pressure. The sad statistic is that, across the denominations in the UK, an average of three churches are closed every week. The Church of England is no exception and the decline in vocations, quite apart from spiralling maintenance costs, means that cutbacks are inevitable. In order to provide a fair spread of clergy across the country, national quotas are set. In practice, this has meant that the southern dioceses have been net exporters of ordinands for many years. The Diocese of Winchester is now required to lose thirty more stipendiary clergy by 2008. Over the years, the Deanery of Bournemouth has managed to retain more CHURCHES 'per head of the population' than the other deaneries in the diocese. Attendances at these churches is no worse than the national average so, in some ways Bournemouth, has been sheltered. However, this does not entitle us to more CLERGY 'per head of the population' and substantial reductions must lie

ahead. The diocese is at pains to stress that it is not seeking to close churches, but we have to expect the number of clergy to reduce significantly. For the last ten years the Town Centre and Westbourne cluster of churches has been bracing itself for such changes and tried to foster co-operation. The luxury of "one man, one parish", that St Ambrose Church has always enjoyed, is increasingly rare. When Fr Graham retires, as Priest in Charge, the inescapable conclusion is that St Ambrose parish will be required have to share ministry. Depending on when this occurs, a temporary clergy sharing scheme will probably ensue - until a wider schemes within the Deanery can be finalised. It may be that, over the coming years, increased pressure will lead to one or two more church closures in Bournemouth; however, the Diocesan Senior Staff and the Bournemouth Chapter of clergy have affirmed that THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CLOSE ST AMBROSE.

Spring Concerts Review

The WOS always considers it to be a great honour when a civic dignitary attends one of their concerts. On the 19th March the **Mayor of Ferndown, Councillor Mr Pat Young** was scheduled to attend the concert at the Barrington Theatre but owing to ill health the **Deputy Mayor, Mrs Olgivy and Mayoress, Mrs Rosalind Young**, attended in his place. The Orchestra thinks it was very kind of them both to take time off from their very extensive civic duties and full programme to attend a performance. As a small token of appreciation the Mayoress was presented with a CD of the Westbourne Orchestra's Queens Golden Jubilee concert, which was recorded in the Barrington Theatre in June 2002.

Leader **Jane Bultz** a very gifted violinist joined the Orchestra in January but owing to a previous engagement (at the Albert Hall, London no less) she was unable to attend the concert on the 12th. The Orchestra was very grateful that **Anita Hansen**, Leader of the Dorset Chamber Orchestra,

was able to step in fill the breach and take over as Leader for the first of the Spring Concerts.

"Definitely the high spot of the programme." "Wonderful pianist.", "Superb piano playing" "Great performance", "Wonderful concert and outstanding pianist", "Samantha should go places", were just some of the complimentary comments overheard during the intervals and at conclusion of the WOS Spring Concert Series

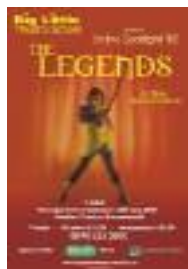
The guest solo pianist **Samantha Ward** currently studying at the Guildhall School of music in London gave exceptional brilliant performances of the **Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor**. The orchestra is proud, privileged and extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity of accompanying **Samantha**. She humbly received the tremendous ovation and bouquet of flowers at the end of each of her two performances with true grace and charm.

Not to be Missed!

This July sees the return to Bournemouth's Pavilion theatre of **The Big Little Youth Theatre**, the very popular and successful performing company of the Big Little Theatre School.

Continuing the annual series of "Spotlight" shows - this song & dance written, performed or inspired by some of

The show is performed by 120 children between the has been created by Big Little's professional production experience in musical theatre including national and interna-



year the show is "The Legends ..." featuring music, the greatest "Legends" of this and past generations.

ages of 8 and 18 backed by a live pit orchestra, and team which jointly draws on over fifty years experiential tours and London's West End.

This year's show includes a huge variety of material, including classical, pop, theatre and film genres - providing entertainment for the whole family of an unbelievably high standard performed by some of the most talented young people around.

This production truly promises to be something very special, and can be seen at the Pavilion Theatre on the evenings of **July 14, 15, 16** - Not to be missed!! **Special prices to Westbourne Orchestra members. Call Gail on 01425 480708 to book tickets at £11.**

Look at their web site, www.biglittletheatreschool.co.uk for more information about this amazing company.



Member News

Welcome to **Jenny Fellowes** who has joined the trombone section. Jenny is a great asset to the orchestra and also plays flute, saxophone and piano (but not all at the same time!).

We are sorry to learn that **Gill Slater** is no longer able to play in the horn section after her mouth operation. This is the third time she has had the same operation and the surgeon has warned her that she should not tempt fate again. Gill is thinking of taking up a string instrument so that she can still feel part of the Orchestra that she has belonged to for so many years. We certainly hope she does so. We have missed her so much since her operation in October of last year.

Congratulations to violinist **Becky Reeve** and husband Bob on the birth of their son, **Joel**.



Congratulations also to viola player **Vicky Slingsby** and husband Rupert on the birth of their daughter Amelia, a sister for **Ben**.



Two new players coming along we hope!

Summer Schools

Let's Make Music (LMM) is a not for profit organisation that offers the chance for individual musicians and singers, together with partners, families etc, to spend a week making music with other singers and musicians from around the world. Included in the programme are excursions and opportunities to meet with the local people to enjoy and learn about their country and customs.

For more information, see their entry on the web site www.intermusica.org.